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CALENDAR

CIRQUE DU SOLEIL'S "ALEGRIA" STARTS LIMITED RUN »7T

## New cultural center to open

Former church in Thornton outfitted with stage, sound system »5T



**New signs aim to aid commuters**  
 »4T

**County moves into new offices**  
 »10T

**Raffle funds to aid neglected children**  
 »15T

### STORM CHASER

Weather-enthusiast Tony Hake replaces the lid on one of his backyard weather instruments last week at his Thornton home.

Hake is the creator of [www.thorntonweather.com](http://www.thorntonweather.com), a website that provides weather information and forecasts specific to Thornton. "It's truly local weather," Hake said. STORY »4T *Kristin Morin, YourHub.com*

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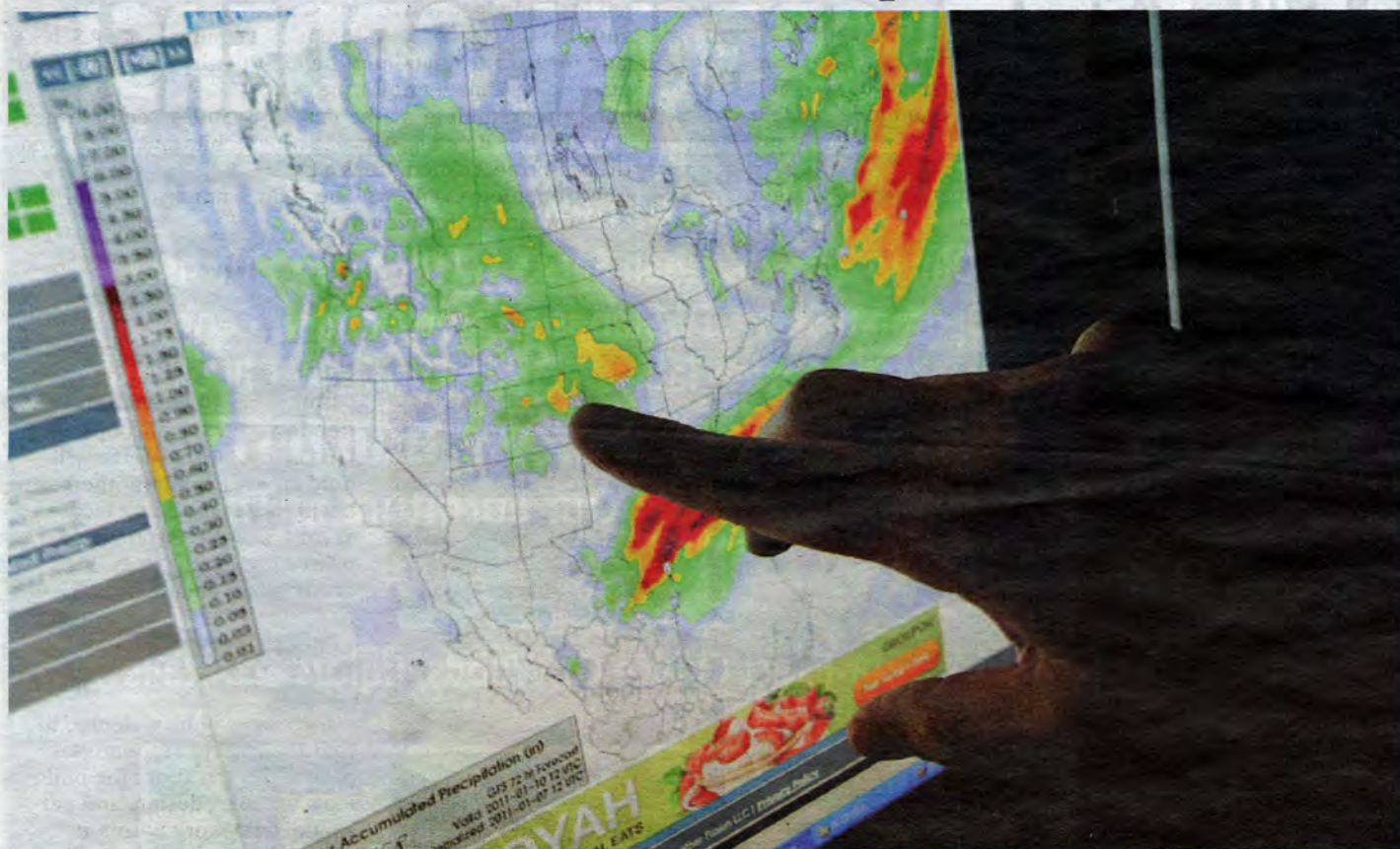
## News

