

Front Porch

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

DENVER, COLORADO

STAPLETON

JANUARY 2014



Fighting to Save the Endangered

In the main warehouse at the National Eagle and Wildlife Property Repository, Bernadette Atencio holds a purse made from an entire crocodile.

By Madeline Schroeder

Yes that glowed in the night, searching for prey, now look glassy and emotionless. Wings that had majestic strength and span now look ghostly covered in plastic bags. Mouths that sounded infinitely strong roars now have an unnerving silence.

These were once some of the most beautiful animals, but were killed and made into products for the illegal wildlife trade. These products include purses, footstools, wall displays, medicines and much more. "Isn't it scary?" Bernadette Atencio said, pointing toward a stuffed

(continued on page 12)

DPS Taps New Yorker Avi Tropper for Stapleton's High School Principal

By Courtney Drake-McDonough

During a whirlwind December visit as a finalist for the principal position at Stapleton's high school that will open in 2015, Avi Tropper and his wife Nina Glass went hiking, went to the theater, and looked at homes in anticipation of their move from Manhattan to Denver in July.

(continued on page 3)

How did Denver's thin air impact Matt Prater's record-breaking kick?

Read *Just the Facts* on page 30 for an analysis by three scientists.

Guide to Kids' Sports

Find sports teams located near NE Denver in the 2014 Front Porch guide to youth sports. More than 40 teams and 15 different sports are in this year's guide on page 16.

Camp Guide in Feb. Issue

Summer camp registration starts early so the annual guide to summer camps will be in the February issue of the Front Porch. Send camp suggestions to FrontPorch3@gmail.com.

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

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



January 11-26, the National Western Stock Show brings out Colorado's western spirit. The grounds pass, the best ticket in Denver for January, gives you the chance to wander the pens and discover Colorado's ranching heritage.



Events listed below are FREE and open to the public or support nonprofits. (Additional events are listed on pages 20-24. Recurring events are listed on page 22.)

JANUARY

Saturday, Jan 4 & Feb 1

Museum of Contemporary Art Denver
With art-making space for children
1¢ admission on first Saturdays
1485 Delgany St., MCADenver.org

Saturday, Jan 4 & Feb 1

Denver Art Museum - SCFD Free Day
720-865-5000 www.denverartmuseum.org

Week of Jan. 6 and 13

Tree recycling on your trash collection day.
Real evergreens only, with no decorations.
DenverGov.org/DenverRecycles.

Tuesday, Jan 7 & Feb 4

Children's Museum, Target Tuesdays
1st Tuesday nights free, 4-8pm, cmdenver.org

Thursday, January 9

Active Minds Seminar "Paris: Biography of a City"
7-8pm *MCA Community Room

Fri, Jan 10 & Sat, Jan 11

Denver Zoo - SCFD Free Days
303-376-4800 www.denverzoo.org

Sunday, January 12

SUN fundraiser at Buffalo Wild Wings,
Quebec Square. Mention SUN and 10%
of your check will go to SUN (see p. 28)

CORRECTIONS:

The **Parks and Rec Reimagines City Park** article on page 10 of the December issue stated that Tom Morris is a Park Hill resident who successfully defeated in court the planned conversion of City Park Pavilions into Denver Parks and Rec offices. Morris, a resident of South City Park, did not personally defeat the plan but advised a team of volunteer lawyers fighting against it.

The **Stapleton Groundwater Lawsuit** article on page 6 of the December issue omitted the names of the engineer consultants—V.V. Matthew Hayes, PE, Hayes Consulting Company and Edward L. Fronapfel, P.E., SBSA (Solutions Before, Solutions After). The drain photos were by Hayes Consulting.

JANUARY

Mon, Jan 13 & Sun, Feb 2

SCFD Free Day, Denver Museum of Nature
and Science. 303-370-6000, www.dmsn.org

Wednesday, January 15

Modern Conversations—"Have a Baby in 2014!"
7-8:30pm. *MCA Community Room

Monday, January 20

Denver Botanic Gardens - SCFD Free Day
720-865-3500 www.botanicgardens.org

Wednesday, January 22

Denver Zoo - SCFD Free Days 303-376-4800
www.denverzoo.org

Thursday, January 23

Active Minds Seminar "History of Skiing"
7-8pm *MCA Community Room

FEBRUARY

Sun, Feb 2 & Mon, Feb 3

Denver Zoo - SCFD Free Days 303-376-4800
www.denverzoo.org

ANNOUNCEMENT:

The **Giraffe's Designs** furnishings business featured on page 12 in the December Front Porch has been closed due to plumbing and heating problems that have not been resolved by the building's owner. Look for an announcement in a future issue of the Front Porch for when the store will re-open.

* More information at Events@stapletoncommunity.com
Stapleton MCA Community Room, 2823 Roslyn St.

**The Front Porch welcomes
submissions of upcoming local
events and story ideas (see
information on p.23). Deadline is
the 15th for the next issue.**

Events & Announcements at Stapleton



Community DNA

The MCA would like to reintroduce this segment into this monthly article. These segments are intended to encourage you to check in with yourself and see how you are contributing or affecting the community. This piece is called the Community Denver Neighborhood Attitude (Community DNA). We can all benefit from taking stock of our actions and how they impact others. We would like the CDNA to be community-driven and encourage you to submit a monthly topic to Dani at DMead@stapletoncommunity.com.

Active Minds

Paris: Biography of a City

Date: Thursday, Jan. 9

Time: 7-8pm

History of Skiing

Date: Thursday, Jan. 23

Time: 7-8pm

All seminars are free to attend and held at the MCA Community Room (2823 Roslyn St.).

Modern Conversations

Have a Baby in 2014!

Come join Hilary Silver, LCSW with Silver Therapy Group, and Dr. Lauren Roth, fertility specialist with University of Colorado Advanced Reproductive Medicine, for an informative session on the most current and innovative fertility treatments and tips on how to stay emotionally connected during the unknown journey of making a baby.

Date: Wednesday, Jan. 15

Time: 7-8:30pm

Seminars are free, but please RSVP: hsilver33@gmail.com or 720.935.7393.

2014 Pool Usage Rates

Resident Membership Card and Daily Admission fees will remain the same for the upcoming 2014 summer season. Residents are encouraged to renew their Resident Membership Cards online prior to their card's expiration date to receive a \$10 online renewal discount. Expired cards will not be accepted for entry at any of the facilities. To renew your card, visit

www.stapletoncommunity.com.

Entrance fees (Mon-Fri):

Resident discount: \$5, Nonresident: \$8

Entrance fees (Sat, Sun & holidays):

Resident/resident guest/nonresident: \$10; Children under age 1: free (entrance fee will be waived with the presentation of an active Resident Membership Card)

Resident Membership Cards:

New resident: \$20, Online renewal: \$10 (+ service fee)

Guest Pass

5-Punch Pass: \$25 (each visit equals \$5), Unlimited Guest Pass: \$80 (limit 4 per household)

All MCA managed pools will open on May 24 at noon.

Facility Rentals

The 2014 facility rental rates are still being finalized. Reservation rates will be posted online on March 1, 2014, and reservations will open on April 1 at www.stapletoncommunity.com.

Kids Night Out

The MCA and Central Park Rec are partnering to host another round of Kids Night Out events in 2014. These events are for children ages 7-12 and will be held at the Central Park Rec. Each event hosts a special theme, complimentary dinner (please plan accordingly if you have special dietary needs) and an assortment of games.

Upcoming Kids Night Out dates:

-Sat., Feb. 8 - *Super Bowl*

-Sat., March 15 - *Luck of the Irish*

-Sat., April 26 - *Take Me Out to the Ball Game*

We are currently offering a registration discount for participants who register for the events before Feb. 3. Registration is \$15 per event or sign up for all 3 events for \$25. To register, visit the Central Park Rec or www.stapletoncommunity.com.

If you have any questions about the information above, please call 303.388.0724.

Dani Mead

dmead@stapletoncommunity.com

Get the latest on

Master Community Association



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Front Porch

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High School Principal

(continued from p. 1) Although the move was already planned for his wife's fellowship as a trauma physician, Tropper was hoping to find his place in Denver as the new principal of the school opening in 2015. The couple liked what they saw and DPS liked what they saw in Tropper, announcing him as the new principal on December 24.

Tropper has worked as a teacher, teacher mentor, dean of students and assistant principal in New York City for nine years, as well as serving on a planning team for Financial Strategies and School Turnaround teams. He helped found two new high schools focused on innovative academic and student support programs.

