

# Axiom Newsletter



**March 7, 2016**

**"The problem with political jokes is they get elected."  
-Henry Cate VII**

**Days Til Sine Die: 65**

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## **Al White Launches Independent SD-8 Bid Colorado Polls**

With news that Republican Al White, running as an unaffiliated candidate, has entered the Senate District 8 race, Democratic candidate Emily Tracy responded, "It's fine that Al White has declared his candidacy for the Senate District 8 seat. The District is a large one, and there's plenty of room for three candidates."

Tracy continued, "The seven-county District is actually more diverse than is usually acknowledged. I know I have a substantial amount of support from not only Democrats but from many unaffiliated voters and some Republicans in the District. I've heard from many who are thrilled I'm running again."

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## **Former Colorado state Sen. Jim Isgar dies at 64**

**Durango Herald**

Standing on his deep roots in La Plata County, former state Sen. Jim Isgar may have made his largest mark on the state's agricultural community. Two months shy of his 65th birthday, he died in Denver on Friday after a 4½-year battle against a rare form of leukemia. Isgar had a background in water before he was appointed to the Senate in 2001 to finish the term of former Sen. Jim Dyer, who resigned to take a position with the Colorado Public Utilities Commission. As a farmer and rancher in the Breen area, Isgar served on numerous water boards, including La Plata and Animas-La Plata conservancy districts, HH Ditch Co., including 25 years as president, and the Southwestern Water Conservation District.

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## **Former Colorado representative passes away**

**9 News**

Colorado Representative Diane Hoppe passed away Saturday, the Colorado Water Conservation Board said. Hoppe, who was elected chair of the water board in 2015, is a Colorado native who was raised in Sterling. She spent nearly 30 years in both the public and private sectors.

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## **Colorado lawmakers struggle to find compromise on alcohol sales**

**Durango Herald**

State lawmakers are working on legislation that they hope strikes a compromise in an effort to eliminate a ballot proposal that would allow beer and wine in supermarkets. The details of the proposal are as hazy as a morning hangover, and discussions between stakeholders have been described by some observers as a "mess."

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## **Hullingerhorst to introduce Colorado hospital-provider fee bill despite continued GOP opposition**

**Denver Business Journal**

Colorado House Speaker Dickey Lee Hullingerhorst is wasting no time in advancing her efforts to turn the hospital provider fee into an enterprise fund - announcing Tuesday that she will introduce a bill to make that move. The new bill comes just one day after the state's attorney general said she considers such a maneuver to be legal and constitutional.

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## **Cadman Responds to Latest Hospital Provider Fee Opinion** **Colorado Senate Republicans**

Senate President Bill Cadman (R-Colorado Springs) today issued the following response to a memo from Colorado's attorney general on the hospital provider fee question: "While we certainly respect the attorney general's opinion and will take her analysis into account, our objections to the hospital provider fee maneuver don't hinge solely on this one question of constitutionality, as important as it is.

Whether or not this would count as an 'enterprise' under law doesn't address the unprecedented proposal to not 'rebase' the budget, as required by the Colorado Constitution. Neither the AG's opinion nor the opinion drafted by a collaboration of private law firms surmise that an HPF Enterprise could, or should, be treated differently than other state enterprises. The AG's opinion didn't even reference this constitutional issue. The private opinion, however, touched on this issue by asserting, 'It is entirely consistent with TABOR for the Provider Fee enterprise to enjoy the same treatment as CU.'

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## **Two New Developments on the Hospital-Provider Fee Front** **CACI**

On Monday, Colorado Attorney General Cynthia Coffman (R) issued her legal opinion that the legislature could constitutionally craft a state enterprise for the hospital-provider fee (HPF).

Converting the HPF into a state enterprise would free up hundreds of millions of dollars for transportation, education and State Government capital construction.

CACI supports the conversion. More than 100 businesses, business organizations, higher-educational institutions, hospitals, non-profit organizations, K-12 entities, medical organizations and others have endorsed the HPF conversion.

Under TABOR, a state enterprise is defined as ". . . a government-owned business authorized to issue its own revenue bonds and receiving under 10 percent of annual revenue in grants from all Colorado state and local governments combined."

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## **Senate Gives Final Approval To SCFD Renewal Plan** **American Towns**

The full Senate today approved plans for renewing the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District, the Denver metro area's successful district for funding arts, science and cultural organizations in the seven-county area. The proposal, Senate Bill 16, will now move to the House with strong bipartisan support.

The Senate sent the bill to the House on a 28 to 6 vote. The latest vote is another necessary step toward placing the issue of renewing the district for an additional 12 years on the November 2016 ballot. The bill's Senate sponsors include Senate President Bill Cadman (R-Colorado Springs) and Sen. Pat Steadman (D-Denver).

"What I like about this concept is that these districts are established and funded by locals, with their explicit approval, so you know it's something the community really values and supports," said Cadman

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## **Republicans Are Resolute: Just Say "No" to Gitmo Colorado Colorado Senate Republicans**

Statehouse Republicans today sent a loud and clear message of opposition to any plans to bring terrorist detainees from Guantanamo to Colorado. They introduced a Senate Joint Resolution (SJR16-011), signed and cosponsored by every Republican in both chambers, calling on Gov. John Hickenlooper to refuse any overtures from the Obama administration aimed at buying or leasing any state-owned facility for a purpose declared illegal by Congress.

