Rematch report: Exum challenges Roupe

BY ERNEST LUNING

It’s a rematch this year in Colorado’s swingiest house district, pitting two candidates who have each won the seat once and lost it once.

State Rep. Kit Roupe, the Republican, and former state Rep. Tony Exum, Jr., the Democrat, are facing off to represent House District 17, covering southeast Colorado Springs and a portion of unincorporated El Paso County, in a race that’s being run on the side-walks over nuts-and-bolts issues.

In what has become a familiar pattern in the district over the last decade, Roupe ousted Exum in 2014, just as Exum unseated former GOP state Rep. Mark Barker in the election before that.

The seat is known as a bellwether for the state and has switched between parties like clockwork since 2006, with Democrats winning in presidential years and Republicans prevailing in midterm elections.

If the pattern holds, Exum should be able to count on reclaiming the seat — turnout among Republicans and unaffiliated voters tends to be fairly steady, but Democrats vote in markedly lower numbers when there isn’t a presidential contest on the ballot — but neither candidate expects this year’s election to be typical, and both say they’re pounding the pavement to wrangle every vote.

“It’s essential to walk door-to-door and attend as many events as possible,” says Roupe, an Army veteran who has run a pet-sitting business since retiring as a land-use planner and Defense Department employee. “You have to stay in touch, listen to your constituents — but I haven’t just listened to them, I’ve acted on what’s necessary. You work for the people you represent, you’re not just a headpiece.”

“I am grateful for the opportunity to improve the quality of life of individuals who live in House District 17 and throughout the state,” says Exum, a retired battalion chief who worked for the Colorado Springs Fire Department for 35 years. “It was up to voters to give me the opportunity the first time. I’m going to do everything I can to persuade them, but it’s up to them to give me another opportunity, and I’ll appreciate another opportunity to serve. I’m going to work my tail off.”

Both candidates stress their records helping district residents with legislation addressing kitch-en-table issues, including employment, job training and access to child care and health care.

Roupe points to bills she’s sponsored that have already led to construction in her district and jobs for the primarily blue-collarc residents, including groundbreaking on a new data center and companies devoted to refurbishing aircraft.

“Because we did a little tweak here and there with some of these laws, we’re helping get their workforce and produce jobs for the district,” she says, adding that her work has also helped foster partnerships between community colleges and school districts to boost critical vocational training.

She says her many priorities for the next session include jobs, transportation, education, health care, child care and veterans’ issues.

Seniors and the district’s lower-income families, Roupe says, are “very concerned about Medicaid — they’ll get approved and then can’t find a doctor. The shortage of doctors is affecting our veterans’ community as well.” Toward that end, she points to a veterans’ legislative summit, involving local officials and members of the congressional delegation, to discuss everything from homelessness to mental health concerns and employment opportunities for veterans.

As for child care — what Roupe says is a crucial issue for her constituents — she calls herself “an instigator of great beginnings but not the one with the...
Colorado plays host to those tolling for the future

By Miller Hudson

Almost any weekday this summer, you could spot Denver conventioners on 16th Street Mall shuttles by the colorful lanyards adorning their necks. It’s usually easy to discern whether these are visiting dentists, geologists, accountants or lawyers after a quick glance at their badges.

But the recent 84th Annual Meeting of the International Bridge, Tunnel and Turnpike Association (IBTTA) was a head-scratcher. Seriously, who knew there was an International Bridge, Tunnel and Turnpike Association?

Hosted in Denver by our very own E-470 Authority, the operators of tolled roads, bridges, HOV/HOT lanes and their vendors from across the country — and world — assembled to rub elbows and celebrate what they view as a promising business opportunity. With politicians afraid to raise taxes and, in Colorado, voters reluctant to approve them, tolling has a bright future.

You can measure the prosperity of an association by the dollars its vendors are willing to throw at delegate entertainment — free drinks, free food, evening buffets and Latin bands at LoDo bars. By that standard, it appears there must be substantial dollars sloshing around the tolling industry.

The world was represented, with European, Japanese and Taiwanese companies rolling out the red carpet alongside their American competitors.

Next year their summit is scheduled for Rome, validating the international nature of the organization. Wow!

Of course, Colorado is something of a small fry in the tolling business alongside states like Florida and Pennsylvania that abandoned taxes in favor of public private partnerships for highway expansion years ago. Absent an infusion of spinal starch in our own state’s legislative chambers, it seems inevitable that Colorado will accommodate the 12,000 newcomers and their cars arriving each month with tolled highway capacity.

Implicit in these presentations was a fingers-crossed hope that automatic vehicles and connected platooning, relying on radar recognition between vehicles, can miraculously expand capacity. This hope is premised on the notion that spacing can be reduced to 30-foot headways, rather than the hundred maintained by drivers today, thereby tripling throughput at tollgate speeds.

The following day’s glimpse at technological “progress” threw some cold water on this fantasy. Not only is there a substantial expense in outfitting dedicated lanes with the electronics required to convey connected vehicles, but there is currently no business model for recovering these costs. Marty Stone, American consultant and a former state legislator. He boasted...
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$1.1 million recovered through medical marijuana audits

BY MIKE MCKIBBIN

City Treasurer Steve Ellington said most of the $1.1 million in recovered revenue was from use tax on large equipment used in MMJ grow operations, not sales taxes. “I think that amount is about normal compared to other use tax revenue we find in other audits,” Ellington said. “We usually find it in heavier industrial businesses, so I’d say the $1.1 million was not something that struck us as a huge concern.” Ellington said his staff now has 31 MMJ audits underway in the city.

The Colorado Department of Revenue shows all four jurisdictions for ensuring tax compliance had conducted just three audits of city MMJ outlets, which had begun opening for business in 2010 and 2011. Freeman noted. The original audit also found that the citywide marijuana policy did not address tax collection and the importance of compliance enforcement. Specifically, the treasury department had not:

• Gathered enough data through completion of its audits of MMJ business to make sure its tax compliance program was ensuring tax compliance by the MMJ industry;

• Enhanced its taxpayer education efforts to make sure MMJ businesses had information they needed to comply with tax regulations; and

• Worked with other jurisdictions to assess its MMJ tax collection and enforcement.

Freeman’s follow-up report noted that although the percentage of tax money from MMJ is small compared to the total of all the city’s tax revenue streams, the percentage will only grow as the retail marijuana industry becomes more established.

