

**WEATHER**

Very windy today; sunny, breezy Weds. Mostly sunny Thursday. Please see complete weather, pg. 2

TODAY 68° | TONIGHT 32°

# JOURNAL-ADVOCATE



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**EDUCATION**

## Teachers rally for higher pay

RE-1 educators wear red to show support for walkouts

By Noelle Phillips and Jesse Paul  
The Denver Post

Chanting "You left me no choice, I have to use my teacher voice!" hundreds of Colorado teachers converged on the state Capitol on Monday to demand changes in school funding and to lobby for higher teacher pay and a stronger

retirement fund.

The teachers, who gathered just before noon in the Capitol rotunda, made so much noise that some state representatives and senators left their chambers to watch the rally. A few gave impromptu speeches in support of the teachers, who took a day off work to attend the

annual Colorado Education Association's Lobby Day.

The teachers say lagging salaries and potential cuts to the retirement system will make it impossible for younger educators to remain in the profession for an entire career.

"When I was in school, you knew you weren't going to get rich," said Bob Mantooth, a physical education teacher at Kaiser Elementary School in

Denver. "You knew you would get a decent salary, and when you were ready to retire you would be OK. For these young teachers, there's no future. You won't get people entering into this profession. They don't want to go into poverty teaching."

Colorado teachers have joined their peers in Kentucky, Oklahoma, West Virginia and Arizona in staging protests and

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Courtesy photo

Teachers at Sterling Middle School wear red to show support for public education April 16, a day when teachers across Colorado staged walk-outs and held a rally at the statehouse to lobby for more school funding.

## ECCLPS provides pool time fun



Photos by Callie Jones / Sterling Journal-Advocate

**Above:** Children enjoyed some pool fun Saturday, as Early Childhood Council of Logan, Phillips and Sedgwick celebrated Week of the Young Child and Child Abuse Prevention Month with a Free Swim Day at Sterling Recreation Center.

Children watch closely to see if the rubber ducky they picked out will get them a prize during Early Childhood Council of Logan, Phillips and Sedgwick's Week of the Young Child celebration.



**WEATHER**

## State officials: High-risk summer ahead Extreme northeast corner of Colorado safer than other areas

By Jesse Paul  
The Denver Post

Conditions are setting up what could be the worst summer wildfire season in Colorado since the one-two punch of 2012 and 2013, officials said Friday, when devastating blazes ravaged areas across the state.

"It appears that this will probably be the worst one,

forecast-wise, in quite some time," said Mike Morgan, director of the Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control. "Abnormally dry weather and a dry winter has left our mountains nearly barren."

While state fire officials hedged that it's too early

to have a hard-and-fast prediction for what fire conditions will be this summer, things aren't looking up.

Snowpack levels, especially in the southeast and southwest parts of the state, are much lower than normal. On top of that, the U.S. Drought Monitor says as of Thursday that

87.62 percent of the state is either experiencing abnormally dry, moderate drought, severe drought or extreme drought conditions.

Only extreme northeast Colorado and the northern mountains bordering Wyoming are in the clear.

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**LOGAN COUNTY**

## DRIVES training highlights clerk's conference

Logan County hosted the three day Eastern Region Clerk's Conference April 11, 12 and 13

By Lisa Young  
Journal-Advocate Staff Writer

Logan County played host to the Eastern Region Clerk's Conference April 11, 12 and 13. The three day meeting held at the courthouse was opened to county clerks and their staff from Baca, Cheyenne, Elbert, Kiowa, Kit Carson, Lincoln, Logan, Morgan, Phillips, Prowers, Sedgwick, Washington and Yuma counties.

One the first day of the conference, motor vehicle clerks from the 13 eastern counties participated in training for the new Colorado Drivers License, Record, Identification and Vehicle Enterprise Solution (DRIVES).

Last October, four Logan County motor vehicle clerks spent a fast-paced hour viewing an introductory demonstration on the new system with state trainers at the courthouse. The half day session during last

week's conference was a more in-depth, hands-on training meant to familiarize clerks with the different functions of the online system.

An additional training on the new program is scheduled in May and July at Northeastern Junior College. According to Pam Bacon, Logan County Clerk and Recorder, her motor vehicle office will have a couple of lunch hour closings the week of May 21-25 and July 9-13 in order for staff to attend the training at NJC.

Bacon said besides the closures for training sessions, switching over to the new DRIVES system will require some down time at statewide driver's licenses and motor vehicle offices. Logan County's motor vehicle office will close for three days, Aug. 1-3, to convert their data into the new DRIVES system. The office

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Lisa Young / Sterling Journal-Advocate

Logan County Motor Vehicle clerks, from left, Kimela Schlup, Julie Kulbe-Cook and Kim Weingart join Pam Bacon, Logan County Clerk and Tana Prince, elections clerk for the Colorado DRIVES training session.

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