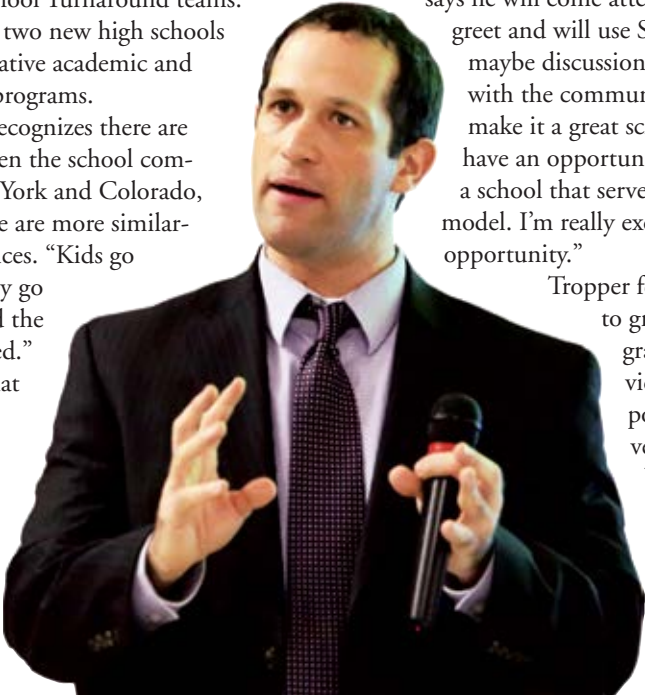
Although he recognizes there are differences between the school communities in New York and Colorado, Tropper says there are more similarities than differences. "Kids go through what they go through and need the supports they need." That includes what Tropper feels are the two primary types of learning: social/emotional and academic.

Tropper says social and emotional learning is about developing the full child. He wants students to feel safe, take risks and feel they are part of the community so that, as they go through adolescence, they can start to develop their sense of self and know where they want to go with their lives. "You can't just throw a kid in and say 'learn.' There's a whole bunch of stuff that has to come before." Tropper's plan is to set the stage himself and then consult with experts who have done this in schools throughout the nation. "As a school leader, my responsibility is to make sure it's really implemented and not just something we talk about in a staff meeting."

Tropper feels post-secondary readiness has to include encouraging a sense of self and

learning self-regulation strategies and pacing to make the transition to college, where choices increase dramatically, easier for students. To help with this, he plans to give his high schoolers options to self select, use critical thinking, produce research papers, and creatively apply skills they've learned on projects. He says this approach will mimic the type of rigorous academic learning they'll experience in college and it will "really prepare them for life as an adult, as a citizen, in a college career—wherever they go in life."

Although Tropper and DPS are still working on the logistics and timing of his move, he says he will come attend a meet and greet and will use Skype, phone and maybe discussion boards to work with the community on a plan to make it a great school. "I think we have an opportunity here to build a school that serves as a national model. I'm really excited about the opportunity."



Avi Tropper speaks at the forum where the final three principal candidates were introduced to the community.

Tropper feels being able to grow the school grade-by-grade provides unique opportunities. "The very nature of a brand new school is that you get to personalize and provide options for students."

The search process began last spring, and narrowed 51 applicants down to three whom the community met at a Principal Community Forum on December 17. Katherine Casey, design lead with the Offices of School Reform and Innovation and Post Secondary Readiness, says DPS was looking for candidates who demonstrated the DPS school leader competencies. "For this particular position, we were also looking for someone whose school vision reflected the vision established by the program advisory committees and school design team. We were looking for someone who demonstrated the mindsets and skills to lead a school startup process and engage the community in all elements of design."

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

Park Hill actor/writer
“never doubted something great would happen”

Hit comedy show Girls Only begins second run at DCPA

By Laurie Dunklee

Linda Klein is always open to inspiration. “I’m prepared to be inspired just walking through life,” said the Park Hill resident, a popular improv actor and comedy writer. “Ideas come at me all the time, and I don’t dismiss them; I value every one. I never doubted something great would happen.”

That “something great” turned out to be *Girls Only: the Secret Comedy of Women*, Klein’s hit comedy show opening its second run at the Garner Galleria Theatre Jan. 16 to March 9.

Girls Only is a two-woman variety show that celebrates the truth, humor and silliness of being female. A mix of sketch comedy, improvisation, audience participation and media, the show covers the major moments in women’s lives, “from the ‘tween years’ right before boys, to all facets of womanhood,” Klein said.

Klein and her comedy partner, Barbara Geh-

ring, wrote *Girls Only* based on their junior high diaries. “We read them to each other one afternoon and we laughed to tears,” said Klein.

She said the show reminds people of their innocence. “The energy is like a girlhood reunion. We wrote it from our hearts and our experiences. This is not the dark side. It’s innocent, fun, playful and nice. So much comedy is negative or mean, but there’s no negative here. We put a smile on everything.”

Klein loves watching audience members laugh. “The 13-year-old girls cover their mouths, while the grandmothers throw up their hands. There’s some-thing ageless about the show. They’re all women just like me. I thought I was a big dork in junior high but it turns out we all thought that.”



after



before



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Sitting in their Park Hill home, Linda Klein and her husband Paul laugh looking over diaries she wrote as a teenager growing up in Idaho Springs. The books inspired Klein and her comedy partner Barbara Gehring to write “Girls Only,” an inspiring comedy show returning to the DCPA next month.

Klein said her success revealed her hidden talents. “More of our work is off-stage now, doing PR and maintaining our brand. We found out we were good at these things even though we had no training. It’s a bit sad for me that it’s shifted to more of a desk job. But I do like it.”

One of Klein’s joys is making her parents proud. “My folks attended my original ‘productions’ in my bedroom, so now they are through the roof, they’re so excited. They get treated like royalty around the theater. I’ve given them something I wanted to give.”

set the inspiration switch to ‘on.’ I’m constantly aware and I’m curious to a fault; my friends ask me to stop asking questions.”

Having a hit show has changed Klein’s life in unexpected ways. “Barb and I are part of a team now, instead of being in charge of everything. We were auditioning women to play our roles and when they read our scripts I thought, ‘You’re lying, that’s OUR lives!’ It was jarring at first. But well worth the struggle because we partner with the best professionals in the business.”

Check Out Our East Line Commuter Rail Cars

The steel shells for the rail cars are being fabricated at the Hyundai Rotem Plant in South Korea and then shipped to Philadelphia to be finished. View the actual construction and shipping in an RTD video posted at FrontPorchStapleton.com. RTD expects the first delivery of train cars to Denver in the second half of 2014.



Watch the video at FrontPorchStapleton.com.

Train cars for the RTD East Line at Hyundai Rotem’s Philadelphia site where they are undergoing final assembly.

Girls Only began as an improvised show, and then had a six-week run at the Avenue Theater in 2008. Klein and Gehring’s big break came when the DCPA asked for the show that same year and it ran until 2010. Since 2009, *Girls Only* has played in Des Moines, Winnipeg, Charlotte, Minneapolis, Pittsburgh and Houston.

Klein grew up in Idaho Springs. “It was a gift to grow up in a small mountain town,” she says.

She moved to Park Hill in 1994 and married her husband, Paul, on the front porch of their home in 2001. She is an active member of Montview Presbyterian Church. “We love Park Hill because our neighbors are the best,” Klein said. “We’ve thought about moving but you can’t buy good neighbors, you know? I walk to church, the library and the coffee shop. Whenever I’m out, I see people I know.”

Klein’s career includes more than 15 years of comedy in Denver. Her shows include 50 productions with A.C.E. Entertainment, a comedy troupe she co-founded with Gehring and Matthew Taylor in 1998. A.C.E. wrote and produced original comedy for corporate entertainment, including meetings, conferences and sales events. “We still worked in theaters for love, but we made a living at the corporate work. We even got to travel overseas.”

One of Klein’s favorite corporate conference bits was “the Mabels.” “We were on the agenda as ‘senior advisors.’ We came in as three old biddies—all named Mabel—and set up three rickety chairs and a very rickety table. We put a jar on the table and charged a nickel to answer questions. The improv aspect stimulated interaction that is unexpected in a corporate setting. I love that 85-year-old version of myself because I don’t edit myself. I hope I’m like that when I get old.”

