

Front Porch

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

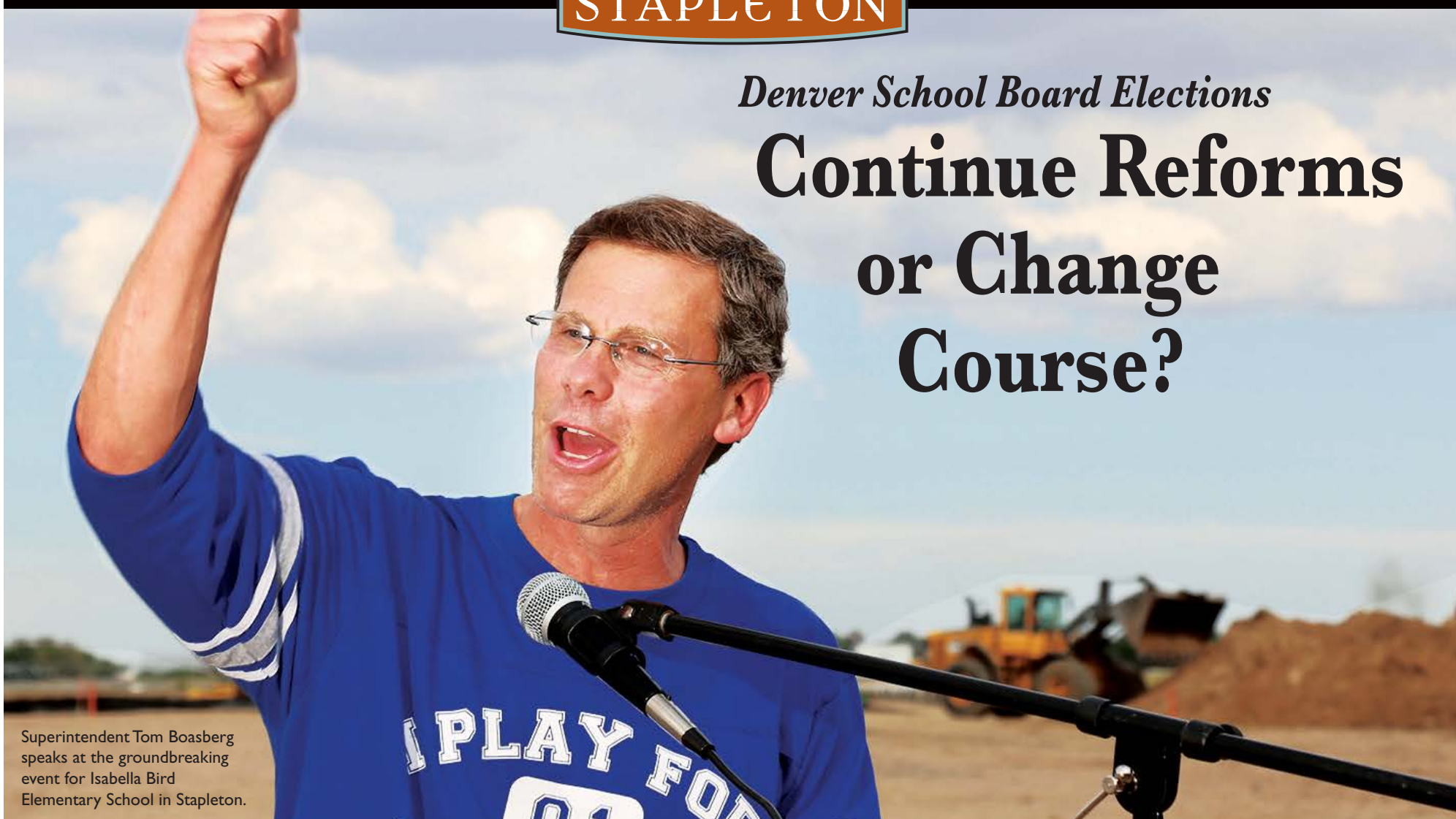
DENVER, COLORADO

STAPLETON

OCTOBER 2013

Denver School Board Elections

Continue Reforms or Change Course?



Superintendent Tom Boasberg speaks at the groundbreaking event for Isabella Bird Elementary School in Stapleton.

By Carol Roberts

Parents breathe a sigh of relief when their children are happy at school, appropriately challenged, and progressing satisfactorily. But when children are not happy, not challenged and/or not progressing, parents, teachers and administrators need to unite in the challenge of finding the right solution.

Most likely all parties agree on the desired outcome—the hard part is finding agreement on the right path to reach that outcome. As the November 5 school board election approaches, voters will hear that all the school board candidates support strong, high performing schools for every DPS student. The question is, what policies will they choose to reach that goal.

(continued on p. 6)

Colorado Deluge Impacts: Some bad, some not so bad



View looking south from about 29th Ave. of an onlooker walking along the drop structure as Westerly Creek roars by.

Election Day is Nov. 5

Ballot Issues:

- **Amendment 66** would raise taxes for funding public schools and implementing the new School Finance Act (Senate Bill 213). *Story on p. 3.*
- **Denver is proposing a 3.5% tax** on recreational marijuana purchases to cover regulating and licensing costs.
- **Proposition AA** would place a 10% state sales tax on recreational marijuana purchases to meet regulation requirements.
- **An additional Proposition AA** ballot question is for a 15% excise tax on recreational marijuana purchases that would fund capital construction of schools. *Story on p. 4.*
- **DPS School Board** director seats in District 4 (Stapleton, Park Hill, East Colfax), District 3 (Lowry, Montclair, Mayfair, Hale) and one at-large seat will be on the ballot. *Story on pp. 6-11.*

Election Information:

- Ballots will be mailed to all active voters.
- Register online by October 28. Search your browser for “Register to vote in Colorado.”
- Download the sample ballot and blue book at www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/CGA-LegislativeCouncil/CLC/1200536134742

By Whitey Hagadorn

My neighborhood received as much rain as recently flooded most of northern Colorado—yet with no loss of life and little damage. As I watched storm tragedies unfold, it brought back memories of my California days. In canyon communities like Malibu and Topanga, torrential storms regularly immersed hippie-shacks and mogul’s mansions in mud slurries. As in Lyons, living in such narrow mountain valleys had tradeoffs; close community and idyllic scenery, but serious flood risk.

Such risk comes from living in a natural funnel. Mountains act as the cone-shaped mouth of the funnel, capturing and concentrating rainfall. In such areas, buildings and roads are flotsam poised to be swept away. Canyons act like a funnel’s narrow neck, delivering water to the floodplain and its eager rivers. In the process, water must gush through streams of foothill towns. Such

(continued on page 34)

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

Interesting Eats 12 | Filmmaker’s Journey 14 | Health Care Exchange 17-19 | ‘13 NE Denver DPS Scores 21 | Kids Cancer Research 30

Like us at Front Porch Newspaper for updates on local news and events.



65 people showed up to help clean Westerly Creek after the September flooding. Volunteers will be needed the first Saturday of Oct. and Nov. (See below).



Photo by Amanda Allshouse

CALENDAR

Events listed below are FREE and open to the public or support nonprofits. (Additional events are listed on pages 24-27. Recurring events are listed on page 25.)

OCTOBER

First Saturday of Oct. & Nov.

Help clean up open space after the flooding on Oct. 5 & Nov. 2, 9am. All are welcome. Email for meeting location: LCorrell@dotnet.net or klampe@Sandcreek-greenway.org

Wednesdays in Oct. & Nov.

Free Mini Med School at the Anschutz Medical Campus. One-hour lecture and Q&A session Wednesday nights at 7pm. Register at medschool.ucdenver.edu/minimed. (see p. 28)

Tuesday, October 1

League of Women Voters--Dist. 4 (Stapleton-Park Hill) School Board Candidate Forum. 7pm, Montview Presbyterian Church, 1980 Dahlia St.

Thursday, October 3

Screening of "Sun Come Up" with the Indie Prof. Sam Gary Library, 6pm (see p. 23)

October 1-7

3rd Annual Stapleton Community Food Drive benefiting Food Bank of The Rockies. 303-394-4526 www.facebook.com/NPREco (see p. 28)

Saturday, October 5

1¢ admission to "The Bubble Garden," new art-making exhibit for children. Museum of Contemporary Art Denver, 1485 Delgany St. MCADenver.org

Saturday, October 5

Financial Planning Day, 9am-2pm
Metro State Univ. (see p. 28)

Sunday, October 6 & 13

Farmer's Market, *The Green. 8:30am-12:30pm. events@stapletoncommunity.com

Saturday, Oct. 12

Open House--Denver Transit Partners (DTP) community event at Swigert International School, 11am-1pm. Learn about the new commuter rail. Hot dogs and hamburgers served. 3480 Syracuse St.; DenverTransitpartners.com

Saturday, Oct. 12

Blue Bench Run/Walk to help eliminate sexual assault Central Park, 9am (see p. 28)

Wednesday, October 16

Modern Conversations--"Tackling tricky behavior from toddler to teen," 7-8:30pm. MCA Community Room* (see p. 28)

OCTOBER

Thursday, October 17

SUN Education Expo. Bill Roberts Elementary School. Doors open 6:15pm (see p. 32)

Friday, October 18

Spooktacular at Central Park Rec Center, 9651 E MLK Blvd. Kids ages 6 and younger get to trick-or-treat, have snacks and treats. Preregister \$5; \$10 at door. 720.865.0750.

Friday, October 18

Comedy night to benefit pediatric cancer research at Morgan Adams Foundation. 7pm at the Soiled Dove, 7401 E. 1st Ave. Tickets \$25. (see p. 30)

Wednesday, October 23

Denver Public Schools Middle and High School Expo Sports Authority Field (see p. 28)

Saturday, October 26

Stapleton Get Ur Pink On--Dance Zumba for the Cure, 12-3pm. October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Quebec Square parking lot in front of State Farm. Free but must register for Pink Zumba Fitness at 303-377-5433 or on Facebook at "Stapleton Get Ur Pink On"

Sat. & Sun., Oct. 26 & 27

Arts & Crafts Sale at the Sam Gary Library
Saturday 9am-5pm; Sunday 1-5pm (see p. 28)

Thursday, October 31

District Two and District Five 20th Annual Halloween Party & Haunted House, 5-8pm. Ages 0-12 with parent/guardian. Trick-or-treating & arcade games. Denver Police Academy, 2155 Akron Way. 720-913-1100.

NOVEMBER

Saturday, November 2

Puppy Up! Walk Stapleton Central Park registration 8am, walk 10am food, vendors, entertainment 8-2pm <http://www.2milliondogs.org> (see p. 29)

Saturday, November 2

Denver Botanic Gardens SCFD Free Day. 720-865-3500 <http://www.botanicgardens.org>

Events & Announcements at Stapleton



First Friday Flight

The Wine & Food Pairing will be held on Friday, Oct. 4 at 6pm at the West Crescent. This tasting will feature a variety of wine samples accompanied by small plates. Join us for an evening filled with wine and tasty bites, a live performance by a jazz quartet and enjoy our featured film, *Breakfast at Tiffany's*. Tickets are \$20 each (if purchased in advance) and can be purchased online at www.stapletoncommunity.com or by calling 303.388.0724--space is limited.

Kids Night Out

Thriller

The next Kids Night Out event will be held on Saturday, Oct. 19 from 6-9pm at the Central Park Rec Center. This event is for children ages 7-12 and pre-registration is only \$10 per child. There will be games, a costume contest, mummy wrap contest and more! A spaghetti dinner will be provided. Online registration will close at noon on Friday, Oct. 18. To register, visit the Central Park Rec Center or www.stapletoncommunity.com--space is limited. Day-of-event registration is \$20 per child (if space is available--cash only).

Active Minds

The History of Horses & Racing

This seminar will be held at 7pm on Thursday, Oct. 10 in the MCA Community Room.

Germany

This seminar will be held at 7pm on Thursday, Oct. 24 in the MCA Community Room.

Pumpkin Patch

The last Farmers Market of the season will be held from 8:30am-12pm on Sunday, Oct. 13 on The Green. We will continue our annual tradition of incorporating a pumpkin patch with the final market. Shoppers will receive a coupon for every \$5 they spend at the vendors' booths. Coupons can be redeemed at the pumpkin patch for a free pumpkin. There will be a variety of pumpkin sizes ranging from small to large. Small pumpkins will require 1 coupon exchange, medium require 3 coupons and large pumpkins will be given away for 5 coupons. Pumpkin quantities are very limited and coupons are only valid while supplies last.

Modern Conversations

Tackling Tricky Behavior from Toddler to Teen

Date: Wednesday, Oct. 16

Time: 7-8:30pm

Cost: Free

RSVP: hsilver33@gmail.com or call 720.935.7393

Dog Daze

There were another 300 dogs in attendance at this year's Dog Daze at the F-15 Pool. Over \$1,500 was raised from the event and proceeds will be donated to Planned Pethood Plus. Thank you again for bringing your dogs to our final pool event of the season!

We Would Like to Thank Our 2013 Sponsors

The MCA would like to thank all of the 2013 event and aquatic sponsors! We appreciate your continued support throughout the season and allowing us to create an exciting assortment of events and programming, which have grown tremendously over the past year. We were excited to launch some new events to The Green, including our new, two-day Shakespeare on The Green performances.

We would also like to give special thanks to our 2013 Platinum Level Sponsors. Thank you, Stapleton Home Services, TJC, Kimberly Austin--Stapleton's Realtor, Digstown, Kearns Team/Stapleton Tap House, Northfield Church and the GSBA. Thank you for supporting our summer event series!

The 2014 event and aquatic sponsorship packages will be released after the first of the year. If you would like to become a sponsor or if you would like more information on our sponsorship opportunities, please email events@stapletoncommunity.com.

MCA Annual Meeting

The Annual MCA Meeting of Members is scheduled for Wednesday, Nov. 13 at 6:30pm in the MCA Community Room at 2823 Roslyn St. This meeting will also be available online at www.stapletoncommunity.com. If you're interested in serving as a delegate in 2014, please call the MCA at 303.388.0724 about becoming a delegate.

If you have any questions about the information above, give us a call at 303.388.0724.

Dani Mead
dmead@stapletoncommunity.com

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CORRECTION

Page 17 of the September Front Porch incorrectly stated Burnham Hoyt was the architect of DIA. Curt Fentress was the architect of DIA, and he lived in a Park Hill home designed by Burnham Hoyt that was on this year's tour.

The Front Porch welcomes submissions of upcoming local events and story ideas (see information on p.27). Deadline is the 15th for the next issue.

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Voting on School Finance

State Sen. Michael Johnston explains to a League of Women Voters meeting the inequity of school tax levies among districts where the home values are high versus districts where they are low.

By Carol Roberts

What would it take to make Colorado one of the leading education states in the country? This question is being asked at a time when schools are expected to do more innovation and reform—and do it with fewer resources.

Several years ago a group with widely divergent views started meeting to answer that question. Senator Mike Johnston, sponsor of the proposed new school finance bills says, “We made the crazy agreement that we would reach all recommendations in this group by consensus.”

After the group came out with their consensus recommendations, Johnston says hundreds of stakeholder meetings were held throughout the state to use those recommendations as the basis for creating a new school finance reform bill. The proposed bill includes modernizing the way we fund our school system, making it accountable, transparent and fair, and making investments to generate dramatic changes in outcomes.

Johnston calls Colorado’s current school finance bill the perfect inequality machine. “If you wonder how we keep kids poor for multiple generations, the answer is the school finance act.” Key changes that Johnston believes will make Colorado’s education system more equitable for all children are listed below. Following Johnston’s explanation of the bill are opposing comments from Ben DeGrow, a senior education policy analyst at the Independence Institute in Golden.

How will this bill change our tax rate and our constitution?

Amendment 66, Funding for Public Schools, calls for a two-tiered tax that would raise state income tax from 4.63% to 5% on the first \$75,000 of federal taxable income and income over \$75,000 would be taxed at 5.9%. In addition, it would repeal the current constitutional requirement that P-12 funding grow annually by the rate of inflation and instead require that a minimum of 43% of state tax revenue be used for public education.

How will the new finance bill change our education system?

Johnston says feedback from teachers and administrators in 173 of 175 districts was used to identify specific changes needed to improve public education in Colorado. Some of those changes include:

Preschool and kindergarten for all at-risk kids. Recent research* has shown that preschool and full day kindergarten for free and reduced lunch students and English language learners could significantly reduce Colorado’s “achievement gap” (lower academic performance by at-risk students). This bill will allow 30,000 identified at-risk children now on a waiting list to attend preschool and full-day kindergarten.

Flexible learning opportunities. Twenty-five years ago when the current school finance bill was written, all students attended classes within the walls of their local schoolhouse and had no access to the internet. Now a wide range of learning options—including online courses, college courses, internships and others—are available. This bill creates flexibility in funding to accommodate the

range of today’s learning opportunities.

Innovation fund. The bill calls for an innovation fund to encourage teachers and principals to try out new approaches tailored to their schools’ needs.

Open online accountability system. If passed, the bill will create a transparent and user-friendly system, accessible by all, that will allow parents to track how funds are being used in an individual school or district, and districts can compare what other districts are spending to help identify more efficient use of their funds. The system also enables schools and districts to track outcomes in a wide range of areas including test scores, graduation rates, and college and job readiness. Districts can use the data to create custom programs that are specific to their needs.

End one-day student count. The current one-day-in-October student count to determine funding for the year hurts schools that receive new students and offers no incentive to keep students in school. The bill proposes funding based on daily student count—and money follows students if they change schools.

Recruit and retain the best principals and teachers. Johnson says the most important variables in student success are the effectiveness of the teacher and the principal. The bill makes an investment in trying to recruit, retain and develop the best teachers and principals. Career ladders will be developed by identifying the most talented teachers and principals and asking them take on roles as master teachers or instructional coaches so they can mentor and support newer teachers.

End state subsidies for cost of living in wealthier districts. Currently the state funding formula sends \$1.1 billion per year in cost-of-living subsidies to districts with higher property values. At the same time, small school districts and at-risk students each receive just \$200 million in subsidies. This bill would give the same per pupil amount to every district, with additional subsidies provided for at-risk children. Currently, many of the wealthier districts have much lower tax rates than less affluent districts. With high property values, a low tax rate can still generate substantial funds. In less affluent districts with a small tax base, even a very high mill levy doesn’t bring in enough to keep schools open. Johnson says 20 districts currently have four-day school weeks while more affluent districts are receiving large state subsidies and at the same time have low mill levies.

How will the tax increase impact voters and the state?

Amendment 23, passed in 2000, called for education spending to increase with the rate of inflation. During the downturn in the economy, in order to balance the budget, the legislature interpreted the amendment in a way that allowed them to cut the education budget—Johnson says they have cut \$3-4 billion out of education in the past 3-4 years. The finance bill is a \$2.2 billion proposal, with more than half of the funds being generated through eliminating inefficiencies and shifting money for new uses.

Fund education at 43% of the budget. The School Finance Bill sets a fixed funding rate of 43% of the total budget to ensure education is a priority in Colorado. With the (continued on p.28)

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The directory is updated monthly at
www.FrontPorchStapleton.com -> Business Directory

Proposed Taxes for Regulating Retail Marijuana



Co-owner of RiverRock medical marijuana dispensary, Norton Arbelaez, shows a patient their selection.

By Madeline Schroeder

Colorado legislators recently hammered out the rules for recreational marijuana businesses, which will open January

1. Colorado cities could opt out of having recreational marijuana businesses, and many did, but Denver officials voted to allow them. They have been grappling with setting up a system to meet state and federal regulations. Enforcement, police, auditors, licensing—how will the state and the city pay for regulation of these new businesses?

“This is a brand new industry that we have never dealt with before,” State Representative Lois Court said. “We need to tax it, to regulate it; simple as that.”

In November, Colorado voters will be asked to approve a 15 percent state excise tax and a separate 10 percent state sales tax, which can be raised to 15 percent without another vote until January 1, 2017.

If passed, the 10 percent state sales tax will pay for regulating the industry. If the 15 percent state excise tax passes, the first \$40 million of revenue is earmarked for capital

construction of schools. The funding will renew or replace deteriorating facilities in public schools.