Security and accuracy are what make the U.S. election system work correctly, so when either one of them is suspected or found to be at fault, it raises concerns from the public and those who oversee its operation.

Last week, Colorado’s voter registration system was the subject of a Denver CBS4 investigation that uncovered several potential fraudulent votes cast in the names of Coloradans who had died. The cases of four dead men and women — one had died as long as eight years ago — casting ballots occurred in El Paso, Denver and Jefferson counties. District attorneys are now investigating for possible prosecution.

CBS4 provided a list of names to state elections officials last month and aired a story about the investigation Sept. 22. Colorado Secretary of State Wayne Williams and county clerks deleted the names of 78 other deceased voters, along with the names of the four deceased voters in the CBS4 story.

A news release from Williams’ office noted every mail ballot cast in Colorado must have a signature on the return envelope. That signature is matched to a signature on file from the voter (typically a recent voter or Department of Motor Vehicle transaction). Only when a person’s signature is forged or a person witnesses a fraudulent signature could a ballot be counted when it was fraudulently cast, the release noted.

Ben Schler, legal and policy manager in the secretary of state’s office, explained a number of steps taken to ensure Colorado voter registration is complete and updated. Colorado and its counties must follow the National Voter Registration Act’s list-maintenance guidelines to decide whether to remove names from the voter rolls. Schler noted. A county may not remove a voter from the rolls unless it receives written notice from that voter, has other information that a voter’s residence has changed, the voter fails to respond to a county notice about the change in residence or the voter does not vote in two consecutive general elections after the county’s notice.

A county may not cancel a voter’s record without matching the voter’s name, date of birth, and either a Colorado driver’s license number, the last four digits of a Social Security number or a residential address, Schler noted. Death: The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment provides a monthly list of people who died, which is imported into the Statewide Colorado Registration and Election, or SCORE, system, and counties cancel all voters who meet minimum matching criteria. The office has also recently gained access to the Social Security Death Index, which is imported into SCORE monthly for counties to check and act as necessary, Schler added.

However, federal and state laws require an exact match on name, birth date, and either full address or Social Security number to remove the name of a voter who has died, so not every such name can be canceled without extensive research, he noted. Williams planned to work with legislators to make it easier to cancel the names of voters who die. In some cases, people die outside Colorado or in another country, so election officials might not receive word that a registered voter has died.

Felony convictions: Each month, the Colorado Department of Revenueoversees its operation. The City and County of Denver is doing a better job of collecting revenue streams, the Indepen-
By David O. Williams

While Colorado state Senate District 8 has seen some very nasty political attacks in recent years — sometimes even bitter, red-on-red Republican infighting in this mostly conservative rural region — nothing gets people more riled up in these parts than transportation funding shortfalls. Voters who have been stuck for six hours on Interstate 70 when a car with bald tires starts a chain-reaction pileup in a snowstorm will turn a bright shade of red telling you about it, even if they’re the bluest of blue Democrats. And after all, former Mayor Bill McNichols was ousted in the early ’80s after he failed to clear a massive blizzard from the streets of Denver.

Breckenridge resident, educator and longtime civil servant Emily Tracy, a Democrat, thinks incumbent SD8 Republican Sen. Randy Baumgardner, who chairs the Senate Transportation Committee, is equally vulnerable for how he’s handled — or in her opinion failed to handle — transportation issues along the I-70 corridor and across the entire state.

“I drive over Vail Pass a lot, and before we even get into winter weather, Vail Pass is in terrible shape,” Tracy said. “That road is falling apart. It’s a mess. It’s just a perfect example of how our roads are falling apart under our current funding scheme.”

That funding scheme relies mostly on state and federal gas taxes that haven’t been increased since the early 90s. After that it’s a patchwork of other state funding sources that can vary year to year and don’t come close to bridging the $1-billion-a-year shortfall Colorado Department of Transportation officials say they’re facing due to basic maintenance and expanding capacity.

Baumgardner places the blame squarely at the feet of Democrats who control the House and have refused to pass highway bond bills he’s introduced and passed in the Republican-controlled Senate the past two legislative sessions.

“All we hear is we’re failing a billion dollars behind every year in transportation infrastructure,” Baumgardner said. “Well, let’s put these construction companies to work the next seven years. Let’s fix these projects that ... have been targeted as the most critical transportation projects in the state.”

“We had the funding source,” Baumgardner said of his highway bonding bills. “We were going to go back to Senate Bill 1 and House Bill 1310 that basically designate a certain amount of the general fund for transportation, and we were going to do away with Senate Bill 228, where $200 million a year got put back for five years. That never worked out just right. We’re still not sure how that’s supposed to work. They thought it was a great idea, and it’s not a great idea.”

Tracy decries an overall lack of political leadership needed to educate the public about the necessity of putting a state gas tax increase on the ballot, but she particularly singles out Baumgardner, a chief manager for Interstate 70 in Steamboat Springs she says won’t meet with public officials to discuss basic transportation problems and fails to understand the common-sense legislative fixes.

She points to an I-70 traction bill that proponents argued would have given CDOT greater authority to impose chain-law restrictions on passenger vehicles. Tracy says that after the bipartisian bill passed the House and headed to the Senate, Baumgardner failed to chair his own committee meeting and did not listen to the testimony of backers ranging from CDOT to the Colorado State Patrol to the Colorado Motor Carriers Association to elected officials.

“I don’t understand why Sen. Baumgardner killed that bill; why he felt that bill wasn’t needed,” Tracy said. “We just have to do whatever we can. It’s foolish to be a state like Colorado where you have the highest elevation highways anywhere in the country, if we don’t have laws to address the needs on those highways in the winter. We’re fooling ourselves.”

Baumgardner’s answer is simple: “All they said is this codifies what they had already in statute. It doesn’t need to be codified.”

But House sponsor Diane Mitsch Bush, a Steamboat Springs Democrat, wrote that it would have done a lot more than just codify existing law. It would have allowed CDOT to require “adequate tires, chains, or alternate traction devices” for passenger vehicles without having to wait until conditions deteriorated enough for a “Code 15” (passenger vehicle chain law).

Baumgardner scoffs at state estimates that lengthy I-70 closures cost up to $800,000 in lost revenue to state and local economies.

“She talks about the $800,000 a day that it was costing when these things happen, so on that very day that we had that [committee] debate there was a triathlon on Loveland Pass,” Baumgardner said. “They shut the trucks down and they couldn’t use Loveland Pass. They had to wait at the top for an hour to get through traffic on I-70. What does that cost that when that happens?”