Klein characterizes her comedy as “smart” and “real.” “It’s intellectually engaging. We believe in truth in comedy—it’s not too fanciful; it’s real and relatable. We pay attention to what’s going on in our lives and

SAVE THE DATE: JANUARY 19, 2014

ALL ARE WELCOME AT OUR 50TH ANNIVERSARY GATHERING TO REMEMBER REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR’S PARK HILL SPEECH

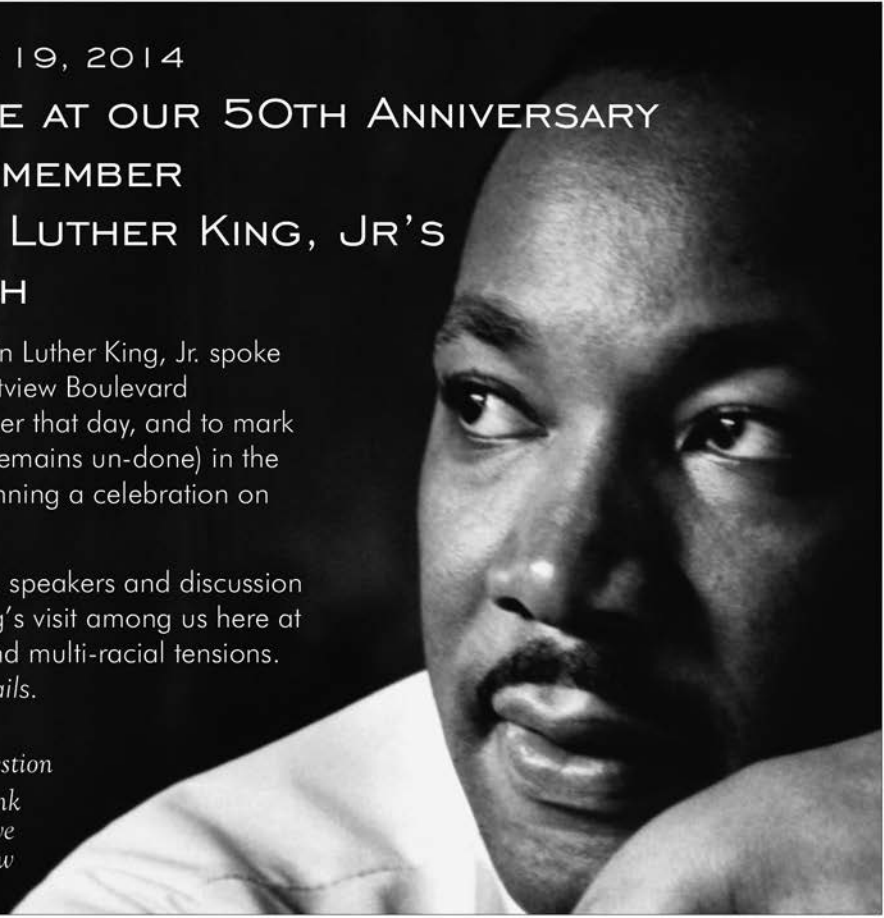
On January 26, 1964, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. spoke before more than 3,000 at Montview Boulevard Presbyterian Church. To remember that day, and to mark how far we’ve come (and what remains un-done) in the fifty years since, Montview is planning a celebration on Sunday, January 19th.

Please join us for special panels, speakers and discussion groups as we remember Dr. King’s visit among us here at a time of struggle, integration and multi-racial tensions. Visit montview.org for all the details.

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On January 20, Denver celebrates the largest Martin Luther King Jr. event in the United States. Participants in the marade (march and parade) gather in City Park at 9am and march to Civic Center Park, where a large rally commemorates the life of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Stapleton Development Corporation

“Guardians” of The Green

How did it happen that Forest City’s contract to redevelop 4,700 acres (at a projected cost \$3.4 billion by full buildout) was made with a volunteer board of private citizens, the Stapleton Development Corporation (SDC)?*

And what happens now—when the paid staff that supports SDC has run out of funding—but they need to continue selling land to Forest City?

By Carol Roberts

The story started in 1989 when Denver voters approved building DIA, and the city of Denver took on the enormous task of planning for and building a new airport. The city did not have the financial or planning resources to take on a second, almost-as-enormous, project—to remediate and redevelop 4,700 acres of blighted land left behind when the airport moved. The airport had to get the highest dollar to pay off airport debt with the sale of the land and the city had no money to put into the redevelopment. Consultants were engaged and the recommendation came back—make it an industrial area. But even before the vote to annex the new airport land, Mayor Peña started a group called Stapleton Tomorrow. This group included business leaders, civic leaders, neighborhood activists and citizens who created a list of desires for the redevelopment of Stapleton. Stapleton Tomorrow morphed into a very active and committed Citizens Advisory Board that has continued to this day, with a number of the original people (including Happy Haynes, Jim Wagenlander, Alice Kelly and Nadine Caldwell) still actively working, 20+ years later, to ensure that the vision is achieved. The continuing and relentless community efforts were then, and continue to be, critical to the success of the project, but they needed major financial backing to turn their ideas into a professional plan that the City of Denver would endorse. That support came in the form of a wealthy Denver oilman who shared their passion for redeveloping Stapleton into a “new urbanism” community.

Sam Gary, a now familiar name to all in Stapleton with the naming of the library in his honor, both donated a significant amount of his own money and used his influence in the business community to get a broad base of support to underwrite a professionally written plan that would serve as a guide for the redevelopment.

Current citizens advisory board co-chair David Netz calls the Stapleton Development Plan (the Green Book), “a well-done, well thought out plan with lots of stakeholders.” City Council agreed when it was brought to them in 1995, and they unanimously voted to make it a part of Denver’s



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uncover the genius



APPLY THE KNOWLEDGE



Cheryl Cohen-Vader, president of the Stapleton Development Corporation (right) and Kevin Marchman, SDC chairman, ponder the future of the organization. Back left, Damon Knop and Jim Wagenlander, who attended the December SDC meeting.

comprehensive plan.

The Green Book recommendation for implementing the plan was for the City and County of Denver and the Denver Urban Renewal Authority (DURA) to create a third entity, a non-profit corporation governed by a board of directors, appointed by the mayor, and confirmed by Denver City Council.



SDC board member Happy Haynes has had numerous roles in Stapleton planning and development for over 20 years.

It was innovation. It wasn't a developer coming into town and dealing with zoning. The fact that this started out as a community planning process and that driving what was going to happen was very unique.

"This was public land. Should some entity other than

the City have this kind of control and responsibility? Some people thought a citizens group was too pie-in-the-sky and wouldn't take the city's financial interests into account."

Originally the SDC board began creating a staff to redevelop the site. "Pieces were sold, things didn't go as planned. It was complicated. No one wanted to pay for their infrastructure, so they would only buy chunks on the edges because roads and sewers were in place there. But no one wanted land in the middle. Development would have been on the edges, random rather than a quality systematic plan," says David Netz.

Dick Anderson, who became president and CEO of SDC in 1997, believed they needed to hire an experienced developer. The board members, who had had differences of opinion on how to proceed, came to agreement on hiring a developer, got a sign-off from Mayor Webb, and started developing a request for bids. SDC would "take down" the land from DIA over time, sell it to the developer, and turn over the proceeds to DIA—giving SDC the ability to withhold land sales if they believed the terms of the contract weren't being met.

Tammi Holloway, the attorney at SDC who handles the legal transactions, says when they get the land from DIA they "record the architectural and design declaration against the property that spells out what can be done on the land in terms of vertical development." Bar Chadwick, from the City, says, "The Green Book is part of the City's Comprehensive Plan and therefore is an enforceable document under the City's regulatory powers."

Dick Anderson points out that they solicited the bids to find developers who bought in to their vision. "One of the developers said, 'It's a pretty good plan but we have our own ideas. We'll work with people but we're going to tell you how to improve this plan.' They were out the door immediately."

In addition to Forest City's commitment to the Green Book, Anderson points out they had the necessary marketing capability and they had deep pockets, an essential component since the city was not willing to commit any money from the general fund. Forest City demonstrated their track record and staying power. (Anderson thinks Forest City is the only one of the finalists they considered who survived the recession.)

"We were careful to be sure they don't have total control," says Anderson. "They don't control the design process, they don't control affordable housing, they don't control the open space and therefore SDC retains some of the control."

"The great visionary at Forest City, Albert Ratner, saw this would really be something special to take this old airport and make it into something Denver would be proud of. And Forest City would get the credit. And that's fine. They deserve a lot of credit. The neighbors and the writers of the Green Book deserve a lot of credit also. The other developers were not nearly as committed."