Denver residents will also vote on a 3.5 percent local sales tax (in addition to the standard 2.6 percent city sales tax). That measure allows the city to raise the 3.5 percent tax as high as 15 percent without another vote if additional funds are needed to cover the cost of regulations.

If the city sales tax passes, revenue will pay for keeping the retail marijuana industry safe, according to Denver City Attorney David Broadwell. He says they predict \$4.5 million in city sales tax revenue in the first year. Each dime of revenue is not precisely allocated, but it's meant for the direct and indirect cost of regulating the new industry, he said.

Like cigarettes, liquor or gasoline, the higher tax will only affect those who buy marijuana. If the taxes do not pass, the cost of regulating marijuana sales will come out of the state's general fund, most likely K12 education, human services and/or health care, according to Court.

The Colorado Department of Revenue will develop a computer system and hire staff to

Like cigarettes, liquor or gasoline, the higher tax will only affect those who buy marijuana. If the taxes do not pass, the cost of regulating marijuana sales will come out of the state's general fund, most likely K12 education, human services and/or health care, according to State Rep. Lois Court.

Fall's Offerings from Wolfe & Epperson



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For more information about Women's Health Research contact Anne:
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University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus
COMIRB Protocols. #06-0512; #12-1157; Principal Investigator: Wendy Kohrt, PhD





Above: Norton Arbelaez stands in the greenhouse of RiverRock, which cultivates and sells all-organic marijuana. Dispensaries follow regulations that state the product must be free of pesticides and contaminants.

Right: Trimmers at RiverRock medical marijuana dispensary help sort and trim plants to prepare cannabis for shelves.



The Business of Marijuana



Left: A worker stands in the interior grow pod that uses special grow lights. Temperature and humidity are also regulated during cultivation.

Below: Bar codes anonymously label a patient's individual marijuana plant. Retail marijuana stores will also be required to use labeling systems from seed to sale.



Right: Very expensive and extensive computer software programs aid in identifying and tracking cannabis during the cultivation process from seed to sale. Tracking will be required in retail marijuana stores as well.



collect, monitor and enforce both the 15 percent and the 10 percent state taxes.

The U.S. Department of Justice has stated it will not shut down marijuana businesses as long as they meet specific regulations.

Part of the city tax revenue will be used for a citywide education campaign for youth about the potential dangers of marijuana. This is particularly important to Councilman Chris Herndon. "This is an adult product," he said. "We need enough regulation in place so that kids are educated on the effects of marijuana because we don't want them to think this is something that isn't harmful to them."

Herndon believes it's only fair that the industry is funded through taxes rather than general fund cuts.

The city council spent a lot of time debating the tax. Councilwoman Mary Beth Susman laughed remembering how overwhelmed the council initially felt. "None of us are users so we didn't know what marijuana goes for on the regular market, and none of us were going to go out and try buying it," she said. To help determine the right tax they called in economists and experts, and they had surprising luck checking Craigslist.

Susman even unburied her 1972 master's thesis about marijuana. "It felt like I was in the twilight zone," she said. "I went to college in the 60s, and here I am debating how to legalize the drug. I never thought it would come to this. It is very hard to picture what the new industry will look like."

They purposefully created the "floating rate" to lower or raise the tax as necessary because of the uncertainty of the brand new industry. David Broadwell said, "Nobody has a clue how big this industry is going to be and how much retail sales there will be."

He believes it's necessary that the city council be able to adjust the tax as the industry pans out.

Critics fear the taxes will drive buyers to the underground market, which isn't taxed. Broadwell also predicts that medical marijuana dispensaries will not apply to be retail stores to avoid the higher taxes—medical marijuana only has the standard sales tax.

But, Broadwell said the more sophisticated marijuana businesses will most likely accept the new taxes and regulations. "If you've got your foot in the door and have the resources, then it's easier for you to embrace a highly regulated environment than the next guy."

For Norton Arbelaez, the taxes signal a big step forward. Arbelaez is a member of the Medical Marijuana Industry Group and co-owner of RiverRock, a medical marijuana dispensary

in Denver that in October is applying to also be a recreational dispensary.

Arbelaez doesn't anticipate losing business because of the taxes. "It's not about smoking pot anymore," he said. "There are vaporizers, bath soaks, edibles, any number of non-smokeable products that the black market simply doesn't offer. So you still have to come to the market."

He understands why some businesses and users are concerned but said it's important to look at the bigger picture of the industry. On behalf of the Medical Marijuana Industry Group, he said dispensaries need the resources to operate properly and make sure there is no criminal activity in the industry.

"Now more than ever we need Colorado to step up and regulate this business. We need the technology and inventory tracking in place so we can really show that we can handle the regulatory affairs of the commercial side."

Arbelaez is thankful that the federal government has allowed Colorado to try out a regulatory framework.

"This is the first time in history that we are going to regulate and tax this product; we are changing history here," Norton Arbelaez said.

Applications for medical marijuana dispensaries to become retail stores opened October 1. Voters will decide the taxes in November, and January 1, stores will open.

To read the full list of retail marijuana business regulations set by the Department of Justice go to FrontPorchStapleton.com and click "Article Supplements."



Left to right: State Rep. Lois Court, Councilman Chris Herndon and Councilwoman Mary Beth Susman have participated in developing marijuana regulations and tax measures.

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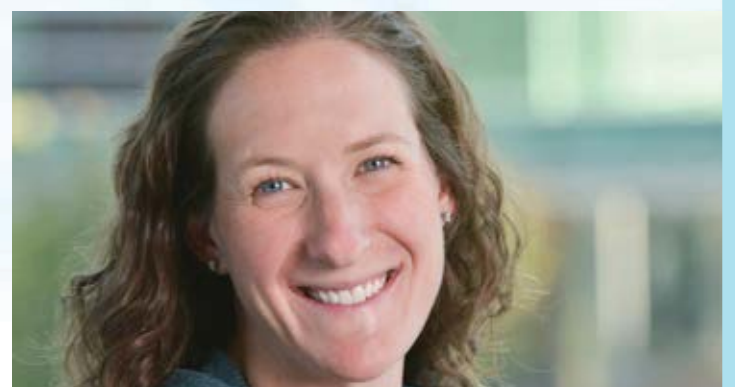
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Get to Know Dr. Jaime Arruda

Recently listed as a *5280* Top Doc, Jaime is committed to safe and compassionate care for women. She has a special interest in exercise during pregnancy and vaginal birth after cesarean (VBAC).

She received her undergraduate degree from Yale University and her medical degree from John Hopkins University School of Medicine. She served her internship and residency at University of Colorado Hospital.

Jaime is an active community volunteer in Denver, providing Sexually Transmitted Disease and pregnancy education for teens, helping with park clean-ups and promoting youth sports.

A resident of Park Hill, Jaime enjoys spending time with her husband and three kids, running marathons, hiking and skiing in her time away from the hospital.

School Board Election (continued from p.1)

Are the new standards for evaluating teachers helpful or punitive? Candidates are split on that question.

Should schools have the autonomy to set their own hours and budgets? What is the role of the community in changing the direction of a school?

One candidate said his earliest involvement in the schools started when his daughter entered kindergarten at a school with an ineffective principal. He organized a com-

munity engagement process that enabled parents to help select a new principal—the community stayed engaged and now has a “distinguished school.”

Board seats are on the ballot for District 4 (Stapleton, Park Hill and East Colfax) and District 3 (Lowry, Monclair, Mayfair and Hale) and one At-Large seat. The Front Porch interviewed the seven candidates from those districts to help readers learn more about their educational philosophies.

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Supt. Boasberg: What DPS Has Accomplished & Future Goals

What have you done best?

“When we started our reforms eight years ago, the academic progress our kids made was the worst among any of the major districts in the state. Now for two years in a row our academic progress has been the best in the state. What’s remarkable about this is that we’ve completely changed the paradigm. For decades the conventional wisdom was, ‘Go to the suburbs for a better education.’ Now the data is clear. Whether you’re a low income family or a middle income family, your kids will do better and they will grow more academically in the Denver Public Schools than they will in any suburban district.

“Our graduation rate is up by 20 percentage points in the last five years. We’ve cut our dropout rate in half, and we are by far the fastest growing school district of any city in the country. About 10 percent of that is because of the growth of new areas like Stapleton and Lowry, but the overwhelming growth has been a huge increase in demand for the Denver Public Schools from families. Families are seeing that their neighborhood schools are their best education option for their kids.

“We went to Denver voters last year with the largest ask for a tax increase that any district had ever asked voters for. And it passed overwhelmingly with over two to one margin.”

Where do you need to improve?

“Eliminate our achievement gap. I come to this work with the absolute firm belief that every kid can and should succeed and every kid is born with talent and potential and ambition and dreams and that talent has nothing to do with how much money their parents make or what part of the city they live in. But we still see a significant achievement gap.

“Our approach is very simple. We want to have great schools in every neighborhood. No kid in this city should have to get on a bus and travel across town to get to a great school. The keys to great



DPS Superintendent Tom Boasberg

schools are to have great teachers, a strong school leader working very collaboratively with very strong teamwork, with very high expectations for kids and a willingness to do what it takes to help all kids succeed.

“The academic progress of our students of color is stronger than that of any other district in the state, but clearly there much more we need to do there.

“The process starts with expanding

preschool and full day kindergarten to all of our kids in poverty. Many come to kindergarten a year or two behind their middle class peers in vocabulary. We need to have high expectations and in some cases that’s going to require us providing additional supports...summer school, a longer school day, more tutoring and intervention to catch up our kids that are behind. Amendment 66, on the ballot this fall, would mean over \$100 million in additional resources for DPS.”

What can DPS do to improve communication?

“It’s very important that we’re hearing from our parents what’s most important to them and also let parents know what we’re trying to do and get feedback from them—to have involvement with parents we can’t wait for them to come to us, we need to go to them in their homes. Four years ago we had one school where teachers made regular visits to the homes of parents. We now have 50.

“(Regarding communication with the board,) disagreement is good, it’s part of a vibrant democracy. What’s important is that those disagreements be about what’s best for kids, not about political and ideological battles.”

Is the new Smiley model replicable in Denver?

“Yes. The heart of the Stapleton-Park Hill conversation has been that quality and diversity are absolutely possible together. There is no trade off. We’re seeing that in many other areas of Denver as well.

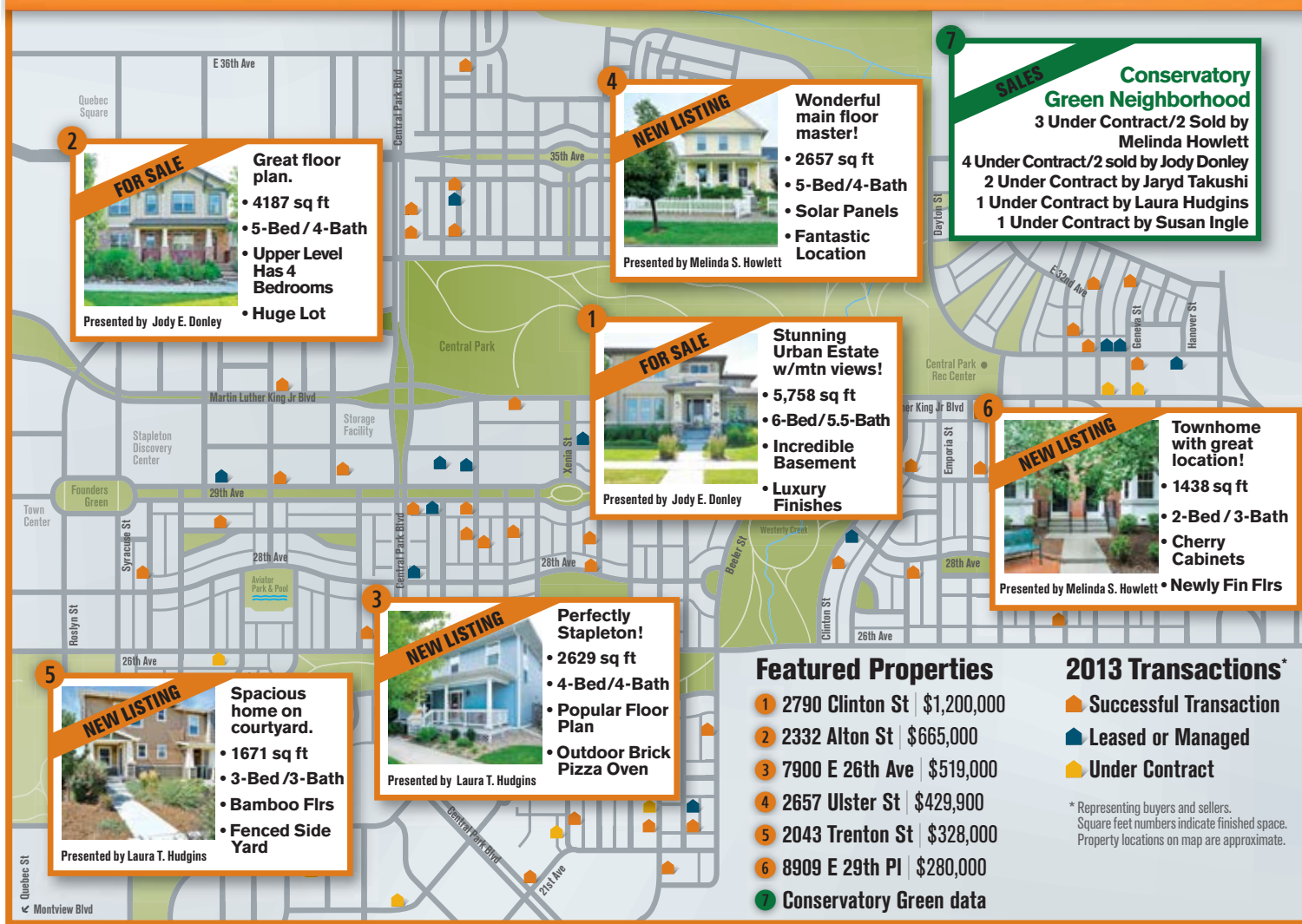
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- 3) Make a direct cash donation: <http://www.foodbankrockies.org/goto/stapleton2013>



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District 4—Stapleton, Park Hill, East Colfax
Roger Kilgore

Kilgore says he sees this election as a way of finding better ways of moving forward and he looks forward to working with the superintendent and other board members.

“We need to incorporate our communities more in the decisions about our schools. Stapleton is a good example of that. Stapleton parents and families demanded to have a voice and I think that’s a model for what we need to have in other neighborhoods as well.”

What is the district doing well? “John Youngquist (before he recently took a new job in Aurora schools) was doing a great job of defining what a 21st century principal needs to be. I think there are positive things about the LEAP teacher evaluation program. Less exciting is that it can be used in a punitive way.

It’s problematic that the state legislature defined 50 percent as being the minimum component of the teacher evaluation as opposed to leaving that up to the discretion of the committees that have been working on it since. In this situation the pendulum went too far. We need to remember the motivations that took us where we are but recognize that some of the things we’ve done are not good for the teaching profession and are not good for our students because we get to the problem of teaching to the test.” Kilgore says some schools spend 20 days preparing for the various assessments. “We’re focusing on being able to do well in a math test as opposed to being able to do math well... and some people are not good test takers.”

Kilgore says his biggest strengths are his passion for education, particularly for the poor and underserved and his approach to collaboration and pragmatism. “The pragmatism comes from being an engineer. I would listen and look for win-win policy decisions.”

“Bring more accountability of the school district to our kids and our parents and our voters. Accountability from a financial standpoint, also accountability for our schools. I think the district should be held accountable for the fact that they



Roger Kilgore

let Smiley deteriorate to the point where it needed to be closed. The school had five principals in six years, two schools were located there.” Kilgore says the administration “and all of us” have been accountable over the last eight to ten years. “You need to take a look at your challenged schools and talk about smaller class sizes, more tutoring, more mentoring, longer school days, longer school years as tools for remedying those challenges before they get to the point where you feel like closure is the only option.”

Neighborhood schools:

“What I know about the less fortunate population from my work with them is they depend on the school they can walk to or bike to because they don’t have family members who can investigate the portfolio of options. It’s appropriate for a parent to find the best fit, but as a foundation for our portfolio of schools we have to have a network of schools that will accept everyone that walks in the door and will do their best to serve those kids needs.” Kilgore suggests charter schools should accept kids in their neighborhood.

Kilgore acknowledges there’s always going to be some creative tension between parents and decisionmakers in the school district because everyone has strong feelings when they’re talking about their children. He believes having continuous ongoing conversations in each neighborhood is the way to deal with that. “There’s a certain amount of Stapleton leading the way because Stapleton has demanded that to a large extent.”

Candidate snapshot questions and responses (page 9): Kilgore responded, “The funding priorities are contextual and the yes/no questions are generally not yes/no questions.” He omitted some answers to the yes/no questions, pointing out that “some of the strategies that DPS is doing are positive and some are negative” and that the questions about district-run, charter and innovation schools don’t have a yes/no answer.



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District 4—Stapleton,
Park Hill, East Colfax

Landri Taylor

Landri Taylor sees this election as a referendum on turnaround. His philosophy is to find out why the successful schools are successful and find the reasons why the unsuccessful ones aren't. The reasons for success and failure may be very different at the various schools. There is no blanket solution.

What is the district is doing right? LEAP (Leading Effective Academic Practice—a system for evaluating performance and supporting the growth of teachers) and DPS' response to a lawsuit on providing additional resources for Hispanic parents and children (the modified consent decree).

What are the weaknesses? DPS needs to accelerate the pace to achieve the Denver Plan to make sure every kid has access to high quality education. The Board needs to accelerate its review of policies that can impact accelerating the pace to achieve the Denver Plan.

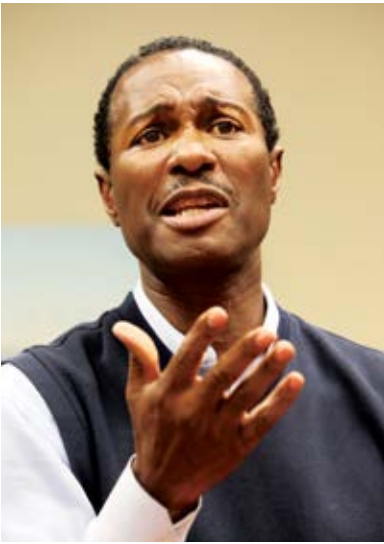
Taylor says he brings to the board a track record of experience in community outreach, passion, and he's been a DPS parent for 20 years. His highest priority is to eliminate the achievement gap. He says, "A vote for me is to continue the pathway toward achievement for all of our students regardless of zip codes. I support the turnaround changes that have been

made and I am a proponent for more."

Taylor says he does not believe that charter or innovation schools hurt neighborhood schools any more than libraries or rec centers in adjoining areas hurt each other.

Taylor says he believes it's important to have diverse schools and for the district to play a role in creating diverse schools. "Diversity is a core value. Period."

How is DPS doing with communication? There is no right way to communicate, but there is an open way to do it, he says. "Occasionally people think they're doing the right thing with communication and they just miss." But, Taylor adds, it's important to "make sure you're consistent, in touch with the outreach and communication so parents aren't caught off guard about either the lack of resources or achievement in a building. You can't spring that on parents like was done at Ashley. The school board member has to make sure staff is doing what's necessary to communicate to school staff and parents and it's not, 'we've made a decision



Landri Taylor

he's hearing from his constituents. "The superintendent and I had a good robust conversation about Ashley and it made a difference." He adds that in his experience the superintendent is open to hearing such

and this is what we're going to do."

"DPS failed in the communication of High Tech Elementary going to Conservatory Green. There's no defending that."

"The board has to strongly direct its superintendent, who is in charge of staff, on how we want communication to occur." Taylor says he'll do that based on what

information and willing to act on it.

Taylor says he has been impressed with the SUN (Stapleton United Neighbors) education committee's dialogue regarding elementary school boundaries in Stapleton. In the beginning the community was for boundaries, then they were more open to not having boundaries, and now they are looking at hybrids of boundaries. What's key for the board, me as a representative of this area, is to continue to listen to that dialogue and see what it is the community actually wants.