Now back to the political nastiness. Tracy already challenged Baumgardner the first time he won his four-year seat in 2012, and she lost rather handily by a margin of 51.1 percent (34,187 votes) to 44.3 percent (29,688).

However, Libertarian candidate Sacha Weiss sphoned off 4.6 percent of the votes (3,079), and there is no third-party candidate in this time. Plus, Tracy says SD8 Republican voter registration had dropped from 40 percent in 2012 to 35 percent in 2016.

On top of that, Tracy has the political backing of two Republicans who used to hold Baumgardner’s seat — popular Hayden GOP members Al and Jean White, who clearly are still smarting from the 2012 primary in which Jean White was attacked by fliers that accused her of pursuing a “homosexual agenda” for her vote in favor of civil unions. Al White was elected to the seat but turned it over to his wife when he was named head of the Colorado Tourism Office.

Al White briefly ran as an unaffiliated candidate this spring but dropped out because of the difficulties fundraising without party backing, and he subsequently endorsed Tracy.

Baumgardner was also the subject of some nastiness in 2012 for allowing a convicted sex offender to live on his ranch after voting against revisions to state sex-offender laws. And now he’s facing another round of opposition digging into past actions as an 11-year employee of CDOT who left the state agency in 2011, although his wife Lori still works there.

Results of a Colorado Open Records Act request filed with CDOT in the spring and obtained by the Colorado Statesman this week reveal the Baumgardners were focused on three different times for personal use of state property — once for improper use of a fuel card person- al identification numbers 2009, once for dumping CDOT sand on their ranch in 2014, and earlier this year for using CDOT office photocopy machines to duplicate their tax returns.

“Politics is politics, and they can try to make anything out of anything or nothing, so yeah, I don’t have any idea what you’re talking about, and I don’t know what they said,” Baumgardner said when asked about the emails from CDOT officials obtained in the CORA request.

Tracy, who previously worked for the judicial branch for four years as a program administrator in the office of dispute resolution and also for a police department, took a dim view of the information.

“When you work directly in those kinds of systems, you just have a greater appreciation for the rule of law, and why we have a stable country and how it works,” Tracy said. “It works through the rule of law, and if we don’t adhere to that, then we think CDOT should just take things for our own personal benefit, then we’re disrupting that system in a way that’s very damaging.”

Let’s fix these projects that have been targeted as the most critical transportation projects in the state.

Democrats say they haven’t passed Baumgardner’s bills because he hasn’t identified state revenue sources to pay off the bonds. They’d like to reclassify the Hospital Provider Fee as an enterprise fund and therefore exempt it from triggering tax re- refunds under the Taxpayers Bill of Rights — a move proponents say would free up hundreds of millions for education and transportation and possibly provide a source of funds to bond against.

“Club 20, which is pretty con- servative, one of their positions is that they support the concept of transportation bonds but only if there’s a specific source of funding identified to pay those bonds,” Tracy said, noting that as recently as the Club 20 debate in Grand Junction on Sept. 10 her opponent was still questioning the constitutionality of reclassifying the Hospital Provider Fee even though the Republican attorney general has signed off on it.
Inside the Ivanka Trump breakfast

BY STEVE SOKOLIK

The Colorado Women’s Alliance hosted what was billed as a nonpartisan breakfast at the Downtown Sheraton Hotel Thursday, Sept. 22, featuring Ivanka Trump, daughter of Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump. About 50 Colorado women attended the breakfast, but some were not Trump supporters but were willing to listen. Half a dozen television news crews covered the event.

The 34-year-old Wharton Business School graduate, former fashion model and author of two books, has three children, a 5-month-old, an almost 3-year-old and a 5-year-old. She said that the dynamic in her household was “about the only thing more high-energy, complicated and chaotic than a presidential campaign.”

Ivanka Trump also owns a flourishing apparel company and has taken over the management of the multifaceted Trump organization, with her siblings Donald Jr. and Eric, while her father is “doing something much more important and much more valuable on behalf of all Americans across the country.”

Speaking about the importance of balancing family and business, Ivanka Trump added that her father understands the pressures of American working women, because he has employed tens of thousands of them, but he also respects the stay at home moms. Knowing her audience, she noted she really hates the term “working women” because you never hear the term “working man.”

“It is incredibly disrespectful to the many women in their homes and raising their families that are working raising their families,” she said.

Promoting her father’s “innovative and exciting” child care reforms is a very important issue for her, she said. “Stay at home motherhood represents a greater inequality than gender inequality does. A married woman only makes 81 cents for a man’s dollar, whereas a single woman makes 94 cents for a man’s dollar.” She asserted that there are a lot of things that could be changed in the tax code to benefit women who work, like the dependent pretax health savings accounts.

When asked by CU Regent Sue Sharkey what she would say to women voters about “women’s issues” to convince them to have a more favorable opinion of her father, Trump replied, “At the end of the day I have a little bit of trouble, just like [with the term] ‘working woman,’ calling issues ‘women’s issues.’ I think all issues are ‘women’s issues’ and first and foremost we want great jobs. We want great jobs, we want economic prosperity for this country, for all Americans. And, obviously, a rising tide lifts all ships. And, my father is most capable of providing exactly that — leadership from the top. Having built so many businesses, having employed so many people, understanding the realities of the workforce at every level. My father will be an incredible jobs president. So to any American, women, who are questioning what he will do for this county, really what I would say first and foremost, think about jobs; jobs for yourself and jobs for your children and your grandchildren, which is so key to the vitality of this country.”

After Trump wrapped up her 15-minute presentation, Debbie Brown of the Colorado Women’s Alliance presented her with a Denver Broncos gift, beaming “We love our Denver Broncos in Colorado, we are sure that you’re a Broncos fan and want your children to be Bronco Fans.”
AURORA Dems Host 10th Annual Schroeder Dinner

U.S. Rep. Ed Perlmutter embraces Arapahoe County Commissioner Bill Holen after Holen was named recipient of the Arapahoe County Democratic Party’s Adlai Stevenson award.

TOP: Does she hear $100? Former state Rep. Debbie Stafford, D-Aurora, a certified auctioneer, takes bids in the live auction at the conclusion of the 10th annual Patricia Schroeder dinner Sept. 24, 2016.

