



The I-70 Scout

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Bennett: H₂O valve compliance lags behind

Town officials also announce summer outdoor irrigation restrictions

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

BENNETT — A large majority of Bennett residents expected to be directly impacted by the town’s plans to ramp up water pressure commu-

nity-wide late this summer are urged to ensure they have the appropriate plumbing extras in place or risk damage to their homes.

During the July 28 Bennett Board of Trustees meeting, Town Administrator Trish Stiles said that the num-

ber of residents who have installed mandatory Pressure Reducing Valves (PRVs) appears woefully low.

“Only about a 9% compliance rate it looks like right now,” said Stiles, noting that the stated date to transition to a one-zone pressure system is the

end of September. “Only 78 have taken advantage of the rebate program so far.”

A total of 882 Bennett homes will require PRVs to avoid water pressure

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A couple thousand area train enthusiasts converged on Strasburg July 27 to get an up-close-and-personal look at Union Pacific Railroad’s 4014 Big Boy steam locomotive. The local whistle stop was one of three in Colorado last Monday and Tuesday on the last leg of the train’s summer coast-to-coast tour to celebrate America’s 250th anniversary. **SEE PAGES 12-13.**

Interstate buckles under heat; EB closed overnight

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

STRASBURG — An overnight shutdown of I-70 between Bennett and Strasburg July 26-27 has I-70 Corridor commuters wondering what other highway problems they might have to endure, especially if the extreme heat persists.

At approximately 8 p.m. Sunday, the Colorado State Patrol initiated an eastbound I-70 closure between the exit 304 Bennett interchange and 310 Strasburg junction after reports of “highway buckling” near mile marker 307 immediately east of Lady Bird Hill were received. What was found was a significant crack and crumbling pavement at the bridge over Yulle Road between Highway 36 and Arapahoe County Road 6.

Eastbound traffic was forced off at Bennett and was detoured north to the parallel old highway when it was allowed to get back on the main thoroughfare at Strasburg.

The Colorado Department of Transportation indicated the roadway damage was caused by ex-

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'Burg Hometown Days names grand marshals

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

STRASBURG — During a full slate of activities this Strasburg Hometown Days weekend, a well-known local couple, especially in military circles, will lead Saturday morning’s parade procession.

This year’s Hometown Days Grand Marshals are Maurice and Mildred “Millie” Mertens.

Maurice and family, including three sons, moved to Strasburg from Brighton in 1982 and it didn’t take long for the military veteran to become active in the community.

“My boys wanted to be in the Boy Scouts and the American Legion was their sponsor at the time. I was invited to a meeting at the Legion one night by Roger Bains, who was the Legion commander at the time. When I left that meeting that night, I did so as the new Legion commander and scout master,” Maurice said.



STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

Maurice and Mildred “Millie” Mertens will serve as Saturday parade grand marshals during Strasburg Hometown Days this weekend.

“That was right after we moved out here.”

After a divorce, Maurice met Millie.

“My ex-wife wanted to move elsewhere and I didn’t want to, so I stayed and she moved,” he said. “A few years later, I met Millie and we’ve been married 21 years.”

The couple met in 1999 through the Ye Old Car Club in Brighton.

“I was a member of the car club and I knew her parents through it,” Maurice said.

“I had just moved back after traveling all over with my ex-husband who was in the Navy and we went on date,” Millie added. “We were married in 2005. Between the two of us and our five boys, we all settled out here with four of the boys graduating from Strasburg High School.”

The couple now boasts seven total grandkids, three in Strasburg, and recently welcomed a great-grandson into the family.

Upon her move out to the Corridor, Millie was president of the local American Legion’s Women’s Auxiliary.

One of Maurice’s local claims to fame is that, in 1986, he founded the annual Hometown Days

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PHOTO COURTESY COLORADO STATE PATROL

Local temperatures in excess of 100 degrees were reportedly partly to blame on an eastbound I-70 closure just east of Lady Bird Hill overnight July 26-27. Paving panels on the bridge over Yulle Road buckled, resulting in a significant crack and the development of potholes.