



The I-70 Scout

Volume 32, Number 28 Searching for news in Watkins, Bennett, Strasburg, Byers, Deer Trail and Agate Wednesday, June 3, 2026

Bennett, AdCo settle suit against sheriff

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

BENNETT — The town of Bennett’s year-long lawsuit against the Adams County Sheriff appears not destined for trial in September after a settle-

ment agreement was announced last week. During their May 26 meeting, Bennett trustees voted 6-0 to settle the municipality’s pending litigation against the county and Sheriff Gene Claps regarding actions and billing

of services around the time of a shift in law enforcement services from Adams to Arapahoe County at the beginning of 2024. “The town of Bennett believes this is in the best interest of residents of Bennett — return our funds and a por-

tion of our attorney fees,” said Trustee Denice Smith, who seconded the settlement motion of Trustee Donna Sus Tuesday night. Mayor Pro Tem Royce Pindell added: **SEE BENNETT-CLAPS SETTLEMENT PAGE 8**



REMEMBERING THE FALLEN

JALEE KITZMAN/For The Scout



ALYSSA STEMTO/For The Scout

Local veterans groups hosted Memorial Day ceremonies at Bennett, Byers and Deer Trail cemeteries May 25. From left photo, Jayden Lind, an incoming Strasburg High School senior, plays “Taps” at Byers Community Cemetery, and local veterans are joined by an area Boy Scout and Girl Scout in saluting the flag at Mount View Cemetery in Bennett. **SEE PAGES 12-13.**

Kansas toddler struck by rattler near Bennett

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

BENNETT — A 2-year-old Kansas girl has a long fight in front of her after she was bitten by a rattlesnake northwest of Bennett last week. At roughly 5 p.m. May 25, Bennett-Watkins Fire Rescue personnel and Arapahoe County Sheriff’s deputies were dispatched to the area of Quincy Avenue and South Tom Bay Road on report of an injured toddler. Upon arrival, the girl was found having difficulty breathing with a pair of bite marks on one of her thighs. Published and broadcast reports said that the girl’s mother started CPR. A medical chopper was dispatched and the girl was airlifted to Children’s Hospital Colorado in Aurora. The girl’s family was transported into the hospital via a police escort. According to statements from the hospital, the girl had received 30 vials of antivenom over the first two days of treatment and the treatment started showing promising results as the girl started to move her extremities and, on Wednesday, her breathing tube was removed and physical therapy started. Antivenom had to be collected from multiple hospitals for the treatment. The girl also re- **SEE RATTLESNAKE BITE PAGE 4**

ArapCo confirms hantavirus case

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

LITTLETON — A confirmed human case of hantavirus infection in Arapahoe County two weeks ago has no ties to the highly publicized rash of infections of passengers of a Dutch-flagged cruise ship at the beginning of May and is a reminder to be vigilant around rodents this spring and summer. Arapahoe County Public Health reported May 22 that a resident has tested positive for hantavirus and is now recovering. The resident did have known exposure to rodents, particularly deer mice, which can spread the Sin Nombre variation of the virus. A more specific location of the infected person was not available from county officials because of privacy concerns. The infected resident has no recent travel history and no

known contact with any person associated with the Andes hantavirus outbreak on the cruise ship. The resident was also said to have no known connection or exposure to hantavirus death earlier in May in Douglas County. Sin Nombre hantavirus is not uncommon in Colorado but cannot be spread person-to-person. Instead, infection happens via contact with infected rodents or their urine, feces or saliva and can cause a range of illnesses, including severe disease and death. The only variation of hantavirus known to spread person-to-person is the Andes strain, which is native to South America and does not naturally occur in North America and has not been found in Colorado. **SEE HANTAVIRUS PAGE 4**

GRADUATIONS TAKE 2!



ALYSSA STEMTO/For The Scout



ISAAC MANAUGH/The I-70 Scout

The second weekend of I-70 Corridor graduation ceremonies occurred May 22-23 with Bennett moving its program from Paul Read Field into the big gym because of forecasts for inclement weather Friday night and Deer Trail’s 15 seniors walking the following morning. For additional I-70 Corridor graduation coverage, **SEE PAGES 22-24.**