

Brighton window



Seven-year-old Alaina Bonitz, left, School Superintendent Rod Blunck and 8-year-old Jacob Martinez took their cuts Saturday for St. Baldrick's Day at Pennock Elementary School. Twenty-one walk-ins joined the 43 pre-registered "shavees" for the fundraising event. Story, more photos: Page 2. *Local Color / Daily Post photo*

South's Collins named 2009 top principal

The second time was the charm for Kay Collins' staff at South Elementary School. The Colorado Association of School Executives announced late last week that Collins was named the group's 2009 Colorado National Distinguished Principal of the Year. She was in the top three in state competition last year, nominated by Superintendent Rod Blunck and by her staff, and was nominated again this year by South's staffers.



The National Distinguished Principal program, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education, recognizes successful elementary or middle level principals who have provided outstanding leadership.

Collins now represents Colorado for the national principal honor. Dr. Blunck, himself a former Colorado Superintendent of the Year, described Collins as "one of the best leaders I have worked with in my 20 years in the profession," said a news release from CASE.

The award will be presented April 3 at South by John Hefty, a former District 27J superintendent and now executive director of CASE. Collins says that, in itself, is special because Hefty hired her nine years ago as South principal.

South Elementary was named a "high growth" and "high performing" school in the state's 2008 School Accountability Reports. This accomplishment occurred despite the school's large numbers of disadvantaged students, including those with limited English skills, according to the CASE news release.

More news: Page 2

Three days

Saturday was proclaimed James B. Meadow Day in Colorado by Gov. Bill Ritter, in honor of the longtime *Rocky Mountain News* writer who died March 8

Today

10 a.m. – Music and Movement, Library, 575 S. 8th; children 2-6, registration required, 303-659-2572

10 a.m.-3 p.m. – Bonfils Blood Drive, Platte Valley Medical Center

3-6 p.m. – Teen gaming, Brighton Library, board games and Wii

5 p.m. & 6 p.m. – Tour of the Women's and Newborn Center, Platte Valley Medical Center, 1600 Prairie Center Parkway, free, by appointment, 303-498-3518

6 p.m. – BHS Girls varsity soccer vs. Monarch

Tuesday

10:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m. – Story Time, Brighton Library, registration required, 303-659-2572

4 p.m. – BHS Boys varsity swimming vs. Cherokee Trail

6:30-7:30 p.m. – Nutrition Workshop, Rec Center, \$10, 303-655-2200

Wednesday

9:30 a.m. – Lapsit Story Time, Brighton Library, 575 S. Eighth Ave., for caregiver and child up to 24 months; registration required, 303-659-2572

10 a.m. – Brighton Booklovers, Library, new book club, *A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini

3:30-5:30 p.m. – Teen Arts and Crafts, Brighton Library, 575 S. Eighth Ave., a new project every week

4 p.m. – BHS Boys varsity swimming vs. Mountain Range

5 p.m. – Rangeview Library District Board Meeting, Support Services offices, 11658 N. Huron, Northglenn

Funeral notices

Ralph Eugene Wilbanks, 57, of Fort Lupton, died March 11. He was born in Denver to Ronald and Betty (Childress) Wilbanks. He graduated from Manual High School in 1969. He married Clara A. Herrman. He drove truck in the Fort Lupton / Brighton area for Hutchison Western and for Pacific Intermountain Express. He was a member of St. Augustine Catholic Church. He also was a member of the American Quarter Horse Association, the Adams County Fair Board (20 years), the Thornton and Brighton Knights of Columbus, and the Adams County Mounted Posse. Survivors include his wife; daughter Colette of Fort Lupton, mother of Fort Lupton; and brother Daryl (Deane) of Eaton. He was preceded in death by his father, Ronald. Rosary, 6 p.m., today, and a Funeral Mass, 10 a.m. **Tuesday**, both at St. Augustine Catholic Church. Full obit: [Tabor-Rice](#)

Gas gauge

\$1.66⁹ Lowest unleaded price at 9:30 p.m. Sunday:

- U-Pump-It stations on South Main and East Bridge
- Gas-a-Mat station on South Main Street
- Western station on East Bridge Street
- King Soopers on East Bromley, with Sooper card

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Public information officer John Bradley leads 10 other Brighton police officers who make up the "Thin Blue Hairline" as they confirm their St. Baldrick's registration at the Pennock gym. A dozen representatives of the Brighton Police Department participated.

Upper right: Insurance salesman Ed Layton raised \$625 to go bald at the hands of stylist LaVeta Pennetta, as Jackie Meshefski takes a lot off the top of Justin Martinez, age 12.

Lower right: Kim Rockwell takes a "before" photo of Pennock Assistant Principal Kris Bennett. *Local Color / Daily Post photos*



Funeral notices

Werner George Bender, 97, died March 12 at Inglenook. He was born in Brighton, where he grew up. He was educated at Concordia College in Seward, Neb. He was a Lutheran school teacher for 17 years, the last 13 years in Long Beach, Calif., where he also served as church organist and choir director. He left the teaching profession in 1948 when he took over his father's clothing store in Fort Lupton until his retirement in 1976. A member at Mount Calvary Lutheran Church in Fort Lupton, he served as treasurer, elder, church organist and was a member of various men's groups. He served his churches as an organist for 60 years. Werner was married to Clara Bender for 71 years, who preceded him in death in 2006. Survivors include sons Ron (Regina) of Huntington Beach, Calif.; Rich (Allison) of Silverthorne; two grandchildren; and three great grandchildren. A memorial service, 11 a.m. on **March 24** at Mount Calvary Lutheran Church, 650 S. Park Ave., Fort Lupton. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be given in Werner Bender's memory to Mount Calvary Lutheran Church. Full obit: [Tabor-Rice](#)

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Baldrick efforts turn heads ... bald

Sixty-four people went through the hair-razing experience Saturday at Pennock Elementary to raise more than \$10,000 for the St. Baldrick's Foundation, an organization that raises funds to find a cure for children's cancer.

"It far exceeds any of our expectations," said Lynn Roscoe, who coordinated Saturday's event and watched as her sons, Justin and Jacob Martinez, had their heads shaved.

The two and 7-year-old Alaina Bonitz formed the Cousins Against Cancer team that raised \$1,065 for having their hair cut. (Alaina didn't go bald but donated a significant amount of her long hair to the Locks of Love wig program.

The biggest individual fundraiser was Jayson W. Tisdall, who intends

to add to the \$1,400 he's collected so he can reach \$2,000. Fundraising will continue for about two more weeks, Roscoe said.

Eleven police officers and 12-year-old Jacob Rohlfs, son of officer Gail Ashley, agreed to "shave and protect" on Saturday; School Superintendent Rod Blunck, Pennock Assistant Principal Kris Bennett and Brighton Urban Renewal staffer Jac Cuney also went bald on Saturday.

Stylists Dina Rael (V-Cuts); Clint Mader (Floyd's – and a Brighton firefighter); Deborah Gerace (Avannah Hair Salon); and Jackie Meshefski, LeVeta Pennetta and Laurie Kiggins (Classic Hair Design) did the cutting. Mader later joined other firefighters in having his head shaved.