

NEWS



PARTY AT THE BARTH

Volunteers serve holiday meals to the residents of the Senior Housing Options' Barth Hotel in Denver yesterday. The residents of the Barth are often older and are often either physical or mental disabled. They also don't always have family around, so the holidays can be a particularly lonely time for them, and a lack of a holiday meal can really drive home that point. But Denver-area restaurants such as Jax Fish House, Vesta Dipping Grille, Dixons and others prepared food for the folks at the Barth yesterday. Denver Daily News photo by Tad Rickman.

RITTER

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tax breaks would be a better tactic. "The governor's proposals look mostly like token gestures," Sen. Greg Brophy, R-Wray, said in a statement. Even some business leaders who attended Ritter's announcement and applauded his ideas said more could be done to improve the state's business climate. Tops on their agenda is an end to property taxes on equipment owned by businesses. "We'd love to see us get rid of that tax," said Holli Baumunk, president of the Economic Development Council of Colorado. Ritter, though, said it's not possible right now to waive that tax. He pointed out that local governments depend on it, and that they'd have to raise other taxes or cut services if it was eliminated. "That is not on the governor's agenda this year," he replied. Democratic Rep. Joe Rice of Littleton said the Legislature also may have to look at taxes or fees to pay for needed road improvements. With the economy in recession, new state construction could stave off job losses, Rice said.

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