Taylor points out that the boundary situation has to do with the seat space in a school, but the larger focus for a board member is whether it's a high performing school. "I don't believe any school that's a low performing school is going to be a school that people are beating a pathway to bring their kids to. So the question of boundaries never really enters the conversation for low performing schools. It will enter into the conversation for high performing schools because parents want to be sure there are enough seats for their kids."

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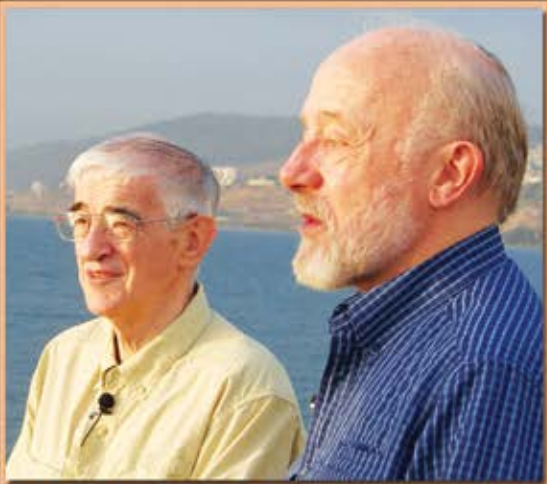
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DPS Districts 3 & 4 and At-Large Candidate Snapshots

What four of the items at right would you give additional funds if could?

	D4-Kilgore	D4-Taylor	AL-Kiley	AL-O'Brien	AL-Poston	D3-Johnson	D3-Schomp
Gifted and Talented	*		*				
English Language Learners				X	X		
Arts and Music		X		X	X	X	X
Phys Ed and Athletic Teams		X				X	X
STEM Courses				X	X		
More Transportation		X					
Civics					X	X	X
Literature							
Writing & Critical Thinking		X					X
Foreign Language Instruction				X		X	

Answer yes or no to the questions below.

	D4-Kilgore	D4-Taylor	AL-Kiley	AL-O'Brien	AL-Poston	D3-Johnson	D3-Schomp
Do you think DPS is moving in the right direction?	*	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N
Do you favor vouchers?	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Did you personally attend a DPS school?	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y
Do you/have you had a child attend DPS?	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Have you been a staff member in DPS?	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N
Have you been a volunteer in DPS?	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Do you believe evolution should be taught in DPS?	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Do you believe creationism should be taught in DPS?	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Do you support the approach of the current DPS administration?	*	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N
Do you think having charter and innovation school options works against the success of neighborhood schools in low-income areas?	*	N	*	N	Y	N	Y
Do you think having charter and innovation school options works against the success of neighborhood schools in more affluent areas?	*	N	*	N	Y	N	Y
Are you bilingual?	N	25%	N	N	N	N	N
Should busing be provided for Gifted and Talented?	*	N	*	Y	N	Y	Y
Should physical education be required at all grade levels?	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y
Do you believe sports teams are important for middle and high schools?	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Do you think teachers get adequate compensation?	*	N	N	N	N	N	N

A+ Denver has posted a more in-depth survey of candidates from all districts at: www.aplusdenver.org/work/DPSSchoolBoardSurveySept16.pdf
* See candidate comments in the individual interviews.

District 3—Lowry, Montclair, Mayfair, Hale Mike Johnson

Mike Johnson believes DPS has been making progress in improving the schools and is supportive of the general direction the district is going, but “we need to improve achievement much more quickly than we have been, and we need to do a much better job of reaching out to the community and getting the community involved in our decisions up front instead of after some of those decisions get made.”

Johnson would like the district to move toward the innovation model for all schools. “I like the idea of giving the control of the school to the parents.”

Johnson, a school finance lawyer, worked on the committees that put together the 3A and 3B ballot issues, spending a year looking at what can make a difference in achievement growth. 3A funded early childhood education and tutoring, arts and enrichment—all areas Johnson thinks are critical.

His first involvement with local schools was 15 years ago when his daughter was in kindergarten at a school with “a really ineffective principal.” He organized the community and they were able to get a new principal and continue the high level of community engage-



Mike Johnson

ment and now it’s a distinguished school. “I think we need to do everything we can to make neighborhood schools good, but I don’t think that they’re the only part of the educational experience. I’d like to see lots of those options spread around the city. I

think everything else being equal, parents are probably going to choose neighborhood schools. But I want the parents to make the decision and I want the district to be neutral and have the money follow the kids and the parent choices.

“I think the LEAP teacher evaluation system is good, it’s a step in the right direction, developed in cooperation with teachers and the teachers union. A big part of it is using peer evaluators and we’ve been able to measure that a lot of teachers are doing incredibly well. The opportunity to have this evaluation system will provide useful information that will allow us to take the teachers who aren’t doing a superb job, and with the help of those who are doing a superb job, we’re going to be able to make an improvement that will have an impact on kids.”

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Meg Schomp—District 3

Lowry, Montclair, Mayfair, Hale

Meg Schomp says she sees this election as a referendum on the policies of the current DPS administration and believes that overall they are not on the right track. She does, however, acknowledge the district has done a good job bringing in early childhood education and getting children engaged early. She also believes the school performance framework (SPF) has been a good idea but it is weighted in a way that doesn't accurately show if kids are ready to go on to the next grade. The SPF weights teachers' evaluations too heavily on student achievement tests that are not controllable by either the teachers or the district. Schomp says the factors in the tests don't authentically measure a student's ability to succeed in a college, career or life. Schools need to use tests where the teacher is more connected to the assessment and can get the results quickly and use them. Currently, the results don't come in until a week before the next school year.

Schomp believes her work as a member of the district's school improvement and accountability committee will



Meg Schomp

are affecting their communities.

"As community members, we should be invited to the table and eating the dinner and not just paying the bill. I think the communities are starting to feel disenfranchised by the district not early and often engaging the community in some of these very important decisions around financial issues and also educational outcomes."

Schomp believes principals need to be a collaborator, a coach and a consultant before they get to the teacher evaluation piece, which, at times is punitive and shame inducing,

serve her well as a school board member. "Listening to the community is the most important quality to have." Her highest priority would be to authentically and early engage the community in the decisions that

At-Large

Barbara O'Brien



Barbara O'Brien

Barbara O'Brien says Denver has been one of the most open to trying best practices from around the country to educate a population that's diverse in every way: ethnicity, race, socio-economic status. We now have a decade of data that a lot of schools that parents love are not actually working

and the district has to be accountable for doing a better job. There are a lot of parents who see their kids floundering where they are and they're open to trying other things even though change is hard.

The incremental growth we're seeing is good—it's not fast enough. One of the reasons I'm running is to see if I can help find ways to make the improvement faster and deeper all across the district. For me, it's closing the achievement gap and starting early—and keep it from happening in the first place.

What we ought to be fighting for is to have strong schools in every neighborhood, but also have options for parents and respecting their decisions. The traditional way of running a school is everyone's the same. You actually have to push back against the district to keep your decisionmaking autonomy. It's the principals who find a way to make nimble quick decisions for the benefit of their students who start seeing the biggest improvement in achievement.

O'Brien is the president of Get Smart schools, a non-profit non-traditional training program for principals that focuses on problem solving, innovative thinking, distributing leadership, building and nurturing teams. Our principals are showing great student gains.

To make changes happen, O'Brien says the board needs to revise the Denver Plan and write in the ideas people can come together on from an accountability and policy perspective, with goals and metrics for evaluation—translating that into the strategic plan for the district and then how the administration will be held accountable for its performance. Then going out in communities and listening is necessary to find out if implementation is working.

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What is HPV?
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Who gets HPV?
HPV affects both males and females. Transmission can happen with any kind of genital contact with someone who has HPV – even when the infected partner has no signs or symptoms.

How do I know if I have HPV?
Most people with HPV have no signs or symptoms and there is no blood test used to screen for HPV in the general population. Screening for HPV is done on routine pap smears for certain populations.

Is HPV a serious condition?
In most cases, the virus clears on its own, but when it doesn't, HPV can have serious health consequences. In women, HPV can lead to cervical, vaginal and vulvar cancer. HPV also causes genital warts in both men and women.

Can I prevent HPV?
There is a vaccine that protects girls and young women and is approved for ages 9 to 26. It does not protect against all types of HPV and may not be as effective in those already exposed to HPV. Ask your doctor for more information if you are interested in the vaccine.

What can I do to reduce my risk of HPV?
Here are some things you can do to help decrease your risk of HPV:

1. Limit your number of sexual partners. The more partners you have the greater your risk of HPV infection.
2. Use condoms to reduce your risk of infection. Be aware that condoms cannot fully protect you against the HPV infection.
3. If you smoke, quit now. Smokers are more likely to have persistent HPV infection and subsequent abnormal Pap smears.
4. Be sure to get your routine screening Pap smears. This is the best way to catch abnormal cervical cells caused by HPV before they progress to cancer.

At-Large
Michael Kiley



Michael Kiley

Michael Kiley says he sees this election as a referendum on the board majority and administration, though he acknowledges that the current administration has done a good job bringing in funds and trying new initiatives. They have “been doing the same thing for nine years (including Benner’s term), so I don’t think you can call that reform anymore. I see myself as a proponent for a true change in direction. Kiley cites the need for change in three areas: 1) Is the community a partner or aren’t they? Right now community engagement is more about selling a decision that has already been made. 2) We really have to bring serious scrutiny to how we’re spending the money. When I look at 2600 district staff supporting 4000+ teachers, that’s a troubling ratio to me. 3) Every person in the administration needs to aid in the success of the teachers and the principal at the schools. What that means is the administration is excellent at attracting, mentoring, retaining talented principals. The principals are excellent at doing that with teachers and they engage the community and the parents in an active and constructive relationship.”

He points out that he would have no conflicts of interest as a board member. In his job, which is unrelated to the schools, he is expected to negotiate a fair compromise for his employer and the customer, even in difficult situations. “I can bring that to the table and I think reasonable people can almost always agree.”

Kiley says to be successful the company he works for is built from the ground up by finding talent and mentoring them. DPS could learn from that model. “They have a long way to go to keep a stable of future principals at the ready.”

Kiley declined to answer some of the questions in the Candidate Snapshots on page 9, saying those decisions depend on each particular situation. He pointed out, for example, that a bus for gifted and talented would cost about the same as a teacher so he would need to understand the benefit relative to what’s being given up.

At-Large
Joan Poston



Joan Poston

Joan Poston says her highest priority as a school board member would be having a school board that works together. “A concern for me is the lack of community buy in. I don’t see DPS doing the best job to get the community to support what they’re doing. I think more transparency would help.”

Poston says she would bring great understanding of DPS as a board member. She was employed by DPS as a paraprofessional reading and writing specialist and belonged to the union at that time. “I care about kids. I care about DPS. I understand about schools. You have to have history. You have to have culture. And you have to have buy in. Good schools don’t just happen. Good schools need community involvement and buy in. East is doing so well. You wonder if you can replicate East. I’m not sure you can but I think you can create conditions that are similar to East and will lead to great schools. I don’t think it’s all about reform. I really think it’s an in-depth study of what the community needs are.”

“I was on the school district accountability committee for six years and we had trouble having the board listen to us and we were meeting in the same building. I’m not sure what it is that leads to this kind of deafness.”

“I hate standardized testing. I think you end up teaching to the test. What I look for in a really great school is it teaches critical thinking... how to make good decisions.”

“I think there is a pathway of getting principals through the system. I think DPS is trying to develop principals and they are just recognizing that the principal is key. The problem in DPS is we do a lot of training and then they go someplace else.”

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Interesting Eats Made Easy



Stapleton resident and chef Bruce Springer shows Olivia McDonough how to prepare healthy and kid-friendly chicken tender Thai spring rolls. Recipe at FrontPorchStapleton.com > Article Supplements

By Courtney Drake-McDonough

Does this sound familiar? It's time for dinner and everyone is hungry. But no one is very motivated to cook the same old, same old. Will it be pizza...again? Families are busier than ever these days so it's harder to come up with something to make that the family will be excited to eat and that the person cooking will be motivated to make. That's where Bruce Springer comes in. With more than 20 years in the restaurant business, and the experience of a father and grandfather, Springer knows it can be tough to feed a family healthy, delicious food when

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One of Springer's missions is to help people look outside of the (pasta) box when it comes to meal prep. That pasta box serves as an example. "People buy the same shape pasta all the time but the pasta aisle is really broad," says Springer. "Look left and right and up and down to see the different shapes of pasta, the different sauces. And start thinking of different things you can do with it. The big traditions of the grocery aisle and new. Try different cuts of meat. Buy small amounts of items."

There are many resources available for meal ideas that people might not consider. “Ask the people behind the meat and seafood counters at the market who have a surprising amount of knowledge and suggestions for how to cook items they sell including cuts you might not normally buy.” He also suggests watching cooking shows, reading recipes in magazines and

ipping sauces

Springer recommends, instead, that people cook for the adventurous ones, offering simpler, plainer versions for the kids. For example, make Indian Chicken Tikki Masala (with a prepared sauce that makes it easy), served over rice with

Springer also suggests going with the routine that “makes us feel secure.” Establish taco night and pizza night the same nights each week. “If kids know that a couple nights a week they have something to look forward to that they are going to love and it’s a fun family time, then the pain of something you’re having another night that isn’t their favorite isn’t as intense.” However, he suggests that within those established nights, vary the ingredients slightly like ground turkey in the tacos or chicken on the pizza instead.

It all goes back to thinking outside the box, a saying Springer readily admits is overused. “But it’s so true!” he says. By expanding tunnel vision in the grocery store, making variations on what’s familiar and doing some advance planning, ordinary meals can become something special.



Chicken tenderloin
Thai spring roll



Spring roll dipping sauces



Chicken tender
Thai spring roll

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“Crazy” trip to India leads Stapleton filmmaker to her heart’s passion

By Laurie Dunklee

Bernadette “Berni” Slowey didn’t go to India to make a film about herself. “I wouldn’t have gone to India if I knew the film would expose my vulnerability and be about me,” she said.

But in December of 2011, the 40-year-old Stapleton mother of two found herself doing just that. Slowey’s journey to transforming her own life is the subject of a new documentary, *Berni’s Journey in Wonderland*, slated for release in 2014.

Slowey’s search for answers began after her 20-year career in banking imploded. The senior vice president at TCF Bank was on track to become a bank president when the industry took a dive in 2008.

“The environment became toxic for me,” Slowey said. “It was dog-eat-dog competition as people tried to save their jobs. I was the highest-paid female in a male-dominated industry and I was working 70 hours a week. I had no time with my husband and sons. I had three miscarriages and a visit to the emergency room for chest pain. I was a perfectionist and an overachiever, but I wondered how much stress my body would take.”

She left the bank in 2009 and looked for another job for two years. “I wanted to become an executive director in non-profit, but the competition was fierce. I had gotten every job I applied for in the past, but this time I was shot down. I felt like I wasn’t achieving anything.”

Slowey’s search for answers led to an interest in the science of spirituality. “I wanted answers with credibility,” she said. She found the 1st World Parliament on Spirituality in Hyderabad, India, a conference featuring experts from all over the world. A tour of India was offered as part of the conference.

She hit on the idea to make a documentary about the conference and the speakers. “I had no training or experience but I thought, ‘Anybody can make a documentary, right?’”

With just four weeks to prepare, Slowey made travel plans, hired a film crew in India that she had never met, and developed a production plan. “I thought I could make a documentary about the conference and interview the experts about the subject matter and their back story as we toured India.”

She put everything on a credit card and left her family in Denver over the holidays. “My decision to go was unconventional. My friends thought I was crazy.”

Her decision seemed destined as the pieces fell into place. But when she arrived in India, her plans fell apart. The prom-

ised tour was cancelled and she was unable to meet her film crew. Her production plan was in jeopardy. “With my control freak tendencies, this did not go over well,” Slowey said. “I felt I was failing. I had gone out on a limb and put everything on a credit card. I was having an identity crisis and I was close to a meltdown.”

Slowey’s identity issues began in childhood when she was twice a refugee. She was born in Vietnam during the war to a Vietnamese mother and American GI father. “We were evacuated when I was 4, just days before Saigon fell in 1975. We settled in Nebraska where we experienced a lot of prejudice because of the negative stigma around the war. We had a hard time making friends.

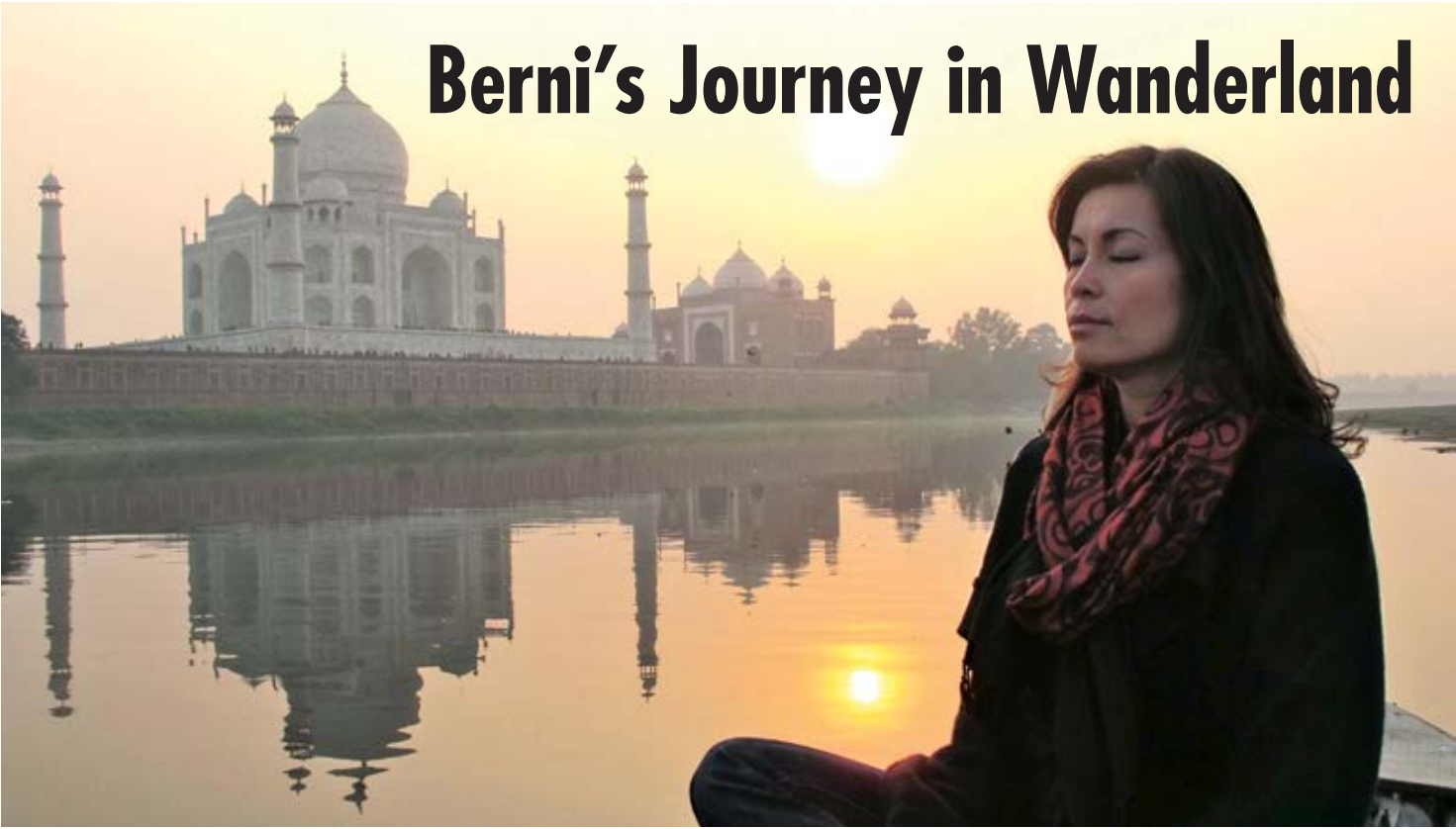
“Then my father got a job in Iran when I was 7. We found ourselves in the middle of the anti-Shah revolution, and after

eight months we were evacuated in 1978. We went back to Nebraska where now people thought we were terrorists.”