Forest City president John Lehigh says, "When we started here you couldn't go to the public bond market and issue bonds because there was no history here of a tax base to base the investment on. One mechanism of funding was for Forest City to make an advance."

(continued on p. 27)

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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.

A Touch of Sin (2013)

Imagine a society of a disenchanted working-class, companies that skirt the law or outright break it, and an upper-class who treats those lower classes as if they are pawns in some grand game of their own design. Sound



Scene from *A Touch of Sin*

familiar? If China is the first country you thought of, then you are correct. This new film from Chinese director Jia Zhang-Ke (*Still Life*, *24 City*) tells four sequential stories set in modern day China. While the stories are not related in the film, they are related *by* the film; in other words, all four chapters riff on the same central theme: how business conglomerates are replacing the Communist Party as the true rulers of China. While the politics in the film are not overt, they burn through every chapter. That the film is a bloody mess tells part of the story. A recent epidemic of violence in China swims invisibly under the radar due to the tight central control of the state media. But sometimes, news leaks out. Jia takes his four stories directly from Chinese society: the first tells of a villager's outrage (and subsequent rage) with local profiteering and corruption; the second deals with a loner/killer; the third focuses on a young woman in an adulterous affair who snaps one day at her sex-sauna job; and the final chapter tells the story of a young factory worker driven to suicide. It is all very dark (gray is the predominant

color in the cinematography), gory, and ultimately a bleak view of modern-day China. This is expertly directed, acted, and filmed cinema. The Chinese have been producing some of the world's best (and most beautiful) films since the late 80s, and this film is no exception. It was a hit at Cannes and it should certainly be an Oscar contender. It is worth a trip to the big screen to see a master filmmaker at work, to see modern-day China play out in front of you, and to understand a bit more about the world, without a filter. You will like this film if you enjoyed *Old Boy*, *Drive*, or any Tarantino film. Starts January 3rd at the Sie Film Center.



Scene from *Europa Report*

Europa Report (2013)

This recent film from Ecuadoran director Sebastián Cordero (*Cronicas*, *Rage*) marks yet another strong entry in what was one of the best years for Science Fiction Cinema in a long time. Along with other films such as *Upstream Color*, *Oblivion*, and *Gravity*, the genre included both big-budget blockbusters as well as smaller, more thoughtful pictures. *Europa Report* falls into the latter category. The premise: a privately-funded, manned space probe is sent to the Jupiter moon Europa to search for life in an ocean underneath the ice sheet. Europa has become a sort of Holy Grail for Sci-Fi, with reality giving us a possibility that the cinema can then explore. The science is there, as Dr. Ka-Chun Yu of DMNS notes: orbiting NASA satellites have found an ice sheet covering a liquid ocean underneath. Because of the strong pull of Jupiter's gravity, the planet's elasticity (causing a heating effect) may create conditions necessary for life. This is where Sci-Fi cinema enters.

The film is structured as a found-footage narrative, with the bulk of the visuals coming from the ship's on-board cameras. The direction is very good, the acting is excellent, and the cinematography and editing speak to the film's larger themes of claustrophobia, communication, and how little we really know about the universe (and each other!). The film takes its science seriously, and the actors are credible as scientists. Nobody impulsively pulls off their helmet in the middle of a foreign planet. You will like this film if you enjoyed *2001: A Space Odyssey*, *Gravity*, and *Moon*. Available on Netflix instant cue and at the Sam Gary Library. This film, along with all other films I've reviewed, can be found at the Sam Gary Library. Look for the Indie Prof display at the end of the DVD racks.

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

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Julie L. Barone, D.O., F.A.C.S., received her medical degree from Nova Southeastern University. She completed a general surgery residency at Loyola University and a fellowship in breast surgery at Columbia St. Luke's Roosevelt/Beth Israel Medical Center. Dr. Barone serves as the Medical Director of Breast System Services for Exempla Healthcare.

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January 2014

8

Stapleton Front Porch

Home Business Turns Kids On to Sewing



Traci Gillespie answers a sewing question for Ella Tolbert, third grader at Swigert. Gillespie, the librarian at Swigert, recently started a business teaching kids how to sew—from coasters to clothes.

By Nancy Burkhart

Traci Gillespie, a librarian at Swigert International School, lives so close to Swigert she can hear the school bell. With so many kids in the neighborhood, Gillespie decided to start a side business, Sew Creative, teaching kids to sew, both by hand and by machine.

"I teach them a skill, and then we do a project," Gillespie explained. "I thought there would be more interest from the girls, but I actually had parents asking about enrolling their boys so I try to make it very open to both."

Gillespie offers machine sewing for kids 8 and older and hand-sewing classes for kids 6 and older.

"I get a feel for the class and then base it (the project) on the class," she said. "We'll make a variety of stuff. The younger ones are too young to be on the machine if it's not one-on-one. We did a doll and a kid's skirt to wear in hand sewing. It could be by machine if an older child, or a child who has done it before."

In winter camps, the children made lounge pants that everybody is wearing. They aren't just for girls. In January, classes will start making tote bags, and summer classes will include drawstring bags and blankets. Gillespie provides the materials, and the children take their projects home with them.

"The first project sometimes is making coasters

that they can give for presents, and we sometimes make stuffed animals," Gillespie said. "I teach them to sew on buttons and other basics."

"It's very relaxed. We have a good time," she said. "They have to take their time and be patient. They all work on the same project, but they all have their unique style. It's great to see that."

Classes starting in January will include Mondays and Wednesdays from 4:15–5:15pm., Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4–5pm and 5:15–6:15pm. Swigert students can walk to Gillespie's

home from school with her. She will give them a snack and then the class will start. Classes aren't limited to Swigert students. Each class accommodates only six children. Each student has a sewing machine to work on. Children also can attend weekend workshops for two hours on Saturday or Sunday.

"Right now we're looking forward to summer," Gillespie added. "We're trying to think about summer camps when the project is a fashion class like putting together a skirt or embellishing a shirt, putting more design into it. We're discussing patterns, and they may make their own pattern. It's more about clothes."

Parents can arrange private sewing parties for their children. "At a recent party, kids made a tooth fairy pillow that showed their personalities. The best thing was that one of the girls at the party lost her tooth that night."



Gillespie shows Lily Steffen, a fourth grader at Swigert, how to fix a stitch in her pincushion.

At Sip 'n Sew events for adults, Gillespie provides the wine while attendees chat and make a pillow.

Gillespie lives in Stapleton with her husband, John, and their two daughters, 5-year-old Julia and 9-year-old Avery.

For class information for children and adults, visit www.sewcreativestapleton.com. To contact Traci Gillespie, email sewcreativestapleton@gmail.com or call her at 859.321.1817.



Fourth graders at Swigert Ella Tafoya, Lily Steffen and Avery Gillespie talk while hand stitching pincushions. "It's very relaxed. We have a good time," Gillespie says about the classes.