ABOVE: Arapahoe County Democratic Party Chairwoman Pat Shaver (left) and Democratic House District 36 nominee Mike Weissman (right) present the county party’s Rising Star award to Senate District 27 candidate Tom Sullivan (right) Saturday, Sept. 24.

ABOVE: U.S. Rep. Keith Ellison, D-Minnesota, greets state Rep. Rhonda Fields, D-Aurora, after delivering the keynote speech at the Arapahoe County Democratic Party’s 10th annual Patricia Schroeder dinner at the Radisson Hotel Denver Southeast in Aurora. Fields was among those who introduced Ellison, the first Muslim ever elected to Congress.

TOP. “Ed Perlmutter, this is for you,” says U.S. Rep. Keith Ellison, D-Minnesota and the first Muslim ever elected to Congress, as he dons a Denver Broncos cap after taking the stage to deliver the keynote address at the Arapahoe County Democratic Party’s 10th annual Patricia Schroeder dinner.

ROUPE, EXUM FACE OFF IN HEART OF COLORADO SPRINGS

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idea,” adding that she’s working to “put ideas out on the table” and get a conversation started. “How do we ensure quality care and, at the same time, affordability?” she asks, suggesting that there might be issues to resolve with licensing and inspections.

“If you don’t start having a conversation about what works and what doesn’t work,” Roupe says, district residents won’t find a solution.

Exum says that’s all well and good but maintains that he’s provided solutions to the problems Roupe says she’s working to tackle, including sponsoring legislation that provides child care tax credits for single parents, starting at $500 for one child and going up from there.

“That makes a difference,” he says, adding that he received a report recently from the Department of Revenue showing more than 30,000 people have participated in that tax credit to the tune of roughly $2 million. “It’s working people who are taking advantage of it,” he notes, including hundreds in his district.

Another success he points to is the “breakfast after the bell” bill, which has added thousands of youngsters to the morning nutrition program in schools, upping participation from 30 percent of those eligible to 90 percent.

“When kids aren’t hungry, it enhances their learning, they’re paying attention — all those things have impact,” Exum says.

He also boasts about a pilot program to help needy and disabled Coloradans in certain counties apply for temporary aid while they’re awaiting approval of Supplemental Security Income, speeding the process from six months to around one month. “It’s had an impact helping people with a hand up — if they have a roof over their head and food in their stomach, then they can start dealing with other problems,” he says.

Both candidates support reclassifying the Hospital Provider Fee as an enterprise fund in the state budget, potentially freeing up some $600 million in state spending.

This year, Roupe was one of just a handful of Republicans to back transit program in schools, upping participation of youngsters to the morning nutrition program in schools, upping

Both candidates also won the endorsement of One Colorado, the state LGBTQ-advocacy organization. (Roupe and state Rep. Dan Thurlow of Grand Junction were the only Republicans to win the group’s backing, with perfect scores on the group’s legislative priorities, although a One Colorado spokesman noted that only four GOP legislative candidates filled out the group’s questionnaire.)

The district doesn’t have the fewest registered voters in the state — that would be Arapahoe County’s House District 42, which lags House District 17 by about 600 voters and is currently represented by state Rep. Rhonda Fields, an Aurora Democrat running for a state Senate seat — but it’s a close second.

Democrats account for 32 percent of the district’s active voters, Republicans have 26 percent, and unaffiliated voters make up a full 39 percent of the total, according to the most recent figures reported by the Colorado Secretary of State’s office.


“It’s those pendulum swings that have both candidates concentrating on get-out-the-vote efforts as the election approaches. “Keeping in mind voter exhaustion,” Roupe says with a smile, she’s running a relentlessly local race.

“I’m supporting (Republican presidential nominee Donald) Trump,” she says, “but I have my misgivings. They’re both difficult candidates, nobody’s happy with either of these choices. People need to realize this. It’s a hard election year. I don’t work for Trump, and I don’t work for my party.”

Roupe says she’s troubled by “some of the earlier rhetoric he had on immigration, as much as I understand fundamentally what he was trying to say, he didn’t deliver it well.” She adds, “I’m certainly not an amnesty person and think we need to do more than put ‘em on a train and shovel them out. We’ve got families to protect.”

Exum is unequivocal that he’s supporting Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton, but acknowledged he runs into the same frustration with the presidential contest among district voters.

“Tell them, ‘I understand your concern. I vote with my heart and what’s in my gut, but I also have some knowledge. I do some research, not just what’s on TV. Look into their past. Don’t tell me you don’t like either one, you’ve got to make a decision. They’re the two nominees.’ I don’t want to browbeat them, but I give them reasons why they should vote.”

That’s often when Exum takes out the $35 poll tax receipt — dated Sept. 24, 1964 — given to him by a constituent, “to impress upon them the importance of participating in the election process, especially minorities, to honor the people who marched and fought for their right to vote,” adding, “I believe our forefathers would roll over in their graves if they saw the participation rate.”

Exum says he carries the relic of hard-fought voting rights with him “as a reminder not only for the people but for me. I’m going to honor that every time I get the opportunity.”

Exum is far ahead in fundraising, pulling in $104,742 through the period ending Sept. 14, and has $39,647 on hand, compared with Roupe’s $69,082 in contributions and $27,721 in the bank. Through the most recent reporting deadline, they’ve both spent roughly the same — about $45,000.


Former state Rep. Tony Exum, Jr., D-Colorado Springs, talks with voters while campaigning for the House District 17 seat he’s seeking to win back.

September 29, 2016, The Colorado Statesman
James Watt blasts critics, defends Interior policies

BY ERNEST LUNING

Thirty-five Years Ago this week in The Colorado Statesman … Former U.S. Rep. Wayne Aspinall declared that Colorado was “back in the big leagues” as he introduced divisive Coloradan Interior Secretary James Watt at the annual Club 20 banquet in Grand Junction. Watt, who noted he carried a Navajo arrowhead to “be protected from newspaper reporters and TV people,” held a combative press conference a couple hours earlier inside a noisy hangar at the airport, where he got into an argument with a reporter who asked about the Reagan administration’s plans to weaken the Clean Air Act. “Why ask me? Did the Sierra Club ask you to ask me?” My aids tell me not to bait people, but I know your sources,” Watt thundered. Noting that Interior dealt with “over 220 groups,” he claimed that “only eight” have come out against him. “Some of my aids hoped to improve my image. They’ve given up on that. But everyone loves me.” A relaxed and confident Watt, however, received three standing ovations from Club 20 fans at the Holiday Inn. Noting that he’d prayed Ronald Reagan wouldn’t ask him to take on the mess at Interior — an entrenched bureaucracy and “unrelenting pressure from special interests” had made the department nearly unmanageable — Watt said he nonetheless answered the call when it came. Bringing former Colorado House Speaker Bob Burford along to run the Bureau of Land Management, Watt said, “Critics told the most malicious, vile lies, but we didn’t bother to answer them. We were bringing change to America.” That included instituting a “multiple use” policy on the 341 million BLM acres, including mining, drilling, logging and grazing. “Who will the land be managed for? For a few back-packers or for us?” he asked …

