

Colorado by the Numbers: State Finances Updated in the 2013 Backseat Budgeter

Brenda Morrison, Bighorn Program/Backseat Budgeter Director and Bridget Julian, Director of Operations, Office of Engagement

With help from the Colorado Futures Center at CSU and funding from Kaiser Permanente, an updated Colorado Backseat Budgeter (<http://backseatbudgeter.com/>) will be publicly available online this fall prior to the November election. The Backseat Budgeter is a simulation tool that enables users to experience what it is like to manage a public budget. With Backseat Budgeter, users can see the effects of their decisions, gain a better understanding of the challenges officials face, and appreciate the complexities of the public budgeting process. User decisions and feedback can also be shared with public officials.

Issues such as higher education, health care funding, and increases for income taxes and sales taxes are all areas covered on the interactive website. The Colorado Backseat Budgeter also provides a forum to engage users in discussions on these much-debated topics.

"The Backseat Budgeter was initially conceived as an educational tool designed to educate participants in the Bighorn Leadership Program about Colorado's budget and to keep our program alumni engaged and up-to-date on current budget issues," said Brenda Morrison, co-creator of the tool and partner at Engaged Public, "We have found that a wide variety of citizens enjoy learning about the tradeoffs involved in public funding."



Interactive State Revenue and Spending Information

Website visitors are presented with Colorado spending and revenue statistics and prompted with options to add or drop programs, to raise taxes, or to rearrange spending categories to balance the budget. Each budget category offers an in-depth description of its purpose within the state budget and the impact it has on Colorado's economy.

The 2013 updated online Colorado state budget program will feature the potential impacts of three fiscal measures - the Marijuana Sales Tax, the Marijuana Excise Tax, and the Funding for Public Schools Initiative.

Playing by the Rules

Backseat budgeters are faced with the same financial limitations as Colorado legislators when setting their budget and are required to follow constitutional laws like TABOR (Taxpayer Bill of Rights), and Amendment 23, the required increase for spending on K-12 education.

Upcoming Speaker Events

The speaker series this fall is being offered jointly with the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. Note that we now meet from 3:00-4:30 p.m. in Drake Hall, 2545 Research Boulevard, Fort Collins (northwest corner of Drake and Research Boulevard).

October 28

"Animal Rights as a Mainstream Phenomenon"

*Bernie Rollin
Philosophy*

November 18

"Whale Tales: Science, Politics and Tribal Traditions"

*Geof Givens
Statistics*

December 16

"The Roberts Court: Changing Personal Dynamics"

*Eric Waples,
Chair of Political Science,
Potomac School, Retired*

January 27, 2014

"Challenges Climate Change Presents to Mountain Communities Around the World"

*Doug Fox
CIRA, CSU*

From the President

Your Society of Senior Scholars is an organization that offers opportunities for retired faculty and administrative professionals to become involved in a variety of activities associated with CSU and beyond, either because of SSS sponsorship or through our efforts to keep all of us aware of what may be of interest to seniors.

For example the university is currently supporting a **book drive to help Hawassa University in Ethiopia**. That university has a new library, however, it has only a small collection at this point. (See the Senior Scholars web page for more information and drop off locations on campus.)

As part of our efforts to help the community, SSS members joined many others who were assisting with stuffing backpacks for the “**School is Cool**” project on campus. Some 2,500 backpacks were completed and delivered to schools in the Fort Collins area.

Another effort that is independent of SSS is the **Senior Law Day**, which is held in various

locations around the state. The event for Larimer County was in early August this year. During the day-long event, managed by Elder Care Network, 11 sessions were presented by experts in their fields. Each session is intended to help seniors or those caring for seniors to become “more aware of legal matters relating to the aging and planning process.” Over 250 people were in attendance this year. Although it usually is held in the Lory Student Center, due to the ongoing major construction project, it was held at the Marriott.

Of course we continue to offer a **monthly lecture** on topics ranging from updates on the Supreme Court to the “fine art of hitting things” (xylophone). Check out our webpage for these and for the tours organized for us by CSU RamTrax.



Tom Boardman
President

Upcoming RamTrax and Senior Scholars Tours

These tours have been organized with the assistance of the Office of External Affairs RamTrax program. To participate, RSVP to Jennifer. Lobermeier@ColoState.Edu. Some tours are size limited so reserve early.

Monday, October 7, 10:00 a.m. - noon

Eaton Washing Machine Museum - A tour of the world's largest washing machine museum (see next page for further details).

Monday, October 14, 3:00 - 4:30 p.m.

Mystery of CSU History Tour - Find out about haunted CSU buildings and the inside scoop on myths and legends. Whatever happened to the remains of Old Main?

Monday, November 11, 3:00 - 4:30 p.m.

Backstage at the University Center for the Arts - Visit the renovated old Fort Collins High School, see two

museums, music, theater, and dance rehearsal areas, costuming department, and performance facilities.

Monday, December 9, 3:00 - 4:30 p.m.

Tour for the Cure: Animal Cancer Center - The Center at CSU is the largest cancer-related animal research facility in the world. Treatment and prevention is the goal for more than 10,000 animals each year.

Monday, January 13, 2014 (Tentative)

Tour of National Center for Genetic Resources Preservation (Seed Lab)

Monday, February 10, 2014 (Tentative)

Tour of the Renovated LSC Theater, the Morgan Library and Google Galaxy.