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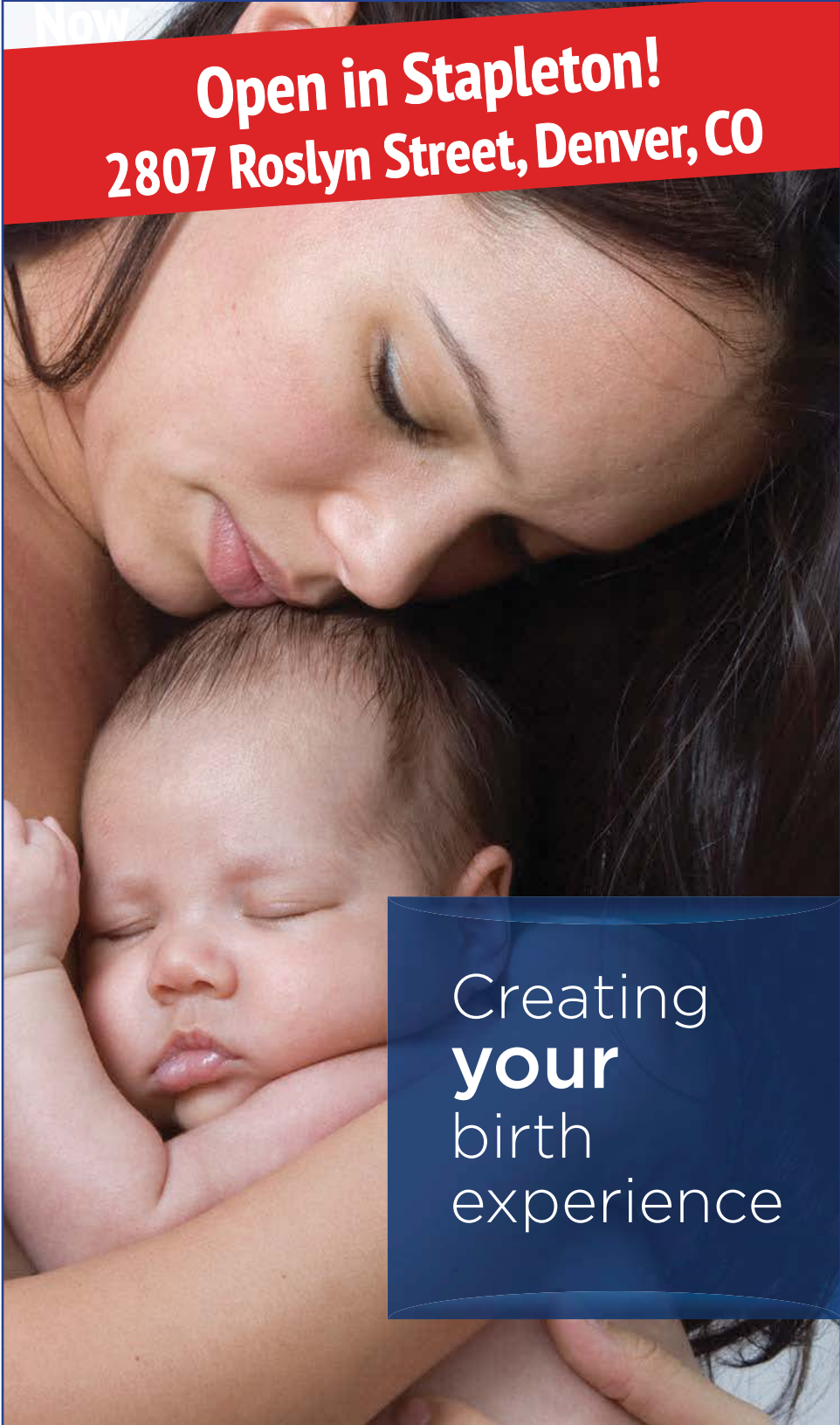
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Sometimes the most intriguing insight lies in unexpected places.

Enter Ms. Barbara Cramer's fifth-grade class at William Roberts Elementary. Like bugs to a light, curious 11-year-olds gather around and talk while simultaneously crocheting, some with such well-trained fingers they do it without looking.

The class is knitting and crocheting scarves for the homeless. The class just completed a unit studying homelessness in the United States, which according to the Homelessness Research Institute, makes up 20 per every 10,000 people. Throughout the unit, many students' views on the problem have changed.

Six students—Ellie Gould, Lindsey Trussell, Trevor Delong, Jameelah Vigil, Bracken Welles and Alexander Austin—share their thoughts.

"At the beginning I thought it was their fault they are homeless," Bracken Welles says. The group of students all agree they initially thought homeless people are dirty, crazy, irresponsible and addicted to drugs or alcohol.

Soon they discovered not all homelessness looks the same. Many people try to hide their

homelessness, making it a quiet crisis. "Now I know that you can see somebody, and they might be homeless, and you wouldn't even know it," Jameelah Vigil says.

While they say some people make bad choices that make them homeless, it's also not always a person's fault. Alexander Austin says small problems in someone's life can grow into big problems, even homelessness. Unfair evictions, job loss, illness, language

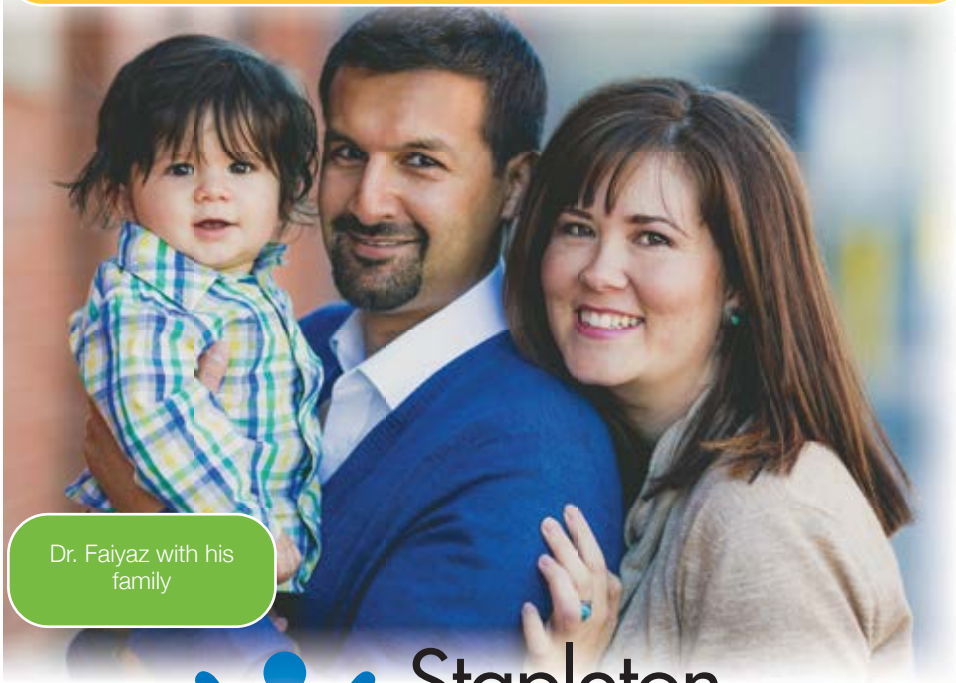


Ms. Barbara Cramer's fifth grade class crochets and knits scarves for the homeless as part of their study on homelessness in the U.S.

barriers or financial struggle can lead to homelessness, the group says. "The number one issue of homelessness is housing prices, and how it's too expensive,"

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The Kids

Fifth-Graders Explain Homelessness



Bill Roberts fifth graders left to right: Ellie Gould, Lindsey Trussell, Trevor Delong, Jameelah Vigil, Bracken Welles and Alexander Austin.

Ellie Gould says.

The group understands homelessness as a daily struggle for survival. Austin says, "I would be scared and worried if I were homeless. I would think nobody cared about me."

The group imagines a day in the life of a homeless person, bouncing ideas off one another. What would be the best lake or river to shower in? Would a hospital help you? How could you pay for the bill? After reading about poor conditions in shelters, Austin says, "What I think is the shelters care about you, but they want you to leave."

So whose job is it to help homeless people?

"It's the government's," Austin says instantly.

"It's both the government's and the person's," Bracken says. "They have to try to get themselves out, but they need someone else to help them."

Trevor Delong says the homeless usually can't get a decent job so they need extra financial support.

Is the government doing a good job helping the homeless? Lindsey Trussell quickly shakes her head. The group says the U.S. is the 35th richest nation but second in child poverty. Trussell quotes Gandhi: "The measure of a civilization is how it treats its weakest members." She says the U.S. doesn't measure well, overlooking the homeless problem.

"It's like there's a crack on the door, and the government is just putting a Band-Aid on it," Bracken says. "It's not going to fix it permanently."

"It's responding to it, not solving it," Trussell adds. Heads nod, and "yes" echoes all around. The group agrees the government can fix the problem at its source by focusing on preventing people from becoming homeless, like adding affordable housing.

Donating items is the best way to help the homeless at a local level, according to the fifth-graders. "But you shouldn't assume what homeless people need because you shouldn't judge," Vigil notes. Giving money to people on the street is risky, they say, although Austin admits he "sneak does it" sometimes. Gould says, "My mom pays a lot of tax money to shelters so I don't do that."

Along with the scarves, the class donated pencils, puzzles, games, cards and coloring books in gift baskets to the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless. They enjoyed the unit and are happy to understand what homeless people go through. Ms. Cramer says they continue to crochet.

Each month Front Porch writer Madeline Schroeder visits one neighborhood elementary or middle school and chats with a group of students, rotating schools and talking to different age groups. Principals or teachers interested in being a part of "Meet The Kids" can email Madeline at madeline@frontporch-stapleton.com.



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Endangered Species

(continued from page 1) tiger fetus, one of the particularly haunting items.

Atencio is the supervisor at the National Eagle and Wildlife Property Repository in the Rocky Mountain Arsenal—the only site in the U.S. that stores confiscated wildlife property. The repository is a vivid reminder of wildlife's enemy: humans.

