

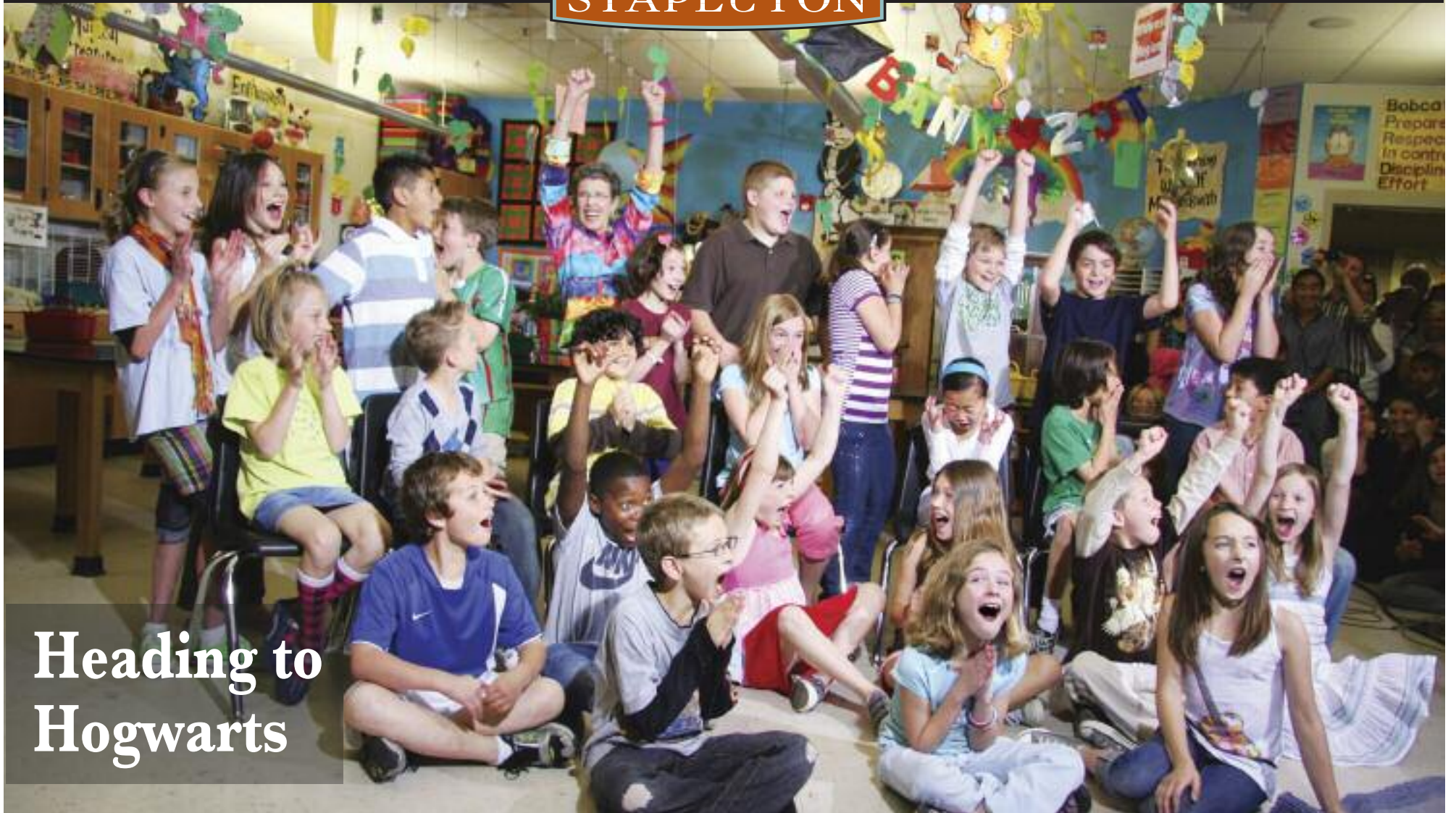
Front Porch

Distributed to the Stapleton, Park Hill, Lowry, Montclair, Mayfair, Hale and East Colfax neighborhoods

DENVER, COLORADO

STAPLETON

JUNE 2010



Heading to Hogwarts

Ms. Beckwith's 4th grade class at Bill Roberts K-8 school reacts with excitement upon hearing they have won an all-expense-paid trip to the opening of "The Wizarding World of Harry Potter"

By Kathy Epperson

Initial dismay gave way to elation the morning of May 20th for Ms. Beckwith's fourth grade class at Bill Roberts, one of four finalists in NBC's Today show contest 'Why

My Class Is Extraordinary.' Narrowed down from over 1000 entries, the fourth graders found out they were one of four finalists on May 17th. After that, it was all in the hands of the Today show viewers, who saw video clips of each finalist and

in Orlando Florida. The class was one of the final four in the Today Show's contest for "Most Extraordinary Class," in which over 1,000 schools in the country competed for the prize.

voted for their favorite on the Today show website.

At stake was an all-expenses paid, three-day trip in mid-June to the opening celebration festivities of The Wizarding World of Harry Potter at Universal's Islands of Adventures in Orlando, Florida. The students arrived at school at 5:00am on May 20th for the live announcement by The Today show. The winning class was in San Antonio, Texas, but moments later came the surprise announcement from Harry Potter actress Emma Watson that Universal Orlando thought all the finalists were so outstanding they were inviting all four classes to the opening celebration in Florida. Ms. Beckwith and five lucky adult chaperones will accompany the kids.

"Ms. Beckwith always encourages us to do what we want to do and mostly thinks we always have great ideas!" says student Mary Yoder. "We were all in this contest together. We really hoped to win the trip, and now we are all going to the opening of Harry Potter World! I feel absolutely awesome."

(continued on page 11)

Blockbuster Block Parties



Rob Somers and Sean Kelly, members of the well-known Boulder band The Samples, play for a Stapleton block party at 28th and Xanthia while a neighborhood kid gets a ride on a zip line. The Samples will play at the upcoming Mile High Music Festival on August 14th at Dick's Sporting Goods Park.



Nora Rousherton, 4, Jadyn Wise, 5, and Thomas Worth, 5, fly down a bouncy slide set up for their block party in the pocket park at 31st and Emporia. Stapleton's annual block party day was May 15. There were approximately 30 block parties attended by an estimated 3,000 people, the largest with 420 party goers.

BikeDenver Helps Denver Create New Lifestyle

By Nancy Burkhart

Park Hill resident Piep van Heuven, like most kids, learned to ride a bicycle when she was a child. Her parents were U.S. Foreign Service officers, so when they lived in Bonn, Germany, van Heuven commuted to school on her bike. Her bike became important again during her days at Bates College in Lewiston, Maine, too.

"I got away from it for a while, and didn't find it again until I moved to Denver," van Heuven said. "I saw Ride the Rockies and thought it looked like fun. I convinced a friend of mine to get in with me. I had a blast. It was awesome. That reintroduced me to the bicycle."

Since then, van Heuven has done Ride the Rockies three times, along with other major Colorado biking excursions. She served as development director for Volunteers for Out-

(continued on page 26)

Printed with soy-based ink. Paper contains 40% postconsumer waste.



Stapleton artist Jodi Rigsby and her friend Heather Arenas paint by the fountain in the 29th Avenue Town Center.



CALENDAR

Events in or near Stapleton that are FREE and OPEN TO THE PUBLIC or are nonprofit events.
(See pages 16 - 21 for more events.)

JUNE

Every Friday, June, July & Aug.

Northfield, Main Street Summerfest, 4-8pm
NorthfieldStapleton.com ->Calendar (see p. 19)

Every Sunday (through Aug. 8)

City Park Jazz, 6pm. www.cityparkjazz.org
6/6 Jon Romero y Amanecer
6/13 The O-Tone Brass Band
6/20 Hazel Miller
6/27 Manuel Lopez Trio
7/4 Denver Municipal Band Jazz Combo

Thursday, June 3

RTD Public Meeting on Moving the Stapleton Transfer Center, 6:30pm, 7350 E. 29th Ave, #300

Friday, June 4

*Movie Night: "Mama Mia"

Saturday, June 5

I-70 Clean-up @ Quebec & Peoria, 8am-1pm
Volunteers needed, register at
www.voudoors.org (see page 19)
JuliaGayles@denvergov.org or 303-331-3872

Tuesday, June 8

Groundbreaking and reception for Stapleton 3 School, 9:30am, 35th Ave. and Syracuse

Friday, June 11

MLK Bike Lane Opening (see page 19)
Ribbon Cutting & commuter ride, Arrive by 7:45am, Founders' Green, www.bikedenver.org

Friday & Saturday, June 11 & 12

NE Denver Relay for Life, Founders' Green
Starts 6pm. www.nedenverrelay.com (see p. 20)

Saturday, June 12

Family Bike Ride (see page 19)
10am, Hiawatha Davis Recreation Center
www.bikedenver.org & www.thebikedepot.org

Saturday, June 12

*Concert Series - The Hazel Miller Band - 6-8pm

Saturday, June 12

The Urban Farm, Open House/Free Tours, 10 - Noon. \$5 Horse Ride. Farm Market.
10200 Smith Road www.theurbanfarm.org

Saturday, June 12

National Get Outdoors Day (see page 20)
Denver City Park, 9am - 3:30pm
<http://www.nationalgetoutdoorsday.org/>

Saturday & Sunday, June 12 & 13

A Taste of Puerto Rico Festival (see page 20)
Central Park. www.atasteofpuertoricofestival.com
Collaborative Kite Fly and Walk, 3-5pm, RSVP
Meetup.com/RockyMtnKite, 303.321.1064.

The Front Porch welcomes submissions of upcoming local events (see format on p.17) and story ideas for future issues.
Email
FrontPorchStapleton@gmail.com

*At Founders Green, Sponsored by Stapleton MCA, events@stapletoncommunity.com, Movies start at dark.
(See page 18 for recurring monthly events and meetings)

JUNE

Monday, June 14

Feast on the Fax, 5-9pm (see page 20)
www.thefaxpartnership.com

Friday, June 18

Movie Night - "Michael Jackson-This is it"
Founders' Green,* Starts at dark

Saturday, June 19

Walk With a Doc, City Park, 8am (see page 19)
<http://www.njhealth.org/walkwithadoc>

Saturday, June 19

Park Hill Garden Tour, 10am - 4pm
(see page 21) 303-579-0334 or
angeliamcleandesign@yahoo.com

Sunday, June 20

Stapleton Farmers Market, Opening Day -
8:30am - 12:30pm (every Sunday thru Oct. 17)
Founders' Green

Monday, June 21

Adult Activities Planning meeting 6:30pm,
RSVP events@stapletoncommunity.com
2823 Roslyn St. (see page 13)

Wednesday, June 23

Bike to Work Day www.drcog.org
or call 303-458-7665

Saturday, June 26

Sweet William Market - 9am-2pm
Founders' Green* www.sweetwilliammarket.com

Saturday, June 26

Beer Festival with music by Deja Blu & Wendy Woo 4-9pm Founders' Green* (see page 21)

Sunday, June 27

Stapleton Farmers Market - 8:30am - 12:30pm
Founders' Green (every Sunday thru Oct. 17)

Sunday, June 27

Big Bear Ice - Try Hockey for Free! Ages 4-10
10:45-11:45am. Helmet w/mask & mouth guard req'd. Register at www.bigbearice.com
-> Events/Hockey

JULY

Sunday, July 4

Information at right and on page 16

Saturday, July 17

Stapleton Community Garage Sale, 8am-1pm
(see page 22)
www.BuildingStapleton.com/garagesale

Saturday, July 24

Bicycle tour of public art at Stapleton (see p. 22)
Free, RSVP required, spaces limited. Rudi Cerri
720-865-4307, rudi.cerri@denvergov.org



Movies & Concerts

The fun on The Green begins this month! Bring your picnic, blankets, family and friends to our annual music and movies series. The movie season kicks off with Mama Mia on June 4. All movies will begin at dark on The Green.

The concert season opens Saturday, June 12 with The Hazel Miller Band 6-8pm on The Green. These are free events, open to the public. For the full summer events calendar, please check our website at

www.stapletoncommunity.com. Events are also listed in The Front Porch calendar adjacent to this article.

Concessions will be available this year at each concert and movie operated by various nonprofit organizations selling popcorn, candy and soft drinks. Please stop by the big white tent and support them as they raise funds for their group.

BikeDenver MLK Ribbon Cutting and Commuter Ride

City Council members Michael Hancock and Carla Madison will cut the ribbon for the new MLK bike lane on Friday, June 11 at 8am at Founders Green, Stapleton. BikeDenver will lead the Commuter Ride along the new lane from Stapleton to downtown (ride ends at Curtis Park).

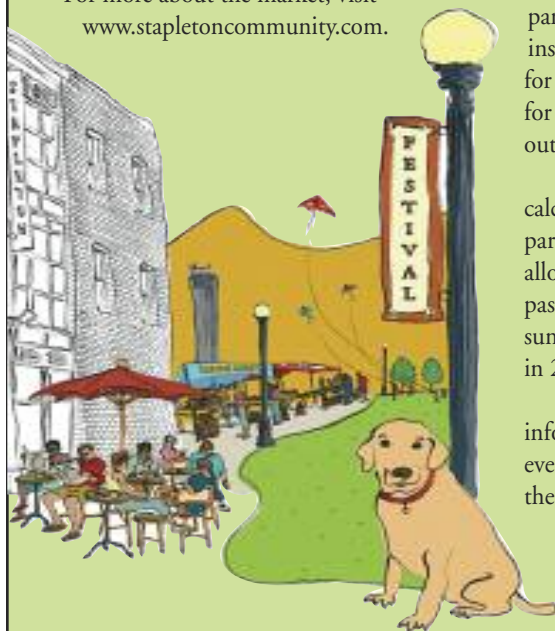
Join Bike Depot on Saturday, June 12 at 10am at Hiawatha Davis Rec Center to participate in the Family Ride. Both events are free and open to everyone. Prizes will be given away! For more information on both these events, visit www.bikedenver.org.

Farmers Market

The first Farmers Market of the season is scheduled for Sunday, June 20, Father's Day! This is a change from the opening date listed in the Dogs of Stapleton Calendar. The first market of the year will feature a pancake breakfast sponsored by the Stapleton Rotary Club.

Colorado Fresh Markets features local produce, gourmet products and delicious food in a European-style open-air market setting. The Market will run every Sunday through October 17 on The Green located on 29th Avenue between Syracuse and Roslyn streets from 8:30am-12:30pm.

For more about the market, visit
www.stapletoncommunity.com.



Beer Festival

The Stapleton MCA is hosting its first Beer Festival on The Green, June 26 from 4-9pm. The festival will feature Colorado breweries. For a full list of showcased breweries and to purchase advanced tickets, visit www.stapletoncommunity.com.