… Colorado Republican Party Chairman Bo Callaway introduced Bob Teeter to a gaggle of reporters citing a passage in a recent article about the GOP pollster: “There are four men that President (Ronald) Reagan listens to. Bob Teeter is one of them.” Teeter, who had risen to prominence as President Gerald Ford’s pollster in the 1976 campaign, unveiled results of an in-depth survey of Colorado voters in an effort to help state Republicans spot “the burning issues of 1982.” The good news: It appeared two-term Gov. Dick Lamm should seek a third term as governor, and state Rep. Betty Orten was the overwhelming choice to run for secretary of state in 1982, but there was no clear choice for a candidate for attorney general in the wake of Democrat J.D. MacFarlane’s announcement he wouldn’t seek another term. Colorado first lady Bottie Lamm, who was recovering from breast cancer surgery, and U.S. Rep. Pat Schroeder toppled the list of “most admired” Democratic women, with Lt. Gov. Nancy Dick and state Sen. Polly Baca Barragan also receiving numerous mentions. …

… Forget the endless wrangling over congressional reapportionment between Democratic Gov. Dick Lamm and Republican lawmakers — the state GOP had just sued in federal court to demand maps by Nov. 10, a year before the 1982 election — wrote Salida-based contributing columnist Ed Quillen. “If the Legislature is busy arguing about redistricting, it can’t also be busy passing unconstitutional pornography laws, moronic prohibitions of un-definable drug paraphernalia or resolutions on ‘Americanism’ sponsored by Sam Zukhmen.” Quillen wrote. Instead, it was time to admit that Colorado didn’t make any sense as a state — its borders fell along arbitrary survey lines, not any natural boundaries — and dismantle the rectangle. “Once we abandon the sentimental notion that we have to keep Colorado intact,” he wrote, “redistricting becomes easy — make it someone else’s headache.” Quillen’s remedy was simple: give the San Luis Valley to New Mexico, let Nebraska have the northeast farming acres, turn over northwestern Colorado to Wyoming, give canyon country to Utah and the Arkansas Valley to Kansas. That would leave just the Denver metro area and some close mountain land that ought to be easy to slice up. “Colorado might have been a good idea 120 years ago, when a few smart draw lines on a crude map and argued whether to call it Jefferson, Idaho or Colorado territory,” Quillen concluded. “But news from the household, daughter Anne Armstrong was making “some pretty good sounds” on the electric strings, mom Ellen Armstrong said, although she only chuckled when asked what the senator’s favorite rock-and-roll song was. It was unlikely, local media observers assured The Statesman, that Armstrong’s flagship radio station, top-rated KEZW, would drop its easy-listening format for the more raucous sounds of Wil’s band. In other news from the household, daughter Anne Armstrong had “flown the coop” and was starting college at the University of Denver.
SECRETARY OF STATE DOWNPLAYS ELECTION CONCERNS

Do you own property near and downwind from the former Rocky Flats Nuclear Weapons Plant (in Jefferson County, northwest of Denver, Colorado) on June 7, 1989? Are you an heir of someone who did? If so, you could get money from a proposed $375 million class action settlement.

A $375 million Settlement has been proposed in a lawsuit against the former operators of the Rocky Flats Nuclear Weapons Plant. The lawsuit claims that Rockwell International Corp. and The Dow Chemical Co. caused the properties owned by the Class Representatives and the other class members in the Property Class Area (see map at www.RockyFlatsSettlement.com) to be contaminated with plutonium, a hazardous radioactive substance, which caused the properties’ values to be less than they otherwise would have been and which substantially interfered with Class Members’ use and enjoyment of their property. The case is Cook et al. v. Rockwell International Corp. and The Dow Chemical Co., Civil Action No. 90-00181-JLK (D. Colo.). The parties have agreed to settle to avoid additional delay and uncertainty in a case that already is over 26 years old but, before any money is paid, the proposed settlement must be approved by the Court.

Who is a Class Member?
The Property Class (or “Class”) includes all persons and entities that owned an interest (other than mortgagee and other security interests) in real property within the Property Class Area on June 7, 1989 (one day after a famous FBI raid of the plant site). If you are an heir of someone (or the successor of an entity) who owned property on June 7, 1989 in the Property Class Area, you may also file a claim.

What Does the Settlement Provide?
Defendants will pay $375 million (the “Settlement Fund”) to pay Class Members and to pay attorneys’ fees (not to exceed 40% of the Settlement Fund) and costs and expenses. Also, Class Counsel will ask for service awards totaling $780,000 to the Class Representatives for their efforts during over 26 years of litigation. Additionally, the Settlement Fund will pay for the cost of Notice and settlement administration. The remainder (the “Net Settlement Fund”) will be divided among Class Members.

What are my options?
To get a share of the Net Settlement Fund, you must file a claim by June 1, 2017. Payments will be calculated as a percentage of the Net Settlement Fund based on the value of the property owned and located within the Class Area as of June 7, 1989. You may opt out of the Class and Settlement by March 1, 2017. If you opt out you will not receive any money if the Settlement is approved, but you retain your right to pursue your own lawsuit with your own lawyer. Your own lawyer can advise you about whether your claims may be barred by the statute of limitations. If you do not opt out, you can object to any part of the Settlement on or before March 1, 2017. If you do not opt out, you will remain in the Class and be bound by the terms of the Settlement.

A public hearing will be held on April 28, 2017 at 11:00 a.m. MDT, in Courtroom A802 at the United States District Court for the District of Colorado, Alfred A. Arraj United States Courthouse, 901 19th Street, Denver, CO 80294. The Court will consider whether the Settlement is fair, reasonable and adequate. If there are objections, the Court will consider them. If the hearing time/date changes, it will be posted at www.RockyFlatsSettlement.com. After the hearing, the Court will decide whether to approve the Settlement. You or your attorney may attend the hearing at your own expense, but you don’t have to.

