

Divorce expo helps people avoid splitting headaches

Lakewood attorney **Dennis Jacobson** has helped a lot of people get divorced over the past 30 years. And he's got one thing to say about it: "People should learn how to communicate with someone they don't like." Amen, brother.

He'll be sharing the news and selling his new book, "When Your Marriage Is Over," at "The Next Chapter Divorce Expo" on May 14 at Wings Over the Rockies.

About 1,000 people are expected at the divorce fair, getting all kinds of advice on how to call it quits and live to see another day, if not your spouse.

Jacobson has seen it all. In his practice he says he tried to "minimize the scars and the pain."

He says things calmed down in the '80s but have gotten more contentious in the past decade. People are



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paying more attention to winning and money than they are to the welfare of their children.

"People are poorly coached during divorce," he says. "It's not so much that they are getting something that the other person wants — they just don't want the other person to have it. A couple can fight over millions of dollars in real estate, but they really fight when it comes down to some bathroom rugs. And when the judge decides who gets the big TV, people have a tendency to break things."

Jacobson is married for 30 years to his first wife. How does he do it?

"My wife is gracious enough not to make me carry the baggage of my mistakes."

Winning? Tix for **Charlie Sheen's** Denver stop on April 28 went on sale Saturday — and are still available at charliesheen.com — \$52.45 to \$106.50. Save up \$575 for a meet & greet.

Blogs say "My Torpedo of Truth/Defeat Is Not an Option" tour will run about 70 minutes, with mostly Sheen on stage alone, talking the talk, with some videos.

More than a few locals have noted that Denver's Wells Fargo Theatre is the 17th of 20 stops and wonder aloud if he'll burn out before that. Stay tuned.

Moonwalking. The ghost of Michael Jackson is back June 10 at Red Rocks for "The Ultimate Thriller Michael

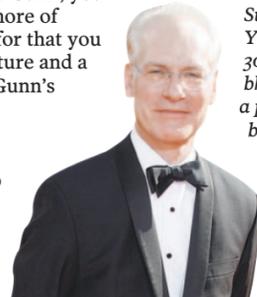
Jackson Tribute Concert." If you miss it, Cirque du Soleil's "Michael Jackson: The Immortal World Tour" hits Pepsi Center Jan. 6 and 7.

Going great Gunn. **Tim Gunn** of "Project Runway" comes to Park Meadows mall 11 a.m. April 9 and plays nice with people who have bought Lucky Brand jeans. We can all see a fashion presentation — but if you want to meet Gunn, you must buy \$100 or more of Lucky merch, and for that you get a "Hello," a picture and a copy of his book "Gunn's Golden Rules."

City spirit. **Toby Keith** stopped into Park Hyatt Beaver Creek for Friday's après ski — and

sat in with local musician **Shannon Tanner**. ... Sighting: **Robert Redford** skiing in Snowmass with Sundance chairman **Wally Weisman**. ... **Judie Schwartz** holds court 5 to 7 p.m. Wednesday at Neiman Marcus, talking in the shoe salon about pumps and sandals and handbags. ... Sez who: "I believe that treating other people well is a lost art." **Tim Gunn**

Bill Husted's column appears Sunday, Tuesday and Friday. You can reach him at 303-954-1486 or at bhusted@denverpost.com. Take a peek at Husted's next column at blogs.denverpost.com/husted.



◀ **Tim Gunn**

CHEERING CHILDREN ON



Broncos cheerleader Jessica Flores smiles as Kacey Beightol, center, and Briana Carey react to former Denver safety John Lynch during the World Down Syndrome Day celebration at Children's Hospital in Aurora on Monday. The annual event, held globally, is celebrated March 21 to represent the three copies of chromosome 21, a trait unique to people with Down syndrome. Attendees were taught cheers and haka, a dance of the Maori of New Zealand. *Aaron Ontiveroz, The Denver Post*

Bill advances to punish cities that balk at inmate ICE check

By **Kyle Glazier** *The Denver Post*

The House gave initial approval Monday to a bill that would penalize Colorado communities that choose not to participate in a federal program targeting illegal immigrants.

House Bill 1140, sponsored by Rep. David Balmer, R-Centennial, won approval by voice vote after a spirited challenge from House Democrats.

The bill would withhold cigarette tax revenue from local governments that choose not to participate in U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Secure Communities Initiative, and it would distribute that money to cities that participate. Secure Communities creates a national fingerprint database so that everyone booked into a jail is checked against ICE records.

Former Gov. Bill Ritter approved Colorado's participation in the program Jan. 4.

Although federal law currently requires participation in the initiative by 2013, Balmer said waivers will likely push that date back more than once. Balmer said cities such as Boulder, Basalt and Durango have indicated that they will not participate.

"This is one law I would like to see implemented in Colorado," Balmer said. "We need to give our communities and our citizens an in-

centive to participate."

House Democrats voiced concern that withholding tax revenue from communities is the wrong move during a tough economy and also said that the bill effectively strong-arms local governments into doing a job best left to ICE.

"We won't tell you what to do," Rep. Max Tyler, D-Lakewood, said sarcastically. "We'll just take all your money."

"It seems really punitive," said Rep. Claire Levy, D-Boulder. "It's unfair."

Balmer said Secure Communities is more objective than past immigration enforcement policies, because every person booked into jail would automatically be checked against the ICE database, without making race an issue.

Other opponents of the bill have said it would lead to racial profiling and called it "an immigration dragnet," an allegation that Balmer said is the most common complaint about Secure Communities.

