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Media outlets can update during trial

Editor's note: The following story is reprinted from the May 1 Coloradoan.com.

District Court Judge Daniel J. Kaup has changed his decision limiting the dissemination of information to the public during the murder trial of James Whitler.

After deciding Thursday that media outlets covering the trial could not report about courtroom proceedings until after court had adjourned for the day, Kaup changed his ruling this morning saying news updates could be filed throughout the day from outside of the courtroom.

Kaup said he changed his mind after reflecting on his original decision and made the new ruling official after prosecutors and defense attorneys agreed with this inclination to allow updates outside the courtroom.

"I have reason to pause whether this court has the authority to tell someone they can't update a website," Kaup said. "There will be no transmissions of any kind leaving the courtroom while court is in session."

Whitler is on trial for first-degree murder and attempted first-degree murder.

Payback Fund checks on the way

COSCAN, CDAN members share more than \$41,000

Colorado Press Service in June mailed the semi-annual payback checks to newspapers participating in the COSCAN and CDAN statewide advertising networks.

The Payback Funds for both programs for the first half of 2009 totaled over \$41,000. More than 80 member newspapers shared the COSCAN proceeds; more than 90 member newspapers shared the CDAN proceeds.

COSCAN is the Colorado Statewide Classified Advertising Network. All Regular members of Colorado Press

Association are eligible to participate in this network. Participating newspapers run a weekly block of ads that come to them camera-ready in pdf form, prepared by Colorado Press Service.

CDAN is the Colorado Display Advertising Network, which primarily runs 2x2 ads. All Regular and Associate members of Colorado Press

Association are eligible to participate in this network. Participating newspapers run from one to several small display ads each week. The ads come to them camera-ready from CPS.

Ads are sold into each network by CPS, other state press advertising services, advertis-

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Start the presses

The Lehman Printing Center in Berthoud began printing operations in May. In addition to printing the Lehman Communications' two dailies — Longmont Times-Call and Loveland Reporter-Herald — the 60,000 square-foot plant prints several other newspapers and publications. See story on page 5.

Times-Call photo

Budget, economy key topics in '09 session

By Greg Romberg
CPA Legislative Lobbyist

The Colorado General Assembly completed its 2009 session May 6. The session's overriding issues involved the economy and state budgetary issues for both the current state fiscal year that ends June 30 and the next fiscal year, which begins July 1.

A package of more than 20 bills to transfer funds and change fees passed in February to balance this year's budget. That package had to be augmented when March revenue

forecasts suggested additional changes were necessary.

Similarly, the 2009-10 budget was accompanied by several additional bills to cut spending and adjust fees. The introduced budget had been prepared with the option to either take \$500 million from reserves of Pinnacol Assurance, the quasi-public workers' compensation company, or cuts of \$300 million from higher education. The Senate passed the budget with the Pinnacol funds, but after Governor Ritter said neither option was acceptable to him, a package of cuts, includ-

ing employee furlough days, was quickly adopted and passed by the General Assembly.

The session was charged politically. Governor Ritter had a successful session as his two highest priority bills, SB 108 which addressed funding for transportation infrastructure and HB 1293 which adjusted fees for hospitals to take advantage of additional federal funds to provide health insurance to previously uninsured

Judge finds enough evidence to advance suit against CSU

Editor's note: The following story by Trevor Hughes is reprinted from the May 22 issue of The Fort Collins Coloradoan. Lawyers for Colorado State University on May 28 asked the judge for additional time to respond to the lawsuit.

A Larimer County judge said Colorado State University's own explanation of a May 5 closed-door meeting "certainly raises a reasonable belief" that the university's board of governors violated state open-meeting laws in selecting its own vice chairman, Joe Blake, as sole system chancellor finalist.

Ruling after a 30-minute hearing, Judge Stephen Schapanski said an attorney for three media organizations had shown enough evidence to warrant what's called an "in-camera" review by the court. The Coloradoan, Pueblo Chieftain and Colorado Independent are suing CSU, arguing its board repeatedly violated open-meeting laws during the May 5 meeting.

"The reasonable belief (that the law was broken) is one that has to be in the court's mind," Schapanski said. "The court concludes ... that the plaintiff has met that burden."

Schapanski will now listen to the recording to decide if the board broke open-meetings law. One of the things he said he'll be listening for is "did they pretty much take action?" during the meeting. The remedy for

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