April 21, 2014

*“The marathon can humble you.”*

*— Bill Rodgers, winner of four Boston Marathons*

**GOP Ballot “Grows or Shrinks” to Four as Beauprez Gets His Signatures**

*Denver Post*

Four Republicans are on the ballot for governor with the announcement last Wednesday that former Congressman Bob Beauprez barely collected enough signatures to add his name.  In order to petition onto the ballot, Beauprez’s campaign had to collect 1,500 signatures from registered Republicans in each of the state’s seven congressional districts.  He almost fell short in the Denver-based 1st Congressional District, collecting only 1,524 signatures.  [Click here](http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci_25582005/four-gop-ballot-governor-beauprez-gets-needed-signatures) to read more.

**Gov. Hickenlooper announces resignation of Kristen Russell**

*Denver Business Journal*

Gov. John Hickenlooper announced today Kristin Russell will leave her job next month as Executive Director of the Governor’s Office of Information Technology (OIT) to join Deloitte Consulting LLP.  Before being hired by the governor in February 2011, Russell was VP of Global IT Service Operations at Oracle.  Kevin Patterson, a deputy chief of staff in the Governor’s Office, will oversee OIT on an interim basis when Russell leaves her job on May 9. A search for a permanent replacement is underway.   [Click here](http://www.bizjournals.com/denver/blog/boosters_bits/2014/04/colorado-loses-its-cio-to-deloitte.html) to read more

**Bill to Change Colorado Hard-Cider Distribution Laws Goes Flat**

*Denver Business Journal*

The “Hard Cider War of 2014” has ended almost before the first shot was fired.

[Anheuser Busch InBev](http://www.bizjournals.com/profiles/company/us/fl/jacksonville/anheuser-busch_inbev/3297017) and [MillerCoors LLC](http://www.bizjournals.com/profiles/company/us/il/chicago/millercoors_llc_/3263336), which make cider in other states, had asked state Rep. [Dan Pabon](http://www.bizjournals.com/denver/search/results?q=Dan%20Pabon), D-Denver, to run a bill making it easier for them to import those products to Colorado.  But after several weeks of conversations about his proposal, Pabon on Tuesday said the complexity of the issue was too much to tackle with less than a month left in the session, and he asked a committee to kill the bill.  He vowed, however, to bring it back in the future.  [Click here](http://www.bizjournals.com/denver/news/2014/04/15/bill-to-change-colorado-hard-cider-distribution.html?ana=e_du_pap&s=article_du&ed=2014-04-15&u=29211537134d929246dcbe70d0a68f&t=1397600046) to read more.

**Road bill introduced in response to U.S. 36 controversy**

*Denver Post*

The bill, which will be heard in Senate Transportation Committee tomorrow, Tuesday, April 22, is sponsored by state Sen. Matt Jones, a Louisville Democrat, and is in response to the controversial public-private partnership deal reached earlier this year between Plenary Roads Denver and the Colorado Department of Transportation.  This bill would add new requirements to any future public – private partnership, which includes: public and legislative check-ins at critical points, including town hall meetings; any agreement more than 35 years must be approved by the legislature; and legislative approval of any compensation due to the private company that's not directly related to the road lanes.  [Click here](http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci_25593925/matt-jones-introduces-road-bills-response-u-s) to read more.

**Worker’s Comp Reform Bill Arrives in Legislature**

*Denver Business Journal*

A works’ compensation reform bill that business leaders have been worrying about all legislative session got finalized on Wednesday – but in a form that very few company leaders are expected to fear anymore.  The bill from Denver Democrat Rep. Angela Williams, expands from two to four the number of doctors that employers must offer workers as choices for treating and rehabilitating injuries sustained on the job.  But it maintains the current prohibition against switching doctors more than one time early in the process, and it does nothing to address two issues that labor leaders originally identified – the 50 percent cut in settlements for workers who break safety rules and the roughly 90 percent of workers’ compensation claims that end with employees leaving their jobs with the company.  [Click here](http://www.bizjournals.com/denver/blog/capitol_business/2014/04/workers-comp-reform-bill-arrives-in-legislature-in.html?page=all) to read more.

**Colorado’s Private Health Insurance Enrollment Stands at 124,000**

*Denver Post*

Final figures for Colorado's open-enrollment in private health insurance under the Affordable Care Act stand at about 124,000, according to state officials. That number kept climbing after the March 31 deadline, when it topped 118,000, as those who started enrollment but were unable to complete it by month's end were allowed to finish.  The state insurance exchange, Connect for Health Colorado, said Monday that enrollment is now closed until Nov. 15, 2014.  [Click here](http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci_25564427/colorados-private-health-insurance-enrollment-stands-at-124#ixzz2yylfFN6I) to read more.