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## **Hospital Corporation Of America Named An Ethisphere Institute World's Most Ethical Company For Seventh Consecutive Year**

**CHA Press Release**

Hospital Corporation of America (NYSE: HCA), a leading healthcare provider with 168 hospitals and 116 freestanding surgery centers in 20 states and the United Kingdom, has been recognized as a 2016 World's Most Ethical Company® by the Ethisphere Institute, a global leader in defining and advancing the standards of ethical business practices. This is the seventh consecutive year HCA has been honored, underscoring its consistent commitment to ethical business standards and practices.

"Being named one of Ethisphere's World's Most Ethical Companies is in part a reflection of our comprehensive Ethics and Compliance Program for our 230,000 employees," said Alan Yuspeh, HCA's senior vice president and chief ethics and compliance officer. "It is also recognition of our culture of integrity, our commitment to provide excellent care for our patients and our desire to be a good citizen in the many communities we serve."

This year marks the tenth anniversary of Ethisphere and the World's Most Ethical Companies designation which recognizes organizations that have had a material impact on the way business is conducted by fostering a culture of ethics and transparency at every level of the company.

"Companies rely on Ethisphere to continually raise and measure the standards of corporate behavior. Those that demonstrate leadership in areas like citizenship, integrity and transparency create more value for their investors, communities, customers and employees, thus solidifying a sustainable business advantage," explained Ethisphere's Chief Executive Officer, Timothy Erblich. "Congratulations to everyone at HCA for being recognized as a World's Most Ethical Company."

**Gov. Hickenlooper signs bills into law**  
**Office of the Governor**

Wednesday, March 2, 2016 - Gov. John Hickenlooper signed these bills into law today.

Number	Title	Sponsors	Summary
HB 16-1018	Transportation Advisory Committee Procedures	Reps. Carver & Mitsch Bush / Sen. Todd	Concerning a requirement that the statewide Transportation Advisory Committee provide advice and comments regarding transportation-related matters to both the Department of Transportation and the Transportation Commission rather than to the department only.
HB 16-1044	Extend Repeal Dates Petroleum Storage Tank Fund	Rep. Becker J. / Sen. Hill	Concerning the extension of dates related to the petroleum storage tank fund.

## **Gov. Hickenlooper announces Boards and Commissions appointments**

### **Office of the Governor**

The Small Business Stationary Source Technical and Environmental Compliance Advisory Panel advises the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment on how to help small businesses comply with the Clean Air Act.

For terms expiring January 31, 2018:

- Michael Thomas Cugnetti of Denver, to serve as a member from the general public, reappointed;
- James Greenwood of Colorado Springs, to serve as a member from the general public, appointed.

The Colorado HIV Alliance for Prevention, Care and Treatment promotes effective HIV/AIDS prevention, care and treatment programs by advising, informing and closely consulting with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment with regard to issues, trends, needs, policies and resources pertaining to HIV/AIDS throughout the state of Colorado.

For a term expiring February 27, 2019:

- Michael Jeffrey Nerenberg, MD of Pueblo West, reappointed.

The Fifteenth Judicial District Judicial Nominating Commission selects nominees for district and county judicial vacancies in the fifteenth judicial district, which is comprised of Cheyenne, Kiowa, Prowers and Baca counties.

For a term expiring December 31, 2021:

- Randa Lea Davis-Tice of Lamar, to serve as an attorney and as a Democrat from Prowers County, appointed.

The Fifteenth Judicial District Judicial Performance Commission evaluates the performance of district and county judges in the fifteenth judicial district, which is comprised of Cheyenne, Kiowa, Prowers and Baca counties.

For a term expiring November 30, 2019:

- Kim R. Verhoeff of Lamar, to serve as an attorney, and occasioned by the resignation of Joshua Vogel of Lamar, appointed.

The Justice Assistance Grant Board advises the Colorado Department of Public Safety's Division of Criminal Justice on issues related to federal block grant monies designated to improve the criminal justice system and reduce drug abuse and violent crimes.

For a term expiring July 31, 2016:

- Police Commander David A. Moore of Longmont, and occasioned by the resignation of Deputy Public Safety Chief Paul B. Zuber of Firestone, appointed.

The Twentieth Judicial District Judicial Performance Commission evaluates the performance of district and county judges in the twentieth judicial district, which is comprised of Boulder County.

For a term expiring November 30, 2017:

- James Dominique Olvera of Boulder, to serve as a non-attorney, and occasioned by the resignation of Sheryl Anne Del Rosario of Erie, appointed.

The Colorado Tourism Office Board of Directors works in collaboration with the Colorado Tourism Office to oversee the implementation of domestic and international marketing, public relations, travel resources, research and several other Colorado tourism programs.

For a term expiring June 1, 2016:

- Andrea Fulton of Wheat Ridge, to serve as a representative of private travel attractions and casinos, and occasioned by the resignation of Michael Andrew Dudick of Breckenridge, appointed.

The Colorado Humanities Board of Directors promotes progress and scholarship in the humanities and the arts in Colorado.

For terms expiring May 1, 2017:

- Susan E. Kirkpatrick of Fort Collins, and occasioned by the resignation of George B. Curtis of Englewood, appointed;
- James Clark Miller of Akron, and occasioned by the resignation of David M. Smith, PhD. of Rangely, appointed.

StudyColorado promotes Colorado higher education internationally, while providing a forum for the exchange of information related to international education and helping to create a welcoming culture for international students and visitors.

For terms expiring February 1, 2019:

- Karen S. de Bartolome of Boulder, to serve as a representative of the business community, reappointed;
- Ardon Barry Hirschfeld, Jr. of Denver, to serve as a representative of the business community, reappointed.

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**The Calculator**  
**House Bills Introduced: 343**  
**Senate Bills Introduced: 150**  
**Number of Bills PI'd: 74**  
**Bills Signed by the Governor: 3**

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