Living Fully in Retirement

Lee Maxwell, Emeritus Professor, Electrical Engineering

Having guided the learning experience of aspiring electrical engineers for 29 years it was time to become a PERA retiree in 1985. Our plans were that it really wouldn't be a retirement but rather an abrupt career change. In conjunction with our kids we founded Eaton Grove Nursery on our rural home property that we had moved to 10 years earlier.

Having the nursery allowed us to do some travelling during less busy times of the year, so we purchased a motorhome. On our first trip to Maine, we happened by a farm auction in Iowa. On a whim, a single raise of the hand won a wooden 1914 Maytag gasoline powered washing machine. It rode atop the motorhome along with three more acquired along the way. A fourth washer was bought near Bangor and the motorhome now became attached to a trailer. Six weeks later we were back home with 13 antique washing machines and the ultimate hobby was germinated and our lives would never again be considered normal. Not being a good fisherman, knowing nothing about golf, and detesting bungee jumping, collecting the machines of Monday is surely an adequate alternative for a retirement hobby.

Y2K was a good time to sell our part of the nursery business, which had grown remarkably over 15 years from a single greenhouse to a dozen, to our daughter and son-in-law, and since that time we have been re-retired except for the hobby. The hunt for washing machines has subsequently taken us to every state and province in North America.

It turns out there were over a thousand companies producing a fantastic array of different mechanical contraptions designed to make for an easier washday. Our museum is comprised of 1400 machines of which 1000 have been restored. Barbara was assured the collection would be capped at 500 machines but living with a woman 61 years you become aware of weaknesses. The collection has been noted to be the largest and was awarded the Guinness World Record.

Our website (oldewash.com) describes the museum and displays the machines which date from the early 1800s. Washing machines have an almost untold and yet fascinating history. It is not only a history of American innovation and invention, entrepreneurship, manufacturing and marketing, but a vital part of the annals of women's work. A book, "Save Women's Lives-History of Washing

Machines" was published in 2003 and is the only English language book devoted to the subject. During the past 7 years we have done 15 very pleasant home exchanges in Canada, Scotland, England, Wales, Germany, The Netherlands, and Australia. Home exchanging is a great way to travel not just as a tourist, and as a bonus, affords you a way to find an occasional washing machine from elsewhere.

There are three necessary attributes to be a washing machine collector: Be insane (Recently bought a mattress with a 25 year guarantee). Have space (We have 17 acres). Have a saint for a wife (Barbara recently made 600 feet of curtains for the museum.) By the way, washing machine collectors are almost as scarce as hen's teeth.



SPECIAL TOUR OF THE WASHING MACHINE MUSEUM!

Dr. Maxwell has agreed to provide the Society of Senior Scholars members and their guests a special tour of his museum on October 7th from 10 a.m. to noon. Afterwards an opportunity is available to have lunch at the nearby Eaton Country Club. There will be a \$3/person charge for the tour with a 20 person minimum attendance. The museum is located at the south west corner of the intersection of County Roads 31 and 74; three miles west of Eaton or four miles east of Severance on Road 74, which connects the two towns. Please contact Barbara Gibbens (barb.gibbens@colostate.edu) or 970-491-6614 to sign up for this tour.

For additional information visit the museum's web site at: <http://www.oldewash.com/>

“OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE AT COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY: FOR THOSE AGES 50 AND BETTER” (Though Curious Minds of all Ages are Welcome!)

Please join us for the Fall 2013 session of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. Osher is a member-based, member-driven program that has continued to evolve since our inaugural year of 2007. Courses are now offered in both Fort Collins and Loveland, our member base has grown steadily and our pool of quality, talented instructors continues to expand.

Courses start this month, and \$12 buys you fall session membership, allowing you to register for classes like “Andy Warhol and those Wild & Crazy 60s,” “Whiskey is for Drinking; Water is for Fighting - How Colorado Citizens Have Organized Their Water Commonwealth”, “What’s for Lunch? World Population and Food - Are there Limits?”, “Geology of Selected USA National Parks, Monuments and Seashores;”, and more. Fall courses are offered in the areas of:

- * Art and Design
- * Communications Writing
- * Computers and Technology Basics
- * Environmental Issues
- * Great Outdoors
- * Global And Cultural Issues
- * Health and Wellness
- * History
- * Music, Theater, and Film
- * Sciences

Please visit our website for course registration/membership information: www.osher.colostate.edu. In addition, if you are interested in sharing your talents and expertise with our engaged, adult learner community, please contact us at 491-7753

Finally, Osher is pleased to offer classes at our new location, Drake Hall, 2545 Research Boulevard, Fort Collins, CO (northwest corner of Drake and Research Boulevard). With free, easy access parking, and a new Smart classroom, we hope to see you at Drake Hall soon!

Kevin Oltjenbruns
Co-Director, OSHER Institute

Contact Us

Thomas J. Boardman
President
Thomas.Boardman@Colostate.Edu
970-484-5767

Bob Meroney
Vice President & Newsletter Editor
Robert.Meroney@Colostate.Edu
970-223-2940

David Lindstrom
Secretary
David.Lindstrom@Colostate.Edu
970-484-9891

Kevin Oltjenbruns
OSHER Co-Director
Kevin.Oltjenbruns@colostate.edu

Barbara Gibbens
Senior Scholars Coordinator
Barb.Gibbens@Colostate.Edu
970-491-6614