The advanced ticket cost is \$20. Tickets will be available at the event for \$25. Tickets include beer tasting throughout the afternoon, food tastings and a commemorative glass. Music entertainment will include Deja Blu from 4-6pm and Wendy Woo from 7-9pm. This event is open to the public and free if you only want to listen to the music. No outside alcohol will be allowed at this event.

July 4th Activities

We start the day with a BANG! The Annual Pancake Breakfast at the Fountain Pavilion in Central Park begins at 9am. Tickets include pancakes, sausage, and coffee or juice and will be priced at \$5 for adults and \$3 for children. All donations benefit the Stapleton Stingrays Swim Team.

Bring your bicycles, tricycles, wagons or scooters decorated for the parade to begin at 10:30am. We will line up along the promenade at the fountain and head east toward the lake, looping around back to the fountain area.

Following the parade, the pools will open as scheduled. All pools will close at 6pm. Music and water activities are planned throughout the day. Please check www.stapletoncommunity.com for all details of the day.

Adult Activities

If you are interested in helping us plan some activities for the adult community, join us for our next meeting on Monday, June 21 at 6:30pm in the MCA Community Room at 2823 Roslyn Street. Dinner will be provided.

Aquatics

An Adult Activity Pass and Lap Swim Pass are now available for Stapleton residents to use toward the following activities: Water Fitness, Poolside Yoga, Swim Conditioning, and Lap Swim during regular program hours. The passes will allow Stapleton residents to prepay for programs and participate with instruction from skilled instructors without the hassle of registering for the entire session. The Lap Swim pass is for adults wanting additional lap swim outside the "Open Swim" schedule.

Fees associated with each punch are calculated to cover costs of instruction and participation outside of what has been allocated to our regular schedule. Both passes are good for five visits during the summer season (unused visits will expire in 2010).

If you have questions about the above information, feel free to contact events@stapletoncommunity.com or call the MCA office at 303.388.0724.

Diane Deeter
Director of Programming and Events

Sponsored by Stapleton MCA

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Sen. Michael Johnston Explains Colorado's New Mandate for Educational Reform

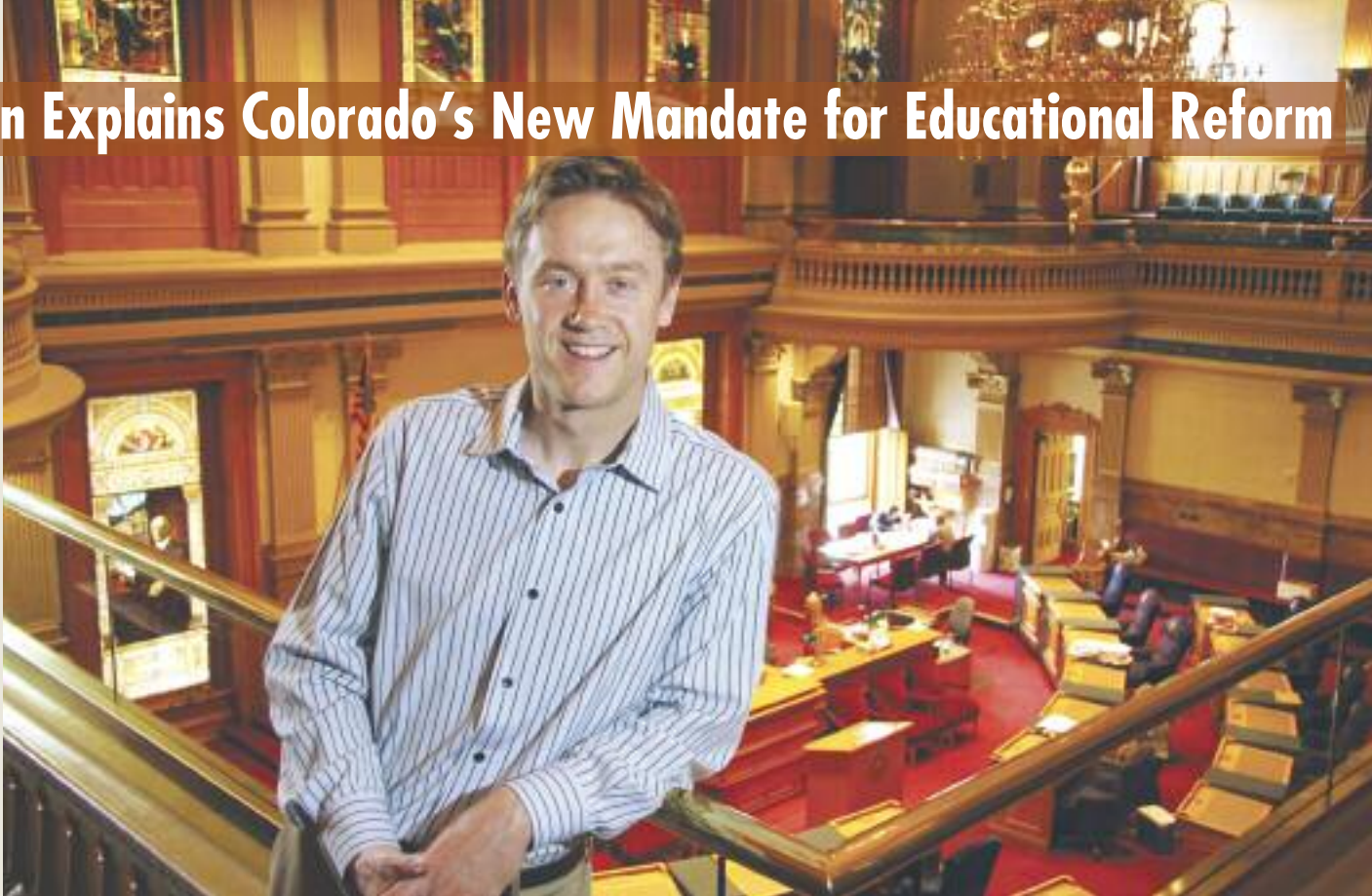
By Carol Roberts

Senate Bill 191, which was recently passed by the state legislature and signed into law by the governor, has been referred to as the “tenure reform” bill. But State Senator Michael Johnston, who sponsored the bill, says he considers other aspects of the bill to be what are most important about it. He believes that a crucial part of the bill is identifying the most effective teachers and principals, documenting what they’re doing that’s so successful, and sharing it with others. The bill will enable the teachers and principals who are doing great work to choose a career ladder that offers them additional pay for sharing and documenting their practices and helping other teachers improve.

Johnston believes these great teachers have a “transformative effect” on students. He points out that West Denver Prep, a school that is 95% low income, not only has excelled in the area of improvement, but their raw scores actually exceeded those of Polaris, a school for the gifted, where kids have to qualify for admission. Great teachers have been shown to impact students’ performance regardless of the students’ background. “Research has shown that it matters less which program or school a student enters than which teacher they get,” says Johnston.

“The teacher evaluation system needs to be changed,” says Johnston. “The evaluation system needs to be used to inform decisions. We can’t be satisfied with, ‘We taught but they didn’t learn.’ The question is, ‘Do the kids know more at the end of the year than when they started?’ If they don’t, then changes need to be made in how they’re being taught.” The bill calls for an evaluation system that will be used to improve teacher effectiveness.

“Another key aspect of the bill is that it’s about measuring growth,” says Johnston. “Where did the students start and how have they improved? In past years it was all



Stapleton resident and State Senator Michael Johnston stands on the balcony overlooking the Senate chamber. Senator Johnston sponsored Senate bill 191, which mandates a new evaluation and retention system for teachers and principals. Senator Johnston says he believes it is the strongest such bill in the country.

about CSAP scores. Nothing in the bill says that a kid who was far behind has to make it up to grade level that year. We’re not holding the student’s lack of preparation against a teacher, so there’s no disincentive for a teacher to go to a school that has lower test scores.”

Johnston says research has shown that teachers are the single biggest influence on kids’ learning at school and principals are the second biggest contributor to their success. Johnston, who has been a school principal, says a principal can’t be effective without actively supporting his/her teachers. Principals need to be in the classroom and skilled at observing teachers. Principals, like teachers, need mentors to help them improve, noting there is evidence that having principals meet and support each other has been an effective tool. Senate Bill 191 calls for the Governor’s Council on Educator Effectiveness to define principal effectiveness.

The teacher and principal evaluations

called for in the bill don’t go into effect until the 2013-14 school year. In the meantime, the Governor’s Council on Educator Effectiveness will define the teacher and principal criteria for effectiveness and how to measure it, and make recommendations to the State Board of Education. The Board, in turn, will make recommendations to the legislature.

Senator Johnston said there were many who didn’t believe this bill could pass. How did he do it in this era where bipartisan cooperation seems increasingly rare? “We built a strong statewide coalition that included teacher groups like the American Federation of Teachers, foundations, school leaders, and business leaders by meeting with them one by one. We met with Hispanic groups, the NAACP, the Association of School Boards and made our case. As groups came on board, more and more started supporting the bill, and there was sort of a snowball effect. We had a strong partnership. The Colorado

Education Association (CEA) teachers’ union opposed the bill most of the way, but changed to neutral so, at the end, there were no organizations opposing it.”

Senator Johnston says he actually came away from this experience optimistic about bipartisan cooperation on future bills, one of which will be funding the resources to make the implementation of this bill successful. He says many believe it is the strongest such bill in the country and The New York Times and the Wall Street Journal are both writing stories about it. “This bill is about hope... what we know is possible,” says Sen. Johnston. “We can set and reach high goals.”

For more information about Senate Bill 191 contact Senator Michael Johnston at mike@mikejohnston.org or call 303-953-1541. Senator Johnston is a Stapleton resident.



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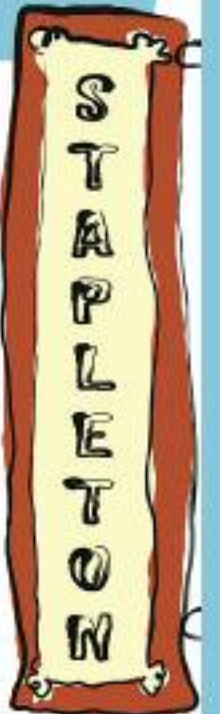
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C McStain Neighborhoods
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D KB Home
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E Wonderland Homes
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F KB Home
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An Unlikely Transformation...

By Nancy Burkhart

Hangar 61 has been a sanctuary for a flock of pigeons and a hawk for nearly 20 years. But now, with the vision and hard work of Larry Nelson and Ruth Falkenberg, the historic former aviation facility will soon be the sanctuary for a different sort of flock... the congregation of Stapleton Fellowship Church.

The church, which has an attendance of

about 200 people, closed the sale on May 10, according to the church's pastor, Dean Hill.

The congregation has been meeting at the Denver School of Science and Technology since the fall of 2007. But, despite being just across the street from Hangar 61, it had not been viewed as a possible church site until recently, Hill said. "We overlooked it," he said. "When



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from an Airplane Hangar to a Bird Sanctuary... and now a Church Sanctuary



Dean Hill, pastor of the Stapleton Fellowship Church, poses with some of his congregation in front of their new church, the historic Hangar 61 at Stapleton. The congregation has been meeting at the Denver School of Science and Technology.

we started meeting there, it was about the time when Larry acquired it. There was no way we could have envisioned what it looks like now.

“We were unaware of the uniqueness of the building. We thought if we got that land, we’d have to get rid of the building, so we started looking at other land. After the work was done...it was just perfect for what we need.”

Nelson and Falkenberg had the 9,000 sq. ft. Hangar 61’s environmental issues cleaned up and the area graded and landscaped to make 45 parking spaces. It was awarded one of the

Mayor’s Design Awards in the category, “The Past is Present.”

“We won’t be changing anything [on the outside],” Hill said. “We will add inside. It’s a shell now. We’ve got an architectural plan but we probably won’t start construction till late summer because there’s still some engineering to be done on it. We’ve got to stay within Historic Denver’s wishes. Our original drawings and concepts have passed their scrutiny.

“We’ll have a 300-seat sanctuary on one

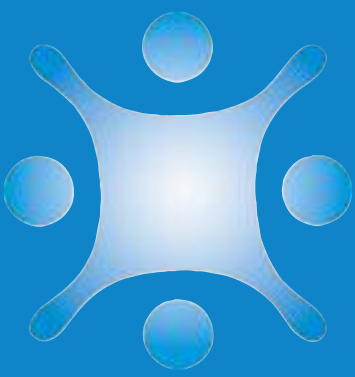
end,” he explained. “The children’s area will be on the other end. A miniature auditorium for the younger kids and nursery will be on that floor. We’ll do a mezzanine on the middle that will give us between 4,000 and 5,000 sq. ft. of extra floor space for older children, office and a youth area. Outside it’ll look much the same.”

The pastor is unwilling at this time to make public the price paid for Hangar 61. However, he said the congregation is looking forward to a long and fruitful association

with Hangar 61 and its place in the community.

“We’re going to maintain the aviation theme,” Hill said. “We are delighted to have acquired Hangar 61 as a future home for Stapleton Fellowship Church, and we believe it will emerge as an awesome tool for advancing our mission of helping people on their spiritual journey.”

It is hoped that the church will be able to start holding services in Hangar 61 in December or January, the pastor said.



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Let's Support Denver

By Jon Meredith

I have always been envious of many European cities that have great bicycle sharing programs. In Amsterdam and Copenhagen bikes are everywhere. Need to go ten blocks? Just walk outside pick out a bike and ride to your destination and leave the bike. On the return, take a different bike.

Now our city has the Cadillac (or I should say Serotta) of all bike share programs and if we support it I believe it will be a huge success. Denver

B-cycle was launched back in April as the nation's first major bike sharing program with 40 bike stations and 400 brand new Trek bicycles. Absolutely no city tax dollars have been spent implementing the program and Kaiser Permanente has provided a \$450,000 grant for on-going bike sharing programs. Many other corporate citizens have been generous in enabling this program to get going.

So how does it work and how can you support it? Everyone in Denver already has a bike so will Denverites ignore this great amenity? The way it is set up I don't think so. We just have to remember it is available

and to use it when we can.

Like the European model you can take out a bike for up to 30 minutes free of charge. So if you are downtown and you have an errand on

the other side of town, check out a bike, ride it to the destination, check it back in, do your errand and check one back out and ride back to your office. That is the idea behind the program and if you checked it out for less than 30 minutes each way you didn't pay anything. The bikes will be constantly turned over and short usages encouraged. You can sign up at the bike stations with a debit card for a 24 hour membership. Online at denver.bcycle.com, 7 and 30 day memberships are available as well as \$65 annual passes ready for sale. The website also has a



Denver B-cycle station at the Webb Building in the Civic Center

plethora of information regarding the program, including the rules. So, no, you can't pay \$65 take out a bike, use it for a year and then return it. If the bike is not returned to a station after three days you will be liable for the replacement cost. For iPhone and iPod Touch users there is an app with a B-cycle map and information like how many bikes are available at each station.

