



The I-70 Scout

Volume 32, Number 39 Searching for news in Watkins, Bennett, Strasburg, Byers, Deer Trail and Agate Wednesday, August 19, 2026



PHOTOS BY STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

At least 2.5 inches dropped in less than an hour between Strasburg and Byers Aug. 14, flooding Highway 36 near the intersection with Bradbury-Krebs Road. The water current was so strong it washed a vehicle off the highway, and multiple emergency jurisdictions responded to rescue the driver from the roof of the vehicle.

Mother Nature turns spigot wide open

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

Feast or famine — that’s been this summer along the I-70 Corridor when it comes to moisture. After struggling with abnormally hot, dry and windy conditions since April, many parts of the region received

20% to 25% of their annual rainfall over the last part of last week, resulting in flooded roadways and treacherous travel conditions. The hardest and most impactful deluge was felt starting around 3 p.m. between Strasburg and Byers when 2.5 inches or more of precipitation — a mix of rain and hail — fell in under an hour.

The Friday afternoon downpour was so severe that a raging current of floodwaters swept an SUV off of Highway 36 immediately west of the Bradbury-Krebs Road intersection. A water rescue of the driver ensued. The driver sat on the roof of her vehicle, which ended up off
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SCOTT GERRARD/For The Scout

The overall winner of entries in the Strasburg Hometown Days parade Aug. 8 went to Growth & Wealth Financial. For more Hometown Days coverage, **SEE PAGES 11-14.**

‘Burg classrooms ‘no phone zones’

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

STRASBURG — “We must be clear and firm: students who intentionally defy the policy will face immediate and more severe consequences, which may include suspension.” That was the message from Strasburg School Superintendent Kelle Bongard about the district’s new cell phone policy, which restricts all personal electronic devices in all classrooms in all buildings across campus. “While it isn’t perfect, we are continu-

ally monitoring and refining procedures to make them smooth and manageable for everyone,” Bongard continued during the Aug. 10 school board meeting. “This policy was not created to punish students but to protect them — to reduce the harmful effects of phone and social media distraction and pressure so students can be present, focus on learning, and feel safer at school. We ask families to partner with us in supporting this priority while students are on campus.”

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Struck out: Bennett School suspends softball program

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

BENNETT — After only two years of existence, the Bennett High School softball program has been suspended for the fall 2026 season, if not longer. The first day of practice for the new school was slated Aug. 10, but the Lady Tigers never got the chance to get on the softball diamond that afternoon as first-year Athletic Director Travis Conroy pulled the plug on the new season. “Unfortunately, we have had to cancel the 2026 season due to a lack of participation,” Conroy said in a text message to *The I-70 Scout* that evening. “We are in

hopes to reconstitute the team next year.” Coaches and families of team members took exception to the announcement, saying that they were told that, if they had 12 or more students interested in playing, that the season would move forward as scheduled. Coaches said that, as of last Monday morning, they had 13 players confirmed with a 14th expected to join them in about a week; however, Bennett Superintendent Robin Purdy said that Conroy reported late that morning that the Colorado High School Activities Association’s online sports enrollment app showed only 11 girls registered for the team.
SEE BENNETT SOFTBALL PAGE 6



STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

The Bennett High School softball field will not be used over the upcoming season as the district announced Aug. 10 that the program has been suspended for at least 2026 because of a lack of players.