



## It's maddening

March Madness can be a drain on worker productivity or a bonding opportunity.  
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## Eagles preparing for CHL playoffs

Colorado opens Friday at home against Bossier-Shreveport.  
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# Districts cancel classes

### Poudre, Thompson close schools today because of weather

BY BOBBY MAGILL

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Heavy, wet snow that created hazardous road conditions Tuesday night prompted both Poudre School District and Thompson School District to cancel classes today.

Fort Collins officials will decide at 5 a.m. whether to close city facilities today. The decision will be based on road conditions and the weather forecast. Larimer County is closing its Estes Park office and will evaluate this morning what to do at its other offices.

The storm, which began dumping snow on Fort Collins mid-afternoon Tuesday, could leave Fort Collins-Loveland-area residents to shovel up to a foot of snow today.

On Tuesday, the National Weather Service issued a winter weather warning and predicted up to 16 inches of snow could fall in urban areas in Larimer County.

Not all forecasters agreed the snowfall would be so high.

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## UNDERSTANDING HEALTH-CARE BILL

# Groups ponder impacts



Photos by Rich Abrahamson/The Coloradoan

Pediatrician Deborah Archer examines Annel Ibarra Santos, 9 months, of Fort Collins on Tuesday at Salud Family Health Center, 1635 Blue Spruce Drive, in Fort Collins.

### Some like reform, some don't; others left scratching their heads

BY BOBBY MAGILL

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Some Northern Colorado businesses and medical providers heralded President Barack Obama's signature on the Democrats' health-care bill Tuesday with great excitement, while others said the full meaning of health-care reform isn't quite as clear.

"We have no idea the impact of the health-care bill," said Yvonne Myers, health systems director for Columbine Health Care in Fort Collins. "There's no way a person could understand fully what 2,400 pages of health-care reform mean. We're not any more educated now that it's been signed than we were prior to it being voted on."

But David Tschetter, owner of Colorado Custom Homes in Windsor, said he knows exactly how the new law will affect him if a Senate amendment singling out the construction industry isn't scrubbed during Congress' reconciliation process.

"It puts us at a competitive disadvantage," he said, adding that if he can't afford to insure his five employees, "we're subject to fines."

Tschetter is referring to the Merkley Amendment, named for Sen. Jeff Merkley, D-Ore., which requires businesses of 50 or more employees to provide health insurance for their workers or pay a fine but reduces the threshold to five employees for construction contractors.

The amendment was removed in the House reconciliation bill passed last week-end, however.

Tschetter said that even if the amendment ultimately disappears, he fears health-care premiums will rise too high to be affordable.

"I don't think anyone in their right mind (would believe) we could possibly eventually insure 33 million people without costs going up," he said.

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### Want to know more?

For updates on closures, visit [www.coloradoan.com](http://www.coloradoan.com).



Rich Abrahamson/The Coloradoan

Eric James of Fort Collins eases his bike to the side of LaPorte Avenue on Tuesday after snow jammed up his gears during his five-mile commute home from work.

## Colorado AG, others file suit opposing law

BY KRIS WERNOWSKY

Pensacola News Journal

PENSACOLA, Fla. — Thirteen Republican attorneys general from across the country filed a lawsuit Tuesday in federal court claiming that the health-care bill President Barack Obama signed is unconstitutional.

The lawsuit claims mandating citizens get health insurance violates their rights.

States represented in the lawsuit are: Colorado, Alabama, Idaho, Louisiana, Florida, Michigan, Nebraska, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Utah and Washington. All have Republican attorneys general except Louisiana.

"We will not tolerate the constitutional rights of our citizens and the sovereignty of our states to be trampled on," Florida Attorney General Bill McCollum said.

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Norma Santos of Fort Collins and daughter Annel Ibarra Santos, 9 months, leave Salud Family Health Center after the baby's examination Tuesday.

### In Your Voice

Join the conversation at [www.coloradoan.com/forums](http://www.coloradoan.com/forums).



View a gallery of photos from Salud Family Health Center at [www.coloradoan.com](http://www.coloradoan.com).

## PSD board votes to close Moore at end of year

BY MARCY MIRANDA

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Starting next fall, students at Moore Core Knowledge School will be attending Bauder Elementary School after the Poudre School District board of education voted unanimously Tuesday night to close Moore at the end of this school year.

The board voted on the

issue at a combined business and work session meeting Tuesday night after hearing short reports from Kevin Hahn, assistant superintendent of elementary schools, and Jim Sarchet, assistant superintendent of business services.

"It's been a grass-roots effort around the community, with principals saying ... 'How

can students benefit from this move?'" Hahn said.

The two school communities came to Hahn in January, suggesting that Moore shut its doors after this school year and move students to Bauder, he said.

Currently, both schools have underutilized buildings. In combining the two schools, the enrollment at Bauder next

fall will be around 530 students, with the building operating as a four-track school, said Amy Smith, principal at Moore. The building will still have some space because its capacity is more than 600 students, she said.

Smith said the communities at both schools were supportive

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