The bikes are Treks and are built so that people of all shapes and sizes can ride them. They have a basket on the front and a lock in case you stop where there is not a station. They are very much like the well-recognized Stapleton cruisers. It takes about a minute to input



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your information at the station to get a bike. After that, taking out a bike takes less time than unlocking your own.

The stations currently are primarily downtown, at the Botanic gardens and in Cherry Creek. Expansion will come in the next few years and it will be a huge asset to the city to have these all over town.

So how can Denverites who already have their own custom made Serotta bike, with all Campagnolo components, that cost \$8000 to build, lower themselves to ride a one speed trek? Let me give you some examples:

-You are at your uptown office and going to the Pepsi Center or Coors field after work. You can use a B-cycle to get there.

-You would take the bus downtown but it drops you too far from your office. Look at the B-cycle map and see if getting off the bus and riding to your office works.

-Friends or family are in town on a nice day and you want to play tour guide. Start at the Botanic Gardens, go to the museum then on to REI and back to your car at the gardens. You have all rented a bike for free, paid no parking fees and enjoyed a little exercise.

-You are at a bar late and had too much to drink....oops, no drinking and riding and bikes are not available after 11pm. Take a cab.

To make this program a big success we all need to use it. Just remember that it is available and how easy it is to use. All of the information one needs to be thoroughly familiar with the program is on the B-cycle website (denver.bcycle.com) and I would encourage you to read that information prior to setting out.



Metro Business Grads Get Fast Track to MBAs at Fort Hays

Stapleton resident Thomas Gaschler, (left) director of the Colorado Higher Education Opportunity Center for Ft. Hays State, and John Cochran, dean of Metro State School of Business, walk past the library on the Auraria Campus

By Nancy Burkhart

Thomas Gaschler lives in Stapleton, but he grew up in Hays, Kansas, and graduated from Fort Hays State University. Gaschler has found a way to have the best of both worlds.

In Denver, he is director of the Colorado Higher Education Opportunity Center for Fort Hays State University where he works with the Virtual College Masters of Business Administration program. The program is offered both online and in Hays.

Metropolitan State College of Denver has no MBA program. Therefore, the president of Fort Hays State and the president of Metro State in May signed an agreement to give Metropolitan State College School of Business graduates fast track admission to the Fort Hays MBA program.

"Our tuition online is extremely affordable," Gaschler said. "It's one of the most af-

ordable MBA programs in the country. "Right now a lot of people are going back to school for graduate programs because in this economy employment is one of the last things to come out of a recession," he said. "When people start hiring, now they can hire the cream of the people out there. I consider this MBA a boost to people's resume that enhances their marketability. People will have to have graduate degrees or certificates like grant writing. People with MBAs often will be looked at more than a person with just an



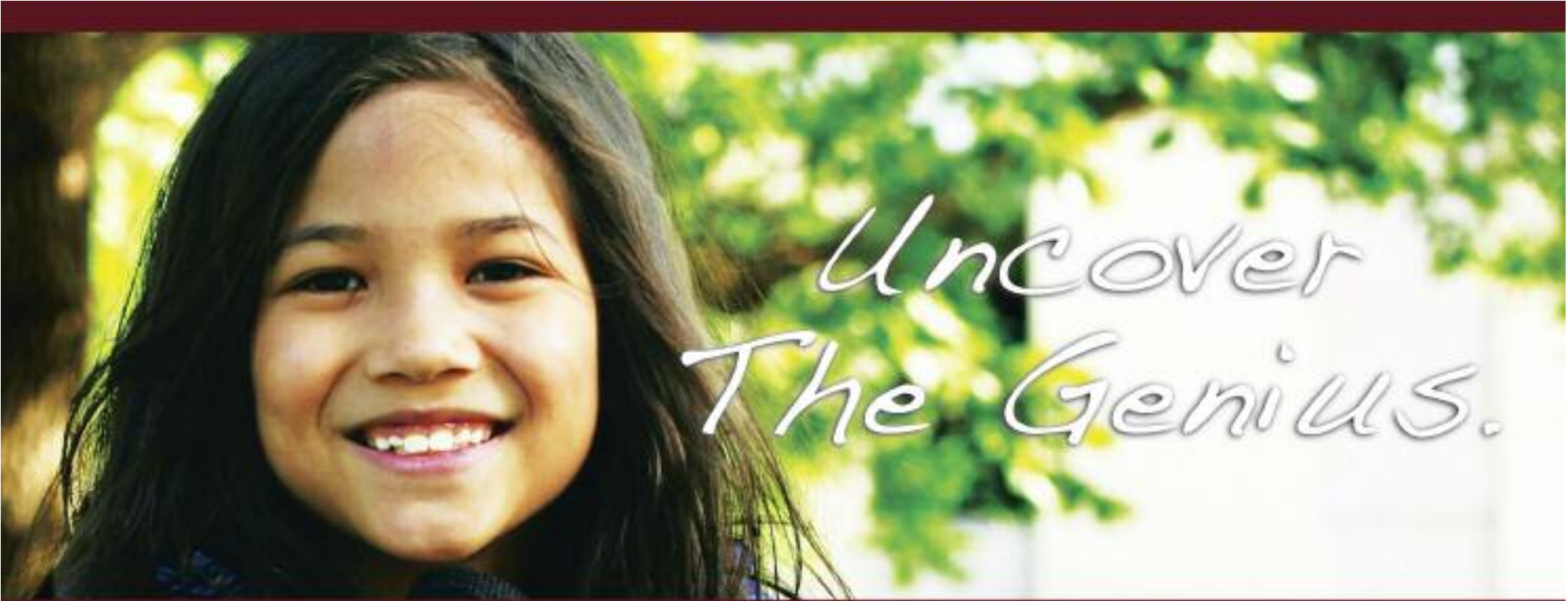
undergrad degree."

These are the fast track admissions requirements for Metro State Business School alumni:

- A Bachelor's degree in business from Metro State College
- Submission of admission application materials
- A 990 score or above using the MBA admissions formula, which is: 200 x undergraduate grade point average + GMAT score.

If the total equals 990 or more, the application will be immediately processed and the applicant will be admitted to the program, Gaschler said.

For information about the Fort Hays State University MBA program and the Metropolitan State College Fast Track MBA Admissions Program, contact Lisa Treece at 785-628-5696 or email: lltreece@fhsu.edu.



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uncover the genius

Mental Health Wards Offer Little Programing
By Nancy Burkhart

Stapleton residents Michael Holtby and his wife, Judy Linn, spent time last fall sharing their expertise with Chinese professionals at the Yunnan Department of Mental Health in Kunming, China.

Michael is a recipient of a Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Association of Social Work, Colorado Chapter. A psychotherapist who has had a private practice in Denver for more than 33 years, Michael gave a presentation to the Chinese doctors in Kunming, “Where they’re at with psychotherapy is very basic,” Michael explained. “The amount of training that they get is not very extensive like it is here, so they have a lot of interest in what we’re doing. When we went on the wards, we found people milling around, wearing pajamas, with noth-



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Stapleton residents Michael Holtby and his wife Judy Linn are shown (center back) under a banner welcoming them to the Yunnan Department of Mental Health in Kunming, China, where they presented information about U.S. mental health practices.

Local Residents Consult in China

ing to do, no program,” he said. “It’s like out of the ’50s.”
It was difficult to create a presentation for the Chinese professionals without sufficient information about their needs, according to Michael. “When I went over, I didn’t really know what they could use,” he said. “They have difficulty telling you what they need. They don’t want you to lose face, and they don’t want to lose face.”
The hospital in Kunming has alcohol rehab wards. At one time, an American introduced the 12-step Alcoholics Anonymous program there, but there was no follow-up, Michael said. Therefore, the average length of stay there is three months, while in the United States the “classic” stay is 28 days, he said.
Judy, a former nursing director, gave a presentation to her counterparts on a therapy in-patient program. The Kunming hospital has only two nurses to work with 50 beds.

In China, “culturally, people don’t talk about their feelings and about mental illness,” Michael said. “It’s hard for them to change and it’s hard for them to see another point of view.”
On this trip, the Holtbys gave presentations in a large room filled with about 200 people, Michael said. “If we do it again, it would be better to organize smaller groups where we can have a dialogue,” he said. “There’s an attitude in China that the nail that sticks up gets pounded down. They don’t want to ask questions because they don’t want to look bad.”
The Holtbys hope to return to Kunming in 2011 with a small group of colleagues. In the meantime, they are hoping to find funding for their travel.
For information about the Holtbys’ work in Kunming, go to <http://Chinatrip10-09.blogspot.com>. For donation information, email to holtby@denverpsychotherapy.com.



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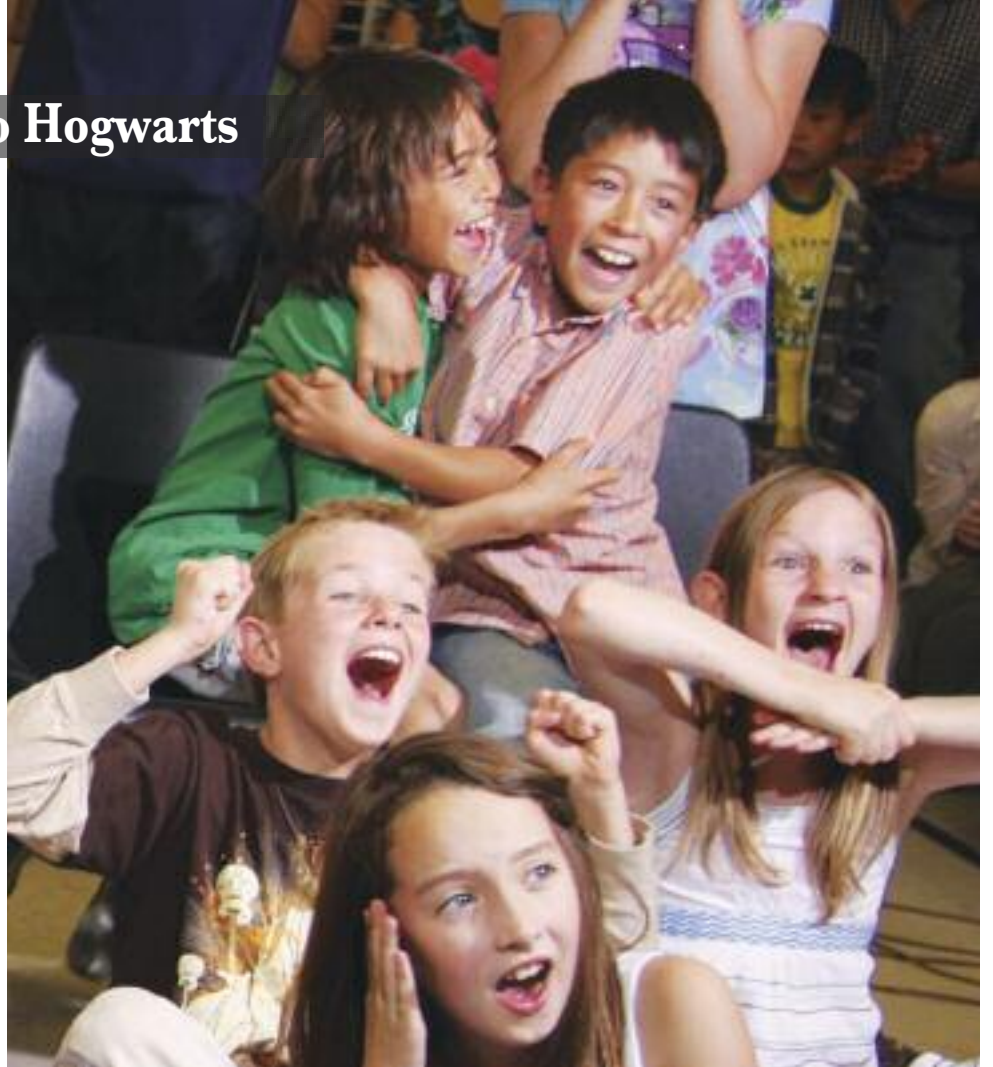
Trip to Hogwarts

(continued from page 1) The fourth graders have a long list of reasons they think their class is extraordinary, among them the small zoo of animals they tend to and learn from in their classroom, including one dog, one hedgehog, two fish, four frogs, two rats, one hamster, one snake, two caterpillars, and a tank full of fish. They credit Ms. Beckwith for devising fun projects and creating an exciting and slightly wacky classroom. "They think I look like Ms. Frizzle from the Magic School Bus series," says Cheryl Beckwith, who wore a scuba diving suit on Dive Into Reading day. "I'm certainly not ordinary — I'm very traditional in the way I teach, but we laugh a lot. Learning should be fun, and life should be fun."

One of the things the kids enjoy is employing their math, science and social studies

skills in class projects. One such project, helping fellow student Allison Winn bake dog biscuits for her Stink Bug project to raise money to buy dogs for kids with cancer, was highlighted by the Today show team for the final vote. "My class has been there for me — they have supported me and stood by me," Allison notes on the video. "They taught me how to be a normal kid again."

"The heart of a classroom is not the teacher, it's the kids," says Ms. Beckwith. "And the one thing I encourage them to do is be the best that they can be. The only thing they can really be perfect at when they start is being themselves. Don't let anyone else define you. They come as individuals and make up a family. I think the next president of the United States is sitting in this classroom, so President Obama, watch out!"



Above left: The faces of (left to right) Zak Flitter-Bilello, Kaitlyn Boehm and Ella Noble show their dismay when they learn their class was not the number one choice for "Most Extraordinary Class." Above: A minute later they learn that the top four classes will all win a trip to Harry Potter World. Thai Mathes (back left) and Kaemon Hiraki hug each other when they learn about the trip.



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New Visitor Center Construction to Start at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge



Above: Architect's rendering shows the planned 12,500 square foot "green" visitor center slated to open in the spring of 2011. Right: Steve Berendzen, Refuge Manager, and Steve Guertin, Regional Director, US Fish and Wildlife Service, break ground for the new visitor center, along with Honker, the blue goose mascot for the National Wildlife Refuge System, and other dignitaries.

