

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

COLORADO PARK MONEY IS GONE!!

It appears that the \$2.6 million parks money that was removed by the Budget Committee, is gone to help balance the state budget. The word just didn't get out to everyone in time to mount an effective objection to the movement of this money. The budget is at the governor's office at this time we we will have to wait to see what he does with it. If he signes it with no changes, then we probably can look forward to reduced services in the parks this year and possible fee increases next year.

RITTER VETOES THE BRADY BYPASS BILL

Despite the hundreds of calls and e-mails his office received in support of HB1280, governor Bill Ritter vetoed the Brady Bypass bill which would have allowed Colorado Concealed carry permit holders to skip the Brady Registration Check when purchasing a firearm because they have already undergone an extensive background check in order to get the carry permit. This anti-gun action, according to sources, sets the tone for his 2010 re-election campaign.

NAVISTAR COMING TO THE RESCUE OF MONACO? March 26, 2009

Navistar International Corporation announced Wednesday that it has issued a non-binding letter of intent to purchase certain assets and assume certain liabilities primarily associated with the RV manufacturing business of Monaco Coach Corporation.

Monaco filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy relief on March 5 in the District of Delaware. Headquartered in Coburg, OR, Monaco has manufacturing facilities in Oregon and Indiana and offers a variety of RVs, from entry-level priced towables to custom-made luxury models under the Monaco, Holiday Rambler, Safari, Beaver, McKenzie and R-Vision brand names.

"If we are able to reach agreement, the purchase of certain Monaco assets would fit our strategy of leveraging our assets to expand our diesel business, serve the end customer and would also complement our Workhorse custom chassis business" said Jack Allen, president of Navistar North American truck group. "Any asset purchase would fall within our current capital expenditure program for fiscal 2009."

Monaco Coach announced Friday, April 24, that it has signed a definitive agreement to sell substantially all of its RV manufacturing assets to a unit of Navistar Inc. for approximately \$52 million. After paying off its creditors, there will be no money left for Monaco shareholders.

LAZYDAYS BUYS FINAL FLEETWOOD TRAVEL TRAILERS. April 24, 2009

Seffner, FL based Lazydays RV Center Inc. recently finalized its purchase of Fleetwood Industries Inc's remaining travel trailers. In total, 154 units were purchased for resale, Lazydays announced in a news release. "Lazydays has partnered with Fleetwood in travel trailer sales for more than 30 years," said Pat Overby, general sales manager of Lazydays. "Fleetwood has always manufactured top quality RVs and although we're sorry to see them exit the travel trailer business, we're excited that we can provide our customers these remaining products at a great value." Lazydays was founded in 1976 with two travel trailers and \$500. Today, the company is the largest single-site RV dealership in North America.

UPSIDE DOWN

The results of last issue's reader survey surprised me. More than one out of four RVtravel.com readers owe more on their RV loans than what their vehicles are worth. It means that in order to sell their present RV, they would need to come up with cash to pay off their loan balances. I'm sure that in these touch economic times, some of these folks would like to get rid of their RVs and their monthly payments. But most can't do that without pulling thousands, even tens of thousands of collars from their pockets.

Financing an RV was relatively easy the last few years. A lot of consumers got in over their heads by buying expensive rigs with little or no money down and extending their payment for 15 or 20 years. And now a lot of those RVers are stuck with loan payments on an RV they might not even want any more. It's not much different than what's happened in the housing market with the mortgage meltdown.



The troubled RV industry giant, Affinity Group (AGI), finds itself in the news again, and it isn't the happy talk column. Affinity Group whose children include the Good Sam Club, Camping World, Trailer Life, and Motorhome magazines as well as other RV

related corporations is just another of the big list of firms evidently struggling to tread water. The trouble is, plenty of RVers may not have direct stock in the company, but could find themselves effected if the company goes belly-up.

A few months ago a major analyst of publicly traded firms opined that 2009 could actually see the demise of AGI in the strain of the economic times.