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Volume 32, Number 36 Searching for news in Watkins, Bennett, Strasburg, Byers, Deer Trail and Agate Wednesday, July 29, 2026

Bennett fire board, trustees in land debate

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

BENNETT — The definition of “nominal fee” seems to be the primary question under debate between the Bennett-Watkins Fire District and the town of Bennett regarding a proposed land transfer that would help the fire department expand its facilities with-

in municipal boundaries. During the July 9 fire board meeting, Assistant Fire Chief Caleb Connor reported that the preliminary figure brought forward by Bennett staff for a town-owned parcel at 38th Avenue and Highway 79 on the north edge of town was more than a “nominal fee.” “The indication from them was a start at about half of the fair market value,” Connor said, noting that the approximately two acres is valued around \$341,000, or \$4 per square foot, on approximately 80,222 commercial square feet. “That would around \$170,000 or \$2 per square foot.” When Connor formalized the land request during the April 14 town trustees meeting, it was framed as ei-

ther a donation or a transfer to occur at a “nominal fee.” During the July fire board meeting, Connor said, “Our hopes were for much less [money] and, maybe, paying their attorney costs and permit fees. But board direction from the town was for that ‘nominal fee’ in-

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County fair season along the I-70 Corridor opened with the Arapahoe County Fair July 23-26. Above, Athina Mangels puts a new spin on the term “hand feeding” as she supplies a show pig with some corn. **SEE PAGES 11-14.**



STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout
Arapahoe County Sheriff's deputies and Strasburg firefighters investigate the wreckage of a two-vehicle collision and rollover at County Road 157 and Quincy Avenue south of Strasburg July 23.

Drivers escape 2-car crash

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

STRASBURG — A two-vehicle rollover crash about five miles south of Strasburg July 23 resulted in both drivers miraculously escaping life-threatening injuries. At approximately 8:40 a.m. Thursday, state troopers, Arapahoe County Sheriff's deputies and Strasburg Fire Rescue personnel were dispatched to the intersection of county roads 157 and 30 (aka Quincy Avenue) on report of a multiple-vehicle collision. Upon arrival, responders found a black Toyota Tundra on its roof in a field on the southwest cor-

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Grass fires dot along I-70, Hwy 36 corridors July 20-23



PHOTO COURTESY OF BENNETT-WATKINS FIRE RESCUE
A local firefighter drags a hose into a heavily wooded areas at the July 23 fire scene near East Yale Avenue west of Watkins Road.

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

I-70 Corridor firefighters continue to respond to frequent small blazes this summer. Last week, Highway 36 was closed temporarily for a blaze that kicked up northeast of Deer Trail on Monday while 25-30 acres were charred several miles south of Watkins Thursday afternoon. The week started about 12:30 p.m. July 20 when Deer Trail, Byers and Agate fire departments responded to the area of Highway 36 and County Road 269, between the High Plains Raceway and Clean Harbors hazardous waste site.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BENNETT-WATKINS FIRE RESCUE
A water tender blasts hot spots of a creek bed fire along East Yale Avenue west of Watkins Road July 23.

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