"Right now, the current system before Secure Communities led to racial profiling," Balmer said.

The bill must win final House approval before heading to the Senate.

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Legislature Briefs

IMMIGRANTS-BAIL BILL KILLED

A prosecutors' bill aimed at bail bondsmen who get illegal immigrants out of jail died a bipartisan death Monday in a Senate committee.

Surety companies, bail bondsmen, and immigrant attorneys and activists united to lobby against the measure.

Tamar Wilson, with the Colorado District Attorneys Council, argued that the bill had nothing to do with illegal immigration.

"It has everything to do with fairness," she said. She said bonding agents are collecting a "windfall" when an illegal immigrant with a jail bond is deported from the country, a contention hotly in dispute. The district attorneys wanted the law to change so that bonding agents are liable for all of a defendant's bail even if he or she is deported.

House Bill 1088 died on a 4-1 vote with Sen. Bill Cadman, R-Colorado Springs, voting with the three Democrats on the Senate panel. Two El Paso County Republicans, Sen. Kent Lambert and Rep. Mark Barker, sponsored the bill.

Bill would ease life sentences for juveniles. More than 45 juvenile offenders now serving life without parole could return to the community within as little as 30 years under legislation introduced late last week.

Colorado changed its sentencing structure in 2006 for teens convicted of the most serious criminal offenses, making them eligible for parole after 40 years in prison.

But that legislation didn't affect those already serving life sentences. House Bill 1287 would apply the 40-year rule retroactively.

It would also make teens tried as adults eligible for placement in community corrections 30 years after their incarceration with approval from the executive director of the state Department of Corrections.

The offenders would have to remain under supervision for another decade.

Reps. Claire Levy, D-Boulder, and B.J. Nikkel, R-Loveland, are prime sponsors on HB 1287.

Idea to attract film productions rejected. Lawmakers rejected an idea to let moviegoers have the option of donating a dime at theaters to attract filmmakers by boosting a state incentive fund. A Senate committee voted unanimously to indefinitely postpone House Bill 1207 on Monday.

The bill would have allowed voluntary donations at movie theaters for the Colorado Film Commission, which offers incentives to filmmakers.

The proposal started out as a 10-cent fee on movie tickets, but the bill sponsors changed it to a voluntary donation. *Denver Post staff reports*

Denver council passes raise

Five members vote against the pay boost, saying it sends the wrong message.

By **Jeremy P. Meyer**
The Denver Post

Denver City Council members Monday night approved a 6.6 percent pay increase for the city's elected officials, which council president Chris Nevitt called "symbolic."

"The amount of money has virtually no impact on the budget," said Nevitt, who voted along with seven other council members for the pay raise for the next sitting council, mayor, auditor, and clerk and recorder.

Five voted against the raise.

The raise will be delayed for the first two years of the four-year term and kick in with a 3.3 percent raise in July 2013 and the second part of the raise in July 2014.

The raise could have totaled \$350,000, but the delayed raise will equal about a \$90,000 total increase, Nevitt said. Compared with the city's \$850 million budget, that is a small amount, he said.

Denver is the only large city in Colorado that pays its council members a living wage — \$78,173 a year, plus about 30 percent more in benefits. The raise will give council members an annual salary of \$83,332 by July 2014. The president makes about \$10,000 more. The mayor's salary will grow to \$155,211 from \$145,601.

Salaries of both the clerk and recorder and the auditor will go to \$134,235, up from their current \$125,924.

City law requires the council every four years to set the salaries for the incoming officials. The council hasn't had a raise in four years.

Every elected position, including all 13 council members, is up for election May 3.

Six council members are unopposed: Charlie Brown, Nevitt, Carla Madison, Paul Lopez, Peggy Lehmann and Jeanne Robb. Of those, only Robb voted against the ordinance.

The other no votes were Paula Sandoval, Marcia Johnson, Jeanne Faatz and Carol Boigon, who is running for mayor.

Councilmen Doug Linkhart and Michael Hancock, who also are running for mayor, voted in favor of the ordinance.

"In the face of watching the concerns of our families in the community, and knowing there will be sacrifices by our employees, I cannot support this," Boigon said.

Faatz, who last week offered a failed amendment to give no raises, said she has heard from plenty of people upset about the pay raise.

"The people are outraged," she said. "I believe it is a bad move, an extremely bad message."

Denver is facing a \$100 million budget shortfall for 2011 and last week asked departments to help figure out where to cut. The Police Department faces a \$24 million cut, which could mean as many as 100 jobs.

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PROGRAM: "First time" case may be unclear

◀ FROM 1B

meeting with a prostitute could add resources to those efforts, according to bill sponsor and Senate President Brandon Shaffer, D-Longmont.

Current guidelines allow most offenders to face a \$1,000 fine and up to a year in jail, though sentences are often much lower.

Shaffer took heat for the magnitude of the fines, but he said that "we need to broadcast that there are real consequences tied to this kind of behavior."

There remain details to be hammered out, he acknowledged.

For example, people who use intimidation to coerce a person into prostitution — a crime called felony pandering — could pay as little as

\$5,000 and avoid the long-lasting ramifications of a felony record.

It could also be tough to tell who is a first-time offender, since not all municipal courts report arrests or convictions statewide.

And the proposed fines are far greater than the \$1,000 maximum now allowed in municipal court, said Arvada presiding Municipal Court Judge George Boyle.

"I don't know how many municipal courts are going to opt into this program," Boyle said. "And it looks as if it would require some kind of probation. Some municipal courts already have that. Some don't. It's going to cost some money."

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