"The wildlife trade industry is a multibillion-dollar industry, and it involves species from all over the world," Atencio said, waving a hand toward the rows dripping with exotic animals. At any one time, they house roughly 1.5 million animal parts and

products confiscated by the Fish and Wildlife Service. "There is no species out there that cannot be vulnerable to this trade."

Since its beginning, the Fish and Wildlife Service has been the guardian of the endangered. They monitor endangered and threatened animals, as well as those high in demand in the wildlife trade, like the python that's often killed for clothing, shoes or accessories.

While some species reproduce fast enough to withstand being hunted for commercial uses, others cannot survive. The African elephant ivory market is so out of control the elephant population is disappearing.



Top left to right: Before sea turtles were illegal to import, their shells were commonly used for display or in antique furniture; The fashion industry fuels the demand for the exotic. At back, the \$13,000 Alexander McQueen dress is made of mink, fox, bird feathers and caiman skin. At front, a \$7,000 scarf made of a rare Tibetan antelope; Wild cat species' populations are dwindling due to poaching and smuggling for displays like these stuffed tiger and cheetah heads.

Special agents investigate overtly and covertly, and wildlife inspectors check for illegal items at U.S. ports of entry.

The 1973 Endangered Species Act prohibits importing and selling any endangered species in the U.S. A majority of the property at the repository is confiscated because of illegal import.

"Our law enforcement officers are seizing property daily. It is sent to us, and we are responsible for housing and disposing it," Atencio said. A majority of the property is donated for public education purposes at museums, zoological parks and universities.

Despite the efforts by the Fish and Wildlife Service, Atencio

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anticipates they currently only seize 10 percent of all the illegal wildlife property coming into the U.S. It's nearly impossible to inspect every shipment, said Atencio, who previously inspected wildlife property at Denver International Airport.

Besides investigating and confiscating property, the hardest part to defeat in the trade is the ongoing demand, according to Atencio. "People are very willing to pay for something that is rare," she said. The fashion industry is a big culprit, using snakeskin and fur in expensive clothing. The repository stores wool scarves made of a rare Tibetan antelope that sell for \$7,000 to \$10,000. Five antelope are killed to make one scarf.

"There are species' populations that are being devastated because people are creating a demand for the items that are made out of them," she said. Many people are unaware of the size of the industry and how species are being affected, she noted.

In an effort to make people more aware, the Fish

and Wildlife Service recently had a public event at the repository, crushing six tons of ivory worth millions of dollars.

"The intent was to make a very loud, very huge statement to the public that we won't condone this industry."

Unfortunately, in Atencio's more than 30 years with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the black market hasn't slowed. Despite laws, poaching and smuggling continue

to flourish. She doesn't anticipate an end to the wildlife trade, but hopes the collection at the repository will diminish. Until then, it remains a haunting image of humans' effect on wildlife.

The repository is not open to the public, but

tours of 10 or more people can be scheduled through Bernadette Atencio at bernadette_atencio@fws.gov. For more information about wildlife laws, visit www.fws.gov.

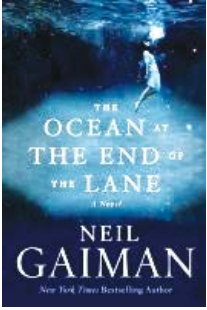


High on the endangered species list, the caiman is often made into purses or displays like these from Nicaragua. Bernadette Atencio points out a caiman holding a shooter and smoking a pipe and calls it a huge disrespect to the animal.

The Book Worm

The *Front Porch* will print book reviews by librarians in Northeast Denver, rotating to a different library each month. This first month, reviews are by Emily Funk and Kristi Harder from Sam Gary Branch Library.

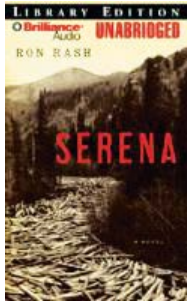
Adult Fiction:



The Ocean at the End of the Lane by Neil Gaiman ★★★★★

A young boy is swept into a magical story of menacing evil versus enduring virtue when he discovers that a paranormal power has overtaken his family.

Neil Gaiman brings us a rare Gaiman treasure—a fantastical novel written for adults. However, along the way he forgot that his novel was intended for the grown-up variety. This magical story, revolving around a 7-year-old boy, contains all the childlike sensibilities of a juvenile story. The one or two "adult" scenes are ambiguous enough that most young readers will be as oblivious as the main character. Regardless of the intended age, the novel is delightful and engaging.

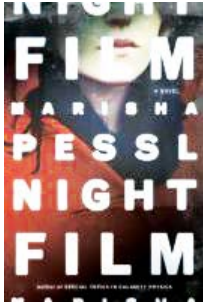


Serena by Ron Rash ★★★★★

Set amid the harsh Appalachian Mountains in 1929, George Pember-ton and his wife Serena create an immense logging company, controlling the land, trees and individuals around them. For the Pembertons, especially

Serena, manipulation and control exceed mere talk, employing violence to solve any problem that arises.

While many reviewers have given *Serena* four or more stars, I find myself struggling to give it three. The concept of the story has the potential to be gripping and evocative, but it lacked well-formulated characters and continuity. The climax could have been more significant and meaningful. The movie version, starring Jennifer Lawrence and Bradley Cooper, is due to be released in 2014.

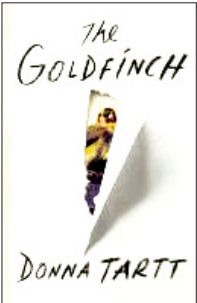


Night Film by Marisha Pessl ★★★★★

An eerie tale of a washed-up reporter who is certain that the recent suicide of an iconic filmmaker's daughter was actually no suicide. Scott McGrath is determined to solve the case,

becoming obsessed with the Cordova family and Ashley's short life.

Intermingled with social media elements, like newspaper clippings and web photos, this enigmatic noir will have you gripping the book as the suspense builds. Just as I thought the momentum would fade, Pessl recaptures your interest. While it's slightly longer than I usually have the patience for, and could have justifiably been a couple hundred pages shorter, I immensely enjoyed this creepy thriller.



The Goldfinch by Donna Tartt ★★★★★

Theo Decker's life is forever changed when his mom is killed by a terrorist bomb in a New York art museum. Inexplicably, escaping the museum he takes a famous painting, the titled Goldfinch. What

follows is Theo's sometimes tragic but eventually triumphant coming-of-age story where he struggles to come to terms with loss and the meaning of life.

I found it un-putdownable. Dickensian in scope, this fascinating story is not a quick read but the payoffs are huge. Tartt does an excellent job of making the reader feel Theo's loss, at a heart-breaking young age, and the years of being cast adrift that follow. This story will stick with the reader long after the book ends.

(continued on page 14)

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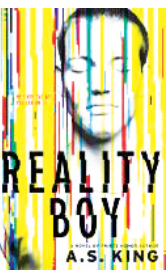
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Book Reviews (continued from p. 13)

Young Adult Fiction:



Reality Boy by A. S. King
Gerald is famous, but not in a good way. When he was 5 his family was featured on a reality show, and he earned himself the nickname “the Crapper.” Gerald takes anger management

★★★★ classes, but he still doesn't feel completely in control of the deep anger until he meets Hannah. He realizes he doesn't have to accept peoples' opinions about him. This is a tough and heartbreaking coming-of-age novel filled with wonderful writing and a unique point of view.

Kids Fiction:



Flora & Ulysses by Kate DiCamillo
Flora, a 10-year-old self-professed cynic, lives with her inattentive mom after her parents' divorce.

★★★★ She doesn't see her dad much and misses him. Her neighbor, who has a strange, temporarily blind boy living with her, gets a new vacuum cleaner so powerful that it sucks up a squirrel. Saving the squirrel, Flora soon learns that he is a wise, flying, poetry-writing rodent with superpowers. She has to save to the squirrel from her mom who has an evil plan for him. Poignant and hilarious, this is a must-read for 3rd or 4th graders.

Librarians who wish to contribute reviews should contact Madeline Schroeder at madeline@frontporchstapleton.com.



A Failing Ashley Elementary, Reborn

By Courtney Drake-McDonough

Students address 28-year-old Ashley Elementary principal Zachary Rahn with a combination of respect, affection and enthusiasm. As they show him their latest drawing or maybe their shiny boots, he, in turn, addresses them by name, sharing their excitement over whatever they are doing at that moment. Rahn is a whirlwind of energy, enthusiasm and confidence that's infectious. And now there's a positive energy coming from each classroom that the community wasn't so sure would be there this school year. In fact, for a while, it looked like the school itself wasn't going to be there.