Pursuing the American Dream became Slowey’s identity. “I became an overachiever because I wanted to be accepted to fit in. I did what I thought American society expected of me. My corporate career was all about that. It was all about external validation and not my own passions. I became disillusioned and unhappy.”

Fast-forward to India, where several of the conference speakers helped put together a tour and find a film crew. Slowey hoped to salvage something of her plans by travelling and interviewing.

“I felt overwhelmed, like I didn’t know what I was doing,” Slowey said. “We pulled into Agra, where the Taj Mahal is. Our cameraman was shooting a snake charmer with a cobra. The cobra struck the camera, and a surge of fear went through me. ‘This is not about snakes,’ teacher Jennifer Hough said to me. ‘What is



Above: Berni Slowey glides past the Taj Mahal on a boat in India. Below: Slowey works with her cameraman while shooting her documentary that will release in 2014.



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Berni Slowey with her husband, Joe, and two sons Nick, 12 (white shirt) and Jack, 11 (red shirt), both students at McAuliffe International School, gather for a family photo on their backyard patio.

it about?’ As someone put the snake around my neck, I realized I wasn’t afraid of dying. I was afraid I haven’t fully lived before I die. “That’s when the film became my story. “Every ounce of my fear-based childhood came out. I had made so many decisions based on fear. I had sacrificed my heart’s passion for security. Is this really life, just having money in my bank account? I had become trapped in my own life. “I realized I could be authentic, that that is what life is about. I had felt like a victim for most of my life, but my fear turned to compassion. I could follow my heart and empower others to do the same.” The 50-minute documentary, slated for completion in November, already has garnered the attention of groups interested in Slowey’s message. She has been asked to share her message through the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants, high schools and colleges, and women’s groups. “Everyone is the hero of their own journey. They just need help taking the first step,” Slowey said. For more information, see www.WonderOfTheWander.com.

2013 Front Porch Music & Art Teachers Guide

The 2013 Front Porch Music & Art Teachers Guide was printed in the September issue and is posted at www.FrontPorchStapleton.com >Editorial Content >Resource Guides. The two businesses listed here were inadvertently omitted in the September issue.

MULTIPLE INSTRUMENTS

Dahlia Music Studio—Brendan Bondurant & Ruth Carver

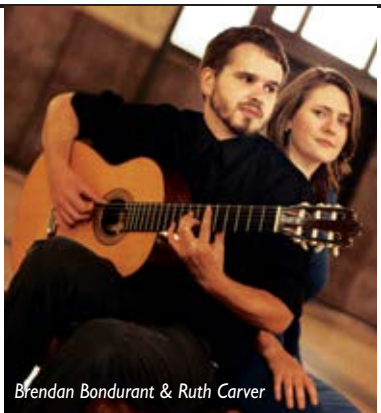
Bondurant and Carver have more than a decade of teaching experience. Brendan Bondurant teaches guitar, ukelele, bass and music theory; Ruth Carver teaches voice. Brendan, who has a BM in Guitar Performance from the University of Missouri-Kansas City, teaches students correct technique and music theory with music they enjoy. He teaches all styles of guitar, from classical to rock/pop. Ruth, who has a MM in Vocal Performance

from Peabody Conservatory, teaches correct vocal technique based on breath support in a variety of styles, especially classical, opera and musical theater. All students benefit from understanding how anatomical and psychological factors affect their voices.

Students of all ages are accepted. Group lessons available in Guitar and Ukelele; lessons 30 mins, 45 mins, 60 mins. Contact Brendan@dahliaMusicStudio.com or Ruth@dahliaMusicStudio.com. 303-329-7944. www.DahliaMusicStudio.com.

PIANO & VOICE

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Brendan Bondurant & Ruth Carver

Photo courtesy of Dahlia Music Studio

teaching piano and voice lessons with a strong theory base. She teaches fun, challenging lessons that are tailored to each student’s needs. Twist teaches at students’ homes. She has been teaching for more than four years, playing piano for 24 years, and singing for even longer. She studied intensively at the University of South Dakota as a Truran Piano Scholas. Lessons available for children and adults. Typically teaches half-hour lessons once a week. Contact amandawt@gmail.com.

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Premium Fishwrap



By John Meredith

**Shouldn't we
commit to feeding
hungry children?**
.....

I know the headline sounds like one of those late-night commercials begging people to send in their change to some far-off third world country where there are starving children everywhere. However, I'm not talking about some distant land—I'm talking right in the neighborhoods this paper serves. There are plenty of East Denver residents who use food stamps (now called SNAP but I will continue to use food stamps for this piece) to purchase groceries, and there are many children on free and reduced lunch who go to our neighborhood schools.

Since the '60s, the farm bill has been one bill with two parts, one for insurance and subsidies for farmers, the other for the food stamp program. Rural representatives liked the benefits for their agrarian constituents and urban leaders were happy with the food stamp benefits.

But now Congress has decided to separate the farm bill into two parts. They passed and increased the subsidies for farms and decided to leave the food stamp issue for "later." The idea is that the farm bill is a five-year commitment. Congress wants to separate the farm subsidies from the food stamp program so they have the ability to chip away at it every year as part of the budget process, while committing to farm subsidies for five years.

The subsidies for farmers have pretty much become corporate welfare as more and more farms are owned or run by large food conglomerates. And the number of people on food stamps has grown considerably to where the program's cost makes up about two percent of the annual U.S. budget.

Every federal program needs to be looked at and trimmed; food stamps are no different. Somewhere there is waste in a program that is as expansive as two percent of the budget. The current benefit for a food stamp beneficiary is \$4.62 per day nationwide, not enough to really survive on. However, while no one in Congress qualifies

for food stamps, many members do qualify for farm subsidies worth thousands of dollars. The agribusiness lobbying effort is intense while the lobbying effort to feed hungry families is basically nonexistent.

The first priority of a civilized first world country should be to feed its poor.

Many Americans think that anyone on any kind of government subsidy is just lazy and unwilling to work. Reality is, in fact, vastly different. It is impossible to live in most urban areas of the country on a minimum wage job. It is even more difficult if you have kids. Is it the child's fault that a parent is unemployed, has a low-paying job, has a mental illness, or is addicted to drugs? Who suffers if children go to school hungry? We all do.

The other children don't learn because a hungry child is not going to be focused on learning, potentially disrupting the classroom and getting behind other students. We simply cannot balance our country's budget on the backs of those who have no lobbyists representing them in Washington.

At the same time Congress passed their version of the farm bill, the Charles Koch Foundation (Koch is one of the top five wealthiest individuals in the country) began running ads in several states promoting the idea that if you earn \$34,000 in this country you are in the top one percent of earners in the world. I have no idea why the foundation would run these ads other than to promote the idea that anyone earning that much money doesn't need any help from the government. Meanwhile, Mr. Koch and his businesses are the beneficiary of a myriad of tax perks and banking regulations that undoubtedly help him become even wealthier. The idea that he would spend his money telling Americans what making \$34,000 a year means, is comical. People who do make \$34,000 a year know what it means and they know it is too much to qualify a family of four for food stamps.

This will be my last Premium Fishwrap column due to my getting lazy. I appreciate all the responses I have received over the years, even those that completely disagreed with me. I may work up the energy to write something every once in a while. Until then, thanks for reading.

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.*

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2013 Special Health Care Guide

How the Affordable Care Act Will Affect You

Beginning January 1, everyone is required to have health insurance in accordance with the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The ACA, often called Obamacare, aims to solve some of the major problems in the current U.S. health care system: too many people are uninsured, people with pre-existing conditions can't get insured or are priced out of the market, and individuals and small businesses can't get the competitive rates that large businesses get.

The goals of the ACA are to increase access to affordable insurance through an online marketplace

that is open to all, get more people insured, and make insurance companies more accountable.

Beginning October 1, anyone in Colorado can shop online for new plans at ConnectForHealthCo.com, the website set up by the state of Colorado to be included in the health exchange. Much like a travel website, Connect For Health Colorado provides side-by-side comparisons of plans and shows how much federal subsidy people within certain income ranges are eligible for. Shoppers plug into an online calcula-

tor their income, number of people in their family and number of children. The website calculates subsidies and premiums. Shoppers have the freedom to choose what fits their budget, life circumstances and health.

Connect For Health Colorado is the only place that plans with federal financial assistance can be purchased (if eligible). Pick the category below that best fits you, and get to know your health insurance options that will become effective Jan. 1, 2014. The enrollment period will end March 31, 2014.

GO

Check the website and start comparing plans if you are:

- Unhappy with current self-paid insurance
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- Individuals, couples or families who cannot afford employer's coverage (pay more than 9.5 percent of family income for employer's insurance)
- Currently uninsured

- Americans are required to have health insurance beginning Jan. 1, 2014 (with very limited exceptions). Americans who don't have insurance will pay a penalty.
- Insurers can no longer deny coverage due to pre-existing conditions.
- Insurers must meet minimum benefit requirements.
- Insurers cannot place lifetime or annual limits on coverage.
- Preventative services (immunizations, mammograms, contraception, counseling and more) will be covered at no cost.
- Insurers cannot charge higher premiums based on gender or pre-existing conditions.
- The websites will calculate whether you qualify for subsidies or tax credits.
 - Tax credits and subsidies go directly to a health insurer to cover costs. A subsidy is a larger amount than a tax credit.
 - When a person files a tax return for the year he/she received the tax credit or subsidy, underpayments and overpayments are reconciled.
- Eligibility for tax credits includes those with the following yearly salaries:
 - Individuals from \$15,000 to \$46,000
 - Couples from \$20,000 to \$62,000
 - Families of four from \$31,000 to \$94,000

CONSIDER

You may find better health insurance options if you are:

- A small business employer (<50 employees) who would like additional options for your employees
- Self-insured but curious if you could receive better coverage or price than you already have
- Currently have good employer coverage but wonder what's available if your circumstances change

- Businesses with fewer than 50 employees are not required to provide health insurance for employees.
- The website will show if you qualify for tax credits.
- Employers with fewer than 25 employees who pay average annual wages less than \$50,000 and provide health insurance could qualify for tax credits to offset the cost of employees' premiums.
- Small business employers can choose their "Benefit Budget" online (the level of contribution toward their employees' coverage).
- Small business employers are recommended to work with a broker. Connect for Health Colorado has certified licensed brokers to assist in choosing coverage options for employees.
- ConnectForHealthCo.com offers small business employers a range of options for their employees, allowing employees to choose from multiple Qualified Health Plans, similar to what is offered by large employers.

STOP

Do nothing. You are not required to change your insurance if you are:

- A small business employer (<50 employees) and not interested in changing the coverage you offer
- Already happily insured with the minimum coverage through your employer
- 26 or younger covered on parent's plan
- On Medicaid or Medicare

- Medicaid and Medicare recipients will continue their coverage. They are not eligible to use the exchange.
- Medicare and Medicaid will expand to cover more people (new minimum Medicaid income eligibility level is 133 percent of Federal Poverty Level for non-disabled adults younger than 65).
- Women and children enrolled in CHP+ assistance program will be transitioned to coverage under Medicaid.
- Small business employers (<50 employees) are not required to provide coverage for employees.
- Young adult children can stay on their parent's plan until age 26.
- If there is a sudden change in life circumstances, you can apply and receive insurance immediately without waiting for the next enrollment period.

Want to learn more or need assistance?

Trained experts are available for all levels of service, from answering a single question to walking you through the process of finding, comparing and purchasing plans.

► Options for Answers

- Chat online at ConnectForHealthCo.com
- Call a customer service center, 855-752-6749
- Go to a local Assistance Site and review a health coverage guide with a certified expert
- Have a small group session with a certified expert
- Schedule a certified expert to give a presentation at your business
- The Kaiser Family Foundation website (Kff.org) provides a calculator and additional

information including videos and webcasts

► Local Assistance Sites

- be well Health & Wellness Initiative, 7350 E. 29th Ave. Ste. 300. 303-468-3220
- Small Business Majority, 2601 Dahlia St. 303-960-5774
- Center for African American Health, 3601 Martin Luther King Jr Blvd. 303-355-3423
- GLBTColorado.org, 1301 E. Colfax Ave. 303-733-7743

► Upcoming Health Care Informational Sessions

- Oct. 24, 5-7:45pm Sam Gary Branch Library, 2691 Roslyn St.
- Nov. 5, 5-7:45pm Park Hill Branch Library, 4705 Montview Blvd.



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As ObamaCare Approaches...



Dr. Jandel Allen-Davis of Kaiser Permanente answers a question about the Affordable Care Act at an informational meeting sponsored by State Representative Angela Williams held at the Sam Gary Library.

By Madeline Schroeder

Did you know that beginning January 1 you are required to have health insurance? Dr. Jandel Allen-Davis is finding not many people do. Allen-Davis, vice president of Government and External Relations for Kaiser Permanente, is a leader in community outreach for the Affordable Care Act (ACA), commonly referred to as ObamaCare. After spending months answering the public's questions, she has found the biggest misconception is, "People don't understand that this is law because of all the political back and forth in our state and across the nation."

Signed into law in 2010, the ACA is just beginning to take form. The law requires everyone to have health insurance beginning January 1 or they pay penalties. The goals are to make health care more affordable and extend coverage to millions more people. The ACA is one of the biggest changes to the health care system in U.S. history.

"When you put in place a piece of legislation this large, this complex, with this many moving pieces, there will be things that will go well and there will be things that are going to go less smoothly," Allen-Davis says.

Insurers will now have to meet new minimum requirements, and they can no longer screen for pre-existing conditions. Larger businesses (50 or more employees) will be required to provide coverage. People who do not have health insurance or adequate coverage will have access to better insurance plans. People who are happy with their current health insurance don't have to buy new insurance but could still see changes in their plan to meet the new requirements in ObamaCare; all plans must be "Affordable Care Act compliant."

Although not required to provide insurance, small business employers with fewer than 25 employees will be able to choose an insurer and the level of coverage they will offer. Employees will be able to select any plan offered by that insurer.

The law intends to make health insurance simpler by having a standard minimum level of health care coverage for all Americans. But, Allen-Davis says many people are confused and don't know what the ACA means for them. Many people ask her, "Will I have to buy new insurance? What is available for me? How do I shop for insurance?"

Beginning October 1, people can go online to ConnectForHealthCo.com and find the health insurance that works for them.

There are four levels of coverage: Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum. All plans must meet the minimum essential health benefits, but there are ranges of coverage and monthly premiums. The Bronze plan is the least expensive, but the individual has higher co-pays. Gold and platinum plans are more expensive but

have added coverage and lower co-pays.

Colorado leads the nation in the number of plans and providers offered in the exchange.

People will be able to navigate these options on the health exchange website. It is designed to make health insurance shopping easy, like the Expedia of health care with side-by-side plan comparisons. But Allen-Davis says the real functionality of the website isn't known yet.

"People will be purchasing insurance for the first time ever, and it's an industry that has been opaque. Everything is not going to go smoothly," Allen-Davis says. Scary, overwhelming and intimidating are a few of the words she uses to describe peoples' feelings toward using a website to make a big decision in their life.

Alicia Brown, head of the *be well* Health and Wellness Initiative says many people don't even know the health care online marketplace exists. *be well* at the Stapleton Foundation is a certified Colorado Health Assistance center, many of which are located all around Denver. Certified guides go over health care options, answer any questions, educate about the exchange and assist in enrolling beginning October 1.

ACA-certified guides can also go to small businesses and give presentations about new health care options. These appointments can be made by calling *be well*, or another assistance site. Websites, hotlines, informational sessions, webcasts and one-on-one discussions are also accessible for answering questions (refer to bottom of health care guide on page 17).

"We encourage getting information and signing up for an appointment so people are prepared and someone can tell you what you need. We want to prepare folks as much as we possibly can," Brown says.

The Affordable Care Act will not solve problems overnight, and Allen-Davis predicts there will be bumps in the next few years. She wonders if the exchange actually result in better health care because although people will have insurance they may not take advantage of new health care benefits, especially those who have been uninsured until now. She encourages people to get educated on their benefits and keep the following three points in mind as the new law is being implemented:

"We all need to be patient, in the industry and with each other, as we try to understand and navigate.

This isn't the time to be quiet. Be patient but let us know when things aren't going well because it's the only way that we're going to learn. And it will make it better for everybody.

Don't assume that those of us on the inside of this have all the answers. If people have ideas of how things can work better or be done differently, this is the time to speak up. Tell your legislator, Congress folk, and certainly tell us insurers."

Co-ops Turn Health Insurance Upside Down

By Madeline Schroeder

Buried among the Affordable Care Act's thousand pages is a small section about a different health care option—a cooperative (a consumer-oriented and operated plan).

"The whole point of a cooperative is to get the best product to the consumer and make our consumers healthy rather than make money," Charles Holum said.

Holum, a Park Hill resident and attorney in Denver, helped found Colorado's first and only



Charles Holum, one of the founders of COHealthOP

health co-op, Colorado HealthOP, which will be included on the health care exchange website that opened to consumers starting in October.

A health cooperative is an alternative public option. It is a nonprofit insurance company initially funded by low-interest federal loans. Although co-ops are government funded, they are not government controlled. Loans must be paid off, and members elect the board of directors and can help manage the program.

Because there is no profit motive, co-ops are supposed to provide better coverage at lower rates. Those rates are intended to compete with for-profit companies and lower the overall increasing costs of health insurance in the U.S.

Health co-ops first began in the New Deal when Franklin D. Roosevelt created a set of programs to get the U.S. out of the Depression. The Federal Farm Administration established co-ops to bring health insurance to rural parts of the country traditionally underserved.

Most of the health co-ops from the 1940s went



Julia Hutchins (second from left) CEO of the new Colorado Health Cooperative, works with her team. Left to right: Diem Sellers, receptionist; Bill Stevenson, cooperative development director for the Rocky Mountain Farmers Union; Justin Kraus, developer; Tami Parker, outreach manager; April Buell, engagement coordinator; Rachel Moore, social media specialist.

out of business, but two major ones still survive, Group Health in Washington and HealthPartners in Minnesota.

In 2010, Sen. Kent Conrad of North Dakota became a leading proponent of adding co-ops into the Affordable Care Act. A provision was passed to award federal loans and grants to cover startup costs for co-ops, and now 24 states have federally funded co-ops that began offering plans October 1.

Colorado is among those 24 states.

When Charles Holum first learned about health cooperatives in the spring of 2011, he became enthralled with the possibilities.

Holum has lived on the edge of the health care world. His wife is a doctor, and he has done work with agricultural organizations on health care issues. He says the current system is a mess. "Health care costs and the amount of money that people are trying to extract out of the health care industry are horrifying," he said.

Holum and

have fled the market.

"No one we could find was doing one (cooperative) so we thought, okay, we'll do one."

The Rocky Mountain Farmers Union sponsored the group, and in July 2012, they received \$69.5 million in federal loans—\$12 million of which is meant to start the business and \$57 million to pay insurance claims.

Now the co-op idea has transformed into a licensed health insurance company, Colorado HealthOP, with more than 35 employees. "When we first started talking two years ago, it was like

five friends also frustrated with the current system started discussing the need for a different insurance product. "We all grabbed on to this to do something good that made sense in health care, regardless if we got any money from it," he said.

Inspired to help reverse spiraling health care costs, the group traveled the state to see if anyone was starting to set up health cooperatives. They particularly found a need for them in rural areas of Colorado where insurers

'Oh wouldn't it be amazing if we could do this.' I never imagined personally being involved in starting a health insurance company. It's a novel experience," Holum said.

Colorado HealthOP has a network of doctors and providers in Colorado, which Holum said will expand throughout the years. They aim to provide plans with lower premiums, more benefits and better quality.

Critics say co-ops likely cannot lower health care costs in the U.S. and will not be able to survive in the competitive marketplace. But according to Holum, companies have filed their rates and Colorado HealthOP is a competitive player.

