

# BERTHOUD WEEKLY SURVEYOR



Back to School Night at BHS is Thursday, Aug. 21 from 5-7:30 p.m.

On Saturday, Aug. 23 come downtown for the Wildfire Arts Festival at Fourth Street and Massachusetts Avenue. Music, cruiser bike show, art show and silent auction, kids arts activities, wine tasting and more. 4-10 p.m.

Make [www.berthoudsurveyor.com](http://www.berthoudsurveyor.com) your Internet home page for breaking news reports in the Berthoud area.

Wednesday, August 20, 2008 © Berthoud, Colorado

"Covering all the angles in the Garden Spot"

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Please support the Mountain Avenue businesses during the construction.

## Absent Memories

Moving forward when you can't look back

Rebecah Propst

The cover of Propst's book, "Absent Memories."

## Fifteen minutes of fame

By Bob McDonnell  
The Surveyor

Last week was a whirlwind for Longmont resident Beki Propst. She made her first trip "that she can remember" to New York City on one day's notice.

Memories, or lack of, play an important part of the life of Beki Propst. The 57-year-old jokes that she is really "almost 11 years old." About 10 years ago, Propst had an epileptic seizure that caused her to wake up one day with no memories of the past.

She could not remember her family, her ex, college education, her karate training and many other things. For some strange reason she could remember things like song lyrics and how to drive. Unfortunately, she did not remember where anything was located to drive to.

Propst is night custodian at the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District in Berthoud.

She wrote a book about her life story titled "Absent Memories: Moving Forward When You Can't Look Back." She sells it online at [www.absentmemories.com](http://www.absentmemories.com) and at bookstores. She gives talks to small groups interested in epilepsy, memory loss, etc., and takes books there to sell.

Recently, her level of notoriety

## Infinite Campus

By Bob McDonnell  
The Surveyor

Back-to-school conjures up images of new books, new clothes, and new backpacks full of supplies and books. When students at the middle school and high school levels return to school this month, there will also be new software available to access student information. This data is available too and can be accessed by both students and parents.

