

# Districts on plaintiff list for Lobato case

By Sarah Jones  
Staff Writer

As testimony for the Lobato v. Colorado case continues, several prominent names in the Adams and Jefferson County school districts are being tied to the case.

The plaintiff list for the case, which could impact the state school finance act, now includes Jefferson County District R-1, Mapleton Public Schools and Adams County District 50.

Jefferson County Superintendent Cindy Stevenson testified before the court on Thursday, Aug. 4, and Mapleton Superintendent Charlotte Ciancio is testifying later this month.

"The (school) board voted to become plaintiffs in the Lobato case because the state has really changed its expectations (for education)," Stevenson said.

"When (education) started it was equal opportunity; for decades we have operated on equal opportunity and over the past 10 years it has been turned to equal outcomes."

According to Stevenson, the district cannot be expected to take two fundamentally different children and ensure they are up to par with state standards with the same amount of resources for each child, she explained, particularly in such a large and diverse district as Jefferson County where schools range from 94 percent

free and reduced lunch to one percent.

"If thorough and uniform (education) now means that every child reaches career and college ready, then we need different resources," she said.

The original plaintiffs in the case were Anthony Lobato and his wife Denise from Center, who filed the case concerning the quality of public education for their two daughters Taylor and Alexa. The case was filed in 2005 and dozens of other parents and many school districts have since signed on to the case.

"When we approved to support the case it was a 3-2 vote by the board," said Steve Saunders, communications director for District 50, which joined the plaintiff list in 2010. "... I know everybody on the board wanted to force changes in the Colorado School Finance Act."

According to Saunders, this act controls the funding for the state's school districts and the purpose of this case is to reform the way the act is executed. The school district also contributed \$10,000, \$1 per student, to the case from the school board's budget, Saunders said.

The case is being heard by Denver District Judge Sheila Rappaport and is being defended by the Colorado State Attorney General's Office.

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## POLICE

### Thornton

**Resisting arrest, obstructing police, vehicular eluding:** A 30-year-old Thornton man was arrested after he tried to elude police Aug. 7 at Conifer Road and West Thornton Parkway. An officer saw the man speeding on a motorcycle in the area and activated his lights and siren in an attempt to stop him. The motorcycle accelerated to 80 miles per hour and, when it became apparent that he wasn't going to stop, the officer stood down. Moments later, someone reported a suspicious man on a motorcycle in the 9600 block of Pelon Drive. The caller said the man coasted a motorcycle down the street, parked it behind a truck and ran into a nearby field. Northglenn officers responded to assist, as

they had a similar eluding incident in their jurisdiction earlier in the evening. A request for made for a K-9 officer from Westminster. The K-9 officer and his dog from Westminster were called to assist and found the suspect hiding in the bushes. The suspect was placed under arrest and taken to a nearby hospital for treatment of a dog bite on his leg. He was later transported to the Adams County jail.

**Menacing, possession of firearm while under the influence:** A 27-year-old Thornton man was arrested Aug. 7 after officers responded to a felony menacing in the 9200 block of Ash Court. During a neighborhood confrontation, the suspect pointed a rifle at one of the neighbors. He was transported to the Adams County jail.

**Disorderly conduct:** A 24-

year-old Westminster man and a 30-year-old Northglenn man were arrested Aug. 5 after officers were dispatched to a fight in the 1300 block of East 120th Avenue. A third party intervened because the disturbance was frightening nearby children. Both men were issued summonses and later released.

**Shoplifting:** A 20-year-old Greeley woman was arrested Aug. 2 after she was caught trying to steal \$174.39 in merchandise from Hobby Lobby at 550 Thornton Parkway. She was issued a summons and released.

*Items in the police reports are compiled from public information contained in police and fire department records. Charges or citations listed don't imply guilt or innocence, and all people are presumed innocent until proven guilty.*

## Life after 9/11

The anniversary of 9/11 will be this September, and we are preparing stories that look at the lasting impacts of the tragic event.

We are most interested in the perspectives of you, our readers. Please let us know your take about how your life changed at work, at home, spiritually, in relation to our community and so forth. We are interested in people who helped others, joined the service following 9/11 or had family members who were impacted. Please send your thoughts and observations to [letters@metronorthnews.com](mailto:letters@metronorthnews.com) or [newstips@milehighnews.com](mailto:newstips@milehighnews.com)



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