**Telecomm reform package passes First Senate Committee**

The five telecommunications reform bills blazed through the Senate Business Affairs and Labor Committee as expected.  A hearing will be held in the Senate State Affairs Committee and two of the bills are expected to go to the Appropriations Committee and three straight to the floor.  It’s been approximately 20 years since Colorado’s telecommunications laws have seen any major changes.  Proponents say the reform is long overdue.

**Analysis of Oil & Gas Health Impacts Passes House**

*Colorado House Democrats*

The House passed a bill last week to analyze the health and quality of life impacts of oil and gas production along Colorado’s Front Range.  HB 14-1297, sponsored by Rep. Joann Ginal (D-Fort Collins), directs the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment to conduct a scientific, objective analysis by Jan. 1, 2017, and provide the General Assembly with annual updates.  The analysis will be conducted in six counties that have seen increased oil and gas production in recent years:  Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Larimer and Weld counties.

**Youth tanning bed limits rejected in Colorado**

 *Denver Post*

A proposal to ban children from artificial tanning beds has been rejected in the Colorado Legislature.  A Senate committee voted 4-3 against the tanning bed proposal on Wednesday. The measure had already passed the House.  Many salons require parental permission or otherwise limit youth access to tanning beds.  [Click here](http://www.denverpost.com/legislature/ci_25577161/youth-tanning-bed-limits-rejected-colorado) to read more.

**Sick-Leave Bill Opens Floodgates for Complex Late Measures in Legislature**

*Denver Business Journal*

There are just 23 days remaining in this session of the Colorado Legislature.  So, of course, it seems appropriate that some of the most long-awaited and complicated bills are just now being introduced - with legislative leaders promising there are more to arrive in the coming days.  For example, state Sen. Jessie Ulibarri, D-Commerce City, on Tuesday introduced his measure to set up a pooled sick-leave program for Colorado workers.  [Click here](http://www.bizjournals.com/denver/blog/capitol_business/2014/04/here-they-come-sick-leave-bill-opens-floodgates.html) to read more.

 **House Passes Bill to Protect Student Data**

*Colorado House Republicans*

Last week, the House of Representatives unanimously passed Rep. Carole Murray’s (R-Castle Rock) House Bill 1294, the Student Data Privacy Act, which will protect data of students collected by the Colorado Department of Education.  The bill will prevent the department from divulging personal student information to the federal government and make it illegal for the department, or any of its vendors, to sell this personal information. Additionally, the department is required to create data security guidelines to be used by local school boards.  House Bill 1294 will now go to the state Senate.

**Rep. Lawrence Elected New Minority Whip by House Republicans**

*Colorado House Republicans*

Last Tuesday the House Republican caucus unanimously elected Representative Polly Lawrence (R-Littleton) to be the next House Minority Whip.  The move comes after the resignation of Representative Kevin Priola (R-Henderson) from the position earlier this week.  Representative Priola nominated Representative Lawrence to succeed him at the caucus meeting.  Representative Lawrence has lived in the Roxborough Park area in Douglas County for 25 years, where she raised two children with her husband while remaining active in her community.  She was an officer and board member of Lawrence Construction as well as a Project Manager and Estimator in the construction industry.  She has also been a PTA president, a volunteer for both the Girl Scouts of America and the Boy Scouts of America, and a volunteer for the National Sports Center for the Disabled.  She is a graduate of Wheat Ridge High School and Colorado State University.  Representative Lawrence was elected to the House of Representatives in 2012.

**Excellence & Innovation, Small Business Person Awards Announced**

*Office of Economic Development & International Trade*

The Small Business Administration (SBA) Region VIII announced last week that the Colorado Springs Business Development Center (SBDC) was awarded the 2014 Region VIII SBDC Excellence and Innovation Award.  Over the past two years, the Colorado Springs area has experienced devastating fires and flooding.  The Colorado Springs SBDC responded with a disaster relief program to help businesses with relief, recovery and preparedness through consulting, preparedness workshops and the first annual Business Protection Summit and Resource Day.  In addition to responding to disasters, the Colorado Springs SBDC expanded consulting and facilitator services, as well as the existing veterans program, and conducted workshops on the Affordable Care Act and Connect For Health Colorado.

The SBA also awarded Jan Erickson, president of Colorado Springs-based women's clothing maker Janska, LLC, the 2013 Colorado Small Business Person of the Year. Erickson will join small business honorees from all 50 states at SBA's National Small Business Week on May 15-16, where one person will be selected as National Small Business Person of the Year.

**The Calculator**

House Bills Introduced:  386

Senate Bills Introduced:  207

Number of Bills PI’d:  140