By John Babiak

With the turn of gold painted ceremonial shovels, Denver's Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge achieved another milestone towards becoming America's premier urban wildlife refuge. During the recent ground breaking event, Refuge Manager Steve Berendzen cited that the \$7.7 million project includes \$3 million of funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. "Our new visitor center is not only estimated to handle an anticipated increase of more than 180,000 visitors per year, but will offer the space and resources needed to expand our environmental education and nature programs," said Berendzen. He also expects that the Center will become a destination for the three million residents along the Front Range. Berendzen took time to commend a longstanding public-private partnership and recognized the many federal, state and local governmental agencies, contractors, and dedicated workers who have been involved in the

near 25-year restoration of the Refuge. The 12,500 square-foot "green" building is slated to open in spring of 2011. "We teach conservation and practice it in our daily work," said Visitor Services Manager Sherry James. "The sustainable and energy efficient features included in the building will give us a fun way to discuss how we can all help conserve our environment." The Center's interior will boast a teaching classroom, lecture-style auditorium and a book and gift store. The expansive lobby area will have interactive exhibits that will not only communicate about prairie ecosystems, wildlife and the National Wildlife Refuge System, but also speak to the storied history of the site. It once was home to Native Americans, European-American homesteaders, a U.S. Army arsenal complex, a Shell Oil Company agrochemical factory, and even a fuel manufacturing facility for the Apollo command module and lunar lander spacecrafts. An outdoor nature interpretive area will serve as a starting point for guided bus tours. New

walking loops and trails from the Center will take guests eastbound through the native shortgrass prairie to nearby woodlands and three lakes. The 12,000 acre Refuge, one of the largest urban wildlife refuges in the country, is home to over 300 species of wildlife including a Bison herd, Bald eagles, Burrowing owls and Black-tailed prairie dogs. Wetlands provide ideal habitats for Snapping turtles, Red-wing black-birds, and Great Blue herons, while the lakes are popular with local catch-and-release fishermen. Cottonwood groves and dense thickets provide suitable homes for Swainson's hawks and resting areas for Mule deer. The Refuge will reach a size of nearly 15,000 acres by 2011. Since the event, earth movers have begun to etch the perimeter of the new visitor center grounds, which are located in the southwest cor-



ner of the Refuge, just north of Commerce City's Prairie Gateway Park and Dick's Sporting Goods Stadium Complex. A new public entrance to the Refuge will be constructed here as well. The existing visitor center located near Lake Mary will be remodeled and will remain in use for environmental education programs. John Babiak leads a summer-long nature appreciation program at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge and is a Board Member with the Friends of the Front Wildlife Refuges Group. He can be reached at: NatureRangerJohn@aol.com

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School Cafeteria Is Going Green



Tracy Ceravolo and her children, Caleb, 4, and Caroline, 6, show off some of the silverware that has been donated to the Bill Roberts school cafeteria in her campaign to replace plastic and styrofoam in the school's lunch program.

By Kathy Epperson

Stapleton mom Tracy Ceravolo is spearheading efforts to extend the green program already underway at Bill Roberts. A landscape architect, Tracy had become interested in the new Denver Green School opening next year. But weighing the environmental cost of driving there each day, she opted instead to put her energy into making her neighborhood school more eco-friendly.

“After noticing the amount of waste coming from the school cafeteria, this is where I’m starting my efforts,” says Tracy. “The school is already doing a good job in other areas, but the principal and assistant principal are definitely interested in making improvements across the board.” Among the things Tracy noticed right away is the amount of styrofoam and plastic utensils being used—and then thrown away. “Bill Roberts had already moved from using styrofoam lunch trays, which are normally used in DPS schools, and they now use plastic lunch trays that can be washed and reused. But we need to stop using the styrofoam bowls and plastic spoons and forks.”

Among the steps Tracy is taking are getting donations of silverware (spoons and forks) that can be washed and used again, getting a compost system to put food scraps into, using compostable trash bags and putting worm bins into the classrooms that want them. “The cafeteria currently empties out nine 55-gallon containers a day of trash,” Tracy explains. “Our program aims to divert at least seven of them to a compost facility. That’s a lot of waste that won’t go to a landfill!”

To help make all this happen, Tracy applied for and is receiving funds from Whole Foods. “The average donation from this bag credit program is about \$5,000,” Tracy says.

“We could not be doing this at all without the help of Whole Foods Cherry Creek—so bring your bags and donate your bag credit to Bill Roberts!”

The biggest challenge to making changes is the school district itself and the budget systems that don’t accommodate these improvements very well. “DPS has a limited budget,” Tracy says, “and they try to do things as cheaply as possible. They’re used to using styrofoam, and they don’t have a vendor that offers compostable materials. And even if the school starts using silverware and doesn’t order the plastic utensils, they can’t reallocate that money to cover the cost of washing the silverware or purchasing green materials.”

Though there are many challenges to making these changes, Tracy says she is fortunate that the school staff is supportive of the improvements. “The custodian, Coleen, is excited about this and suggested ways to have the kids help sort the spoons and forks for washing,” she says. “There’s a cost to making these changes, and we need to create new habits. So reprogramming everybody is one of our biggest challenges. When you dump something, it goes somewhere. There’s a consequence to everything.”

Bill Roberts is still in need of more forks and spoons for the cafeteria. Drop off your silverware donation at the Bill Roberts front office. For more information about how schools can become more green, visit www.greenupourschools.org, an organization Tracy has applied to for a new grant and waste audit. Also watch for an upcoming sale of reusable materials parents can use for packing lunches, with a percentage of proceeds going to Bill Roberts’ green program.

If you don’t have kids, how can you meet your neighbors?

By Carol Roberts

“If you don’t have kids how can you get acquainted with other adults in the community?” This is a question that resonates with adults who don’t have kids and therefore don’t spontaneously run into neighbors at school, in the park, or on the sports field.

So where can you meet others from the northeast Denver area to gather for “adult without kids” activities? Stapleton resident Lucia Correll suggested that the Stapleton Master Community Association schedule a time for interested adults to meet and talk about solutions. Suggestions from that meeting (such as the following) will be posted online for a vote of all interested NE Denver residents (this is not limited to Stapleton): Rotating meet & greet • Bingo/chess/checkers • Speakers on various topics • Coffee Club • Art for adults • Johnson & Wales classes • Bridge/Poker/Mah Jongg • Bird watching • Wine Tasting • Evening at the pool • Volleyball/ Frisbee golf /Softball/Flag football • Language lessons • Website for announcements • Volunteer opportunities • Cooking/ Walking/Book groups • Dance lessons • Theme dinners

Visit <http://stapletoncommunity.com> and look under Community News for "Adult activities survey" to participate in the survey. **Another meeting to plan adult activities will be held at 6:30pm on Monday, June 21 at the MCA office at 2823 Roslyn St. Adults from Stapleton and surrounding neighborhoods are invited to participate.** Dinner will be served. Please RSVP for dinner by emailing events@stapletoncommunity.com.

In addition, Lucia Correll has set up a Yahoo! group called ActivitiesInc. to post informal gatherings and/or events. To join using a Yahoo! account visit <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ActivitiesInc>. To join without a Yahoo! account email ActivitiesInc@yahoo.com and request an invitation to the group.



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Revelry-Makers in the Wetlands: the Red-winged Blackbird

Like clockwork, every spring, tens of thousands of migrating songbirds descend on Colorado and supplement those who make their year round home here. Upon their arrival, courtship, mating, nesting, incubating, brooding, fledging, bulking up and flying out is their basic March-to-October agenda. Our state's diverse urban and wild habitats attract a wide variety of songbirds. The dull yellow Wilson's Warbler prefers to make its home high up in the tundra near Alder shrub thickets. The black and blue Stellar Jay likes our mountain and foothill forests, while the melodic Western Meadowlark and our state bird, the Lark Bunting, are attracted to our vast prairie grasslands.

As early as February, the distinct and boisterous conk-la-rrreeee and o-ka-leee song of the male Red-winged Blackbird consistently lure Marko, his camera and me out of our home for a look. The brilliant plumage and acrobatic flight of this partial migrator brings instant life and color to the cold and silent lakes, ponds, marshes and damp meadows that spot metropolitan Denver. Red-winged Blackbirds are biased toward wetlands. Shoreline grass and reed beds, especially cattails are critical sites for nest-building. In the Stapleton neighborhood they zero in on the shallow ponds along Westerly Creek. In Lowry they can be found in the marsh behind the giant berm just southeast of the soccer fields. From a secluded vantage point, we take in their calls and displays. Onyx black males arrive weeks in advance of the streaked, dark brown females. The guys aggressively stake out distinct territories in the cattail stands. Once their turf has been established, they lie in wait in hopes of attracting one, two or even three prospective incoming gals.

During courtship, the all-male choir delivers a truly superb concert to an audience of females. Perched on a cattail head or a bare tree branch, the males spread their wings, fan their tails, flare up their scarlet and yellow epaulets, and bellow out their song. From tree tops at the edge of the respective territories,

females take in the performance. Some are unimpressed and fly off. Those who stay are subjected to more visual displays, songs and then, an intense chase by the males.

Nests are entirely constructed by the females. They collect dead grasses and reed leaves, and intricately weave cup-shaped nests that are suspended from vertical cattail supports down low over water. Soft cattail flower fuzz and fine grasses line the interior. The well-camouflaged and isolated nests protect both clutch and brood from predators including hawks and crows. Parents are very protective of their nest and will scold those who come too close with a sharp whistle that sounds almost as if they are saying "we-SEE-YEE."

Blackbirds are omnivores. Newborns, fledglings and adults enjoy eating a variety of insects, berries, grains and wild seeds. In late summer all of the birds will delve deep into secluded habitats and undergo a seasonal molt. Soon after, they re-emerge with brand new plumage. The males will often go out of their way to show off their new uniforms one last time before the fall migration starts. They then form flocks, sometimes as large as 100,000, and fly off to not-so-distant winter feeding grounds. In the following weeks, the females and juveniles convene, and depart in pursuit of warmth and food and, of course, more song and colorful showmanship.

Marko and John Babiak are Stapleton residents. Marko (9) is an avid wildlife photographer. John is an enrichment teacher. Weekly he teaches his Nature Rangers classes to students at Steck, Roberts, Westerly Creek and Odyssey. He also leads a summer-long nature appreciation program at the nearby Rocky Mt. Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge. He can be reached at: NatureRangerJohn@aol.com



A Red-winged Blackbird balances himself on a cattail along Westerly Creek while singing a courtship song.

Photo by Marko Babiak.



Brownies Become Water Detectives

By Brownie Troop 3683

Brownie Troop 3683 is on a mission to save water... can you help? This year, we have been working on projects to save and protect our water. At home, we each have been trying to save water ourselves and in our families. Some of us have been working on turning off the water when we brush our teeth or wash our hands. Some have been taking shorter showers. Some have been using leftover water to water our plants.

Our Brownie Troop decided to be "water detectives." We divided into groups and inspected every sink at Westerly Creek, Odyssey, and Steele Elementary Schools to find any sinks that were leaking. Even though we only found four leaky sinks, we calculated that these leaks could waste over 4,000 gallons a year!

We met with Mr. Derrick Cummings, DPS Plumbing Supervisor, to present our findings. Then, we asked for his help in fixing the sinks in the schools we attend. Mr. Cummings and various members of the Maintenance department took time out of their busy day to explain all the exciting things that DPS has planned over the next five years to conserve water.

Brownie Troop 3683 would like everyone to know that saving water can be simple when people start paying attention to how they use it. We have these suggestions for you:

Did you know that it takes three gallons of water to make one gallon's worth of water in plastic bottles? Using reusable water bottles is one of the most important things we can do to conserve water (and make less waste).

Did you know that Denver Water Department gives rebates for replacing inefficient fixtures with more efficient ones? Go to <http://www.denverwater.org/Conservation/Rebates/2010ResidentialRebates/> for more info.

Did you know that you can buy a sensor at Home Depot or Lowe's that will shut your sprinkler system off when it rains or if it is too windy to be watering?

And remember that letting the water run when you are brushing your teeth or washing your hands wastes so much water! We measured that leaving the water on while doing these everyday tasks wastes hundreds of gallons of water in each of our homes each year.

Turning the water off and on during these activities is an easy way to save money and conserve water!

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A Surprising Leap into to Theatre Production



Shown on the stage of the Vintage Theatre are Stapleton resident Shannon Levitt-Allen, her dog Ellis, and her best friend Kellie Rae Rockey, who is director of "Books on Tape."

By Nancy Burkhardt

So, the person who has been your best friend since high school calls and says she has a gig as director of a play and she really needs you to be her assistant. She has a bachelor of fine arts degree in theater and has been acting for 11 years. You have no theater experience except for the melo-drama you played in during your freshman and sophomore years in high school. What do you do?

Stapleton resident Shannon Levitt-Allen did what a good best friend does. She said "yes." She became assistant director and her pug, Ellis, became the play's mascot.

Levitt-Allen and her friend Kellie Rae Rockey went to high school together in Burlington.

"We were partners on the high school forensics team," Levitt-Allen explained. "We were very good, and we won a lot. She always liked my opinions on whatever we saw and she trusts my judgment. She needed an assistant. She asked me to assist her because she needed someone she could trust who would tell her when something was wrong."

Levitt-Allen's husband, John L. Allen,

Jr., is a journalist who writes for the National Catholic Reporter and contributes to CNN, NPR and the BBC. He travels a lot, so she had time to work with Rockey as assistant director for the play, Books on Tape: A Comedy in the Present Tense by William Missouri Downs.

The play, which is a world premiere, is being staged at the Vintage Theatre, 2119 E. 17th Ave., through Sunday, June 20. In the play, Jeffrey records books on tape. Adriane listens to them. Father Larry creates new religions. Donna writes self-help books. The one thing these strangers have in common is that they're all looking for love in the modern world, and the search for love has never been funnier! The play is for the eclectic theatergoer who likes to laugh, with shows at 10:30pm Friday and Saturday nights and at 7:30pm Sundays.

"The play is very funny and fast-paced, and don't let the late hour intimidate you because you'll find it's worth staying up for," Levitt-Allen said.

Tickets are \$16, and \$8 for students and can be purchased by calling the Vintage Theatre box office at 303.839-1361 or go to www.vintage theatre.com.