Last April, Denver Public Schools abruptly announced they were going to close Ashley, located at Syracuse and Montview with neighborhood boundaries of Quebec, Montview, Yosemite and Colfax. The school was considered a “red” (failing) school due to the persistent low performance of its students. DPS's plan was to close the school in

June 2014 and re-open it in September as a new turn-around school with, potentially, a new staff. Beverly Haddon, chief executive officer, Stapleton Foundation for Sustainable Urban Communities, which is heavily involved in the support of area schools, explains, “The parents and teachers were stunned and livid, but they effectively petitioned DPS to develop their own plan for consideration, and DPS agreed. However, DPS wanted a new principal.”

Rahn was hired in late May. “With great enthusiasm, and a significant grasp of effective academic curriculums, Zach gathered about 20 shell-shocked teachers and principals (from other schools) to write a new school plan for Ashley,” says Haddon. Despite his youth, Rahn came with years of practical experience as a teacher, then an advisor for Teach for America, and as assistant principal at Cole Arts & Sciences Academy. Rahn was also armed with a list of lessons learned from successful schools.



New Principal Zachary Rahn is leading the rebirth of a once-failing school. He greets every child at the door each morning and assesses how he or she is doing.

Ironically, when the Ashley opportunity arose, Rahn had just been offered a principal position in Boston, closer to his New England roots and his family. Torn between selling his Clayton neighborhood house, packing up his dog, Wallis, and heading back East versus the prospect of creating a high-performing school at Ashley, Rahn called his dad for advice.

His dad, who had been a physical education teacher for 34 years, encouraged him to take the job, saying “You need to do this. It's going to be more rewarding. We're proud of you.” Rahn accepted the position at Ashley and started working to not only revamp the school, the curriculum and procedures, but he got DPS to improve the building, including painting the dingy, yellow walls bright white with colorful stars.

In July, he went back home to visit family and spent time lobstering with his dad. The day he returned to Denver, his father died while scuba diving



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Clockwise from top left: While Ashley has necessary regimentation, the staff is comforting and provides a warm atmosphere for students; To jump-start a successful academic career, Ashley offers Early Childhood Education; To be more efficient going from one class to another, students follow lines on the floor—an example of how Ashley manages time carefully; Ashley is using blended learning, offering technology in every class.

for lobster traps. Rahn immediately returned home and stayed until just before school began.

“Coming into a new setting is difficult anyway but losing my dad was incredibly difficult. But him saying ‘you need to do this’ sticks with me to this day,” says Rahn. When the going gets tough, Rahn looks at a photo of the more than 1,500 people who attended his father’s wake. “Sitting in that receiving line for hours on end, the amount of stories I heard of the impact someone can have on others’ lives was a galvanizing force for me to make sure this (Ashley) is successful. Being in education is oftentimes a thankless job. You aren’t a celebrity and aren’t going to make hundreds of thousands of dollars, but look at how many people this one P.E. teacher touched. I look at that photo and remember why I’m doing this.”

The compilation of ideas for Ashley’s transformation came from the commonalities Rahn found in the successful schools across the country that he visited as part of a principals’ leadership program through the DPS Office of School Reform and Innovation.

Those commonalities included a two-teacher per classroom model, blocks of instruction for core classes, a structure for every system in

the school from how Morning Meeting runs to how the students maneuver the hallways to the dismissal process at the end of the day. Rahn acknowledges that the degree of structure has been a concern among parents, but when they see what Rahn refers to as the “Joy Factor” in the classrooms and parents see improved behavior and enthusiasm for school from their children, they are on board.

Rahn also found the successful schools he visited had a specific “culture,” which he says stems from the leadership and teachers. He feels Ashley’s culture is “warm and welcoming but with clear expectations and learning time that is completely maximized.” He also witnessed blended technology (the incorporation of technology in every class) and unique administrative positions to support the school’s mission.

To assist in the goal of those last two items, Colorado Studios’ owner and founder Philip Garvin, a longtime advocate for Ashley Elementary, committed to purchasing iPads for every first- through fifth-grade Ashley student to use in school and at home, making Ashley the first DPS elementary school with a 1:1 student-to-technology program. Rahn offers scenarios of students using iPads to track their fitness levels in gym class, taking photos of their artwork and uploading it to an online portfolio in art, communicating with other students about projects and teachers being able to see each

night where individual children need help the next day. It will also assist with making sure every child is bilingual by the time they leave fifth grade, one of Rahn’s goals.

Garvin is also committed to paying for a “dedicated and knowledgeable” Blended Learning Coach and Coordinator at Ashley. That position is one of the unique ones Ashley will have, along with a Dean of Culture and Director of Operations. Rahn feels those support systems, together with an advisory board, will enable him to focus on providing the best instruction for the students, which he calls a principal’s most important job.

Rahn’s goal is to enroll 100 percent of the students who live in the school’s boundary. Currently, he has 71 percent and the DPS average is 81 percent. “Historically, the school hasn’t provided a good educational choice so parents rightfully went elsewhere,” he says. His recruitment goal is to bring those students back and to grow the school to have three classes at every grade level.

On December 19, the DPS Board voted 7-0 in favor of Ashley’s innovation plan that will allow more freedom in curriculum, schedule and funding. “We always hear, ‘this can’t be done, kids of poverty can’t learn, kids of high socioeconomic and low socioeconomic status can’t work together jointly in a school.’ All of that is just not true. We know it can work and it puts all kids on a path to college,” says Rahn. “We’re going to do this and do it really well.”

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Get to Know Dr. Christine Conageski

Christine Conageski completed her undergraduate work at Case Western Reserve University and trained at University of Cincinnati and University of Colorado. She lives in Park Hill and enjoys swimming.

Photo courtesy of City Lax



2014 Front Porch Guide to

Your child should be interested in playing the sport. If they are reluctant to try it, find out if the program will let them test it for a couple of weeks, and if it ends up being a good fit, they can continue. When your child starts a new program, observe how the coaches run the practices. If you do not feel it is a good fit, it is okay to remove your child from the program. Programs should give full refunds if a child drops out for any reason after the first couple of weeks. Sports teams are about kids having fun and being physically fit and healthy, not about the program itself or the parents.

2) How soon should my child start focusing on just one sport?

As long as there are opportunities for your child to compete in several sports, they should do so. Different sports require different skills, so the more sports they play, the more well-rounded and physically fit they will be. Kids learn on their own what they are good at and what they like.

Having young kids focus only on one sport takes that decision away from them. Furthermore, there is a risk the child may burn out by the time they get to middle school and will not have a base in other sports that gives them confidence to try new ones. Parents need to remember that just because they were successful

or unsuccessful in a sport does not necessarily mean their child will be the same way. By the time kids are in middle school, they understand their strengths and weaknesses, what they really enjoy doing, and where they will be the most competitive.

3) When should my child move from a recreational program to a competitive program?

If kids are in a league that has games and those games have winners and losers, that is a competitive league. If your athlete is having fun and improving their skills in the league, then that league is probably a good fit. If they are not having fun or being challenged, it is time to try a different league. By the time kids are 7 or 8, they can be competing in games and have the ability to accept winning and losing. That said, kids develop mentally and physically at different ages. Some kids may need a more competitive environment at a younger age than their peers. Other kids may not be as ready to be in the same competitive environment as their peers, and that is okay as well.

Gabe Hurley was a four-sport high school athlete who played college football. He founded Stapleton All Sports in 2009 to help develop children's basic athletic skills. He can be reached at StapletonAllSports@gmail.com.

Cover photo courtesy of Stapleton All Sports

With a wide range of sports and an abundance of quality programs to choose from, selecting the right sport and program for your kids can be challenging. Following are three key factors to consider can help when evaluating different sports programs.

1) What is the most important factor when choosing a sport for my child?