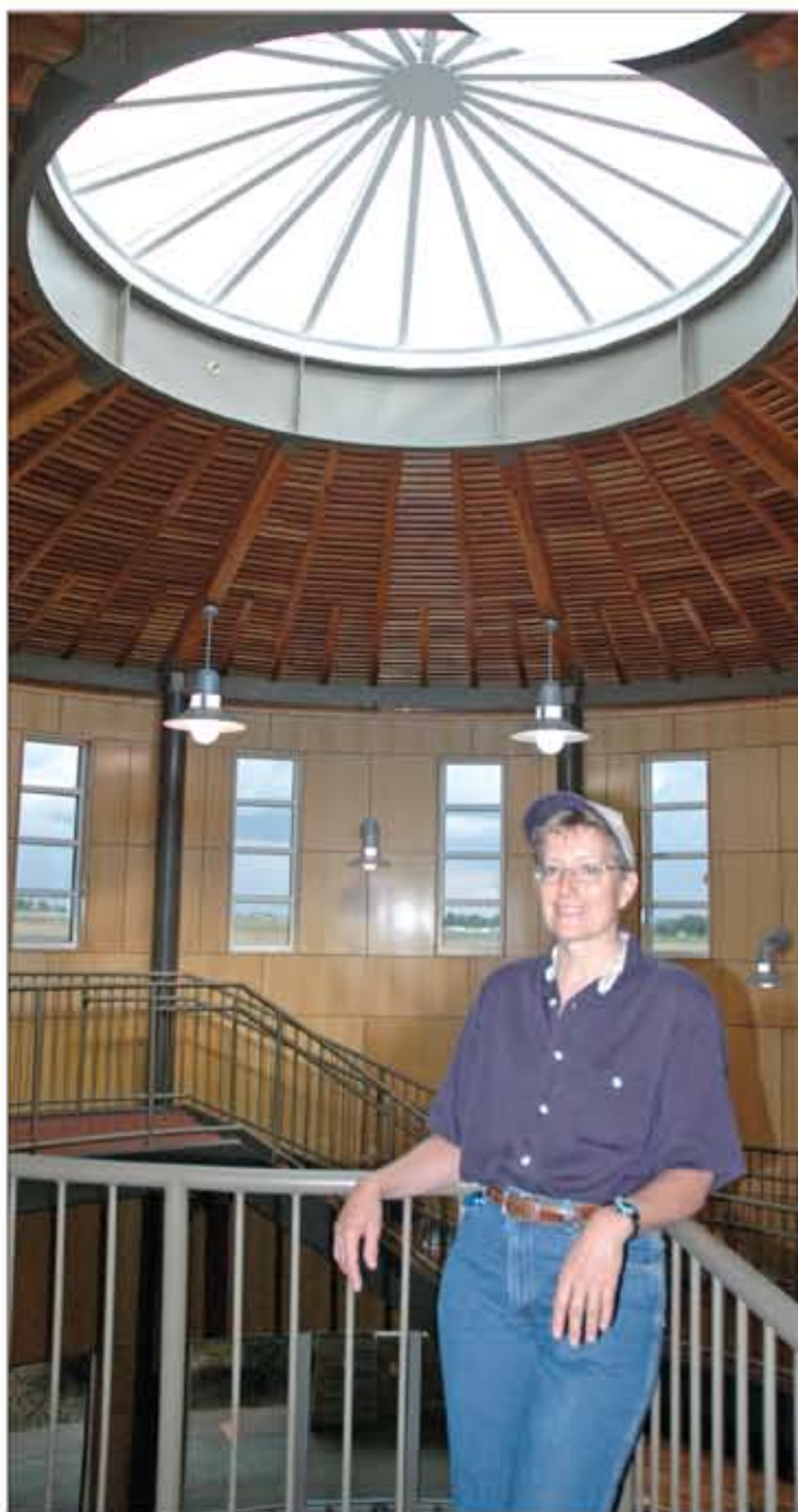


Photo by Rick Padden

Beki Propst poses at the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy building where she works. The story of her loss of memory recently garnered national attention.

changed quickly. Propst and her story were featured in the Sunday edition (front page) of the Denver Post. This led to the television show Good Morning America (GMA) discovering her incredible saga.

On Monday Aug. 11 Propst had a phone message asking if she would be interested in appearing on Good Morn-

ing America sometime in the near future. Later that day, she received a second message saying there was an opening on Wednesday.

So, on Tuesday afternoon Propst left her Longmont apartment for New York City. The unassuming Propst

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The new software is called Infinite Campus according to Geordy Kerscher, the Student Information Systems Manager for the Thompson School District. Infinite Campus will replace Parent Connect that was used by the administration, parents and students in the past. Kerscher said the previous grade book called IGPro was not compatible with the newest operating system without additional cost. SASI, the previous student information system was not able to meet the increasing demands for information access.

Infinite Campus will provide the district with the integrated tools needed to streamline student administration, enable stakeholder collaboration and individualize instruction. The entire system is Web-based so teachers, parents and students have access to information from anywhere at any time. The system also serves as a district-wide data warehouse allowing student data to be entered once and used across the entire district, supporting data-driven decision-making. Infinite Campus is being

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## P&Z talking in sign language

By Rudy Hemmann  
The Surveyor

The planning and zoning commission met on the evening of Thursday, Aug. 14 to address three agenda items. The first two items required the commissioners to act as the board of adjustment for the town regarding requests for variances to Berthoud's sign code.

The first of these was a request by Larry Bebo, the owner of L & M Enterprises, for a variance which would allow placement of two electronic signs with changeable copy to be placed into the large oriental gate that is at the entrance to his business located at 735 East Highway 56.

Interim Town Planner, Tim Katers,

gave a ten minute presentation during which he noted that the Berthoud municipal code was "generally behind the times in terms of new technologies ..." The staff recommendation presented by Katers stated, "Staff has reviewed the above request against applicable sections of the Town of Berthoud development code and has determined that the variance request can be considered to meet all of the criteria for approval. Therefore, we recommend approval of

"... we really don't have a sense of what the community thinks about this."

— P&Z Chairman Chris Thorne

the request with one condition." The condition suggested by Katers was that the sign operation be limited to static display only. That is sign

messages not be allowed to scroll and that messages change with no transition (i.e. fading from one message to the next, bouncing or other animation of display characters).

T. J. Schlosser of Schlosser Signs, Inc. of Loveland spoke for the applicant. He gave a brief presentation during which he stated, "... jurisdictions or cities cannot deny an applicant the use of a static display or changeable copy message board ... The capabilities of these message centers is really mind-boggling ... I am licensed in 35 cities across the front range and almost all of them allow these message centers ... It (message center) brings business to the town ... and creates revenue for the city."