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DENVER AREA 4TH OF JULY CELEBRATIONS

7/3 Saturday- Civic Center SOUNDS: Independence Eve. 8:30pm. Free community concert featuring patriotic favorites performed by the Colorado Symphony Orchestra, accompanied by a light show and fireworks display. Denver Civic Center Park. www.coloradosymphony.org

7/3 Saturday- Fireworks. Cherry Creek Arts Festival, Fillmore Plaza. www.cherryarts.org

7/3 Saturday and Sunday 7/4- Fireworks. Coors Field/downtown Denver after the Rockies games. www.rockies.mlb.com

7/4 Sunday- Olde Town Arvada Spirit of America 4th of July Festival. Free family-friendly events, classic car show and fireworks display at dusk. www.arvadafestivals.com

7/4 Sunday- Old-fashioned 4th of July Celebration at Four Mile Park. www.fourmilepark.org

7/4 Sunday- Fireworks. Dicks Sporting Goods Park.After the Rapids game. www.coloradorapids.com

7/5 Monday- Symphony on the Rocks. 7:30pm. Red Rocks Ampitheatre. Celebrating patriotic favorites from Copland, Sousa and more. FREE. www.redrocksonline.com

AURORA EVENTS

6/11 Friday- The Other Side Arts (TOSA) presents “Sustainability.” 5–9pm. Works by refugee youth from the Newcomer’s Center and the African Community Center, youth from Warren Village, developmentally delayed adults from Morningstar Adult Day Program, and members of the community.Artists were asked to examine how they sustain memory, beliefs and customs, while incorporating or rejecting the

ways of their present culture. Reception offers homemade snacks and an opportunity to explore a variety of art mediums including scrap wood, recycled paper products and paints made from onion skins.1400 Dal-las St,Aurora. nwalker@theothersidearts.org

DENVER EVENTS

6/4 Friday- First Friday Art Walk, Santa Fe Arts District. www.artdistrictonSantaFe.com

6/5 Saturday to 6/6- Capitol Hill People’s Fair. Civic Center Park. FREE. Sat. 10am–8pm; Sun. 10am–7pm. www.peoplesfair.com

6/5 Saturday to 6/6- Denver Chalk Arts Festival. Larimer Square, downtown Denver. www.larimer-arts.org

6/5 Saturday- 4th Annual Stray Cat Strut. Benefits Rocky Mountain Alley Cat Alliance’s spay and neuter clinic. Silent and live auction; tickets \$55. 6–10pm, Denver Renaissance Hotel, 3801 Quebec St. Tickets: www.rmaca.org

6/8 Tuesday- Kitten Kindergarten. 3-week class to help your kitten become more socialized and learn tricks. Denver Dumb Friends League, S Quebec St. 6:30pm. \$30; fees benefit the League. www.ddfl.org or 303.751.5772, Ext. 7629

6/11 Friday, Democratic Roundup, Meet and hear state & local candidates. Cash bar 6-7pm. Dinner and speakers 7-10pm. Wear cowboy apparel! Embassy Suites Hotel (I-70 and Havana).Visit www.denverdemocrats.net or Email Roundup@211USA.com. \$35/person.

6/19 Saturday and 6/20 Sunday- Denver Pride-Fest. Parade, live music, food and dance celebrating local gay and lesbian community. Civic Center Park. www.denverpridefest.org

6/26 Saturday and 6/27 Sunday- Cherry Blossom Festival. Celebration of Japanese-American culture, food, music and dance. Betw. Lawrence and Larimer at 19th and 20th Sts, downtown Denver. www.tsdbt.org/cherryblossom.com

7/1 Thursday to Sunday 7/31- Denver Biennial of the Americas. Various venues throughout Denver. Celebrate art, culture and ideas from 35 countries in Western Hemisphere at one of the biggest cultural happenings Denver has ever hosted. www.biennialoftheamericas.org for schedules and locations.

7/3 Saturday to Monday 7/5- Cherry Creek Arts Festival. Cherry Creek North, www.cherryarts.org

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

6/10, Thursday- Bonfils Blood Center’s Because Life Happens. What happens to your precious gift of life after you give blood? 12–1pm. 717 Yosemite St. RSVP: foundation@bonfils.org or 303.739.4000.

6/28 Monday- Understanding Infertility: Diagnosis to Treatment. Dr. Diane Woodford talks about fertility testing and treatments. 4–5 pm. FREE. Staple-ton’s Women’s Center, 2975 Roslyn St, Ste 140. RSVP by June 23 at 303.321.7115.

LECTURES AND CLASSES

Composting Classes – Classes are at Denver Urban Gardens’ Gove Community Garden, E. 13th Ave. and Colo. Blvd. Register at www.denvergov.org/DenverRecycles at least one week before the class.

Active Minds – Info on all sessions, www.ActiveMindsForLife.com. FREE.

6/10 Thursday- The Future of Iraq: A Path to Self Sufficiency? 6:30–8:30 pm (6:30 reception, 7pm program). 1375 High St. RSVP: 303.399.5555 (limited seating)

6/22 Tuesday- The Future of Pakistan, 6:30–8:30pm (6:30 reception, 7pm program), Temple Emanuel, 51 Grape St. RSVP: Jodi, 303.388.4013 x307

6/22 Tuesday- Medical Marijuana, 5:30–6:30pm. Tattered Cover, 2526 E Colfax

7/6 Tuesday- Tibet. 10am, Jewish Community Cen-ter, 350 S Dahlia St. RSVP: Lil Shaw, 303.316.6359

WALKING CONVERSATIONS

FREE urban park Walking Conversation events. RSVP: Meetup.com/TTWalks, Fran Rew: 303.321.1064 or events calendar at info@TopicTalkWalks.com.

6/13 Sunday- Stapleton Central Park. A Taste of Puerto Rico Festival. Walk Guest Mark Mehinger, State House Dist. 7 candidate. 3–5pm. Monthly collabora-tive kite fly and walk.

6/20 Sunday- Denver City Park Ferril Lake Walk, 3–4pm, “Health and Open Topic.” 4–5pm, visit Health Expedition in Denver Museum of Nature and Science (DMNS). 5 free passes on first-come first-serve basis.

6/30 Wednesday- Denver City Park Ferril Lake Walk, 6–7pm. 7–8:30pm; visit the FREE 60 Minutes in Space presentation in DMNH planetarium.

LIBRARIES

For info on library programs, check events calen-dar at denverlibrary.org. Denver Public Li-brary’s Summer of Reading Program begins Thursday, May 27.

Park Hill Library, 4705 Montview Blvd. Closed Mondays, Wednesdays and Sundays. Registration required for some programs, 720.865.0250.

Thursdays- Storytime with a Craft. For children who can sit and listen to short stories, participate in songs and a simple craft. 10:30am. Craft limited to first 30 children.

Thursdays and Fridays- Book Babies. For babies 6–23 months with parent/caregiver. Share books, songs and finger plays. 11:15am.

Fridays- Tales for Twos. Storytime for 2-year-olds and caregivers. Stories, song and movement activities. 10:30am.

6/5 Saturday- Summer of Reading Kickoff Event. 10:30am. Special activities for the whole family.

6/10 Thursday- Kids Craft: Shark Hat. 3:30pm. Registration required.

6/17 Thursday- Kids Craft: Fish Box. 3:30pm. Per-fect for storing souvenirs, shells or jewelry. Registration required.

6/18 Friday- Igor’s Airbrushed T Shirts. 3pm.. Everyone will leave with their own airbrushed T-shirt. Registration required.

6/19 Saturday- A Pirate Adventure with Bryce Jackman. 10:30am.

Schlessman Family Library, 100 Poplar St (1st and Quebec). Closed Tuesdays and Fridays. Reg-istration required for some programs, 720.865.0000

Thursdays- All Ages Storytime. Stories and songs. 10:30–11:00am.

Thursdays- Book Babies. Stories, songs and games for kids birth to 24 months and caregivers. 3–3:20pm..

6/3 Thursday- Kids Craft: CD Fish. 10:30-11:00am. Repeats 11-11:30am.

6/7 Monday- Books N Bites. 3:30-4:30pm.A kids reading group for grades 6-8; registration required. Re-peats Monday 6/28.

6/10 Thursday- Make a Splash Magic Show with Mark Strivings. 10:30-11:30am.Travel the high seas of fun and adventure with magician Mark Strivings.

6/14 Monday- DIY Workshop with Fancy Tiger: Project T-shirt. 3:30- 4:30pm. Learn how to change an old T-shirt into tons of different cute tops and acces-sories without using a sewing machine.T-shirts included.

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June 2010

16

Stapleton Front Porch

6/16 Wednesday- Banana Splits Book Club. 6-7pm. 3rd/4th graders read new books and make a fun craft. Registration required.

6/17 Thursday- Kids Craft: Shark Hat. 10:30-11:30am.

6/24 Thursday- A Pirate Adventure with Bryce Jackson. 10:30-11:30am.

6/30 Wednesday- Guitar Hero. 3:30-4:30pm.

7/01 Thursday- Kids Craft: 4th of July Flag that doubles as a wind chime. 10:30-11am. Repeats 11-11:30am.

Pauline Robinson Branch Library, 5575 E. 33rd Ave 80207 (33rd Ave and Holly St), 720-865-0290. Closed Fridays-Sundays.

Mondays in June- All ages programming includes drumming, magic and comedy, fairy tale theatre, and aerodynamics by Black Hands Drum Ensemble, Ann Lincoln, Playground Theatre and Captain Vic. 2pm. No registration required.

Tuesdays in June- Teen Tuesday. Fun and interactive programming for ages 13+ including Wii gaming, buttonmaking, airbrushed T-shirts and crafts. 2pm.

Wednesdays- Preschool Storytime. Stories, songs and fingerplays for ages 3-5 and parents/caregivers. 10:30-11am.

Wednesdays in June- Creative Crafts. Create fantastic art pieces using your imagination with Pauline Robinson staff! 2pm. (Limited to first 20 youth)

Thursdays in June- Wii Game Day. Compete with friends as you play and have fun with our Nintendo Wii! 2pm.

KIDS AND FAMILIES

6/5 Saturday- Jewish Children's Activities. First Saturday little ones dance, sing, hear a story, do a craft and play at monthly Shabbat experience, Me'at Shabbat. 9-10am. FREE. Temple Micah, 2600 Leyden St. 303.388.4239. www.micahdenver.org

Through 6/9 Junior Jobsite. Explore nuts and bolts of construction with this popular temporary exhibit. Denver Children's Museum, 2121 Children's Museum Dr. (I-25 and 20th St). 303.433.7444 www.mychildsmuseum.org

6/4 Friday- Tales from the Jungle. Weekly storytime at JCC with professional storytellers and entertainers for kids 1-5. 10:30am. FREE. RSVP: 303.316.6336. www.jccdenver.org. 350 S Dahlia St. Repeats 6/11, 6/18, 6/25

6/9 Wednesday- "Create Playdates" at Denver Art Museum. Kids 3-5 invited to roar, bang and stomp 2nd Wed. every month, 11am. Drop in, meet other tots for art making, story times and scavenger hunts. Included in museum adm.; 5 and under free. 100 W 14th Ave Pkwy. 720.865.5000, www.denverartmuseum.org

The Urban Farm now registering for summer classes and workshops: Embracing Horses, Storybook Farm, Fun with Farm Animals and adult classes: Urban Agriculture, Horseback Riding for Grownups and Fiber Arts. Space limited. A few community garden plots still available. 10200 Smith Rd. 393.307.9332, info@theurbanfarm.org

Spanish is Fun Summer Camps now registering. Ages 4-11; camps start 6/7. www.spainishisfun.net

6/7 to 6/11 Children's Performance Theatre Camp. 9am-4pm. \$250. Some scholarships available. Vintage Theatre 2119 E 17th Ave. 303.839.1361 or www.VintageTheatreProductions

6/12 Saturday to 9/12- Super Sand Dome Summer Experience. Denver Children's Museum. Play inside a huge, colorful inflatable dome filled with piles of wet sand. Daily 11am-3pm; Wednesdays 11am-7pm. Free with museum admission. 2121 Children's Museum Dr. (I-25 and 20th St.) 303.433.7444, www.mychildsmuseum.org

The Art Garage in Park Hill now registering for summer classes beginning July 12, ages 4 and up. www.artgaragedenver.com for class descriptions, times and registration

6/21 to 7/23, Cleo Parker Robinson Dance, International Summer Dance Institute. Week-long dance classes for different ages (5 to adult), abilities and interests. www.cleoparkerdance.org for registration form or 303.295.1759, ext. 10.

6/23 Wednesday- Wild in the City, Denver Zoo. 6pm. Wild about Denver nature talk series. Central Park picnic building, MLK and Xenia. Register at 303.455.1623; space limited. www.denvergov.org/wildlife. FREE.

6/23 Friday- Sleepover at The Urban Farm. Kids 8-11 will enjoy a sunset-to-sunrise experience. Help with evening feeding and putting animals to bed, listen to coyotes, roast marshmallows at campfire, tell scary stories and sleep under the stars. Early-morning riding. Bring sleeping bag and insect repellent; we provide the rest. Registration limited. Sign up now. info@theurbanfarm.org.

6/29 to 1/2/11- Tutankhamun: The Golden King and the Great Pharaohs. Denver Art Museum, 13th at Broadway and Bannock. Tickets: Ticketmaster or Tickethorse, \$16.50 up. www.tutdenver.com

7/7 Wednesday- Busy Beaver. Wild about Denver Nature Series. 6pm. Westerly Creek Park. Meet at picnic area Beeler and MLK. Register at 303.455.1623; space limited. www.denvergov.org/wildlife. FREE.

Weeks of 7/12, 7/19, 7/26 and 8/2, Stapleton All Sports: Summer Camp. Football, soccer, baseball and tennis (boys & girls ages 4-10). 9am-12pm. \$150/wk or \$500/4 wks. Gabe Hurley stapletonallsports@gmail.com, 720.985.6642

(continued on page 18)

To submit information for the Front Porch "Local Events" section...

Email information in the following format by the 15th of the month to frontporchevents@gmail.com. Events will be run subject to space available.

Date in numerical format (mm/dd), day of week- Name of Event. A one- or

two-sentence description. Time. List cost or if free. Location. Contact information.

Press releases for suggested stories should be sent separately to FrontPorchStapleton@gmail.com.

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MUSEUMS

Denver Museum of Nature and Science, Montview and Colorado Blvd. www.dmns.org

6/17 Thursday- Science Lounge, Cosmo in the Cosmos. 6:30-9:30 pm. \$8/members, \$10/nonmembers. Watch the new planetarium show, *Journey to the Stars*; then enjoy drinks, live music, stargazing and socializing on the Sky Terrace.

IMAX: Hubble. Amazing journey of Hubble Space Telescope, the greatest space success since the moon landing. Leonardo DiCaprio narrates. Various times; tickets \$6/ages 3-18; \$8/adult.

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Through 7/18- BODY WORLDS & The Story of the Heart. Denver Museum of Nature and Science. New exhibition reveals through lenses of anatomy, cardiology, psychology and culture how the heart nourishes, regulates and sustains life. 200 human specimens include whole-body plastinates, organs and translucent body slices. Tickets \$8-\$12/member; \$13-\$25.50/nonmember. www.dmns.org

NORTHFIELD EVENTS

Harkins Theatres 18
720.374.3118, www.HarkinsTheatres.com

6/4 Friday- New Release: Marmaduke
6/11 Friday- New Release: The Karate Kid
6/18 Friday- New Release: Toy Story 3 3D
6/30 Wednesday- New Release: Twilight Saga: Eclipse

Improv Comedy Club and Dinner Theatre-
Tickets: 303.307.1777, www.ImprovDenver.com

6/4 Friday to 6/5 Saturday- Sheryl Underwood (Special Engagement)
6/11 Friday to 6/12 Saturday- Eddie Griffin (Special Engagement)
6/24 Thursday to 6/27 Sunday- Alonzo Bodden (Sat. only, Special Engagement)

Bass Pro Events-
720.385.3600, www.BassPro.com

6/2 Wednesday- Bass Fishing Seminar (Every Wed. in June)
6/3 Thursday- Kids Fishing 101 (Every Thursday in June)
6/5 Saturday- Basic Pistol Handgun Safety Seminar
6/12 Saturday- Hunter Education
6/18 Friday- Ask the Gunsmith

The Twisted Olive-
303.373.8100, www.TwistedOlive.com. Weekly live entertainment.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN ARSENAL NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Reservations required for these popular programs. 303.289.0930. To get to refuge, take I-70 and exit north on Havana St, enter at 56th and Havana. Free unless noted.