Colorado HealthOP is among many insurance options in the new exchange. Colorado leads the nation in the number of plans and providers, which Holum is proud of, but says it may be overwhelming for people. "It's still going to be confusing because people haven't shopped for health care before. But the assistance they can get through different organizations and the insurance companies will help them through that, and they shouldn't be afraid to ask the navigators."

Like the Connect for Health Colorado website, Colorado HealthOP provides an online calculator to show subsidies, tax credits and premiums.

To learn more about Colorado HealthOP, visit www.cohalthop.org. To start comparing plans or get more information about the Affordable Care Act, visit www.ConnectForHealthCo.com.

"The whole point of a cooperative is to get the best product to the consumer and make our consumers healthy rather than make money." — Charles Holum

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2013 DPS School Performance Framework Scores for NE Denver Schools

SPF measures are used to calculate ratings of how well each school supports student growth and achievement, and how well it serves students and families. The system was designed to help

schools focus on strengths and areas for targeted improvement. The following categories are evaluated: academic growth, academic proficiency, student engagement, enrollment rates,

parent satisfaction, college & career readiness and improvement in college and career readiness over time. (College & career readiness are measured only in high schools.)

SPF – School Performance Framework; FRL – Free and Reduced Lunch; ELL – English Language Learner; SPED – Special Education

Level	School Name	Enrollment	% FRL	% Minority	% ELL	% SPED	% Earned Points	SPF Rating	Growth % Pts	Growth Stoplight	Parent Satisfaction Stoplight
E	Ashley Elementary School	346	96.0%	91.0%	57.5%	7.2%	44%	Accredited On Watch	52%	Meets	Meets
E	Denver Language School	455	17.8%	25.9%	10.5%	1.5%	68%	Meets Expectations	72%	Meets	Meets
E	Hallett Fundamental Academy	394	91.9%	92.6%	16.2%	15.0%	62%	Meets Expectations	63%	Meets	Meets
E	Lowry Elementary School	471	34.0%	34.8%	14.2%	6.6%	58%	Meets Expectations	53%	Meets	Meets
E	Montclair Elementary School	485	63.1%	57.5%	29.1%	6.2%	66%	Meets Expectations	64%	Meets	Meets
E	Palmer Elementary School	314	55.1%	54.5%	13.1%	12.7%	60%	Meets Expectations	65%	Meets	Approaching
E	Park Hill Elementary School	546	28.6%	30.8%	6.0%	14.1%	66%	Meets Expectations	64%	Meets	Meets
E	Polaris at Ebert	334	6.0%	9.9%	0.3%	2.4%	95%	Distinguished	93%	Exceeds	Exceeds
E	Smith Renaissance School	407	98.0%	94.1%	44.2%	12.8%	55%	Meets Expectations	66%	Meets	Approaching
E	Stedman Elementary School	323	84.2%	88.2%	22.6%	10.5%	49%	Accredited On Watch	56%	Meets	Meets
E	Westerly Creek Elementary	666	17.0%	24.0%	6.6%	7.8%	77%	Meets Expectations	71%	Meets	Meets
K-8	Denver Green School	466	57.9%	53.9%	22.7%	12.4%	66%	Meets Expectations	68%	Meets	Meets
K-8	Odyssey Charter School	225	40.0%	27.6%	1.3%	4.4%	59%	Meets Expectations	48%	Approaching	Exceeds
K-8	William (Bill) R. Roberts School	782	17.1%	23.9%	5.0%	7.3%	70%	Meets Expectations	67%	Meets	Meets
M	DSST: Stapleton Middle School	436	46.6%	51.4%	13.5%	6.0%	82%	Distinguished	77%	Meets	Meets
M	McAuliffe International School	179	21.8%	24.0%	6.1%	6.7%	93%	Distinguished	91%	Exceeds	Exceeds
M	Smiley Middle School	206	81.6%	80.6%	10.2%	28.6%	33%	Accredited On Probation	35%	Approaching	Does Not Meet
M	Venture Prep MS	211	96.2%	96.2%	30.3%	14.2%	28%	Accredited On Probation	33%	Does Not Meet	Meets
I2-Jun	Denver School of the Arts	1,060	14.7%	23.6%	1.1%	2.5%	79%	Meets Expectations	56%	Meets	Exceeds
H	DSST: Stapleton High School	508	45.9%	61.8%	6.5%	3.0%	83%	Distinguished	83%	Exceeds	Exceeds
H	East High School	2,383	36.3%	48.0%	4.2%	7.7%	81%	Distinguished	59%	Meets	Exceeds
H	George Washington High School	1,485	54.1%	63.2%	9.4%	9.9%	55%	Meets Expectations	47%	Approaching	Does Not Meet
H	Manual High School	365	80.3%	93.7%	21.6%	15.9%	25%	Accredited On Probation	12%	Does Not Meet	Does Not Meet
H	Venture Prep HS	223	81.2%	83.4%	18.4%	11.2%	49%	Accredited On Watch	70%	Meets	Exceeds

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New Online Company Offers Non-toxic Products for Home and Health



Stapleton resident Elizabeth Wasserman's new online business, True Goods, is based on the idea that a consumer has the right to know what is in the products they purchase.

By Laurie Dunklee

The fine print list of ingredients on personal and household products can be daunting. Which ingredients may be toxic? True Goods, a new educational website and online store, aims to remove the guesswork, according to founder and CEO Elizabeth Wasserman.

"It takes time to research ingredients and find non-toxic products. We do the hard work so our customers don't have to," said Wasserman.

True Goods, launching in October, is an online company that offers "a selection of household goods and personal care products that have been rigorously investigated and held to our unparalleled safety standards," according to a company fact sheet.

The company website will feature product information, articles and resources to inform consumers about what they are buying.

Wasserman started the company with "a mission and a passion to help people lead a safer life," she said.

Wasserman, a licensed clinical social worker, saw a need for the company while working with families and kids who were sick and medicated. "I saw a need for prevention, to get to the beginnings of problems before people get sick."

Her desire to help families coincided with the need to remove toxins from her own home. "My 2-year-old daughter wasn't hitting her developmental milestones, including language, coordination and motor skills. She had digestive problems. It became clear that in order to get her system in good working order it was necessary to remove the toxins—from her skin, her food, her environment. Once we were able to do that, she dramatically improved," Wasserman said.

Creating a toxin-free home environment wasn't easy, though. "I was at Whole Foods every day, looking for shampoos and other products without toxic ingredients. I was on ewg.org, [a nonprofit that researches the safety of products], every day. I thought, 'This shouldn't be so hard—I don't have time for this.'"

"I decided to make it easier for other people to find healthy products."

True Goods will sell household, personal and pet products, as well as specialty food items, clothing and health products.

Wasserman said True Goods aims to remove barriers to change once a person has made the decision to lead a safer, healthier, more socially conscious life.

Barriers include the volumes of conflicting information available. "It's not clear to most people what ingredients are the worst—what to worry about and prioritize," said Wasserman.

Another barrier is accessibility to safe products. "We'll offer the safest products, along with information. Customers can read and learn in the same place."

Products meet safety standards based on research. "Our research comes from peer-reviewed journals and scientific studies," said Wasserman. "None of it comes from somebody's blog. It's never based on our opinion."

Wasserman recommended five top items to change (for ingredients to avoid, see the ingredients "blacklist" at truegoods.com):

1. Switch from antiperspirant to deodorant, and make sure it's non-toxic.
2. Pick one shampoo/body wash for the whole family. Using

one good product saves money.

3. Choose a safe body lotion because it stays on your skin.
4. Get an all-in-one household cleaner. Reduce your quantity of products and spend your money on one good one.
5. Pet shampoo. Wash pets in something safe and don't use human shampoo.

Wasserman also recommended five no-cost options to detoxify your home:

1. Ditch the plastic. Plastics leach, especially when heated. Drink out of glass cups and heat food on non-plastic plates. Open the windows for five to 10 minutes each day. Indoor pollution is more toxic because of chemicals used to manufacture furniture and dry clean clothes, among others.
2. Take your shoes off at the door to avoid tracking in pesticides, heavy metals and germs.
3. Prepare your own meals. Less packaging equals less processing and preservatives. Whole ingredients mean less fake stuff.
4. Purchase used when possible (cars, clothes, toys). Harmful chemicals have been washed out and off-gassing of manufacturing chemicals such as formaldehyde is finished.

Wasserman said shopping healthy goes beyond our own homes and families. "Where we put our money matters," she said. "Don't put money into companies that put out toxins. Companies change because they are losing customers. Shopping allows you to be an advocate; it's the perfect vehicle for change, for doing good in the world."

For more information visit www.truegoods.com.



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Each month, the Indie Prof reviews a current film in the theater and a second film that is available on DVD or an instant-streaming service.

Follow “Indie Prof” on Facebook for updates about film events and more reviews.

Blue Caprice (2013)

This is a small film: low budget, short on exposition, tightly shot, and with a limited scope. The subjects of the film are John Allen Muhammad and Lee Boyd Malvo, better known as the D.C. snipers. The pair terrorized the D.C. area in October 2002, killing 10 people at random before they were captured at a rest area. The film doesn’t glamorize the killings or even pay much attention to them; however, the real energy is spent on a character study of the two men.

Muhammad and Malvo met in Antigua while Muhammad was there on vacation with his children; he “kidnapped” the children from his divorced wife in the U.S. Malvo was essentially abandoned by his mother on the island, and they meet when Muhammad saves Malvo from drowning. Muhammad smuggles him back to the U.S. and treats him like a son. They drift around, stay with friends, and dabble in crime. As the pair becomes more isolated from the

outside world and turn into a cohesive unit, they also get more violent.

Muhammad was a bitter man, upset at his ex-wife and former neighbors who testified against him. He is also just mad at the world, and he instills that anger and bitterness into Malvo—quickly and brutally. When Muhammad asks Malvo if he loves him, he says “Yes,” and then Malvo kills to prove that love. It’s all very dark stuff, but it is handled

quietly. First-time director Alexandre Moors shows a steady hand and mastery over the material.

The film wins by keeping its scope narrow and focusing on the psychological relationship between the pair. The cinematography is gritty and realist, and the editing mirrors the characters’ thoughts quite nicely. The writing and acting are also very good, and how closely the form matches the content is what buoys the film. This is a film that will not

get a lot of attention, so please give it some.

You will like this film if you enjoyed *Blue Valentine*, *Half Nelson*, and/or *The Hunt*.

Opened September 27 at the Sie Film Center.

I did something a bit different for the DVD choices this month: two short documentaries that demand our attention.

Sun Come Up (2011)

This is a film that is both important AND great. Very few films are both, but *Sun Come*



Blue Caprice



Sun Come Up

Up is. It tells the story of Carteret Islanders (in the South Pacific) who are forced to leave their island because the seas are rising, subsequently flooding the islands and contaminating their water table. The short documentary follows the inhabitants as they search for a new home on a nearby island.

The islanders are the world’s first environmental refugees due to global warming. Whereas *An Inconvenient Truth* described the problem to come, *Sun Come Up* shows the consequences of the problem; it is no longer tucked away in a future we can deny—it is here. The plight of the islanders is heartbreaking and compelling.

It is also an excellent *film*: the cinematography is gorgeous, the storytelling brings us close to the islanders, and the music charts the mood changes.

We are screening the film at the Sam Gary Library on Thursday, Oct. 3 at 6pm. I will introduce it and host a question and answer session after. Please join us!

You will like this film if you enjoyed *An Inconvenient Truth*, *The Cove*, or *Terraferma*.

Saving Face (2012)

This film, co-directed by Denver resident Daniel Junge, won the Academy Award in

2012 for Best Documentary Short. It tells the story of Pakistani women who are victims of acid throwing, and the doctor who works to help them. London plastic surgeon and Pakistani native Dr. Mohammad Jawad travels back to Pakistan and does pro bono work to help the women. The stories of the women are exasperating and heartbreaking, but the Dr. provides some hope and the women show wonderful courage in the face of disastrous circumstances.

The film also touches on a political fight to pass laws that would prosecute the men convicted of such crimes. The political fight plays out on the faces (literally) of the victims in this difficult yet engrossing film. Junge is a talented filmmaker and powerful

storyteller, and he was quite deserving of the Academy Award (a rarity). It is a touching film.

You will like this film if you enjoyed *Sun Come Up*, *Born Into Brothels* or *Fast Food Nation*.

You can find it on HBO GO or at the Sam Gary Library.

See the display in the Sam Gary Library for all the Indie Prof films.

Vincent Piturro, PhD, teaches Cinema Studies at Metropolitan State University of Denver. He can be reached at vpiturro@msudenver.edu.



Saving Face



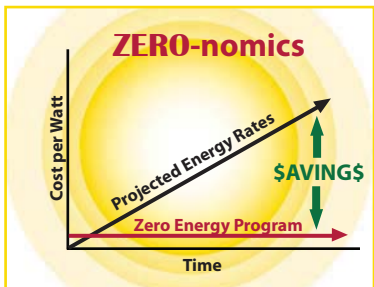
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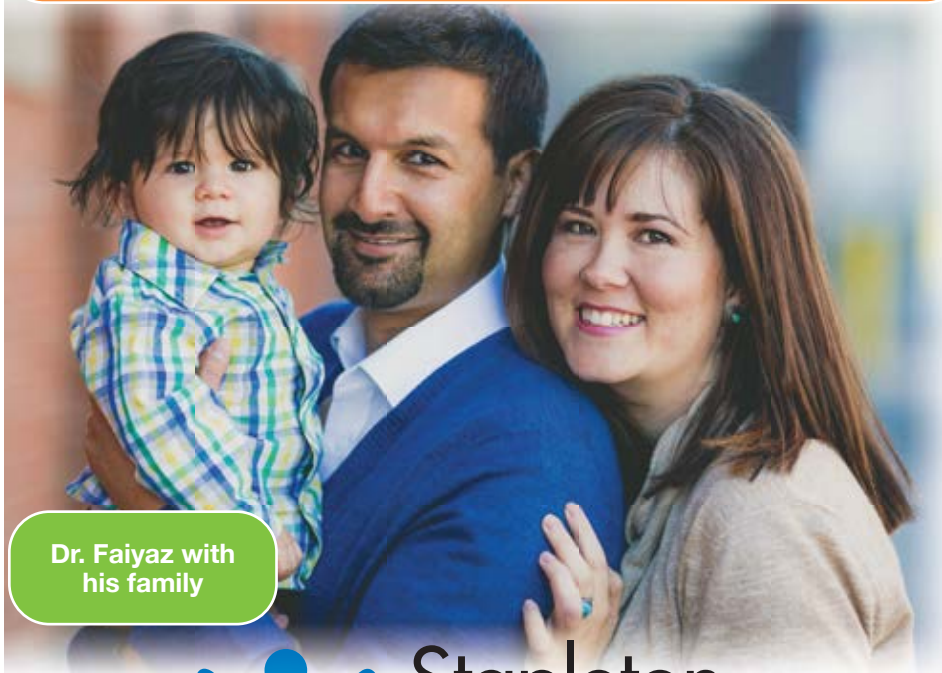
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FALL FESTIVALS AND HALLOWEEN EVENTS

10/4 Friday to 10/6 Sunday- Denver Oktoberfest. Ballpark neighborhood. www.thedenveroktoberfest.com

10/4 Friday to 10/12 Saturday- Denver Beer Fest. Citywide celebration with variety of beer-related events coincides with Great American Beer Festival. www.denver.org/denverbeerfest

10/5 Saturday and 10/6 Sunday- Pumpkin Harvest Festival at Four Mile Historic Park. 10am-4pm. FREE admission, Charge for some activities. www.fourmilepark.org

10/5 Saturday and 10/6 Sunday- Lakewood's Cider Days. Tractors, apples and more. Lakewood Heritage Center, 801 S Yarrow. Adults \$7, kids \$4 ages 3-12. www.lakewood.org/HCA

10/6 Sunday- 11th Annual Balistreri Vineyards Harvest Festival. Balistreri Vineyards, 1946 E 66th Ave. 12-6pm. Children's grape stomping 2pm. Tickets \$58. www.balistrerivineyards.com

10/11 Friday to 10/13 Sunday- Denver Botanic Gardens Pumpkin Festival. Barrel train rides, kids' activities, pumpkin patch, corn maze (through 10/31); prices vary. Botanic Gardens at Chatfield, 8500 Deer Creek Canyon Rd, Littleton. www.botanicgardens.org

10/12 Saturday- Punkin Chunkin Colorado. Pumpkin launching, family fun, food and bands. Arapahoe County Fairgrounds, 25690 Quincy, Aurora. www.auroragov.org/events

10/12 Saturday- Hay Bales and Tall Tales at Four Mile Historic Park. 11am-1pm. Free with admission. www.fourmilepark.org

10/12 Saturday- 17th Annual Festival of Scarecrows. Olde Town Arvada, 10am-2pm. www.historicarvada.org

10/18 Friday- Spooktacular at Central Park Rec Center. Kids ages 6 and under get to trick or treat, have snacks and treats. Preregister \$5; \$10 at door. 720.865.0750. 9651 E. MLK Blvd.

10/18, 19, 20, 25, 26 and 28- Ghosts in the Garden. Evening walking tours of Denver's most haunted place, The Botanic Gardens. Tickets: \$20 members; \$25 nonmembers. 12 and up. www.botanicgardens.com

10/19 Saturday- Zombie Crawl. 2pm. Skyline Park. FREE. All ages. Bring nonperishable food item for Food Bank of Rockies. www.eyehartbrains.com

10/25 Friday to 10/27 Sunday- Boo at the Zoo. Trick or treat stations, animal demonstrations, family-friendly entertainment. www.denverzoo.org

10/25 Friday to 10/27 Sunday- Trick or Treat Street at Children's Museum. Trick or treat stations, Halloween activities/entertainment included in admission. www.mychildsmuseum.org

10/26 Saturday- Lowry Halloween Festival and School Expo. 3-6pm. Lowry Town Center. 200 Quebec.

10/26 Saturday- Witches Brew Full Tea. Prizes for best witch's costume. 1pm and 3pm. Reservations required. \$20/person. Molly Brown House Museum, 1340 Pennsylvania St. 303.832.4092 x16 or www.mollybrown.org

10/27 Sunday- Hauntings at the Hangar. Halloween Festivities at Wings Over the Rockies Museum. 12-4pm. \$11/adults \$6/kids 4 and under free. Members free. www.wingsmuseum.org

Through 10/27 Sunday- Botanic Gardens Corn Maze. Denver Botanic Gardens Chatfield, 8500 W. Deer Creek Canyon Rd. www.botanicgardens.org

Through 10/31- Cottonwood Farms. Straw bale maze, 1½-acre corn maze, pumpkin patch, farm animals, wagon rides (\$3), admission free. 75th and Arapahoe, Boulder. www.cottonwoodfarms.com

Through 10/31- Crazy Cornfield Maze and Colorado Pumpkin Patch. Pumpkin patch, kids' activities, barrel rides, corn mazes. SE corner 104th Ave. and Riverdale Rd., Thornton. www.crazedcornfieldmaze.com

Through 10/31 Thursday- Fritzler Corn Maze. 7 miles south of Greeley on U.S. 85. www.fritzler-maze.com

Through 10/31 Thursday- Sunflower Farms Kids Farmfest. Pony rides, collect eggs, farm animals. Mon.-Fri. 9am-1pm: \$6. Sundays 10am-3pm: \$10. Closed Saturday. 11150 Prospect Rd, Longmont.