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## Your Community

# Keeping an eye on the sky

Weather enthusiast tracks Thornton's patterns via website



Tony Hake points out weather patterns on his computer last week in the basement of his Thornton home. Hake takes weather measurements from his home and yard to put up on his website ThorntonWeather.com. "It's local. The forecast is for Thornton," Hake said. *Kristin Morin, YourHub.com*

By Joey Kirchmer  
YourHub.com

From the backyard and basement of his home, a local weather enthusiast is keeping Thornton residents completely up to date on what the climate is like outside.

Tony Hake is the brains behind ThorntonWeather.com, a website dedicated to providing real-time weather conditions, radar, forecasts, trends and historical data. Hake, a native of neighboring Northglenn, launched the site about three years ago with the help of some relatively common weather instruments, including a thermometer, a small rain bucket and a device called a hygrometer, which is used to track relative humidity.

"It's truly local weather," said Hake. "It's not downtown Denver. It's not Denver International Airport. The forecast is for Thornton. And I guarantee you that it will be a couple degrees different."

Hake keeps the weather tracking devices

in his backyard, which automatically feeds to a console in his living room, which in turn links up to the computers in his basement. The end result is a website that updates about every 10 seconds, providing visitors with the most recent weather in the Thornton area — everything from wind chill estimates to wind conditions.

"I think that's what people get the biggest kick out of — it's constantly changing," said Hake. "It's all real time."

A self-described "weather geek," Hake said he began taking a special interest in meteorology on June 3, 1981. That was the day a tornado touched down in the Thornton area, wiping out dozens of homes and destroying several businesses near 88th Avenue and Washington Street.

Hake was 12 years old at the time and remembers being ordered to get under his desk by his teachers at Hillcrest Elementary School. He said it was "pitch black at noon" and recalls his father picking him up from school and sending him to the basement immediately.

"I've always had a fascination since then," he said.

Hake recently traversed the so-called "tornado alley" area along the Oklahoma panhandle looking for twisters with fellow weather enthusiasts. He hit the jackpot last May, when he got about a quarter mile away from a large tornado that ripped through a tiny town named Campos in southeast Colorado.

"It was an extraordinary system," he said. "This thing just kept putting out tornadoes. It was an extraordinary experience."

The tornado pictures are currently posted on his website, which averages about 24,000 hits per month. Hake says the endeavor is just for fun; his real job is working as an information technology employee at a business in north Denver.

"It's just entertainment, for lack of a better word."

You can find the website at [www.thorntonweather.com](http://www.thorntonweather.com); through Facebook at [facebook.com/thorntonweather](http://facebook.com/thorntonweather); or via Twitter at [twitter.com/thorntonweather](http://twitter.com/thorntonweather).

## Your Traffic

## New signs to provide travel time for drivers

By Joey Kirchmer  
YourHub.com

Adams County motorists who take Interstate 25 into Denver have a better idea of how long their commute is going to take.

The Colorado Department of Transportation, or CDOT, recently installed a sign on southbound I-25 at 84th Avenue that provides real-time travel information based on traffic conditions. The sign, the first to be installed along I-25 in the metro area, will give drivers travel times to the interchange at I-70.

"This is the first trip travel time sign in the northern part of the Denver metro area," said CDOT traffic engineer Jill Scott. "We will test the trip travel time sign for a couple of months and then slowly expand the number of signs to the south."

The sign was installed a few weeks ago, said Mindy Crane, spokeswoman for CDOT. The goal is to help drivers consider the use of alternate routes, if necessary, to help ease traffic congestion, she said.

The system on I-25 is collecting data from side-fire speed sensors and toll transponders. Speed, volume and other travel data is calculated and then the estimated travel time is displayed.

Any personal or identifying information on a vehicle is deleted from the system within two hours, she said, adding that CDOT does not have access to that information.

CDOT currently is displaying travel time data on signs on I-70 west of Denver, in addition to a system along C-470 and Sixth Avenue and to the south between Colorado Springs and Lone Tree. Over the next two years, CDOT plans to expand trip travel time information on I-25 from 84th Avenue to Lone Tree. The signs will slowly roll out from 84th Avenue and from Lone Tree.