6/1 Tuesday- Tuesday Tots: Bzzz! 10-11am. Get the buzz on the bees, ages 2-5 years old. Parent/guardian must accompany all children. Repeats 6/29.

6/3 Thursday- Sunset Photo Tour. 5:30-8:30pm. Photograph the Refuge during these dramatic hours of sunlight.

6/5 Saturday- Ranger Read-A-Long. 1-1:30pm. All ages welcome.

6/6 Sunday- Wetland Wander. 4-6pm.

6/10 Thursday- Beginning Birders. 8am-12pm.

6/12 Saturday- Homestead Hayride. 1-3pm.

6/19 Saturday- Owls Underground. 8-10am and 10am-12pm.

6/19 Saturday- Incredible Edibles! 7-8pm. Recommended for adults.

6/20 Sunday- Father's Day Fishing. 8am-2pm. A limited number of poles for use if needed. Over age 16 need a fishing license.

6/26 Saturday- Botanical Hike. 1-3pm.

6/27 Sunday- Bike the Refuge. Helmets required, and fat, puncture-proof tires recommended.

SPORTS & FITNESS

Adult co-ed, recreational soccer group being formed. Looking for men and women to play

once/twice a week early evenings to have fun and stay in shape; not for overly competitive players. Wayne at charlespatrick08@yahoo.com

Starting 6/1, Tuesdays (through Aug.)- 11th Annual Sunrise Tai Chi in the Parks, City Park, Denver (west side of museum) 7-8am. By The Tai Chi Project & TCM College of Sports Medicine ,303.744.7676 www.taichidenver.com. Sponsored by Denver Parks & Rec. FREE

6/26 Saturday- Undy 5000, A Brief Run to Fight Colon Cancer. 5K walk/run and 1-mile kids fun run. Denver's City Park, 7:30am register; 9am start. www.undy5000.com to register.

6/26 Saturday and 6/27 Sunday- 25th Anniversary Great-West Life Bike MS, Colorado's Ride. Ride 150 or 25 miles over two days from Front Range Comm. College, Westminster to CSU, Fort Collins and back. Age 12 and older. \$65. 303.698.7470, www.bikeMScolorado.org

THEATER

6/19 to 8/7- Hedwig and the Angry Inch. Avenue Theater, 417 E 17th Ave. 303.321.5925, www.avenuetheater.com

6/15 to 7/1- Tales of a 4th Grade Nothing. Aurora Fox, 9900 E Colfax. 303.939.1970, www.aurorafox.org

Through June 19- A Hotel on Marvin Gardens. John Hand Theater, 7653 E 1st Pl, Lowry. 720.880.8727, www.johnhandtheater.com

Through 6/20- Hospitality Suite. Vintage Theatre, 2119 E 17th Ave. 303.839.1361, www.vintage-theatre.com

Through 6/20- Books on Tape, A Comedy in the Present Tense. Vintage Theatre, 2119 E 17th Ave. 303.839.1361, www.vintagetheatre.com

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RECURRING EVENTS

4th Monday
SUN Board Mtg. 7:30pm, MCA Comm. Rm., 2823 Roslyn St. stapletonunitedneighbors@gmail.com

Every Tuesday
Stapleton Rotary Club - 12pm
Stapleton Radisson Plaza Hotel 3333 Quebec St.
Michael@KearnsTeam.com

Every Tuesday
AA Open Discussion Mtg. 7:30pm
MCA Community Room, 2823 Roslyn Street 303-912-7075

1st Tuesday
Breast Cancer Support Group 5-6:30pm
AFWilliams Family Medicine Clinic, Conference Rm. (west entrance) 3055 Roslyn (at MLK) 720-848-9000

3rd Tuesday
Greater Stapleton Business Assoc. 8am MCA Comm. Rm., 2823 Roslyn Street 303-393-7700

Every Wednesday
Weekly Weeders, Bluff Lake Nature Center 9am-12pm, 303-945-6717

1st Wednesday
"1st Wednesdays" Home-based businesses. 11:30am-1pm tbrislina@gmail.com
www.StapletonLife.com

2nd Wed. (Odd-numbered mos.)
SUN Transportation Committee 6:30pm MCA 2823 Roslyn St. stapletonneighbors@msn.com

3rd Thursday
Stapleton Citizens Advisory Board Mtg. 7350 E. 29th Ave. 7:30-9am 303-393-7700

1st Saturday
Bluff Lake Birders, Nature Center 7-9am
BluffLakeNatureCenter.org

2nd Saturday
NE Denver/Park Hill MS Self-Help & Support Group, Dist. 2 Police Station, 10:15-11:45am 3821 Holly St. 303-329-0619

2nd Sunday
Collaborative Kite Fly and Walk, Stapleton Central Park, 3-5pm RSVP at Meetup.com/RockyMtnKite & Meetup.com/TTWalks

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More Local Events...

John Adams Series Thursdays in June

John Adams, an HBO Films documentary and winner of four Golden Globes starring Paul Giamatti and Laura Linney will be presented free on Thursdays June 3, 10, 17 and 24 at 6:30pm at the Colorado Film School at Lowry, 9075 E Lowry Blvd, Bldg. Based on the Pulitzer Prize-winning book by David McCullough, the series takes viewers inside the incredible lives of second U.S. President John Adams and his wife, Abigail. For information call 303.739.6600 or visit www.auroragov.org/powerofone.

Northfield Main Street SummerFest on Fridays

Northfield Summerfest will be held through the summer on Fridays from 4 – 8pm. In addition to the following upcoming events various exhibitors including those specializing in handcrafted gourmet foods, local artisans and more.

- June 4 and 18: Radio Disney Street Team
- June 11: Larimer Square Duo (variety duo) & Dalmatian Combo Jump (air-bounce for kids)
- June 25: Steve Manshel Duo (rock duo) & Castle Combo Jump (air-bounce for kids)
- July 2: Radio Disney Street Team hosts music, games & prizes; Double Trouble Bounce House Obstacle Course

RTD Public Meeting on Moving the Stapleton Transfer Center, June 3

The public is invited to get information and ask questions about the upcoming move of the Stapleton Transfer Center. The meeting will be held on June 3 at 6:30pm in Suite 300 at 7350 East 29th Ave. For more information please visit www.RTD-Denver.com/ServiceChanges.

Volunteers Needed for I-70 Cleanup, June 5

Councilman Michael B. Hancock, the Colorado Department of Transportation and corporate and community leaders have planned a cleanup of the I-70 Interchanges at Quebec and Peoria on June 5 from 8am–1pm. Volunteers are required to attend a short training session the morning of the event at the Red Lion Hotel, 4040 Quebec St. and Timbers Hotel, 4411 Peoria St. Transportation to work site provided. Volunteers must be 18 or older. Dress in comfortable clothing, bring sunscreen, work gloves and wear a hat. Safety vest, tools and trash bags supplied. Water, snacks and lunch donated by: Nestle Water, Jim ‘N Nick’s and the Red Lion, Doubletree and Timbers hotels. To volunteer contact Julia Gayles at 303.331.3872 or

Julia.Gayles@denvergov.org. Register at www.voutdoors.org (search the zip code 80239 for the event).

Field Day for Kids Ages 4–10, June 6

Field Day 2010 at the F-15 park in Stapleton will offer 10 different events for kids ages 4–10. Registration is open to the public but limited to the first 300 signed up. There will be no registration on the day of the event. The cost is \$20/child; \$30/2 children; \$40/3 children. The event is being organized by Stapleton All Sports, with food for participants and their families provided by Jim ‘N Nick’s BBQ. The ten events will be football toss, baseball throw, soccer kick, long jump, 40-yard dash, obstacle course, pushups, free throw shooting, distance run, and home run derby. Awards will be given for the top finishers in each age group. Register at www.StapletonAllSports.com.

Groundbreaking for the Stapleton 3 School, June 8

The public is invited to the groundbreaking and reception at 9:30am on June 8 at the site of the new school, 35th Ave. and Syracuse Street.

Youth Soccer Festival at Roberts School, June 12

By Bob Boyle

The Copa de Kids! youth soccer festival, featuring an exclusive live viewing of the USA vs. England game, will be held at Bill Roberts School in Stapleton on June 12 from 9am–3pm to celebrate the 2010 World Cup, which kicks off June 11 in South Africa. The game will be projected to a big screen in the Bill Roberts gymnasium and mini soccer fields will be set up outside the gym for small-sided games throughout the day. A limited number of tickets are available for \$10 each or \$45 for blocks of five. Each ticket includes one admission to the festival, participation in a 45-minute goal-scoring clinic,



Stapleton All Sports will sponsor the June 6 Field Day for Kids. Gabe Hurley, left, is the founder of Stapleton All Sports.

exclusive game viewing, lunch, pickup soccer games and associated player appreciation activities and awards.

The event is hosted by the Colorado Fusion Soccer Club and America SCORES Denver. All proceeds will support innovative Denver soccer programming by these organizations. To learn more or purchase tickets online, visit www.coloradofusion.org or www.americascorcsdenver.org. For World Cup information, visit www.fifa.com/worldcup/.

Northeast Denver resident Bob Boyle is a former youth and college soccer player, America SCORES Denver volunteer and Colorado Fusion coach. Email: reboyle7@gmail.com

Celebration of New Bike Lanes on MLK, June 11 Family Bike Ride, June 12

The City of Denver is completing bike lanes to take riders on Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. from Stapleton’s Founder’s Green to Curtis Park. An opening ceremony will be held at 8am on Friday, June 11 at Founder’s Green in Stapleton. BikeDenver and the (continued on page 20)

Artisan Plazas at Stapleton



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On Saturday, June 12 at 10am, a family bike ride, sponsored by the Park Hill Bike Depot, will start at the Hiawatha Davis Rec Center at 33rd and Holly. Free commuter bags will be given to the first 50 who

The fifth annual Taste of Puerto Rico Festival is coming for its second year in Stapleton's Central Park June 12-13. Enjoy live music, authentic Puerto Rican food and merchandise and activities such as volleyball, horse-shoes, dominos and a Salsa dance contest while learning about Puerto Rican history and culture. For kids, face painting and a hula hoop contest. Saturday:

Tickets are only \$20 in advance (\$25 day of event) and are available by contacting one of the five neighborhood associations along The FAX (see website for contact info), at most of the participating restaurants, at some retail stores along The FAX, online at www.the-fax.com

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Jake Flint is the special events coordinator for the FAX Partnership.

Park Hill Annual Garden Walk, June 19

By Angelia McLean
This year's rain-or-shine event on June 19 from 10am to 4pm has a collection of gardens with flowers, vegetables and trees, of course, but come see how homeowners create secret oases in which to entertain, find a moment of peace or continue the growing season all 12 months. Water features, hardscape, urban farming and community gardening, composting and bees are all offered by the Park Hill Garden Walk this year. Gardeners will be on hand to share their passion for gardening. The featured gardens will also be host to eight local artists sharing their work.
Volunteer for a three-hour shift and receive a complimentary ticket. Contact Angelia McLean, garden chairperson at 303.579.0334 or angeliamcleandesign@yahoo.com. Thanks to the businesses whose generous donations make this event possible. Tickets are on sale through the Greater Park Hill Community office, King Soopers and online at www.gphc.org. Adults \$15 (15+); Seniors \$10 (65+). Show your receipt at the garden addresses provided and receive your map and collectible button. Call 303.388.0918 for more information.

Walk With a Doc & Learn about Statins, June 19

Walk with a Doc is a community outreach effort to help the public improve their health through physical activity. Dr. Andrew Freeman, a Park Hill resident and cardiologist with National Jewish Health, is leading multiple events this summer at local parks. Participants get an opportunity to learn about health topics and walk with Dr. Freeman over an easy one-mile course.
The next event is being held in City Park on Saturday, June 19th, rain or shine. Register at 8:00am at the northwest side of the City Park Pavilion, near the parking lot. The topic of this event is statins and what they mean to your cholesterol, and participants can ask other health questions as they walk.
There are refreshments and free giveaways at each event, plus free blood pressure checks. The walk is open to all ages. For more information about this and other upcoming Walk With a Doc events, visit www.njhealth.org/walkwithadoc.

Half-price Cat Adoption, June 18-20

On Father's Day weekend, if you bring your pop you can take home a new furry family member for half the adoption fee price for all cats, one year or older. The event takes place at both the Denver Quebec Street shelter and Buddy Center in Castle Rock.
Each pet's adoption fee includes spay/neuter surgery, preliminary vaccinations, microchip implant and registration, collar/ID tag, and a free initial office visit with a participating veterinarian. Visit ddfl.org or 303.751.5772, ext. 1378.

Santa Fe Indian Art Market, Friday, June 25

"One Night in Denver," a celebration showcasing the rich culture of Santa Fe and the Santa Fe Indian Market will feature native artist demonstrations, food and prizes. Free and open to the public, the event will be held from 6-8pm, Friday, June 25 at the Magnolia Hotel, 818 17th Street in Denver. The Southwestern Association for Indian Arts (SWAIA), producer of the market, is co-sponsoring this event along with 5280 Magazine, the Magnolia Hotel and Santa Fe Convention & Visitors Bureau. Santa Fe hotels and businesses will distribute their literature about Santa Fe. For more information, visit www.swaia.org or call 505.983.5220.

First Annual Stapleton Beer Festival and Concert on the Green, June 26

The public is invited to Stapleton's first annual Beer Festival on the Green on June 26 from 4-9pm. The festival will feature eight Colorado Breweries. Beer festival tickets include beer tasting throughout the afternoon, food tastings, and a commemorative glass. Online advance ticket purchase at

www.stapletoncommunity is \$20; tickets at the event are \$25.
Non-beerdrinkers are welcome to come enjoy free live musical entertainment on the Green by Déjà' Blu from 4-6pm and Wendy Woo from 7-9pm. No outside alcohol will be allowed. Food will be available for sale at the event. Founders' Green is located along 29th Avenue between Roslyn and Syracuse Streets.
Bicycle Tour of Stapleton's Public Art, July 24
Stapleton is partnering with the Denver Office of Cultural Affairs to host a bicycle tour of the public art collection at Stapleton on Saturday, July 24. Sign up for the bike tour and then ride to the Opie Gone Bad concert in Founder's Green. Bike Tours are FREE, but limited to 15 people each. To reserve a place, contact Rudi Cerri at 720.865.4307 or email rudi.cerri@denvergov.org.

