

8 REASONS TO NAP AT WORK

» FITNESS, 18B

Voice of the Rocky Mountain Empire

THE DENVER POST

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AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

Exchange salaries high

GRINS WITH THE GUV



Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper joined self-advocates and the Global Down Syndrome Foundation to celebrate World Down Syndrome Day on the west steps of the state Capitol on Monday. The governor had his photo taken with, from left, Yadira Carrillo, Gertie Munholland, 6, and Michelle Sie Whitten, right, co-founder and executive director of the foundation. World Down Syndrome Day is March 21 — 3/21 represents the three copies of chromosome 21 that are present in those with the syndrome. *Cyrus McCrimmon, The Denver Post*

State health exchange workers are paid more than similar positions in three other states.

By Arthur Kane
Special to The Denver Post

One-fifth of the employees of Colorado's health care exchange made more than \$100,000 a year in salary and bonuses — with the executive director's pay exceeding \$190,000 in 2013, exchange records show.

And nearly half of the 36 exchange employees make more than \$80,000 a year.

The exchange also provides a lucrative retirement plan, contributing as much as 10 percent of an employee's salary for retirement.

The salaries and retirement benefits for Colorado's exchange employees are funded primarily with federal tax dollars. The executive director's pay is higher than that of three similar state exchanges examined by The Denver Post, and also exceeds most of Colorado's state department heads.

Affordable Care Act opponents say the state has created an unnecessary bureaucracy that is paying excessive salaries.

"This is a bunch of people really responsible for nothing other than getting government grants," said Linda Gorman, who studies health care policy for the Independence Institute, a free-market think tank.

PAY » 6A

RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA

Shops balance privacy, promotions, security

By Eric Gorski *The Denver Post*

Josh Boucher guards his privacy, especially when he goes shopping at a place selling NYC Diesel and East Coast Alien.

The 34-year-old is fine with showing his driver's license before entering the Bud Med recreational pot store in Edgewater — as he did one afternoon recently — but is relieved no record of it will be kept.

If a sales clerk tried to coax his cellphone number from him in exchange for joining a rewards program that would net him free joints or a T-shirt, he said he would respectfully decline.

"We have so many violations of privacy in our lives already," he

PRIVACY » 14A



Vince Gurule, right, takes care of customers at Bud Med Health Center in Denver in February. Colorado pot shops are balancing privacy, security and marketing in how they handle collecting information on their customers.

Hyoung Chang, The Denver Post

PROTECTING WATERWAYS

Report: Tighter controls needed to flood-proof state's oil and gas wells

By Mark Jaffe
The Denver Post

The oil and gas industry should move operations as far from Colorado waterways as possible and do a better job of flood-proofing wells and tanks, according to a state report released Monday.


The report by the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission staff on "lessons learned" from the September floods that ravaged the Front Range recommends new oil and gas regulations.

Among the requirements would be more information on operations near waterways and better construction and safety equipment.

The massive floods forced the closure of 2,658 wells at the peak of the storms, washed out berms, broke pipes and swept away oil and gas tanks. The commission staff determined there were 1,614 wells in the flood zone.

"Many oil and gas facilities located near flooded streams were damaged," the report said. "Oil,

FLOOD » 6A

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