Through 10/31 Thursday- Rock Creek Farms. U Pick-em pumpkin patch, straw bale maze, corn maze with 5 miles of paths, farm animals. 2005 S. 112th St, Broomfield. www.rockcreekfarm.com

Weekends in October- May Farms Harvest Festival. Barrel rides, barnyard, pumpkin canon and more. No corn maze due to drought. 64001 E. Hwy 36, Byers. www.mayfarms.com

Weekends in October- Mazzotti Farms Corn Maze and Pumpkin Patch. 10am-6pm. Giant slide, petting zoo tipi, corn maze, 1 pumpkin per \$10/person admission. 24120 Weld County Road 8, Hudson. 303.536.4089, www.mazzottifarms.com

Weekends in October- Heritage Square Miners Maze, Adventureland's Boo Town. 11am-7pm. All ages. 18301 W. Colfax Ave., Golden. www.miners-mazeadventureland.com

Weekends in October- Rocky Mountain Pumpkin Ranch Fall Festival. Hay bale maze, corn maze, petting zoo, pony rides. 9057 Ute Hwy/CO 66, Longmont. www.rockymtnpumpkinranch.com

11/1 Friday- Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) Mexican celebration to remember deceased loved ones; traditional Aztec dancing, costume contest, sugar skull workshop, face painting and more. 3-8pm, Denver Botanic Gardens. \$12/adult nonmember; \$10/adult member; \$8/child nonmember; \$6 child member; under 2 free. www.botanicgardens.org

Through 11/2 Saturday- Anderson Farms Fall Fest. Pumpkin patch, corn maze, barrel train and more. 6728 County Rd 3¼, Erie. www.anderson-farms.com

Through 11/9- The 13th Floor. Haunted House, 4120 Brighton Blvd C2. Ages 13 and up. www.getscared.com

Through mid-November- Miller Farms Fall Harvest Festival. Corn maze, petting zoo, fire truck, tractor rides, harvest vegetables included in admission (see website). 9040 Hwy 66, Platteville. 9am-6pm daily. www.millerfarms.net

RECURRING ARTWALKS

First Fridays

Santa Fe Arts District. Santa Fe Dr. between 10th and 6th. 5-8pm. www.artdistrictonSantaFe.com

North Denver's Tennyson Art Walk. Tennyson St. and 44th Ave. 6-10pm. www.denverartwalk.squarespace.com

River North (RiNo) Art District. 6-9pm. RiNo starts at Broadway and Walnut St. www.RiverNorthart.com

Golden Triangle Museum District. 5-9pm. www.goldentriangleofdenver.com

Navajo Street Art District. 5-9pm. www.navajostreetartdistrict.com

Third Friday

Santa Fe Arts District. Santa Fe Dr. between 10th and 6th. 5-8pm. www.artdistrictonSantaFe.com

DENVER METRO EVENTS

Denver Public Art Tours. FREE tours by foot, bike, scooter, for art/architecture lovers. Reservations required. Schedule/signup: www.denvergov.org/publicart. Also download PDF of Denver's Public Art Guide.

St. Mary's Academy Open Houses- Pre K-5th grade- 10/22 8:30-10am. 6-8th grade- 10/24 8:30-10am. All-girls high school- 11/9 10am-2pm. 4545 S. University Blvd, Englewood, CO 80113. <http://www.smanet.org/>.

Stanley British Primary School Open Houses- Kindergarten-8th grade. 10/8 6pm, 10/17 9am, 11/16 10am. 350 Quebec St., Denver, CO 80220. 303-360-0803, ext. 167. admission@stanleybps.org.

10/5 Saturday- Windsor Gardens One Day Fall Fest Art Show. 9am-5pm. FREE. 595 S Clinton St. Priscilla Kai: 303.340.2012

10/5 Saturday- Urban Market on 16th Street Mall. 11am-7pm. FREE. Repeats 10/12. www.coloradoevents.net

10/5 Saturday- FREE Learn to Compost classes. 9-11am. Offered by Denver Recycles. Registration required: 303.292.9900 or www.dug.org/compost repeats 10/12

10/12 Saturday- Cockpit Demo Day. Wings Over the Rockies Museum, Lowry. 10am-2pm. www.wingsmuseum.org

10/18 Friday to 10/20 Sunday- 13th Annual Lindy Diversion. Presented by Community Minded Dance. Tickets: www.lindydiversion.com or cmdance.org

10/19 Saturday- Denver Woman's Press Club Fiction Writing Seminar. 3 prominent fiction writers teach 3 fiction writing essentials: character, setting, action. 8:30am-noon. \$45 includes handouts and refreshments. Denver Woman's Press Club, 1325 Logan St. Park free in north lot. Sally Stich: 303.757.3765, ssstich9083@aol.com

10/20 Sunday- Fall Collection & Holiday Preview Party. Celebrate harvest season at Ten Thousand Villages. Live music (12:30-2:30pm), autumn-inspired food/drink, prize drawings. Shop fair trade items, including handmade nativities. 12-4pm. FREE. 2626 E 3rd Ave. 303.316.8773

10/27 Sunday to 10/29 Tuesday- Only in America.



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 <p>SOLD Buyer Rep</p> <p>14062 Lexington Ave. \$545,000</p>	 <p>Under Contract</p> <p>2145 Elliot St. \$480,000</p>	 <p>SOLD Buyer Rep</p> <p>5423 E Dry Creek Cir \$445,000</p>
 <p>SOLD</p> <p>3650 Utica St. \$315,000</p>	 <p>SOLD</p> <p>10048 E 28th Ave \$300,000</p>	 <p>Just Listed</p> <p>2576 Syracuse St. \$259,900</p>

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Presented by The Damsels Dance Company. Tickets \$20. Avenue Theatre, 417 E 17th Ave. 720.785.3678

11/9 Friday- St. Annes Episcopal school open house. 9-11am. Mother Irene Library, 2701 S. York St., Denver, CO 80201. RSVP to arelyea@st-annes.org or to Alicia Relyea 303-756-9481 x206

11/15 Friday- 4th Annual be well Community Celebration. 5:30-8pm. Doubletree Hotel, 3333 Quebec St. Keynote speaker: U.S. Sen. Mark Udall; Host: Reggie Rivers, former Bronco. RSVP to Leslie Joseph: 303.468.3223

Denver Film Society. Daily movies/programs. Lowenstein Complex, 2510 E Colfax and various locations. www.denverfilm.org

FREE Wednesday Senior Activities. 1st Wed., 10am, crafts/light lunch; 2nd Wed., 12pm, big lunch/entertainment; 4th Wed., 12pm, light lunch/bingo. RSVP: 303.439.7554 for big lunch, 303.807.0619 for other services. Bosworth House, 1400 Josephine St. Sponsor: Assistance League of Denver

Denver Urban Homesteading Farmers Market. Indoor, year-round farmers market and homesteading school with local/organic foods. Thurs/Fri 3-7pm, Sat 9am-3pm. 200 Santa Fe Dr. FREE. www.denverurbanhomesteading.com for classes/seminars

Denver 2 for 1 Tix. Weekly 2 for 1 ticket and admission discounts for metro Denver arts and entertainment. www.denver2for1tix.com

More ideas on what to do in Denver: Visit www.denver.org or www.GalleryGuideDenver.com.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

10/5 Saturday- King Soopers Health and Wellness Expo 2013. 9am-5pm. Colorado Convention Center. Tickets \$5 at all King Soopers; under 18 free. www.kingsooper-shealtheexpo.com

10/6 Sunday- Free to Breath Denver 5K Walk/Run. To raise lung cancer awareness. 8am. Washington Park. www.freetobreathe.org

10/6 Sunday- The Retro Run. Untimed 5K at City Park. 9am. theretorun5k.com.

10/11 Friday- Essential Oil Happy Hour. Enjoy an evening of great company, cocktails, and fun music, as you sample essential oils. 5:30pm-7:30pm. MCA community room, 2823 Roslyn Street. loralovesyoga@gmail.com. Free.

10/12 Saturday- Lozilu Women's Mud Run. Mud run and obstacle course to raise cancer awareness. Waves begin at 9am. Dicks Sporting Goods Park. www.lozilu.com

10/17 Thursday- Free HIV testing at Rocky Mountain CARES nonprofit for holistic HIV care. 1-5pm, 3rd Thurs. monthly and by appt. 4545 E 9th Ave, #120. Shannon Southall: 303.951.3694

10/17 Thursday- Instructive & Interactive Talk on Acupuncture + Injection Therapy. Blue Creek Urban Health Retreat, 7488 E 29th Ave. 6-7pm. FREE. RSVP: 303.573.7484.

10/20 Sunday- Denver Rock 'n' Roll Marathon, ½ Marathon and Relay. Register: www.runrocknroll.competitor.com/denver

10/25 Friday- Free clinic on Skin Care and Botox. 9-11am. Stapleton MCA Community Rm. 2823 Roslyn St.

RSVP: Preet Clair, DDS at Stapletonskincare@gmail.com. Repeats 10/28, 6-8pm.

10/26 Saturday- Denver Gorilla Run. 9:30 registration; race 11am. Start and finish at Wynkoop Brewery, 18th and Wynkoop. www.denvergorillarun.com

10/26 Saturday- Instructive & Interactive Talk on Acupuncture + Fertility. Bring questions. Blue Creek Urban Health Retreat, 7488 E 29th Ave. 9-10am. RSVP: 303.573.7484

11/1 Friday- Destination Health. Presentations about health care changes, including Affordable Care Act and session on wellness. Cost: \$45/Aurora Chamber members, \$55/non-Chamber members, \$35/students; includes breakfast and lunch. Red Lion Hotel Denver SE, 3200 S. Parker Rd., Aurora. Register: www.aurorachamber.org (click on Destination Health icon at left), or mitzi.schindler@aurorachamber.org , 303.344.1500.

FREE Car Seat Inspections. Most car seats are used incorrectly. Children's Hospital Colorado offers free inspections at Aurora Main Campus by child passenger safety professionals. Wed. 1-3pm, Sat. 9am-12pm. Schedule appointment: 720.777.4808

Base Fitness Denver. Boot camp classes, indoor/outdoor: 7565 E. Academy Blvd., Lowry. info@basefitnessdenver.com, 303.539.4877

LECTURES AND CLASSES

Denver IDEA Café. FREE startup workshop and speakers presented by Small Business Chamber of Commerce. 2-4pm, 2nd & 4th Fridays, Tony's Market, 950 Broadway. 303.861.1447 or www.SmallBizChamber.org

Active Minds – Info on all sessions: www.ActiveMinds.com. FREE.

10/1 Tuesday- The Kurds. 10:15-11:15am. Jewish Community Center, 350 S Dahlia St. 303.316.6359

10/10 Thursday- The History of Horse Racing. 7pm. Stapleton Master Community Assoc., 2823 Roslyn St. 303.388.0724

10/19 Saturday- The Struggle of Syria. 10am-12pm, program 10:30am. Green Valley Ranch- Fairway Villas by Oakwood Homes, 19394 E 54th Pl. RSVP: 303.403.2205

10/22 Tuesday- Colorado Ghost Stories. 5:30-6:30pm. Tattered Cover, 2526 E Colfax. 303.322.7727

10/24 Thursday- Germany. 7pm. Stapleton Master Community Assoc., 2823 Roslyn St. 303.388.0724

11/5 Tuesday- Abraham Lincoln. 10:15-11:15am. Jewish Community Center, 350 S Dahlia St. 303.316.6359

11/1 Friday and 11/2 Saturday- Jesus and Paul: Then and Now. Presented by two foremost Jesus scholars Marcus Borg and John D. Crossan. Fri. 7pm and Sat, 9am, 11am or 1:30pm. Each lecture \$15, all 4 lectures \$60 plus lunch. Messiah Community Church, 1750 Colorado Blvd. http://www.messiahdenver.org/, 303-355-4471.

LIBRARIES

Visit www.denverlibrary.org for children's story hours, book club info, crafts sessions and complete program list.

Park Hill Library, 4705 Montview Blvd. 720.865.0250. Closed Sun.

Pauline Robinson Library, 5575 E. 33rd Ave.

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RECURRING MEETINGS

BUSINESS GROUPS

GREATER STAPLETON BUSINESS ASSOC. 3rd Tuesday, 8am. MCA, 2823 Roslyn St. http://www.stapletonbusiness.com 303-393-7700.

STAPLETON AND BEYOND NETWORKING GROUP- First Tuesday, 8:30-10am, Aaron.Ktafoya@farmer-sagency.com, 303-955-0861

WORK-FROM-HOME GROUP. 1st Wednesday, 12-1pm. Smartspace, 2373 Central Park Blvd #100. Brown bag or group order for lunch. http://www.stapletonhomebusiness.com

CIVIC GROUPS

BLUFF LAKE SITE STEWARDS. Every Wednesday, 8-11am. Bluff Lake Nature Center. 303-945-6717

NPET: First Saturday Clean Up Activities. 9 AM-12 Noon. Contact Caroline Fry, Sand Creek Regional Greenway CFry@Sandcreekgreenway.org or Lucia Correll Lcorrell@dotnet.net for place each month.

P.E.O. INTERNATIONAL LOCAL CHAPTER MEETING. Supporting women's educational opportunities. 2nd Thursday, 7pm. copeojc@gmail.com

STAPLETON ROTARY CLUB. Every Tuesday, 7:30am. Stapleton Community Room, 2823 Roslyn St. http://www.denverstapletonrotary.org

INTEREST GROUPS

BLUFF LAKE BIRDERS. 1st Saturday, 8am. Nature Center. BluffLakeNatureCenter.org

COLORADO FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS. 3rd Thursday. Grace, 303-455-0839

COLORADO SYMPHONY GUILD. Every 3rd Thursday at St. Luke's Church, 13th & Quebec, 10am-12pm. All are welcome. macregar@gmail.com.

CYCLETON BIKE REPAIR CLINIC. 2nd Tuesday, 6pm. 7480 E. 29th Ave. http://www.cycleton.com 303.329.0069.

DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION . 3rd Saturday. Adagio Bed and Breakfast, 1430 Race St. Prospective members welcome- rsvp to Helen Strader, 303-997-6788

HOUSE DIST 7 REPUBLICANS. 7pm, 1st Mon. after 1st Tues. Islamorada Fish Co (inside Bass Pro). chrismaj@gmail.com

LOWRY PEAK SPEAKERS TOASTMASTER CLUB. 2nd and 3rd Wednesday, noon- 1pm. Pinnacol Assurance, 7501 E. Lowry Blvd, Denver 80203. lowrypeak.freetoasthost.org lpstoastmasters@gmail.com

STAPLETON WINE APPRECIATION GROUP. Periodically. stapletonswag@gmail.com

STAPLETON GROUPS

PARKS ADVISORY GROUP. 2nd Tuesday, 8:30am. 7350 E 29th Ave, 3rd Fl. Lcorrell@dotnet.net

STAPLETON CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD MTG. 3rd Thursday, 7:30-9am. 7350 E. 29th Ave., 3rd fl. 303.393.7700

STAPLETON DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION MTG. 4th Thursday, 7:30-9am. 7350 E. 29th Ave., 3rd fl. 303.393.7700

SUN BOARD MTG. 4th Monday, 7:30pm. Central Park Rec Center, 9651 MLK Jr. Blvd. stapletonunited-neighbors@gmail.com

SUN TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE. 2nd Wed. (odd-numbered mos.) 6:30pm. MCA 2823 Roslyn St. stapletonneighbors@msn.com

SUPPORT GROUPS

AA OPEN DISCUSSION MTG. Every Tuesday, 7:30pm. MCA, 2823 Roslyn St. 303-912-7075

AA OPEN MEETING. Every Tuesday, 6pm. St Thomas Episcopal Church, 22nd and Dexter. Shirley 303.726.2998

ADOPTees IN SEARCH GENERAL MEETING. 4th Tuesday, 7:30-9pm. Montview Presby. Church, Study Group Room. AISCTC.org 303-232-6302.

ADOPTees IN SEARCH SUPPORT GROUP. 2nd Wednesday, 7-8:30pm. Montview Presby. Church, Robinsom Rm. AISCTC.org 303-232-6302.

BREAST CANCER SUPPORT GROUP. 1st Tuesday, 5-6:30pm. AF Williams Family Medicine Clinic Conf Rm. (West entrance) 3055 Roslyn (at MLK). 720-848-9000.

NE DENVER/PARK HILL MS SELF-HELP AND SUPPORT GROUP. 2nd Saturday, 10:15-11:45am. Dist. 2 Police Station, 3821 Holly St. 303-329-0619

PARKINSON SUPPORT GROUP IN NORTHEAST DENVER. 4th Saturday, 9:30am. Hiawatha Davis Recreation Center, 3334 Holly St. http://www.parkinsonrockies.org Regina Jones 720-298-5760

720.865.0290. Closed Sun.

Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St. 720.865.0325.

Schlessman Family Library, 100 Poplar St. (1st and Quebec). 720.865.0000. Closed Fri.

NORTHEAST DENVER/AURORA EVENTS

10/1 Tuesday to 10/7 Monday- 3rd Annual Stapleton Community Food Drive. Look for bag to be delivered to your door to place items in with directions for donating. Sponsored by New Perspective Real Estate. www.facebook.com/NPREco

10/3 Thursday- Stanley British Primary School Event. 350 Quebec Ct., 5-8pm. Open to Stanley British Primary School students, their parents and those interested in the Simwatachela Sustainable Agricultural and Arts Program (SSAAP.com) to learn how students from the school are turning their efforts to cleaner water in Simwatachela, Zambia. For sale: student hand-made art and baked goods; live/silent auction for African art and other items.

10/4 Friday and 10/18 Friday- Mom Time at Montview. 1st, 3rd and 5th Fridays. Mothers of young children learn and support each other. Each session topic on parenting, life balance, self-care. Breakfast and childcare provided. Montview Presbyterian Church, 1980 Dahlia. Rm. 305. 9:15-11:15am. Info: www.montviewmomtime.wordpress.com; Leah at leahcnoliver@yahoo.com; Anna at Anna.A.Clark@gmail.com.

10/6 Sunday- Bill Roberts FUNdraiser 5K and 1 mile run. 8-11am. Bill Roberts School, 2100 N. Akron Way. <https://billrobertsk8.ticketbud.com/funrun>

10/19 Saturday- Ignite the Light Fundraiser and Gala. Kim Robards Dance presents sneak peek of company's repertoire. Fundraiser for this season's educational projects and performances in new home in Aurora Cultural Arts District. 7pm. 9990 E Colfax Ave., Aurora. 303.825.4847, tickets@kimrobardsdance.org, www.kimrobardsdance.org

10/22 Tuesday- Lowry Foundation Speaker Series. Speaker: Richard Franklin, father of swimming star Missy Franklin. Eisenhower Chapel, 293 Roslyn St. 7-8:30pm. www.lowry.org/calendar

10/24 Thursday- Wine Tasting Event at Lowry Eisenhower Chapel. 5:30-7:30pm. Tour historic Eisenhower Chapel and sample 20+ fine wines from Marczyk Fine Foods' Fairfax Wine and Spirits. Benefits Lowry Foundation's Community Grants Program. Tickets \$20 at 303.344.0481 or email lowryfoundation@gmail.com

10/25 Friday- GAS! (Green Art Sale). Free community-based market at Art Garage in Park Hill. 5:30-8:30pm. GAS! artists, craftspeople, musicians and specialty food vendors exhibit, perform and sell. 6100 E. 23d Ave. www.artgaragedenver.com

10/26 Saturday- 2nd Annual Fax Fall Fair. Marczyk's Fine Foods.

10am-3pm. www.thefaxdenver.com

Fridays and Saturdays- Wine Tastings. Wine Cellars, the Bottle Shop of Stapleton. 4-7pm. FREE. www.facebook.com/WineCellarsatStapleton

Central Park Recreation Center. Info: www.denvergov.org/recreation, 750.865.0750 or Facebook Central Park Recreation Center. Register for programs.

October events- Unity on the Avenue, 4670 E. 17th Ave. www.unityontheavenue.org or 303.322.3901.

BLUFF LAKE NATURE CENTER

3400 Havana Way, Denver. www.blufflakenaturecenter.org

10/4 Friday- Bluff Lake Buds. Family preschool program: 10-11am. Crawly Critters! Ages 2-5 accompanied by parent. Circle time, interactive stations and short hike. \$5/child if advance register at amillman@blufflake.org; adults free. Repeats 10/18.

10/19 Saturday- Bluff Lake Flood Debris Cleanup. 9am-1pm; show up at any time. BLNC was recently badly flooded. Need several days of volunteers to help sustain our habitats. Bluff Lake Nature Center, 3400 Havana Way. Register: cstory@blufflake.org, www.blufflakenaturecenter.org. Repeats 10/27

DENVER ART MUSEUM

100 West 14th Ave Parkway, www.denverartmuseum.org

Passport to Paris opens 10/27 and runs through 2/9. This is a ticketed exhibit.