This is a summary only. For more information, including a longer Notice, the Settlement, the claim form, the proposed Plan of Allocation, the motion for attorneys’ fees, reimbursement of costs and expenses and for service awards, and a list of important deadlines, visit www.RockyFlatsSettlement.com or call 1-844-528-0187.

Online security was further enhanced with better encryption and stronger password checks put in place, so known hackers have even more barriers in their way, he added.

In Colorado, the state and federal homeland security officials, the City and County of Denver to set up what we call a fusion center to help coordinate efforts and response,” Timmons noted.

State and private online security contacts were also “put in the loop,” he said.

Timmons said in Colorado, registration and ballot counting systems are separate; the voting tabulation system is not on the internet.

If a registration system breach did occur on Election Day, Timmons said provisional ballots would be used to allow voters to cast ballots. But he remains confident SCORE is safe and secure.

“We did some significant load testing on SCORE and did about 150,000 voter registration transactions that occurred in 15 days during November, 3-4 elections,” Timmons said. “We had it going at a rate of about 10 transactions a second for two hours, which is way more than what could really happen, and we saw no errors.”

Online issues that surfaced during this year’s presidential caucuses is not an issue for the June primary, which did not have any problems, Timmons said.

However, Boulder County Republican Party Chairwoman Peg Cage noted a 40-page report from a local election watcher found two state reports could not ensure that all ballots sent out and returned were accepted or rejected in the county. Cage said the report claimed some Green Party members received primary ballots that should have been limited to either Democratic or Republican voters.

Timmons responded that since people can change their party affiliation to vote in the primary, then change it back after the election, it makes tracking voting results and ballots extremely difficult.

“So really for a period of 30 to 60 days, you can’t reconcile the information from those reports with what you get when you canvass returned ballots,” he said. “It’s very, very difficult to account for every person and their ballot and the status of it at any one time.”

“I think we’re getting mired down in a lot of muck about data and what clerks and officials are to do about it,” Cage said. “We’re forgetting this is a primary election where people have gone to their caucuses and sent officials up to the next time one state has decided candidates to be on the ballot. This is for the parties to choose who will represent them, not for you guys to be able to play with numbers and brief machines and stuff like that.”

Cage said the state should not be involved in primary elections, they should be run by the political parties.

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Medicare Part B experiment threatens community cancer clinics

By APRIL CHRISTENSEN

Put yourself in the shoes of a cancer patient in rural Colorado. If she’s lucky, she has a cancer clinic somewhere close to home. If she has an oncologist she knows well (and who knows her well). Less lucky are the patients who make an arduous trip across the state, often driving hundreds of miles round trip on a weekly basis.

Thanks to an ill-considered Medicare Part B experiment proposed by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), those long drives to get life-saving treatments could likely become the norm.

Painful budgets and bean-counting ahead of the needs of older patients, federal bureaucrats have proposed cutting the reimbursements to providers for Medicare Part B. As many seniors know firsthand, Medicare Part B is one of the most successful programs in our nation’s history, providing medically necessary treatments and care.

Not surprisingly, chemotherapy and other cancer treatments are a major focus of the Medicare Part B program. Last year alone 46% of Medicare beneficiaries often told us they prefer the smaller, more personal setting of independent community cancer clinics for treatment rather than going to an outpatient hospital setting. But for those same beneficiaries, Washington bureaucrats have been squeezing Medicare reimbursements and the results have been clear. In 2004, 84 percent of chemotherapy treatment were administered in physicians’ offices or treatment centers. By 2014, that number had dropped to 54 percent, with hospitals picking up the difference. This is, of course, before the effect of the proposed Medicare Part B cuts. And so the trend toward hospital chemotherapy treatment would greatly accelerate.

It is also worth noting that with the significantly higher overhead costs at a hospital versus a doctor’s office or a community clinic, it is too expensive to serve Medicare for patients to be treated at hospitals. So the major concern that Washington has — rising costs — is actually driven by their small local costs.

Why are these proposed rules so problematic for rural treatment centers? According to the Community Oncology Alliance, the new Medicare Part B rules will cause practices to lose money on nearly 50 of the most commonly used cancer drugs. That is just one example of how this experiment in rural cancer care business is to lose money on a core service and just carry on doesn’t make reality.

“Putting budgets and bean-counting ahead of the needs of older patients, federal bureaucrats have proposed cutting the reimbursements to providers for Medicare Part B.”

The challenge is that rural clinics are more difficult to staff and operate on a far smaller volume of patients than clinics in suburban areas. And they are much smaller than the outpatient facilities at community hospitals. It is the attraction of community treatment centers for patients, but also their great challenge, since many of the rural clinics today operate at either a loss or by their small local costs.

Sadly, you can track the drop in Medicare reimbursements by the number of rural clinics that close. The proposed Medicare Part B changes will be a trend away from smaller, community-based cancer treatment practices.

By the Colorado Statesman

DENVER PROBATE COURT
STATE OF COLORADO

VERIFIED PETITION FOR THE DETERMINATION OF HEIRS OR DEVISEES OR BOTH, AND OF INTERESTS IN PROPERTY

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS

FOR THE DETERMINATION OF HEIRS OR DEVISEES OR BOTH, AND OF INTERESTS IN PROPERTY, which hearing date is

1. This NOTICE OF FILING OF AMENDED VERIFIED PETITION FOR THE DETERMINATION OF HEIRS OR DEVISEES OR BOTH, AND OF INTERESTS IN PROPERTY TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS

TAKE NOTICE HEREBY:

1. This NOTICE OF FILING OF AMENDED VERIFIED PETITION FOR THE DETERMINATION OF HEIRS OR DEVISEES OR BOTH, AND OF INTERESTS IN PROPERTY IS filed in accordance with and pursuant to Colorado Revised Statutes § 15-12-101.

2. The Petitioner, Mosaic Partners, LLC, a Colorado limited liability company, is an interested person pursuant to Colorado Revised Statutes § 15-12-101(1).

3. Marianne D. Johnson, in her capacity as personal representative, is an interested person pursuant to Colorado Revised Statutes § 15-12-101(2).

