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Roch: journalist, speaker
10-year-old PTA member meets governor

By *Quentin Young*
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Tyger Roch said he wasn't nervous when he spoke before Gov. Bill Ritter at an event in February.

Anyone who has spent time around the 10-year-old Lafayette resident would believe him.

He is articulate, knowledgeable and moves in adult circles with seeming ease.

He is a member of the parent-teacher association at his school, Lafayette Elementary. His mother is a vice president of the PTA.

"He wanted to join because he's always asking: 'What do you guys talk about?'" said Lorie Roch.

The occasion for his encounter with Ritter was the Colorado PTA Legislative Conference. Roch visited the state House and Senate chambers, met legislators, then led Ritter by the hand to speak at a lunch at the Adam's Mark hotel.

Taking as his subject "What I like about school," Roch gave the opening remarks.

By his account, there is a lot to like about school, such as geography club, drama club, student council and newspaper club — all of which he participates in.

Roch wants to pursue a career in journalism. At school, he has already tackled stories about fingernails allegedly found in orange juice containers and the plight of migrant farm workers in Florida.

"I like writing articles about the environment," he said. "I want to write about what's going on in the world."

A conversation with him suggests he knows a lot about what's going on in the world. He enjoys reading newspapers, National Geographic magazine, history books and biographies.

He listens to National Public Radio, and he's a member of the Lafayette Historical Society.

Roch places himself on the left side of the political spectrum. Of President Bush, he said: "I think we need a smarter one."

Also a reader of fiction, Roch walked into an interview toting a copy of Dan Brown's "The Da Vinci Code."

When not reading and writing, Roch likes to take part in athletic activities. He enjoys skiing, swimming and running.



Tyger Roch, a 10-year-old Lafayette resident, recently gave opening remarks before Gov. Bill Ritter spoke at a PTA conference in Denver.
Courtesy of Lorie Roch