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CALENDAR

TACOS AND TUNES FUND

Saturday

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Charity pancake breakfast. This event will be held prior to the fair parade. All proceeds from the breakfast will be donated to the Women's Crisis and Family Outreach Center and the Douglas/Elbert Task Force. If you would like to show additional support, cash donations and non-perishable food items will be accepted at the event. Tickets are available for purchase at the office of Folkestad Fazekas Barrick and Patoile, P.C., The Douglas/Elbert Task Force Thrift Store and online through Black Tie Colorado. Tickets cost \$5 for adults and \$3 for children. **7 a.m.** The Law Office of: Folkestad Fazekas Barrick & Patoile, P.C., 18 S. Wilcox St., Castle Rock



Benefit pancake breakfast for fair parade visitors

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Visitors to the Douglas County fair parade are invited to come early for a pancake breakfast to benefit charities that support county residents in need.

The Castle Rock law firm of Folkestad Fazekas Barrick & Patolle P.C. hosts its first charity pancake breakfast to benefit the Women's Crisis and Family Outreach Center and the Douglas/Elbert Task Force, organizations that provide support for residents who are out of

work, are victims of domestic violence or find themselves in need of a helping hand.

The law firm selected its beneficiaries in the face of rising demand and declining donations among family support outreaches. Aaron W. Barrick, managing director of the law firm, is among those familiar with the pivotal role support services play in the court system.

"The women's crisis center is an integral part of the justice system because the people being benefited through the crisis center are those being victimized by domestic violence, divorces, child custody cases, restraining orders," Barrick said. "We're talking about a lot of ... difficult family situations, so we wanted to assist the women's crisis center, which itself assists the justice system. We've done our own in-office fundraisers and felt it was time to give back to the community."

The law firm is situated along the fair parade route, off Wilcox Street in Castle Rock.

The idea to organize a breakfast gives visitors to the fair an excuse to arrive early, enjoy a hot meal and support local outreaches that are experiencing a dearth of donations, Barrick said.

The Women's Crisis and Family Outreach Center is a Castle Rock-based emergency shelter that provides services for men and women in need of temporary shelter. The center also provides reduced-cost therapy and courses to equip residents with life skills such as financial management, job search and parenting classes, said Sarah Woolverton-Mohler.

The Castle Rock facility is among the few in Colorado that accepts male residents, and in December 2009 opened a new shelter that has been full since opening day, Mohler said.

"We are turning people away every single day," she said. "In the United States a woman is beaten every 12 seconds by her partner, and in Douglas County domestic vio-

lence is the number one violent offense. Because it's such a large issue, in Colorado we have a lot to do to help those impacted."

The center often houses at least two children for every adult resident and most recently had 17 children staying at its 28-bed shelter, Mohler said. Residents can stay for as few as one night and up to 45 days or more. The shelter has a waiting list for residency and therapy services. A portion of funding goes toward a one-year case plan which provides therapy and training services for up to a year.

Those services are augmented in Douglas County by support from the Douglas/Elbert Task Force, a food bank that also provides energy, traveling and job-search assistance. Residents of the shelter are eligible to select a job interview outfit at the task force thrift store, which helps finance the food bank.

With the decline in the economy, the financial chal-

lenges have hit the food bank shelves and the crisis center services. Visitors to the pancake breakfast are encouraged to bring a nonperishable food item and cash donations will be accepted.

"With the economy the way it is, people are struggling to feed their families," Barrick said. "The task force is struggling. While demand has increased, the food has declined. You see an increase in family law issues and domestic violence and other high-risk behavior, and therefore you've got more people who need those services. Then you have cutbacks in budgets that are depleting supply, so it's a difficult time for everybody."

The inaugural charity pancake breakfast begins at 7 a.m. and continues while supplies last, Aug. 7 at 18 S. Wilcox Street in Castle Rock. The cost is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children 12 and younger. For more information contact Deanna Alvarez at 303-688-3045 or alvarez@ffcolorado.com.