10/25- Final Friday at Denver Art Museum, Untitled. 6-10pm. Music, cash bar, munchies, offbeat art encounters, unique de tours of DAM collection. General admission applies; members free. www.denverartmuseum.org

DENVER MUSEUM OF NATURE AND SCIENCE

Montview and Colorado Blvd. www.dmns.org, 303.370.6000

Opening 10/11 Friday- MythBusters: The Explosive Exhibition. Exhibit ticket required in addition to museum admission.

10/17 Thursday- Science Lounge. Cocktails/entertainment every 3rd Thurs. monthly. 6:30-9:30pm. \$8/members; \$10/nonmembers

Planetarium- Passport to the Universe; Black Holes, One World, One Sky, Cosmic Journey: A Solar System Adventure. www.dmns.org/planetarium/current-show

IMAX Movies- Meerkats 3D, Flight of the Butterflies 3D, Great White Shark 3D, Rocky Mountain Express 2D. Various times. Tickets: \$8/3-18; \$10/adult

NORTHFIELD EVENTS

The Shops at Northfield Stapleton:

Bass Pro Events- 720.385.3600, www.BassPro.com

Hunting, fishing and marine seminars offered throughout month.

Harkins Theatres 18- 720.374.3118

New Releases

10/4 – Parkland, 3D Gravity, Runner Runner

10/11 – Captain Phillips, Machete Kills, Sweetwater

10/18 – Escape Plan, We Are What We Are

10/25 – All Is Lost, 12 Years a Slave, The Counselor

Improv Comedy Club and Dinner Theatre- Tickets: 303.307.1777, www.ImprovDenver.com Prices vary based on comedian and show time.

Toby Keith's I Love This Bar & Grill- 303.728.9468, www.countrybarco.com

Local and regional live music nightly.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN ARSENAL NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Check website for reopening date; was closed due to Sept. flooding.

Reservations required for events marked* at 303.289.0930. Free unless noted. Hours: Mon.-Sun., 6am-6pm. Visitor Center: Tues.-Sun., 9am-4pm. Refuge closed federal holidays. http://www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky_mountain_arsenal/.

THEATRE

Through 10/27- Defending the Caveman. Galleria Theatre, 14th and Curtis. Denver Center for Performing Arts. www.denvercenter.org

Through 10/26 - The Complete World of Sports. Avenue Theater, 417 E. 17th Ave. www.avenuetheater.com

10/4 to 11/3- The Legend of Sleepy Hollow. Aurora Fox Arts Center, 9900 E Colfax Ave. www.aurorafoxartscenter.org

10/4 to 11/3- Avenue Q. Presented by Ignite Theatre. www.ignitetheatre.com. Aurora Fox Arts Center, 9900 E Colfax Ave. www.aurorafoxartscenter.org

10/11 to 11/10- Shadowlands. Vintage Theatre, 1468 Dayton St, Aurora. 303.856.7830, www.vintagetheatre.com

10/12 to 11/9- Witness for the Prosecution. Spotlight Theatre Company at John Hand Theater. www.johnhandtheater.com

Through 10/27- Around the World in 80 Days. Arvada Center, 6901 Wadsworth Blvd. www.arvadacenter.org

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Cooking Matters- Kids/families free course on budget shopping and preparing healthy, affordable meals. Volunteers needed at multiple locations/days to help. Learn Share our Strength Cooking Matters and all opportunities at covolunteer@strength.org.

Girl Scouts- With thousands of girls on waiting lists, Girl Scouts of Colorado is in critical need of adult volunteers. Contact: girlscoutsofcolorado.org, inquiry@gscolorado.org or 1.877.404.5708.

Project Worthmore. Volunteers for teams (6-month commit) to assist Burmese refugees by "cultural mentorship" (how to ride bus, grocery shop, bank, enroll kids in school, navigate government paperwork, etc.). www.projectworthmore.org

Single Volunteers of Greater Denver. Visit www.svgd.org for volunteer opportunities for singles: local projects, charitable social events and working vacations abroad.

Volunteers of America Foster Grandparent Program. Seeks adults 55+ with lower incomes who love working with kids and can give 15/more hours/week. Small stipend given; transportation reimbursed. www.voacolorado.org, 303.297.0408 (Naomi Taggart)

Assistance League of Denver. Seeks members to help underserved in





metro Denver. Programs for victims, students, children, seniors. www.denverassistanceleague.org or 303.322.5205

Reading Volunteers Needed. At Odyssey School or Venture Prep Middle School for 2013-14 school year to share one-on-one reading. Email Julie@PartnersinLiteracy.org

Summer Scholars. Year-round volunteers needed to read with students/assist in office. www.summerscholars.org, 303.381.3738

KIDS AND FAMILIES

10/3 Thursday to 10/13 Sunday- Ringling Bros Barnum & Bailey Circus. Denver Coliseum. www.ringling.com

10/5 Saturday and 10/6 Sunday- Forney Transportation Museum Moffat Modelers Toy Train Layout. Scale toy train layout open first week-end every month. Free with museum admission. 4303 Brighton Blvd. www.forneymuseum.org

10/9 Wednesday- Create Playdates at Denver Art Museum. Kids 3-5 roar, bang, stomp 2nd Wed/month. 10am. Art, story times, scavenger hunts. Included in museum adm; 5 and under free. 100 W 14th Ave Pkwy. www.denverartmuseum.org or 720.865.5000

10/13 Sunday- Junior Rangers. 1:30-3:30pm. Ages 6-12. Morrison Nature Center, 16002 E Smith Rd, Aurora. Reservations required. 303.739.9428, www.auroragov.org/nature

10/17 Thursday- Wands and Wishes Character Story Time at The Bookies Bookstore. 2nd Thurs each month, characters read interactive stories, sing a song, pose for photos; different character monthly. 10:30am. FREE. 4315 E. Mississippi Ave. wandsandwishesoccasions.com, 303.883.6778

10/26 Saturday- Bladium Kids' Fest. 12-3pm. <http://www.bladium.com/> 303.320.3033

Through 12/1- Rumpelstiltskin. Denver Puppet Theatre, 3156 W 38th Ave. Tickets: \$7 ages 3 and up. 303.458.6446, www.denverpuppettheater.com

Thursdays in October- Star K Kids. Puppets, stories, activities, outdoor explore, ages 5 and under. 9:30 & 11am. Morrison Nature Center, 16002 E Smith Rd, Aurora. 303.739.2428, www.auroragov.org/nature

10/25 Friday- Denver Botanic Gardens Family Fun Night. 4th Friday each month explore nature at night in Mordecai Children's Garden. Monthly themes with actors in Sagebrush Stage, snacks by campfire, etc. \$20 member/family of 4, \$3 each extra. \$25 nonmember/family of 4, \$4 each additional. Kids 2 and under free. www.botanicgardens.org

KIDS CAMPS AND CLASSES

Aurora Fox Theater- Drama classes ages 4 and up. Lisa Mumpton: 303.739.1573 or www.aurorafox.org

Art Students League of Denver- Programs for kids/teens. 303.778.6990, www.ASLD.org

Spark It Studios- Art classes in Stapleton. www.sparkitdenver.com

Start Art- Art classes. Startartkids.com

The Art Garage- Classes ages 4 and up. Now offers adult evening classes. 6100 E 23rd Ave, Park Hill. www.artgaragedenver.com

10/5 Saturday- Home Depot Kids Workshop. 9am-12pm. FREE how-to clinics first Sat. monthly, ages 5-12. Get Home Depot apron, wooden project and project pin. Metro-area Home Depot stores. www.homedepot.com

10/12 and 10/26 Saturdays- Lowe's Build and Grow Kids Clinics. Bring kids to Lowe's store to build FREE wood project: free apron, goggles, project-themed patch, merit certificate on completion. 10am. www.lowes-buildandgrow.com

Denver Museum of Miniatures, Dolls and Toys Workshops. Museum adm.: \$6/adults, \$4/kids 5-16/under 5 free. 1880 Gaylord St. www.dmmtd.org for current workshops

The Urban Farm- Embracing Horses. info@theurbanfarm.org

Neighborhood Music Stapleton- Private and group instruction, piano, voice, guitar, ukulele, mandolin, violin and drums. Ages 3 and up. Skye Barker Maa. 720.353.6622, www.neighborhoodmusicstapleton.com

Music Lingua Musical Spanish Classes- Ages newborn-6 years. Learn Spanish in interactive parent/tot classes. samanthabensoncox@hotmail.com, www.musiclingua.com

Jewish Community Center- Variety of programs for kids grades K-5. www.jcc.org

Stapleton All Sports- Registering for various sports. www.stapletonall-sports.com

SolVida Dance Studio and Dance Camps- Kid/adult classes, workshops, camps, etc. www.solvidadance.com

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October 22 **October 24**
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November 9
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

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More Events

Food Drive—First Week in October

The 3rd Annual Stapleton Community Food Drive benefits the Food Bank of the Rockies. Sponsored by New Perspective Real Estate and with the support of local businesses and neighbors, the Food Drive raised 2,500 lbs. of nonperishable goods in the past two years. This year, the goal is 5,000 lbs. There are three ways to donate:

- 1) From October 1 to 7, drop off canned goods at the following locations: *Businesses*—Amore Fiori, Blue Creek—An Urban Health Retreat, Dance Institute, Mici-Handcrafted Italian, New Perspective Real Estate *Schools*: Bill Roberts School, Isabella Bird Community School, McAuliffe International School, Odyssey Charter School, Swigert International School
Stapleton Master Community Association
- 2) Fill the brown paper collection bag that was delivered to Stapleton homes on Friday, Sept. 27 with nonperishable items. Place the bag on your front porch by Saturday, Oct. 5, 8am and your donation. will be picked up.
- 3) Make a cash donation directly to Food Bank of The Rockies: <http://www.foodbankrockies.org/goto/stapleton2013>

Oct. 5—Financial Planning Day

Free and open to the public, this event on Saturday, Oct. 5, from 9am–2pm, brings professional financial advisors for live classroom sessions or webcasts topics for adults AND children. One-on-one meetings can be in person or by phone—a toll-free number on event day only at 1.855.2233. Bring financial, insurance or other documents to ensure accurate assistance. Location: Metro State University School of Business, Auraria Campus. More info: <http://cofpa.org/financial-planning-day>.

Oct. 12—The Blue Bench 5K Run/Walk

The Blue Bench 5K walk/run and Kids Fun Run on Saturday, Oct. 12 will celebrate the organization's 30 years of helping eliminate sexual assault and diminish its impact on all those affected by its trauma. The race begins at 9am at Central Park Stapleton, 9651 E. MLK Blvd. Participants



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www.PARKWOODHOMES.com

To submit Front Porch "Local Event" Listings

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

will receive a picnic blanket, goodie bag, refreshments, snacks and complimentary beer from O'Dell Brewing Co. Also, chances to win prizes. Register at <http://www.RunningGuru.com/Event/BlueBench>.

October 16—Modern Conversations "Tricky behavior from toddler to teen"

7-8:30pm on October 16, Hilary Silver will host her the second in a six-part series called, "Tackling tricky behavior from toddler to teeb." The free MCA-sponsored monthly seminar is open to the public. Silver is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker with more than a decade of experience and ten years of her private practice. Guest speaker, Ariel Shea (LCSW with emphasis in child behavior) will join the October 16 discussion to address questions like: Is this normal behavior? What am I doing wrong? How do I not make this worse? In a later month, part two of this discussion will address issues regarding older kids, like monitoring screen time, setting limits and being your child's ally and "friend" while maintaining authority. Topics for other upcoming months include: dealing with stress and anxiety, dealing with divorce when kids are in the picture, and dating with children and blended families. These topics could change.

Reserve at hsilver33@gmail.com or call/text 720.935.7393. Also see www.SilverTherapyGroup.com for more info. The sessions are held in the Stapleton MCA Community Room at 2823 Roslyn St.

October 23—DPS Middle & High School Expo

On Wednesday, Oct. 23, from 6–8pm, DPS will host the Middle & High School Expo, providing families with the

(continued on p. 28)

More Events (continued from p. 27)

opportunity to explore more than 60 middle and high school options within DPS. All families with children in grades ECE through 8th are encouraged to attend and visit with principals, teachers and students from your schools of choice. The event is being held at Sports Authority Field at Mile High Stadium; park in Lot C and enter at Gate 2. For more info, contact 720.423.3414 or <http://dpsk12.org/expo>.

Oct. 26 & 27—Arts & Crafts Sale at Sam Gary Library

Denver Public Library's first-ever "Arts & Crafts at the Library" sale will feature handmade items of current and former DPL employees, their friends and families. Profits go to the artists but their application fees are being donated to the Denver Employees' Combined Campaign where city employees can donate to their choice of nonprofits. Painters, sculptors, illustrators, tapestry artists, cartoonists, woodworkers and others will sell their artwork at the Sam Gary Branch Library, 2961 N. Roslyn St., on Saturday, Oct. 26, 9am–5pm, and Sunday, Oct. 27, 1–5pm. No admission fee. Cash and checks accepted.

Wednesdays through Nov. 13—Free Mini Med School at Anschutz Campus

The free nine-week lecture series on health issues, taught by faculty of the CU School of Medicine, will be held at the Anschutz Medical Campus. Weekly classes, held on Wednesday evenings through Nov. 13, will include: Obesity, Heart and Heart Attack, Women's Health, Smoking

and COPD, End of Life Care, Mental Illness, Pediatrics. No charge to attend, but registration is required. Register: medschool.ucdenver.edu/minimed. This is a community service of the CU School of Medicine. Each presentation includes an hour on the evening's topic followed by a question-and-answer session.

November 2—Puppy Up! Walk to Benefit Dog Research

This third annual child- and pet-friendly walk will be held on Saturday, Nov. 2 to raise money for The 2 Million Dogs Foundation, which is committed to discovering common links between canine and human cancers and their causes. See Angelyne, a performing deaf cattle dog, and Nakio, world's first dog with four prosthetic legs. Entertainment, vendors, food and music. Stapleton's Central Park. Registration 8am; ceremony/walk 10am. Register online at www.2milliondogs.org/walks/join-a-walk/

Through Nov. 8—Fotostream Photography Competition

The inaugural Sand Creek Regional Greenway Partnership (SCRGP) photo competition and show is open to all photographers for photos taken within the Greenway either before the recent storms or recently. The suggested photo site is the Aurora section of the Greenway, east of Peoria and Bluff Lake Nature Center. Other sections are closed due to safety concerns and trail destruction. Submit photos by Nov. 8; photographers will be notified of photo acceptance by Dec. 13. The show opens Jan. 24, with a reception and awards (cash and signed John Fielder photos). Apply online: <https://www.callforentry.org/> (Fotostream). Entry fees, rules and guidelines at <http://sandcreekgreenway.org/newsevents/photo-contest/> or Katie Lampe: 303.468.3262 or klampe@sandcreekgreenway.org.

School Finance (continued from p. 3)

economy recovering, Johnson says maybe \$50 million will come back into education, but after that the state will hit the TABOR limit and will have to start sending tax refunds. "It is constitutionally impossible that you will ever restore more than 5% of the lost revenue for K-12 unless you go to the voters," he says.

Average tax increase: \$133 per person per year. The School Finance Bill, if passed, will result in the average taxpayer in Colorado paying about \$133 more per year in income tax.

Level of Colorado taxes will remain competitive in attracting businesses. Johnston says even after this passes, Colorado will have a lower combined tax burden than seven of the eight states that surround Colorado. In addition, he says they analyzed the big business deals that Colorado competed for in the past 12 years and they were almost always against the same 12 states. "After this passes, we will have a lower combined tax burden than all 12 of those states," he says.

A quality public education system attracts businesses. "We want to build a world class pipeline of talent coming through and we want to have businesses come and stay here," Johnson says he has talked to many businesses considering moving to NE Denver near the airport. "I've never yet once had the question, 'What's your marginal state income tax rate?' but what I've heard a lot is, 'What is the quality of the candidates coming out of your K-12 pipeline? And will they go to college?' That, I think is the most important question for us to answer."

*See Denver Preschool Program at dpp.org
**DU Center for Colorado's Economic Future has an interactive online chart at www.du.edu/economicfuture/motionchart.html that shows mill levies and state subsidies to Colorado's school districts and how they've changed since 1992.)

What are the arguments against the School Finance Bill?

Ben DeGrow, a senior education policy analyst at the Independence Institute believes this proposal "leaves the status quo largely untouched and is passing up the opportunity to truly reform our school finance system."

The system is still inequitable. "It replaces the inequities of the old school finance system with a different set of inequities or unfair distribution of funds that ultimately creates winners and losers and doesn't really solve the problems of education that we need to solve." "In Douglas County, for every dollar of new taxes that they have to pay, their schools are going to see 50 cents or less in funding for their schools." DeGrow says that if people are already paying the tax for the school finance bill, they will be less inclined to vote for a higher local mill levy for innovations in their schools. Also, he believes using the free and reduced lunches and English language learners as a means to identify students most academically at risk is another inequity since it doesn't identify other students in need of additional help.

Money should be used to reward performance. DeGrow believes school finance reform needs to include dollars for rewarding demonstrated excellence and performance to individual teachers, districts or schools that are overcoming odds and achieving results. Instead, he says, the vast majority of the funds are going to backfill (continued on p. 29)



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If you are unable to attend the Open House but would like to schedule a tour of St. Anne's Episcopal School, please contact the Admissions Office at 303.756.9481 x210.





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Holly Square Community Saddened by Tragic Shooting



Terrance Roberts

By Madeline Schroeder

Only two months ago, Terrance Roberts, an anti-gang activist in north Park Hill, appeared in the *Front Porch* for his efforts to get kids off the streets and out of gangs. Now Roberts is being charged for attempted murder.

According to the arrest warrant, on Friday, September 20, Roberts shot a man multiple times in the parking lot of the Nancy P. Anschutz Center at 33rd and Holly St. where he houses his anti-gang organization for kids, the Prodigal Son Initiative. This is the same location where the Holly Shopping Center burned down in 2008 as a result of gang violence. Roberts told the police he shot the victim because he pulled a knife on him.

Reverend Leon Kelly, Executive Director of Open Door Youth Gang Alternatives in Park Hill, says that Roberts has dealt with many challenges and sacrificed a lot for the north Park Hill community. An ex-gang member and anti-gang activist, Kelly became a mentor for Roberts.

“I feel like Moses and I am looking for those Joshuas. I look at Terrance as being a Joshua,” he said.

Roberts spent most of his teenage life in a gang and nearly a decade in and out of prison, according to his Prodigal Son bio. He decided to reverse the spiraling direction of his life and focus on keeping kids safe and out of gangs. He has been an important part of the revitalization of north Park Hill, according to Kelly. He believes Roberts’ efforts should not be forgotten because of what happened on Sept. 20.

Kelly is hopeful Roberts’ work will carry on. “His life is not over yet. God still has work for him to do.” Kelly said Roberts has expressed a lot of remorse for what happened.

They are figuring out how the Prodigal Son will continue, but Kelly says, “You gotta understand there’s only one Terrance Roberts. To try to replace something of a mold that’s been broken, is going to be a challenge.” He said many kids have looked up to Roberts and will continue to.

School Finance (continued from p. 28)

district general funds and are providing no real incentive to change how things work. “Educational outcomes are incredibly important, but there is nothing in this that ties money to performance.”

The increased tax would hurt small businesses. DeGrow says Amendment 66 is taxing the vast majority of small businesses whose business income is on their individual returns. “And because it’s a graduated tax, any income over \$75,000 would have that 27% increase and it would be really hard on small businesses. The corporate, for some reason, is exempted from the tax increase.” DeGrow says a flat tax is better for the business environment and he believes it is more equitable. He says Colorado currently ranks somewhere between 26th and 32nd in the nation in average total tax burden per person. He says, according to the census, Colorado taxes are higher than New Mexico, Arizona and Utah.