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Is College Really Worth It?

By Jon Meredith

Recent college graduates are facing a really bum deal. There are no jobs for them. Certainly, not jobs where they can rent an apartment, eat and pay off student loans. Nearly all of this crop of graduates that I know are either continuing school, working an internship (volunteering), or traveling. Every architect that I know with less than five years' experience is working in another field. These are kids who have graduated with honors from some of the nation's top schools. Only one has a great opportunity and he had to learn Chinese fluently and move to Shanghai.

Making matters worse for these kids are factors not of their own doing. In-state tuition has skyrocketed. Most out-of-state schools charge between 40 and 50 grand a year for room and board. Their parent's home equity and the value of their 401(k)s have plummeted. Schools have lost big-time money in their endowments, making grant giving much more difficult. So the graduates today are leaving school with higher loan balances and with relatives not being in a position to help. It really is appalling that our society is making it

more difficult on this generation than it has ever been in our history. We have preached to these children that getting a college degree is absolutely necessary, much like getting a high school degree used to be, and when they reach that achievement there is very little opportunity at the ready.

Does it really make sense to study for four years, run up a bunch of debt and get a job making less than \$10 an hour after receiving a degree? The New York Times recently had an editorial advocating the United States look for alternatives to the college degree similar to what Germany does. Many students there go into apprenticeship programs that teach them marketable skills while working in a field and after the same amount of time they make more money than those Germans who do go to college. The article went on to say that seven out of ten new jobs created this year in this country will not require a college degree.

Meet Heather Kistler, a graduate of Pacific Lutheran University with a degree in religious studies. She has been the bright and smiling face at the town center Starbucks until recently and now she works as a busser at Strings. I sat down with Heather and asked her how she makes it and whether she feels college or her country is

letting her down. Her answers were firm and never wavering. She makes it because she works as a nanny whenever she is not at Strings. She doesn't go out and rents a room in a house. These jobs are a means to an end for her and she still has very real and obtainable goals. She wants to be a Lutheran minister after getting a master's or doctorate in theology. Without her college experience these goals would not at all be possible.

It would be foolish for me to suggest that college is not meritorious for the vast majority of those who receive a degree. The last thing I would advocate is the further dumbing down of America. If you watch Jay Leno or get out now and then you are aware that we are dumbed down far enough already. There are a multitude of very meaningful experiences in college that do not translate directly into salary dollars after school. However, we must do a better job of creating opportunities for all young adults and work to relieve the financial burden that a college education creates. To receive a college degree from any four-year college should be an immediate path to a better job than department store cashier.

Jon Meredith lives in Stapleton. He can be reached at jon.meredith@q.com.

**Fishwrap is a slang term that started in the '30s and refers to the transient value of yesterday's newspaper.*

Stapleton Garage Sale July 17

By Michael Kearns

The Fifth Annual Stapleton Community Garage Sale will be held on Saturday, July 17, 2010, from 8am to 1pm. As we get closer to the sale date, you'll also be able to download a map and list of homes participating.

Again this year the Denver Children's Advocacy Center (DCAC) will have a donation truck in Stapleton to collect unsold items (no appliances or mattresses) for donation. Collections will be at the CTEK Building (on MLK Blvd, just west of the Fire Station) on Saturday, July 17 from 12 -3pm. DCAC is a 24-hour free trauma service to children who are victims of violent crimes and abuse. For more information about DCAC, please visit their website at <http://www.denvercac.org/>

The last day to register for the sale, and be included on the map, is Saturday July 10. To register, please send an email to GarageSale@BuildingStapleton.com, and include the following info: (1) Contact name, phone number, and e-mail address (these are for use in communicating only, and will not be shared); (2) Street address; (3) Where you will have your sale (alley or front); and (4) The two or three main things you will have for sale – examples: "furniture and lawn equipment," "baby clothes, toys, and computers." So we don't have to do too much editing, please limit your description to about 10 words or less.

Have more questions? Check the FAQ page on the Garage Sale website (www.BuildingStapleton.com/garagesale) for answers to commonly asked questions, or email GarageSale@BuildingStapleton.com.

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By Christina Sevilla

Research shows that 88 percent of reading disorders are caused by problems in sound recognition and awareness. Understanding your child's skill levels in these areas will help lay the foundation for solid reading for a lifetime.

You can compare the process of learning to read to building a house.

A well-built structure requires a strong foundation or the underlying weakness will cause problems over time. The same is true in "building" a better reader.

Without the right foundational skills, learning to read can be very difficult.

For some children reading comes easily because underlying skills develop properly, but for the children with weak skills, reading difficulties become evident as early as grades 1-3 and can remain for life.

Parents can better detect if their child is at risk for reading problems by understanding the following stages of learning to read:

1 – Laying the Foundation: Sound Awareness

In order to read, children must first understand that words are made of individual sound segments. Most children acquire this by the end of kindergarten or beginning of first grade. For example, in "hat" the child must hear three phonemes: /h/, /a/, and /t/. If the child has trouble processing these sounds, he or she will have trouble reading fluently and learning to read itself will be a painstaking process.

2 – Raising the Structure: Sounds Combined...Phonics

The next level of learning to read includes learning phonics. Children need to practice blending sounds and associating sounds and symbols. Word recognition problems are generally due to problems with linking speech sounds to letters. In typical development, children

point to road signs, labels, and familiar words, and associate sounds with them.

3 – Finish the House: Become Automatic

Children must practice until enough recognition, speed, and an automatic approach to reading develops. For some children this step will take longer than for others, but for those with weak auditory processing skills it will be almost impossible.

4 – Enjoy the Finished Home: Gain Comprehension

Finally, children develop comprehension skills, the real reason for reading. At this step, parents should encourage their child to talk about what she reads and help her with abstract information (how or why something happens). This goes beyond simple recitation of the facts.

Parents are Key

Studies have consistently shown that children who read poorly in early years continue to exhibit reading difficulties throughout high school and beyond without appropriate intervention.

Parents are key to getting children on the right track to reading. Remain alert to your child's reading struggles. Many reading difficulties can be identified in kindergarten or 1st grade. While it is true that the earlier a child's auditory difficulties are identified the easier it will be to correct them, even older students with long-standing auditory processing problems who read poorly can be helped. If you suspect your child is having difficulties, contact a professional for appropriate testing and consultation.

Recognize the Risk Factors

Ages 8 and Under

Children as young as 5 can be screened

for reading problems with simple phonemic awareness tests. Consider a screening for reading difficulties if you see any of the following risk factors:

Pre-K or Kindergarten– Difficulty:

- Recognizing rhymes
- Remembering names of friends, peers, etc.
- With normal language development
- Recognizing some letter shapes

End of 1st Grade – difficulty:

- Learning the alphabet and corresponding letter sounds
- Applying "phonics" to reading and spelling
- Spelling common sight words
- Retelling stories in sequence and making predictions
- Reading aloud with some fluency and comprehension

End of 2nd Grade – difficulty:

- Recalling facts and details
- Using phonics to sound out words including multi-syllable words
- Correctly spelling previously studied and commonly seen words

Ages 9 and up

Training is available to help older students overcome life-long reading difficulties.

Does your older child need help? Warnings

Signs to Watch in Your Older Child:

- The mispronunciation of the names of people and places
- Struggles retrieving a desired word to express oneself
- A hesitation to say or read words aloud that might be mispronounced
- A history of reading and spelling difficulties
- A lack of fluency in reading
- Embarrassment about or not wanting to read aloud
- Spending inordinate amounts of time doing homework
- A dislike of reading
- Showing a preference for books that have fewer words per page
- Persistent spelling difficulties or selecting easy-to-spell alternatives when writing
- The substitution of made-up words during reading for words that are too difficult for the reader to pronounce

Christina Sevilla, MS, O.T.R. is an Occupational Therapist with over 15 years pediatric experience and the Director of LearningRx which strengthens cognitive skills for both struggling and advanced students. For more information visit www.learningrx.com call 303-284-6105 or email christina@learningrx.net.



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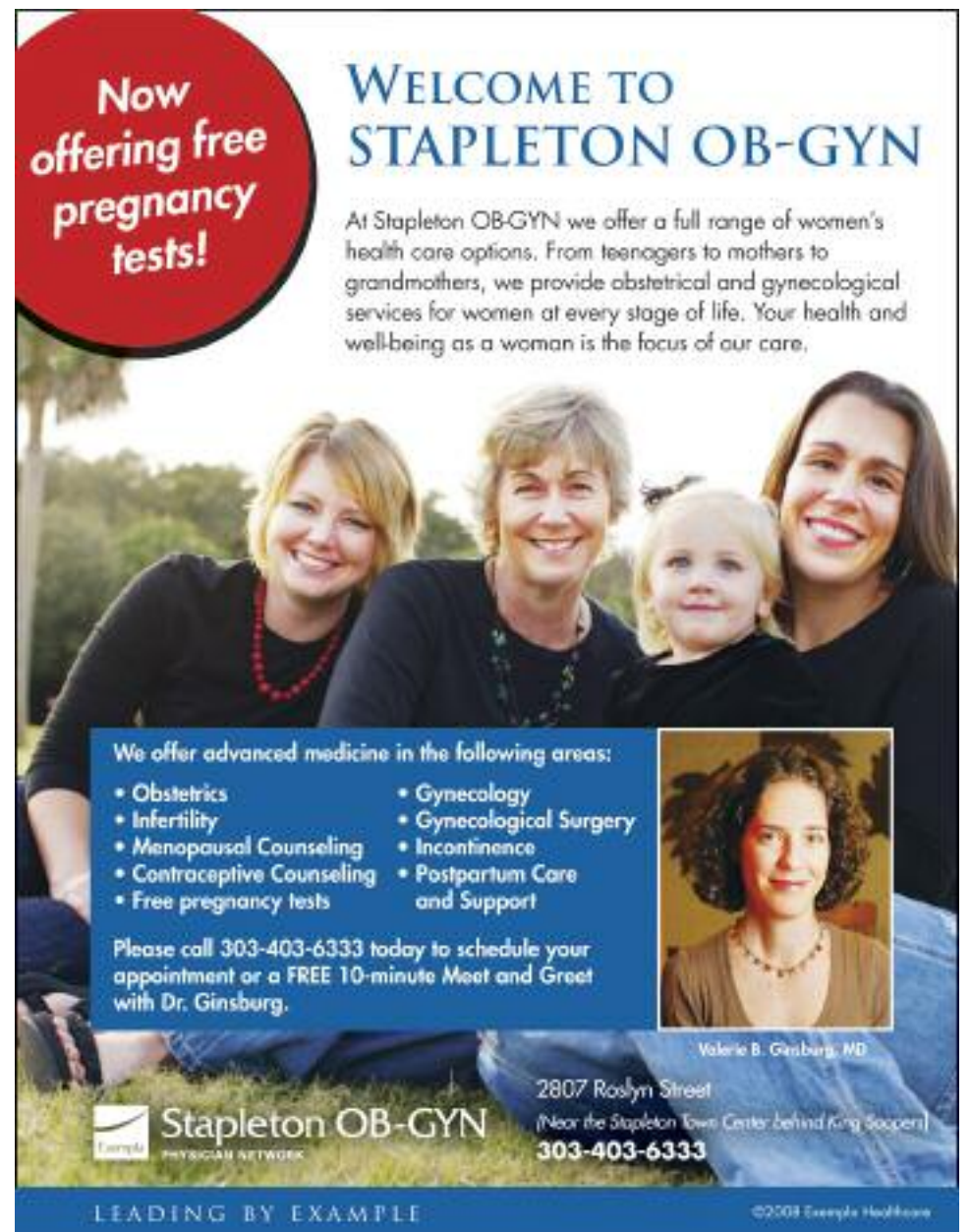
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SUN Meetings are held on the 4th Monday of every month at 7:30pm in the Stapleton Community Room, 2823 Roslyn Street. For information about SUN, visit www.stapletonunitedneighbors.com. To contact SUN or confirm meeting time, email stapletonunitedneighbors@gmail.com or call 720-840-8492.



Notes from the SUN Forum April 29

The SUN forum had a good crowd April 29 to hear the latest from many different entities regarding how Stapleton is doing. SUN elections took place and a slate of seven members was selected to fill the board to a total of 14. The maximum amount allowed is 15, so if you are interested in joining the board, please come to one of our monthly meetings or reach out to us on our website.

We welcomed Jim Davis from the FBI who let the residents know about the open house on June 30 and a lot of information about the goings-on inside the building when they open this month.

We had a vote for naming the recreation center and got an update from the Parks and Recreation department that things are still on schedule for an early 2011 opening. Updates on commercial and residential planning from Forest City basically laid out the next couple of years of development. The Master Assoc. had a quick reminder about updating your pool passes.

Another very cool presentation was about the soon-to-be Central Park Boulevard/I-70 exchange. It will be a very dynamic intersection that will give a great presence for Stapleton and Northfield and ease up a lot of the transportation issues in and around Stapleton. It also incorporates a great bike and pedestrian experience that is handcrafted for this community based on feedback received. It should be complete by the end

of 2011, with visible construction starting this month.

As always, feel free to check the SUN website for any meeting minutes or other information regarding your community.

Sustainability Update

Stapleton's first Earth Night was a success! A near capacity crowd of 50 came together for the food-themed event. The evening is best summarized by the winners of the first door prize, Umit and Elvan Kaya. "It was great evening with other Stapleton residents. We were able to learn about Sand Creek while enjoying our dinner. Unfortunately, we didn't enjoy the documentary, Food, Inc! Well, it is not a movie for enjoyment. It is a well-made documentary that presents important facts about food. I recommend seeing it to anyone who eats. On the other hand, we enjoyed watching Chipotle's message about how it is possible to provide healthy food. We would like to thank the SUN committee for their hospitality, Chipotle for a delicious dinner, New Belgium for their new hopper beer, Izze for their refreshing drink and Vitamin Cottage for their generous gift."

The evening generated a gift of \$275 to the Sand Creek Greenway. A major fundraising priority is to build parallel paved and unpaved trails in the Denver section of the greenway. Final construction drawings are being completed and an exact cost estimate will be available in two to three months. The projected cost is over \$1 million.

This donation will help with purchasing trees and shrubs for restoring a higher density of native species to the area, which will be planted at a volunteer event this summer. Upcoming volunteer opportunities at Sand Creek Greenway include the annual REI volunteer day on August 28 and the following event sponsored by Councilman Hancock on June 5.

The Sand Creek Volunteer Opportunity with Councilman Michael Hancock's Office and CDOT: Cleanup and Planting at Quebec and Peoria Interchanges with I-70 will be held June 5, 8am-2pm. SUN volunteers will meet on-site at 8am. To volunteer and for more information, go to www.voutdoors.org and search under zip code 80238, or contact SUN board member Melissa Thompson at melissakay.thompson@msn.com

or 303.550.3817.

Keep thinking about Earth Day every day, and look for another opportunity to celebrate together next year!