4. The Decedent are:
   a. Clifford E. Johnson
   b. Florence L. Johnson

5. The Property Interest which is the subject of the proceeding is:

The name, address and telephone numbers of the attorney(s)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Estate of: MARIA JOSEFFA HEINDL, Deceased

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and in said Deed of Trust. THEREFORE, Notice is hereby Given that I, at 10:00 AM in the forenoon of November 10, 2016, will hold and sell, now or hereafter, pursuant to the

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and 80220

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2GEN APPROACH ABOUT INCREASING QUALITY OF SOCIAL SERVICE SYSTEMS

BY ANNE MOSLE AND REGGIE BICHA

Asks any group of parents — rich or poor — what they want for their children and the answers you’ll get are amazingly consistent. They want good-paying jobs to support their families, high-quality child care and great schools.

We asked ourselves: Shouldn’t we design social service systems that address that universal list of hopes and dreams in a comprehensive way?

That realization has been the foundation for the 2Gen approach to delivering services to kids and parents — a method of addressing the needs of two generations at the same time to solve deep-seated problems and give families the tools they need to succeed.

Colorado is the leader nationally in seeing social services through a 2Gen lens. To be clear, it’s not a new program with a big price tag, but rather a tweaking of services and a new alignment of them to help families succeed in a 21st century economy.

The Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS) and Ascend at the Aspen Institute have worked together for five years, not only fine-tuning methods and practice, but in creating templates, the underlying issue is unemployment and oftentimes the lack of skills necessary to get a job that would enable them to make payments. The 2Gen approach is designed to help parents get the skills that are a prerequisite for a decent job. Coupled with parenting classes and coaching, the early results of this approach show great promise.

Parents are getting jobs. Kids are getting the financial support they need. And the act of providing support creates another very important connection between non-custodial parents and children. And we’re seeing that these families are needing less public assistance overall.

That’s the beauty of the 2Gen approach. It coordinates the services that government largely already provides to help families overcome barriers and break the cycle of multi-generational poverty.

In “State Human Services Model — Colorado as a Case Study for Policymakers,” Ascend has offered an array of practical tools and resources that can be customized by other states and service delivery agencies so they may develop their own 2Gen approaches.

It includes Colorado experiences, insights and lessons learned. And it touches upon early care and education, secondary and postsecondary education pathways, economic assets and the importance of social capital.

It is our hope that others around the nation will question the structure of their social service delivery, and ask themselves if there’s a better way to achieve the outcomes that all parents want for their children. We believe the answer is often a resounding “yes,” and we would encourage others to consider the 2Gen approach to social services and help families help themselves out of poverty.

Anne Mosle is vice president at the Aspen Institute and executive director of Ascend at the Aspen Institute.

Reggie Bicha is executive director of the Colorado Department of Human Services.

THE TPP MEANS BENEFITS TO ENERGY, AGRICULTURE

BY REP. DON CORAM

Throughout this election year, there has been a lot of misinformation disseminated about the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and its impact on the economy here in the United States. While some have claimed — erroneously — that it will ship jobs overseas and allow foreign companies to gain a competitive advantage, the fact is that it will bring benefits to many industries in Colorado — a fact opponents simply fail to recognize. If Congress is able to come together and pass the TPP, the result could be an agricultural and energy boom that could fuel Colorado’s economy to prosperity.

The TPP works for Colorado because it will allow our farmers and ranchers to sell more produce to emerging Asian markets, while also potentially providing increased revenue for our energy industry here in the state, by encouraging and expanding trade with the 11 TPP-partner nations.

This historic trade deal is designed to remove international taxes and regulations that handicap our economic relationships with these countries, and will foster more trade and economic growth across the state and country. It will reduce or remove tariffs on Colorado’s agricultural exports, which will lead to an increase of $110 million in exports for farmers each year.

Over the past decade, the United States has become a leading producer of natural gas, with enormous reserves located right here in Colorado’s Piceance Basin. If a TPP is passed, our natural gas producers will have the ability and incentive to create the infrastructure necessary to become the primary supplier of natural gas to Japan and other TPP economies.

We need our representatives to ignore all of the incorrect chatter about the TPP and get behind this once in a lifetime agreement that will further expand our No. 1 and No. 2 industries in Colorado.
I n “Nineteen Eighty-Four,” George Orwell’s classic novel about a totalitarian and dystopian future, the ruling Party develops “Newspeak” as a way to limit freedom of expression and thought. So, for example, “goodthink” refers to thoughts approved by the Party. That which is not “goodthink” is apt to be “crimethink.”

In the real world of today, we use a different but no less Orwellian vocabulary. On university campuses and in the mainstream media we now have a growing body of rules, both written and tacit, mandating that only “politically correct” views be expressed.

I maintain that “political correctness” has as much to do with what is correct — i.e., true — as “ethic cleansing” would do to personal hygiene. What does it have to do with instead? Orthodoxy — a word that comes from the Greek orthos, meaning right, and doxa, meaning opinions. Those enforcing what they deem “right opinions” (or orthodoxy or political correctness) have become the new Establishment.

(Which, I suppose, makes those of us who oppose and resist that orthodoxy anti-Establishment.)

Fiction writing is now in the crosshairs, warns novelist Lionel Shriver

Shriver’s address “a celebration of the freedom to trap us. We pigeonhole ourselves. We communicate “a kind of ‘correct’ attitude toward the problems of the world. … The view that Western civilization is inherently unfair to minorities, women and xenos has been at the center of politically correct thinking on campuses.”

The news in his story was that political correctness was becoming “a cancer eating away at the foundations of liberal democracy and classical liberal alikes, to describe what they see as a growing intolerance, a closing of debate, a pressure to conform to a radical program, or risk being accused of a commonly reiterated trio of thought crimes: sexism, racism and homophobia.

“It’s a manifestation of what some are calling liberal fascism,” Roger Kimball, author of “Tenured Radicals,” a critique of the politicization of the humanities, told Mr. Bernstein. “Under the name of pluralism and freedom of speech, it is an attempt to enforce a narrow and ideologically motivated vision of the curriculum and what it means to be an educated person, a responsible citizen.”

What brings all this to mind, you ask? Last week, the American-born, UK-based novelist Lionel Shriver gave the keynote address at a chichi Australian literary festival. She declined to speak on issues like the correct pronouns. But pre-tests had assigned her: “Community and Belonging.” Instead, she sounded an alarm about political correctness and its kindred form, identity politics. Having undermined the humanities, they are now imperiling fiction writing as well, she told the assembled literati.