Transparency system could be achieved without a tax increase. The concept of a statewide transparency system would be a marginal improvement, but schools are already required to post financial information on line. “Even if it’s a really good system, it costs at most a couple million to create and could be funded out of the existing education fund without raising taxes to do it.”

Legislature loses flexibility. DeGrow says the legislature needs the flexibility to appropriate funds based on need and setting aside 43% for P-12 education takes away that flexibility.

Recognitions

Local Travel Company Receives “World’s Best”

By Madeline Schroeder

Who knew one of the world’s best travel companies is based in Stapleton? Rothschild Safaris, owned and founded by Stapleton resident Leora Rothschild, received the Top Safari Outfitter in *Travel + Leisure Magazine’s* 2013 Reader Survey.

“We know the other companies out there, and we absolutely deserve it,” Rothschild says. “We have clients that are extremely happy.”

Rothschild Safaris is a niche travel company that personalizes trips all over Africa. They specialize in everything from hot air balloon rides over the grand migration to gorilla trekking in Rwanda.

As Rothschild says, it’s not a cookie-cutter-pull-the-brochure-off-the-shelf safari but more like planning a trip for a friend. She and her six employees work in an office in her Stapleton home.

“We take time with each client and find out what they’re looking for,” she says. She says people want customized travels to Africa more than ever. The team spends hours on the phone with clients to make sure they are happy, but it never feels like a hassle.

Rothschild loves Africa. She grew up in South Africa and

moved at age 28. She says she had a lovely childhood and misses the people, smells and big open space. When she moved to the U.S. in 1998, starting Rothschild Safaris was her way of staying connected to Africa. “I feel very grateful that every day I still get to be in Africa in a way,” she says.

Rothschild still travels to Africa a couple times a year, including a trip this past year with her two children. All of the employees spend several months in Africa each year trying the different camps and lodges so they have a firsthand perspective for clients. They also have a 24-hour number clients can call if they have any questions or concerns while traveling.

They have clients all throughout the U.S. and internationally, many of whom travel with them multiple times.

“There’s nothing quite like Africa. You can just keep going back and back and back,” Rothschild says. She certainly plans to.

Rothschild will be featured in the November *Travel + Leisure Magazine* for a second upcoming award for World’s Best Family Adventure Outfitter. For more information, visit www.rothschildsafaris.com.



Leora Rothschild stands in the bush, one of her favorite parts of South Africa.

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Research, New Medicine Improve Kids' Survival of Cancer

By Courtney Drake-McDonough

Had the 4-year-old with an aggressive brain tumor that spread to his spine been seen a decade ago, the best doctors could have hoped to do is extend the boy's life by a few months. But now, that boy, a patient of Rajeev Vibhakar, MD, PhD, a pediatric oncologist with the Children's Hospital Colorado Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders, is doing great and is expected to live a full life. "We were able to use new drugs that had come on the market as well as ones we'd used in the past but in a more efficient manner to treat this particular child," says Vibhakar. It's improvements like those that are painting a brighter future for a dark disease.

Vibhakar, a Stapleton resident and father of 7- and 10-year-old children, deals with children and their families on a daily basis who are going through the fight of their lives. Yet he and the other doctors in his program are optimistic about the possibilities for treating cancers, especially with the help of foundations such as the Morgan Adams Foundation that provides funding for cancer research. The foundation's board reviews submissions from doctors annually who have research projects they want to do in various areas and offers funding for those it feels will be most helpful to the overall picture of treatment and positive outcomes. Vibhakar's research is funded through the Morgan Adams Foundation.

The doctor says such foundations are critical to the progress they make toward finding the causes and cures for cancer. According to Vibhakar, less than 5 percent of the total federal budget for cancer research goes to children's cancer research.

Vibhakar says the rates of cancers in children have remained stable in the past decade but education and awareness have improved

so more children are being seen and treated. Children's Hospital Colorado is considered a research hospital. Studies have shown that patients treated at research facilities have better outcomes than those who do not.

"We have made significant improvement over 25 years," says Vibhakar, in terms of technological advances and large centers working together such as the Children's Oncology Group (COG), an international organization that conducts research and clinical trials who share timely information on treatments and outcomes so that everyone can benefit from the latest advancements.

Leukemia, which Vibhakar says is the most common pediatric cancer, has experienced dramatic improvement in survival rates. He says that over the past decade, certain types that weren't treatable in the past are now experiencing 90 percent survival rates at the five-year mark. Brain tumors, the second most common pediatric cancer and the most difficult to treat, that used to have no or very low survival rates now reaches 50-60 percent survival. However,



Standing in his research lab at the Anschutz Medical Center, Rajeev Vibhakar, MD, PhD, a pediatric oncologist with the Children's Hospital Colorado Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders

Vibhakar says there are still a lot of pediatric cancers for which we don't have therapies. "Sometimes, we have to tell parents there isn't any treatment anywhere in the world that can be done. So there's still a lot of work that needs to be done."

Physicians are saving more lives, but with that has come the flipside—the long-term effects of therapies. Fertility is one of the major ones, especially for children in the range of puberty. Because treatment can leave children with future fertility problems, Children's has a specific program to counsel patients on fertility "so we can actually do something about it, whether it's sperm banking or other types of assistance to make sure they can have some sort of reproductive capacity in the future," explains Vibhakar.

Another risk down the road is long-term cognitive damage, especially when radiation has been used to treat brain tumors and leukemia. Patients can also develop what are termed "secondary cancers" years later. "The highly toxic therapies (used) to get cancer cells to die affect normal cells so that over time those cells become more and more damaged and become cancers when they reach young adulthood in the 25-40 year range," Vibhakar says. "We have to figure out how we treat kids better upfront (to diminish) long-term effects that we didn't appreciate decades ago but understand much better now."

Still, Vibhakar says, "This is an exciting time for trying to find cures for cancer. I really do believe in this coming decade we'll definitely have significant cures for the cancers that currently have been difficult to treat."

7pm, October 18 Comedy Night at the Soiled Dove to Benefit Pediatric Cancer Research

Nationally known touring comics, Phil Palisour, Nancy Norton and George McClue will perform at the Soiled Dove Underground, 7401 E. 1st Ave. in Lowry. Tickets are \$25; proceeds go to pediatric cancer research.

The Morgan Adams Foundation Memorial Neuro-Oncology Research fund started in Nov. 1998 after 6-year-old Morgan Adams lost her battle with a brain tumor. Morgan's parents started a charity to raise money for research on childhood cancer.

The Morgan Adams Foundation provides funding for (1) science and clinical research in neuro-oncology at Children's Hospital, (2) support pilot projects that turn into therapies for patients, and (3) support collaborative research initiatives.

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Stapleton Update

Central Park Station Park-n-Ride Update

Standard Parking	656	448	398	1,500
Accessible	-	16	10	26
Accessible Van	-	3	5	8
Motorcycle	14	8	12	34
Kiss-n-Ride	-	-	11	11
Bus Loading	-	-	12	12

PARKING AT CENTRAL PARK STATION



An update on the status of the Central Park Park-n-Ride was presented at the September 10 Zoning and Planning meeting. The number of parking space and bus routes served are illustrated above. The plan is to have all lots completed by the time the commuter rail line opens in January 2016. Some of the lots are expected to be operational by August 2015.

Other details of the plans presented at the meeting include:

This is considered a major bus transfer facility. Bus schedules will be planned to have "pulse points," where buses arrive in unison at a set time to facilitate transfers among themselves and the train—then the buses pull out.

A multi-use path along Smith Road will tie in to the Sand Creek Greenway.

Bike parking, though not shown on the drawing above, will be available.

Ten-foot wide sidewalks and tree lawns will extend to the north side of Wal-Mart on both sides of Smith Road.

Street lighting will be like the rest of Stapleton but within the Park-n-Ride lights will be brighter.

At this point public wifi is not in the plans.

Stapleton Development in Aurora

Forest City Vice President Charlie Nicola said in an August meeting that Forest City is continuing to have talks with Aurora about a TIF district (Tax Increment Financing) to facilitate all development including parks and residential in the portion of Stapleton that lies within the boundaries of Aurora.

Recycled Water for Parks North of I-70

The estimated costs to the Park Creek Metro District (PCMD) to bring recycled water to all of Stapleton north of I-70 (including the U.S. Postal Service, the DPS schools and Section 10 north of 56th Avenue) is between \$800,000 and \$1,000,000. PCMD is negotiating cost sharing agreements with USPS and DPS at this time.

No State Funds to Extend MLK to Peoria

Tom Gleason, Forest City VP, reported that Denver did not get the Colorado Department

of Transportation grant for the extension of MLK referenced in last month's Stapleton Update but that they will continue to work with the city to find funding.

New Convenience Store in Northfield

A convenience store is moving forward with plans for a store at Northfield Boulevard and Xanthia.

Denver City News

Airport 45-minute Wait Area Being Closed and Moved

Councilman Chris Herndon reported that starting Sept. 24, the 45-minute wait area will

be closed and traffic will be diverted to the Conoco where there will be a play area.

City Council Considering A 5¢ Plastic Bag Fee

If passed, stores over 1500 square feet that have more than two percent of their sales in produce will be required to charge 5¢ for plastic each plastic bag. The measure passed in City Council's first reading by a close 7-6 vote. After a public hearing on Sept. 30 City Council will take a final vote.

Police Remind Everyone to Close and Lock Doors and Garages

There were 18 burglaries and 20 thefts from cars in the past month in Stapleton, many due to doors being unlocked.

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The SUN Spot

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SUN Meetings are held on the 4th Monday of every month at 7:30pm at the Central Park Recreation Center, 9651 MLK Jr. Blvd.
For information about SUN, visit www.stapletonunitedneighbors.com. To contact SUN or confirm meeting time,
email stapletonunitedneighbors@gmail.com



3rd Annual Stapleton Education Expo— Thursday, Oct. 17

By Jann Engelstad,
Stapleton United Neighbors Education Committee

This year has again brought changes to the Stapleton education community: a new middle school boundary has been set to include our neighbors in Park Hill; McAuliffe International School will be relocated to the Smiley campus in Park Hill for the 2014-2015 school year; Isabella Bird Community School opened in a temporary location; and a committee has been established to determine if any changes should be made to Stapleton's current open-boundary system for elementary schools boundary.

For the fall of 2014, there will be three more choices on Stapleton's school choice list: High Tech Elementary School, a new DSST middle school north of I-70, and a yet-to-be-named middle school occupying the current McAuliffe space.

In the fall of 2015, the new high school for approximately 900 students will open north of I-70.

The Stapleton United Neighbors Education Committee has planned the third annual Stapleton Education Expo on Thursday, Oct. 17 to help parents maneuver the Stapleton education maze. At 6:30pm, DPS will update the community on the elementary and middle school choice process, middle school transportation, and the high school that will be located in Northfield. After this presentation, parents and students will be able to visit principals and faculty from 20 neighborhood schools.

Participating schools, as of this date, range from preschool through high school and include: Clayton Early Learning, Happy Ladybug Preschool, Monarch Montessori, Westerly Creek Elementary, Swigert International School, Bill Roberts School, High Tech Elementary, Denver Language School, St. Elizabeth's School, The Odyssey School, The Logan School, Denver Montclair International, Highline Academy, McAuliffe International School, Morey, DSST, Venture Prep, High Point Academy, East HS, George Washington HS, and Academy 360.

The third annual Stapleton Education Expo is open to all and targets parents in NE Denver. It will be held this year at Bill Roberts School, located at 2100 Akron Way. Doors open at 6:15pm and the meeting begins at 6:30pm. School tables will open at 7pm. For more information, visit www.stapletonunitedneighbors.org/education.

Champs of 10th Annual Tourney: Kickin' YosAk



10th Annual kickball tournament winning team, the Kickin' YosAks



Denver firefighters kickball team. Proceeds from the tournament will go to Station 26 Firehouse on MLK in Stapleton

By Bryan Penny

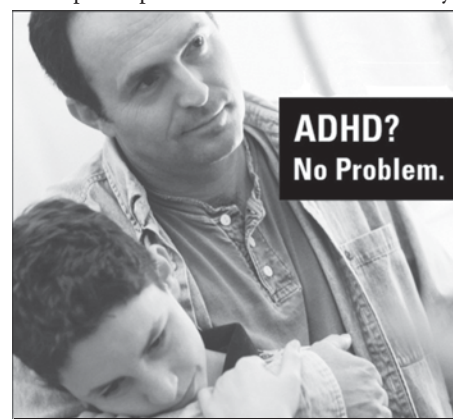
Congratulations to Kickin' YosAk who took home the trophy as the winners of the The 10th Annual Stapleton Kickball Tournament Saturday, September 21. This was Kickin' YosAk's second year playing; the team name is based on the combination of Yosemite and Akron streets. Eleven other teams participated in the tournament this year, one team con-

sisted entirely of Denver Firefighters. Station 26 Firehouse, located on MLK in Stapleton, will benefit from the proceeds of the tournament. In the spring, Stapleton United Neighbors (SUN) will partner with the Denver Friends of Fire to improve the landscaping at Station 26. Watch the SUN website and the Front Porch for more information on this event.

The kickball tournament is one of Stapleton's oldest traditions; start practicing now to challenge Kickin' YosAk next fall for the 11th Annual Stapleton



Photos by Amanda Allhouse



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Bryan Penny is a SUN board member and kickball tournament organizer.

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Letters to the Editor

Readers Asked to Research Circus Treatment of Animals

By now, many of us know that the circus is not the wholesome family entertainment we were brought up to believe. Exposés of animal abuse are leaking out more and more. I bring this up because Ringling Bros (the famous and the notorious) is coming to Denver the first week of October. I would urge readers to do their due diligence before buying a ticket to attend. We go to the circus to be astounded, amazed, awed. But a quick internet search about Ringling Bros' treatment of elephants (Google keywords include: Ringling Bros + cruelty, Ringling Bros + elephant abuse, Ringling Bros + baby elephant electro-shock, Ringling Bros + slapped with the biggest fine in circus history) will provide you with astonishment, amazement and awe of a different kind. Buying a ticket to this circus directly contributes to deplorable acts of violence and animal cruelty. I know we yearn to take our children to the feel-good family entertainment of something innocent and simply fun, like the circus. The hard truth is that the circus has never been innocent and simply fun. And it's time we stop playing the fool and show the circus that we care more about protecting these beautiful creatures than sitting in a stuffy tent eating greasy popcorn.

Instead, support a non-animal circus. Cirque du Soleil's least imaginative shows are still more impressive and applause-worthy than anything under the big top. Or do

something that truly feels good: donate to organizations that rescue former circus animals.

Lizzy Lind

In Praise of the MCA

As summer was ending, I reflected on what an extraordinary job the Master Community Association does for our community. The pocket parks are maintained in an excellent fashion. The Green is a wonderful gathering place and the flower display there is bright and eye catching. Diane Deeter has done a fantastic job with the activities and events. The Shakespeare on the Green was a highlight of the summer. That venue is certainly the kind that Shakespeare expected for his plays and the children sitting so close and almost joining the play added to the wonderful experience. The movies and concerts have become a part of the Stapleton summer. MCA uses a thoughtful process in determining the activities. This was particularly evident when we learned the process MCA used to determine the movie selection and to ensure that there was something for everyone. Whenever there is a community concern about an MCA activity, Keven Burnett responds to give information, answer questions and handle the situation. Thank you MCA for the professional way that you provide activities and amenities for our community. You certainly enhance life at Stapleton.

Lucia Correll

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Just the Facts

The Facts About Floods

by James Hagadorn

.....

(continued from page 1) storm-swollen waters recently reminded Boulderites why their “creek” is so darned bouldery. It’s because the creek is periodically a raging river—one that flushes smaller sand and mud-sized sediment out to the plains, leaving big rocks and rolled boulders behind. On natural floodplains, like in Greeley, high ground is the place to be, because rivers overtop their banks. Most rivers do this regularly, with muddy floodwaters delivering sediment to floodplain soils. This flooding process is what created most of these arable soils in the first place.

Our infrastructure and modification of the landscape intensified the storm’s impact. For example, many dams and roadways, whether intended to hold stormwater or not, ponded storm waters and then failed catastrophically. Natural processes like wildfire and beetle-kill also intensified rainstorm effects. Healthy forests serve as sponge-like buffers between where rain falls, and where it collects. Where forests were burned and crippled, they were less able to mollify deluges. Despite these scientific factors, human expe-



Rocky Mountain Arsenal



Clockwise beginning upper right: The spillway for the Havana Ponds at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal beginning to give way early on Sept. 12; Rocky Mountain Arsenal employees assessing damage beneath the

Havana spillway after the storm; Looking south, a view of the flood damage that took out part of C Street, an extension of Havana at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal.

Westerly Creek



View looking south from the bridge over Westerly Creek at 26th Avenue.

rience is often what shapes disaster planning and response. And here on the Front Range, we’re wet behind the ears—we’ve only got 150 years’ experience with flood disasters. Without exposure to once-in-a-millennium storms, our patterns of development often creeps waterward during times of calm. Scenic foothill homes, canyon hideaways along babbling brooks, and ranches on fertile fields become established. Supporting infrastructure grows, and a generation passes without witnessing nature’s wrath. Once communities are established, our financial and emotional ties to the land dissuade us from moving or modifying. Witness New Orleans, the site of our nation’s most tragic recurrent natural disaster.

Some newer communities in Colorado are faring better than those of old, especially where urban spaces are planned with drainage and historic flood patterns in mind. For example,

in my decade-old neighborhood the parks, playgrounds and trails create contiguous green spaces bordering waterways, snaking under bridges and betwixt neatly arranged homes. These “soft surfaces” await their moment to flood when they’ll become a spongy arterial system. In the recent deluges, they did just this—swelling, spreading, absorbing and diverting water to larger outlets. Most importantly, they minimized impacts of surging waters on homes, schools, businesses and roads.

But what about the future? The answer lies in the past, because in Colorado we have abundant geological evidence of ancient mega-torrents—many of which shaped and left telltale scars on our landscape. Such clues from the past permit us to know the scope of potential future events and to strategize infrastructural changes that accommodate 100- and 1,000-year storms. Our inhabitation of funnels and floodplains demands



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that we use such evidence and plan for such events. Especially because our “once in a millennium” deluge can happen at any time—two years from now, 20 years from now, or beyond. A “once in a millennium” rainfall occurs on *average* once per thousand years but doesn’t mean we have 999 years ’til the next one.

So next time you’re sipping java or savoring microbrews in funnel-towns of Morrison or Golden, remember their kindred spirits—Boulder, Lyons and Manitou Springs. Each one has been devastated by recent deluges, and they presage what may be next.

James W. Hagadorn, PhD, is a scientist at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science. Suggestions and comments welcome at jwhagadorn@dmns.org.

Rainfall Totals for Sept. 9-15

Important to Know
Weather pattern reports come from a variety of sources, some more accurate than others. The primary accurate source for September storm data is the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail & Snow Network.

Total rainfalls
Central Stapleton 11”
Adjacent Aurora 11-14”
Boulder 12-15”
Between southeastern Stapleton and northwest Aurora ~14-15”

Such mega-rains are ‘normal’ for many parts of Oregon, Washington, Alaska and Hawaii. Even when these regions get intense, prolonged deluges, residents rarely suffer. Citizens and their towns are rain-ready, with structures and transportation corridors built in harmony with and in deference to flood-prone landscapes. Many portions of Colorado still aren’t deluge-adapted, as witnessed recently in northern Colorado and evidenced by the 1921 Pueblo, 1965 Denver, and 1976 Big Thompson floods, all of which were at least ten times worse than last month’s disaster.

Urban Farm



Left: With 6 to 18 inches of flooding in the horse corals, 35 horses had to be moved into the indoor arena. Above: Outdoor riding arena at The Urban Farm looking more like a swimming pool after the storm.

Sand Creek Greenway



At the drop structure along the Sand Creek Regional Greenway east of the Dahlia trailhead on Sept. 12.



Left: Pedestrian bridge just east of the I-70 underpass on Sept. 16.



Pedestrian bridge over Sand Creek near the Commerce City Wetland Park on Friday Sept. 13.



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