



The I-70 Scout

Volume 32, Number 38 Searching for news in Watkins, Bennett, Strasburg, Byers, Deer Trail and Agate Wednesday, August 12, 2026

Bennett teen dies in crash at Lady Bird Hill

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

BENNETT — A Bennett High School student was killed during a one-car crash at Lady Bird Hill between Bennett and Strasburg Aug. 5.

A 16-year-old boy was the lone occupant of a silver Acura sedan that crashed on the uphill curve of the eastbound 306 exit of I-70 a little after 3:30 p.m. Wednesday.

“At a high rate of speed, [the vehicle] attempted to exit onto Highway 36 when it lost control and struck approximately 50 feet of guardrail on the left shoulder of the road,” said a Colorado State Patrol report the day

the crash occurred. “The juvenile was wearing a seatbelt, but was ejected from the vehicle due to the crash.”

The following day, the State Patrol added, “the Acura struck the end terminal, or nose, of the guardrail directly on the passenger side door, causing the door to push through the vehicle. The guardrail then folded, pushing the teen driver out of the driver’s side door.”

A State Patrol sergeant patrolling the area came upon the crash shortly after it occurred and, with the help of an Arapahoe County Sheriff’s deputy, started CPR on the boy, but those

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STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

In the two days following an Aug. 5 fatal car accident on the eastbound Lady Bird Hill off-ramp, flowers appeared around the guardrail in memory of the teenage victim.



ISAAC MANAUGH/The I-70 Scout

While the annual fireworks show was canceled because of the region’s current drought status, the rest of Friday night’s Strasburg Hometown Days activities at the original Community Park went off without a hitch, including this inflatable jousting battle between 13-year-olds Olivia Saxon, left, and Avery Qeyworth. For more Hometown Days coverage, see the Aug. 19 edition of *The I-70 Scout*.

Going down swingin’



PHOTO COURTESY ARAPAHOE COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE

Among the confiscated items from a July 7 marijuana bust southwest of Bennett were 1,900 plants, including 600 ready for harvest.

Local pot grow seized

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

BENNETT — Additional particulars, including any suspects or people of interest, remain unavailable from a large-scale illegal marijuana grow that was uncovered in unincorporated Arapahoe County southwest of Bennett early last month.

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DT School: New year, new cell phone rule

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

DEER TRAIL — Deer Trail School students will experience a new cell phone policy and new faces in the classroom as the new school year starts this week.

During the Aug. 3 Deer Trail School Board meeting, Superintendent Mike Jobman announced that the teaching staff has six new educators this year and, most recently, added a special education paraprofessional to the employment roster.

“First day for them was today and all staff together for the first time tomorrow,” he said, noting that the first day

of classes is Aug. 10. “Pretty solid staff-wise, depending on what [additional] students come in. We’re already at 308 students, which is 20 ahead of the end of last year. Might need a couple more support staff, but we’ll see.”

Jobman added that new teachers’ first day in their new digs was more comfortable than the previous few weeks as maintenance staff was hard at work remedying problems with the HVAC system.

Facilities Manager Bryce Ashbaugh noted that a new HVAC server installed earlier in the summer was already “fried” and was replaced just in time for the return of staff.

“Instead of \$9,000 we paid

the first time, now it was \$3,000,” said Ashbaugh, noting the previous server was not under warranty. “We’ve moved everything out from underneath the unit, so we should be good from here on out.”

“It was a balmy 87 degrees upstairs earlier today but, luckily, we got things cooled down by the time people started showing up,” Jobman added.

NEW CELL PHONE POLICY

The most notable change that will be felt by students, especially in the junior high and high school, is a more re-

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ISAAC MANAUGH/The I-70 Scout

Anythink Bennett library hosted a MySummer Reading Program magic show with Denver-based magician and mentalist Erica Sodos July 24. Formally trained in theatre and in the art of clowning, Sodos started her magic career in 2006. Above, Sodos receives assistance from 7-year-old Anthony Porter.