Update on the Central Park Recreation Center Naming

Denver City Councilman Michael Hancock asked SUN to solicit ideas for a name change recommendation for the new recreation center under construction in Stapleton on Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

The community voting showed that "Central Park Recreation Center" is the winning name. After informing Councilman Hancock of the community vote, he responded, "Actually, if the 'Central Park' moniker is the winner, then all I have to do is allow the original ordinance to be filed. I held it up to allow the community to weigh in on the matter. Please thank the residents for giving their input. Now that the majority of the respondents have said 'Central Park Recreation Center,' then so shall it be.

Again, thank you for your leadership. I will keep you posted on the progress of the ordinance."

Congratulations to Amy LeClaire, age nine, from Bill Roberts for winning a \$50 pizza gift card with her rec center name suggestion, Westerly Creek Recreation Center. The other kids' suggestions were:

Creek on the Green Recreation Center • Martin Luther King Recreation Center • Coyote Creek Park Recreation Center • Stapleton Recreation Center • Pool Building with Toys in it • The Mermaid Recreation Center • Take Flight Recreation Center • Recreation Center on the Green • Runway 25 Recreation Center • Sand Creek Recreation Center • Confluence Recreation Center • MeeMyMummaMumma • The Central Park Master Nature Swimming Building • Beaver Creek Recreation Center

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Since You've Asked...

Q. I park at the Stapleton Transfer Station and am curious (as are many others) what is going on just to the north of the park 'n ride. Is it residential development? We see a lot of activity with earth movers, etc.

A. The area described is the new Central Park West neighborhood, which will include a new Denver Public School at the corner of 35th and Syracuse Street, bordered on the east and the south by a new residential neighborhood. The former airport parking structure is expected to undergo demolition later this year and the RTD Transfer Station will be relocated to the north as part of a new transit center along Smith Road that will also include a stop for FasTracks rail service connecting Downtown with Denver International Airport. That light rail stop is projected to be operational by 2016.

Response by Tom Gleason, Vice President-Public Relations, Forest City Stapleton, Inc.

Two Public Art Projects Approved for New Rec Center

By Barbara Neal

After an extended selection process, we're pleased to announce two unique proposals for the recreation center at Stapleton. The artist team of Marek Walczak (NY) and Wesley Heiss (PA) has been awarded a commission of \$250,000 to create and install two electronic artworks in the lobby and stairwell atrium of the new facility.

The artists are designing an eight-foot-square interactive light field suspended from the ceiling above and behind the reception desk. Motion in various areas of the recreation center will animate the field of colored LED and fiber optic lights. At night, this artwork will be visible from the west windows.

Visitors entering the lobby of the recreation center will see a large stone frame enclosing a computer screen on the 55-foot wall to their right. When someone sits on the ledge provided by this frame, an elec-

tronic dialogue begins with displays of "thought balloons" emerging and changing on the computer screen.

These two public art projects are funded by Denver Urban Renewal Authority (DURA) funds that support the public art program at Stapleton and from Better Denver Bond funds from the Denver Office of Cultural Affairs. Installation is planned for December.

For more information about Stapleton's Public Art Program, please contact Barbara Neal, public art consultant for Stapleton, at barbneal@mindspring.com.

Letter to the Editor Speeders on 26th Ave.

I am concerned about 26th Ave. from Fulton west to Westerly Creek. This is a stretch of road where people race down all the time without regard. I think the stretch needs to be broken up. The recent news of a two-year-old child getting hit and killed by a truck motivates me to say something. It does not matter that the child was not killed in Stapleton. My concern is that it could easily happen. There are so many young babies in this area. My son's home is on 26th and he has two babies. The way people speed past his house makes me sick when I think of how it could be our kids in danger. There are no warnings. I don't recall speed limit signs. The street should be broken up with stop signs. Right now it is a straight-away where I see on a daily basis people speeding past my son's house. Something needs to be done.

Joan Cimoyotte

Editor's note: Stapleton residents should bring traffic issues to the attention of SUN's transportation committee. Email stapletonunitedneighbors@gmail.com

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BikeDenver

(continued from page 1) door Colorado, and upon leaving there in 2008, became involved with the Bikes Belong Coalition, organizing 200 volunteers for the Thousand Bike Share Project. One thousand bicycles were provided free of charge for people at the Democratic National Convention to get around Denver.

"I thought it was a transformative experience," van Heuven said. "It was the easiest way to get around Denver. It made Denver feel fun and friendly. I think it empowered just about every demographic you could imagine."

She began working with BikeDenver in October 2008, and has been the non-profit organization's full-time executive director since April 2009.

BikeDenver's mission is "to promote and encourage bicycling as an energy-efficient, non-polluting, healthy, and enjoyable transportation alternative within the City and County of Denver."

The biking advocacy organization is "working for bicycle facilities, rights and needs within the city, making riding in Denver safer, easier and more enjoyable."

"Living in Park Hill, I'm definitely noticing it's getting much easier getting from where I live to downtown," van



Piep van Heuven, Executive Director of Bike Denver, and Christopher Dunn, Executive Director of the Bike Depot, take a look at the bike lanes under construction along Martin Luther King Boulevard.

Heuven said. "The city and the Downtown Denver Partnership have improved things. They have put down more bike lanes and 'sharrows,' the symbol seen in a roadway lane that shows a bike with a chevron on top designated to show that motorists will share the lane with bicyclists."

Sharrows also are meant to show bicyclists where to ride to stay three to five feet away from cars that might offer open-door hazards for the riders.

"The city has put down 11 miles of new bike lanes and sharrows this year," van Heuven said. "They also recently hired a senior city planner for bicycle and pedestrian issues to improve infrastructure and policy for bikers."

The city has produced a new bike map to enable riders to locate the fastest and safest route to travel, according to van Heuven. The free map can be ordered on the BikeDenver website or can be obtained at the BikeDenver office, 1536 Wynkoop St., Ste. 801; select bicycle stores; any Denver City Council office; and any Denver city recreation center.

BikeDenver's advocacy work is meant to create a different lifestyle for Denver residents in an effort to erase the city's dark cloud of smog and build a healthy environment.

"I think success for BikeDenver is really that 5 to 10 years in the future we can get people to redefine the definition of a bicyclist," van Heuven said. "It's about more folks getting on their bike more often. It will change our culture so that we're using handlebars more often than car keys. The more folks (there are) who bike because it's fun and convenient and affordable, the less folks (will) get in their car."

"There's the 'whee factor,' she added. "Biking's just plain fun. It's just a blast. It adds to our feeling of enjoying living in our local community. You have time to smell the flowers and greet your neighbors. You might find that you get there faster riding on a bike than getting in your car. Most commutes are 2.5 miles or less, and that's perfect for a bike."

"People who support us because we're doing good work will become BikeDenver members," she said.

For information about BikeDenver or to become a member, go to www.bikedenver.org or email Piep van Heuven at piep@bikedenver.org.

See information on page 19 about the
Celebration of New Bike Lanes
on MLK June 11 and
Family Bike Ride June 12



Piep van Heuven and Christopher Dunn ride in the bike lane in the 29th Ave. Town Center. The drawing of a bike with a chevron above it denotes a lane that bicyclists share with motorists and is referred to as a "sharrow" (shared arrow).

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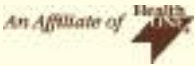
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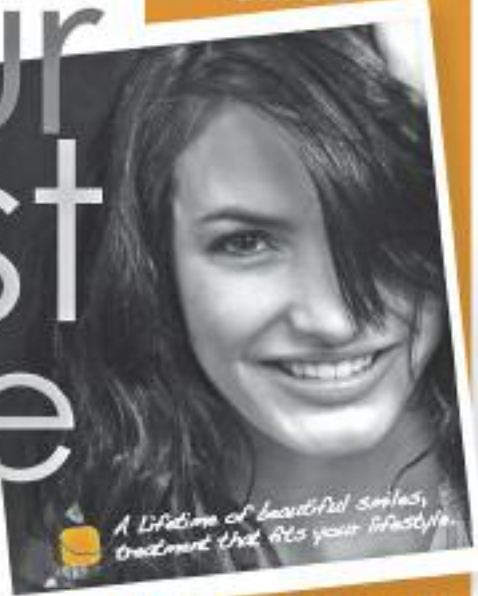
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Honoring those Who Donated for Health Sciences Education



Stapleton resident Chase Dukes (center) listens intently as family members talk about their relatives who chose to donate their bodies to the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center. A student from each of the health sciences programs (medical and dental schools and the physician assistant and physical therapy programs) talked about the importance of the body donor program to their education.

By Carol Roberts

After attending the memorial ceremony to thank the families of those who had donated their bodies to the CU Health Sciences programs, first-year medical student Chase Dukes said, "There's no way to truly express your gratitude. You feel like you want to keep telling someone thank you because that made it possible for you to really understand what's going on inside people. You get to know someone better than they knew themselves, though it's in a completely different way. You have to know what's going on inside of people to save people... to do good things for people. The donation of those bodies made that possible for however many thousands of people that our entire class is going to treat in our lifetimes, and words aren't really enough to express that gratitude."

Dukes, a Stapleton resident, started out in a four-year degree program for professional firefighters. "I found out that I really wasn't that fond of fire fighting because I felt so limited. Eighty percent of all 911 calls are EMS calls, and then you'd show up and you realize all you can do is take the person to the hospi-

tal. You can't really do anything. And that's what got me started in medicine." Dukes left the firefighting program and got his undergraduate and masters degrees from CU in integrative physiology, and then entered CU medical school in the fall of 2009. And now, he says, "I love medical school."

At the memorial ceremony the students learned about the wide range of backgrounds of the people who had chosen to donate their bodies to science. There was a major league baseball player who played for the Phillies, the Braves and the Cardinals. A woman said her father was a university professor who had been voted professor of the year, then told the Health Sciences students, "You are his last class." Another woman described her father as someone who respected education and loved to learn. He was an attorney, an architect, an inventor and an accomplished musician who played five instruments. "Scholarly and talented as he was, he wasn't so great at teaching. He was a little impatient and it seemed like no one could keep up with him. But he decided he could be a good teacher by donating his body to you. He's a teacher



"You got to see the muscles that would make a person smile; we have the memory of his laugh. You got to see the muscles and organs; we got to see the twinkle in his eye when he was sharing a joke—either with us or on us. You got to see the heart, but we got to know it. I want to thank my dad for the gift he's given to all of us."

(Most of the family members spoke anonymously.)

now. Honor my father's gift by learning well from him." And there was a woman who had graduated from college in 1935 at age 20 and went to Washington, DC to be trained as a peace activist, then went on to get a PhD. "She always was a teacher...My mom is still teaching." The Health Sciences students also learned that one of the donors had lived in the basement of a church for his last 15 years, and "he wanted to give back so others could benefit from his illness."

Evelyn Brosnan, a second-year medical student described how she felt during anatomy lab. "As I held her heart in my hands I felt a bit like a sculptor facing a block of stone before those patient hands chisel away to reveal a hidden treasure. For four hours it was Doris (the name I gave her) and me in a world of our own, this silent teacher showing me this wondrous system."

Brosnan continued, "To each of you sitting here today, I'd also like to recognize the huge gift you too have given to us. All of you have waited for up to two years for us to do our work before you can get your loved one back. I can only imagine what effect that might have had on your grieving and perhaps how it delayed closure for you. I do hope today brings comfort to you and to that process."

"During the time that you've waited so patiently have you ever wondered, 'What's going on over there? Do they value what they've been given? Are they being respectful?' I'd like to tell you today that the answer is yes... as if it were our own relative. As we go forward in our careers, the technical aspects of anatomy will most assuredly come with us and make us better doctors."

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Freedom to Roam

Jeff Parrish, Stapleton resident and President of the Freedom to Roam Foundation, introduces Governors Bill Richardson of New Mexico and Bill Ritter of Colorado at a press conference at the Denver Zoo. The event highlighted the Foundation's new report, which emphasized the importance of maintaining wildlife corri-



dors that cross state lines. These paths of migration are increasingly threatened due to climate change and development.

Welcoming our latest addition, Dr. Amy Nash



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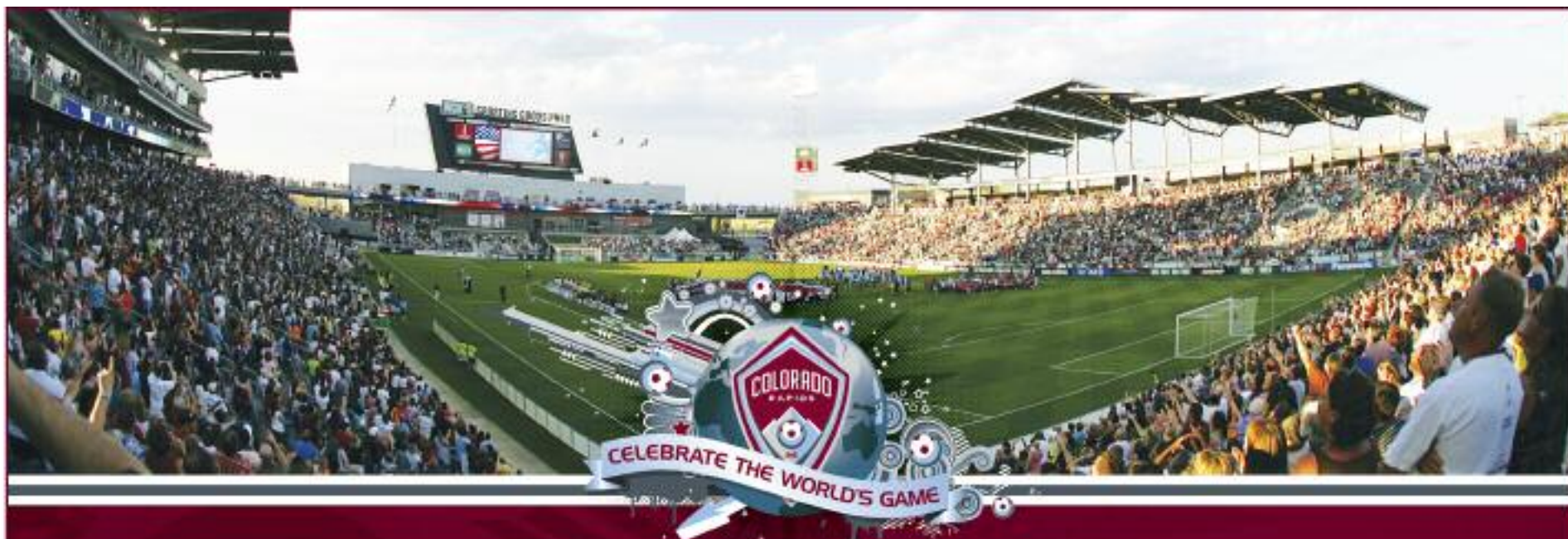
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