The “kind of fiction we are ‘allowed’ to write,” she said, “is in danger of becoming so hedged, so circumscribed, so tapi-tapi, that we’d indeed be better off not writing the anodyne drivel to begin with.”

She recalled the brouhaha that recently erupted at Bowdoin College in Maine after two students “threw a tequila-themed birthday party for a friend” complete with sombreros. Those who took part were denounced and, or punished by school administrators, the student government and the student newspaper — the campus version of Big Brother. “The ‘party-favor hats,’” were cited as punishment of the thought crime of “cultural appropriation.”

“The moral of the sombrero scandal is clear,” Shriver said. “We’re supposed to try on other people’s hats.” Yet that’s exactly what fiction writers do: “Step into other people’s shoes and try on their hats.”

Had such prohibitions been in force in the past, some of the greatest works of literature ever written wouldn’t have been. “This is a disrespectful vocation by its nature — prying, voyeristic, kleptomaniacal, and presumptuous. And that is fiction writing at its best. When Truman Capote wrote from the perspective of a condemned murderer from a lower economic class than his own, he had some guilt. But writing fiction takes gall.”

As to the spread of identity politics: “If we embrace narrow group-based identities too fiercely, we cling to the vague categories in which others would seek to pigeonhole us. We pigeonhole ourselves. We limit our own notion of who we are, and in presenting ourselves as one of a membership, a representative of our type, an amalgam of an amalgam, we ask not to be seen.”

And surely, attempts to understand and even participate in the lives and traditions of others, “either actively or imaginatively,” should be seen as positive and productive rather than “a form of theft.” Ms. Shriver concluded: “We fiction writers have to preserve the right to wear many hats — including sombreros.”

To drive her point, she relentlessly donned a rather large one — to the shock if not awe of many in the audience.

Officials in charge of the event immediately disavowed her remarks and organized a “right of reply” session. Participants — some of whom had walked out during Ms. Shriver’s address — repaired to their hotel rooms to tweet, blog or write essays expressing their profound outrage.

Shriver’s address privilege hung heavy in the air, and I was reminded of my ‘place’ in the world,” protested Yassmin Abdel-Magied, an Australian Muslim activist in a piece published in both The New York Times and the Los Angeles Times. “The ‘party-favor hats’ were ‘fashion’ for some years been in use to characterize a kind of ‘correct’ attitude toward the problems of the world. … The view that Western civilization is inherently unfair to minorities, women and xenos has been at the center of politically correct thinking on campuses.”

BY CLIFFORD D. MAY

The ‘Political Correctness’ Finds a New Target

Political calendar countdown… to Oct. 7th?

For court watchers and legal scholars, that means the high stakes poker game between Democrats and Republicans will come to an end. Or at least the first round will. By holding stauta to their position that the vacancy created by Justice Antonin Scalia’s death should be filled by the next president, Republicans have blocked Garland’s nomination. Without a hearing, there is no vote. And without the Senate in session, there will be no hearing. Barring any massive surprise, this is how the first act will play out.

The aftermath will be catnip to political junkies. Of course, the Supreme Court vacancy will continue to take a primary place on the campaign trail for presidential and senate candidates alike; it has already for months. It is the primary message to drive #NeverTrump conservatives to hold their nose and cast a ballot for him.

But the real question is what happens Nov. 4 when a lame-duck Senate returns to Capitol Hill. With both the House and majority control of the Senate up for grabs, the possibilities are myriad.

What happens if Hillary Clinton wins and Democrats win a Senate majority?

Will she stick with Garland or will she ask President Obama to withdraw his nomination and go hunting for a new, younger, more liberal justice who would swing the balance to the left?

Similarly, Real Clear Politics currently has Democrats winning only 49 Senate seats to Republicans 51 — one vote shy of allowing Tim Kaine a tie-breaking vote as vice president.

In this column, I asked: “What happens if Hillary Clinton wins and the Senate remains divided?”

The “kind of fiction we are ‘allowed’ to write,” she said, “is in danger of becoming so hedged, so circumscribed, so tapi-tapi, that we’d indeed be better off not writing the anodyne drivel to begin with.”

Will she stick with Garland or will she ask President Obama to withdraw his nomination and go hunting for a new, younger, more liberal justice who would swing the balance to the left?

By Mario Nicolais

T ick-tack, tick-tock. The political world is officially measuring the distance to this November’s election in days, now. What once seemed endlessly far, the race to Nov. 8 is in the homestretch. But Oct. 7 is even closer.

If the date doesn’t make anything jump immediately to mind, that’s all right. It probably doesn’t for most people. For United States senators and Senate and Supreme Court justice nominees Merrick Garland, though, it is a critical date. Oct. 7 is the last scheduled day the U.S. Senate will be in session before his year’s election.

For court watchers and legal scholars, that means the high stakes poker game between Democrats and Republicans will come to an end. Or at least the first round will. By holding stauta to their position that the vacancy created by Justice Antonin Scalia’s death should be filled by the next president, Republicans have blocked Garland’s nomination.

Without a hearing, there is no vote. And without the Senate in session, there will be no hearing. Barring any massive surprise, this is how the first act will play out.

The aftermath will be catnip to political junkies. Of course, the Supreme Court vacancy will continue to take a primary place on the campaign trail for presidential and senate candidates alike; it has already for months. It is the primary message to drive #NeverTrump conservatives to hold their nose and cast a ballot for him.

But the real question is what happens Nov. 4 when a lame-duck Senate returns to Capitol Hill. With both the House and majority control of the Senate up for grabs, the possibilities are myriad.

What happens if Hillary Clinton wins and Democrats win a Senate majority?

By Mario Nicolais

The Colorado Statesman September 29, 2016

Ohio in recent days. Even if Clinton has the structural advantage, she hasn’t closed the deal.

Similarly, Real Clear Politics currently has Democrats winning only 49 Senate seats to Republicans 51 — one vote shy of allowing Tim Kaine a tie-break- ing vote as vice president.

Certainly, President Trump plus a Republican Senate does garners Garland’s nomination. But who in the Senate would nominate and how it would play out going forward is anyone’s guess. He has listed several potential nominees — including Colorado’s Justice Al- lison — but he seems wholly unbur- dened deviating from prior positions in other areas. It would be interesting to see the same here.

Regardless of outcome, the immedi- ate aftermath of this November’s election promises to be a powder keg. And the Supreme Court may be the spark to set it off.

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