The commissioners had questions regarding light pollution that might violate the town's dark skies ordinance, the number of seconds that a

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## Shop Berthoud

Dear Berthoud Citizens,

Please take the time and make the effort to visit our downtown merchants during the Mountain Avenue construction project.

This project has been an inconvenience to us all, but to none more than our business owners and they need our collective help.

People are choosing to shop elsewhere because of the headache of fighting downtown parking. Inconvenience yourself! Go downtown, grab a sandwich, do some shopping, meet someone for a cup of coffee, buy a gadget, or a widget, or a six pack, but please patronize these shops. These folks really need our help right now.

We are still several months away from completion of the project. Spending locally is the best support we can give our downtown merchants. Shop Berthoud like you would under normal conditions or, maybe, even do a little extra! Thank these merchants for putting up with the dust, noise, mud and inconvenience (and especially the drop in revenue) of a project that will ultimately benefit us all.

SHOP BERTHOUD!

Thank you,

Mayor Tom Patterson  
Mayor Pro Tem, David Gregg  
Town Administrator, Jim White



## Trustees hear Ludlow proposal

By Rudy Hemmann  
The Surveyor

The Berthoud Board of Trustees held a split session on Tuesday evening, beginning with a special meeting and then adjourning to a study session.

During the study session the trustees heard a presentation from Jim Birdsall of The Birdsall Group regarding the development of a 300 acre parcel owned by the Ludlow family. Birdsall stressed to the board members that the concept being brought forward was to gain input into the proposal from the board and from the general public. He stated that the suggested conceptual plan is "at a very early stage" and that he and the property owners were somewhat flexible with regard to their plan.

The Ludlow property is located south of Highway 56 and is bounded by

Larimer County Road (LCR) 17 on the east and U.S. 287 on the west.

The plan brought forth by Birdsall was for approximately 32 acres adjacent to Highway 56 to be zoned commercial, then a tract of approximately 143.5 acres that lies immediately to the south would be zoned for light industrial, and further south on the property two tracts would be zoned for residential.

Birdsall stated that the property was located ideally for "green" or pharmaceutical types of businesses that have campus type facilities, much like the Woodward Governor plants in Loveland and Fort Collins. He also mentioned that the land use plan adopted by the town has virtually no sites that are not adjacent to "heavy rail" and "heavy manufacturing." "These types of businesses make it clear from the start that

SEE **TOWN:** on Page 2

## County seat for a day

By Becky Hemmann  
The Surveyor

Larimer County commissioners, staff, Berthoud town officials, the Chamber executive director and the press turned out for the "County Seat for a Day" event last night at the Berthoud Bed & Breakfast. Unfortunately only two Larimer County citizens were there to ask questions.

In spite of the low turnout it was an informative meeting with the primary speaker being Gary Darling, the criminal justice planning manager for Larimer County. Darling has 30 years of experience with the sheriff's department. Darling is working with the commissioners in regards to a possible sales tax initiative on the November ballot that would add a .25 percent sales tax to Larimer County's current .80 percent sales tax. The sales tax would be used to build a detox facility, acute treatment unit and provide programs for the treatment of persons who have mental health or substance abuse disorders.

The annual revenue from the sales tax increase would be approximately 10 million dollars. The cost per year to keep an inmate in jail is \$104 per day or \$36,500 a year and the cost per person with the new treatment program would be \$8,500. Alternative programs currently cost about \$25 per day. The facility would be built in the same area as the community corrections offices and the jail, in Ft. Collins.

Recidivism is the real issue the county is attempting to address. Recidivism is when people return to jail over and over and again. The goal is to get people to get out and stay out — or avoid jail altogether. People with mental health and substance abuse disorders have high recidivism rates:

- Individuals with a co-occurring substance abuse disorder and a mental illness have a recidivism rate of 81 percent.
- Individuals with only a substance abuse disorder have a recidivism rate of 69 percent.
- Individuals with only a mental illness have a recidivism rate of 56 percent.
- The recidivism rate for those without mental illness or a substance use disorder drops to 44-percent.

The new facility would be designed

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## Look who's in the news!

New Berthoud teachers  
Nick Monchak  
Jesse Sommers

Cooper Wynn  
BHS cross country team

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BERTHOUD WEEKLY SURVEYOR  
"Covering all the angles in the Garden Spot"  
440 Alkoyton Ave.  
Berthoud, CO 80513