Photo courtesy of Colorado Rapids Youth Soccer



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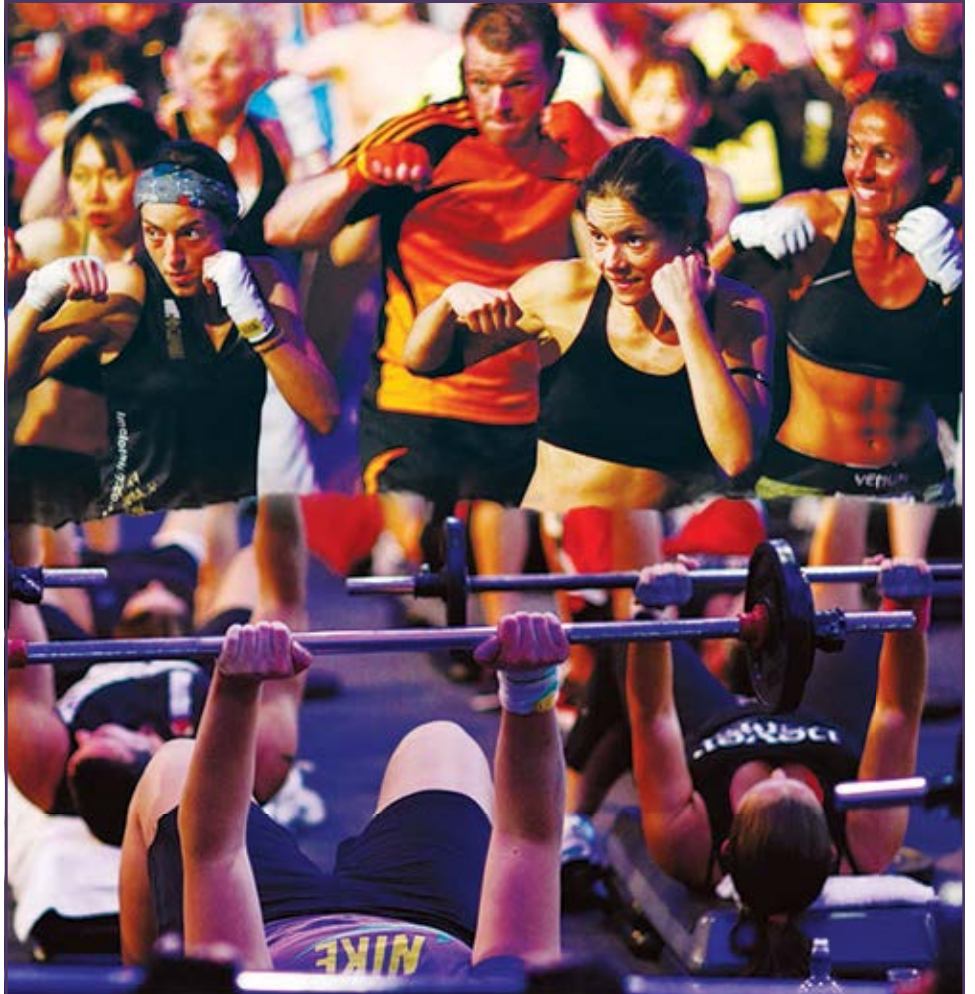
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	Arapahoe Little League (boys baseball /girls softball)	arapahoelittleleague.com arapahoell@gmail.com 17002 E. Kentucky Ave Aurora 80017 303.745.3341
MULTI SPORT	Multi Sport- Metro Denver Arapahoe Youth League (AYL)	Competitive football, basketball, volleyball and baseball. www.aylsports.org 303.495.3900
	Jewish Community Center (JCC)	Tennis, baseball, basketball, swimming. www.JCCdenver.org 303.316.6304
	Denver Police Activities League	Baseball, football, basketball, softball and jump rope denverpal.com 303.937.1223 1240 W. Bayaud Ave Denver 80223
	Stapleton All Sports	Year round program for ages 2.5-10. Flag football, football skills, soccer skills, early ball skills, basketball, cheer, yoga, lil bombers coach pitch baseball, wrestling, golf, summer sports camps. stapletonallsports.com 720.985.6642 info@stapletonallsports.com
	YMCA of Metro Denver	Baseball, swimming, basketball (rec and competitive), lacrosse, soccer. DenverYMCA.org 720.524.2750 click on Stapleton/NE Denver.
	Denver Parks & Recreation	Flag football, cheerleading, gymnastics, tumbling, soccer, volleyball, baseball, softball, basketball (rec and competitive), tennis, swimming. denvergov.org/recreation (activities and programs tabs) Montclair -720.865.0560; Central Park 720.865.0750; Hiawatha Davis 720.865.0590
BASKETBALL	Gold Crown	Competitive basketball for ages 9+ www.goldcrownfoundation.org
	Chauncey Billups Basketball Academy	Competitive basketball for ages 9+ www.billupselite.com
FOOTBALL	Broncos Flag Football	www.broncosflagfootball.com
GOLF	The First Tee Denver	thefirstteeofdenver.org 303.370.1554
GYMNASTICS	Colorado Gymnastics Institute	15540 E. 6th Ave Aurora 303.363.7272 www.coloradogymnstitute.net
	Gymnastics Plus	6180 E Warren Ave 303.512.0799 www.coloradogymplus.com
	Commerce City Rec Center	6060 E.. Parkway Drive, Commerce City 80022 www.c3gov.com 303.289.3789
	Dardano's School of Gymnastics	dardanosgymnastics.com 303.355.0080
ICE HOCKEY	Evolution Elite Hockey Academy	www.evolutionelitehockey.com boys and girls ages 6-18, based out of Big Bear Ice Arena Lowry.
	Denver University Family & Youth Recreation Junior Pioneers	recreation.du.edu (See Jr. Pioneers link) 303.871.7728
	Hockey Colorado AAU	Boys and girls ages 6-12. www.hockeycolorado.org, Big Bear Ice Arena
	Big Bear Ice Arena Lowry	Boys and girls ages 5-7. www.bigbearice.com/page/show/504019-team-big-bear-u7
ICE SKATING	Big Bear Ice Arena	Learn to skate & figure skating. bigbearice.com 303.343.1111
LACROSSE	Denver Lacrosse Club (DLC)	Boys and Girls. denverlacrosse.org 720.220.3004
	Boys and Girls – Denver City LAX	denvercitylax.com info@denvercitylax.com
	Boys – Stapleton Jets	www.stapletonjets.com lacrosse for boys grades K to 8th grade. Spring, fall and winter programs.
	Girls – Stapleton Electras Lacrosse	Girls grades 1-8 fall, winter, spring programs, year-round clinics. 919.475.2580 www.electraslacrosse.com
KARATE	Mike Giles Family Karate	mikegileskarate.com 303.377.5425 mikegileskarate@comcast.net
RUGBY	Glendale Youth Rugby	Boys and girls. www.infinitypark@glendale.com
	Stapleton Park Hill Rugby Club	Boys and girls ages 5-15 Spring and fall seasons, Ruby Colorado League. Andre Bachelet andrebachelet@hotmail.com
RUNNING	Girls on the Run	girlsontherunrockies.org 720.530.1064 info@girlsontherun.org
SOCCER	Colorado Rapids Youth Soccer	Rec and competitive soccer for boys and girls ages 4 and up. Indoor and outdoor. www.rapidsyouthsoccer.org
	Bladium Sports & Fitness Club Stapleton (indoor)	bladium.com Lil Kickers 303.320.3033 denversports@bladium.com
	Kinder Kixx Soccer	Boys and girls ages 2-12 at Monarch Montessori & Odyssey. Free trial. www.kinderkixx.com Peter Bruck 303.931.4218 peter@kinderkixx.com
	Skyline Soccer Club	Rec and competitive soccer for boys and girls ages 5 and up. 303.691.5662 www.skylinesoccer.org
	Colorado Storm	www.coloradostorm.org
SWIMMING	Stapleton Community Pools	Lessons and Stapleton Stingray Swim Team. stapletoncommunity.com (summer)
	Rocky Mountain Splash Swim Team	Synchronized swimming. rmsplash.org 303.693.4330 info@rmsplash.org
	Denver Stingrays	www.denverstingrays.com (year round)
TENNIS	Denver Tennis Club Hilltop	denvertennisclub.com 303.322.4524 400 Forest St Denver 80220
	Gates Tennis Center	gatestenniscenter.info (See Juniors link) 303.355.4461 100 S. Adams Denver 80209

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NE School News

Isabella Bird To Expand to ECE-5 in 2014

By Madeline Schroeder

Izzy B recently announced big news—beginning August 2014, they will be an ECE-5 elementary. “To be able to extend Isabella Bird to the older grades is wonderful,” Jeff Bushnell said after learning the news. As Lead Teacher, Bushnell is part of a 3-person leadership team at Isabella Bird that includes his wife and Co-lead Teacher Traci and Lead Administrator Sonny Zinn.

“This year we’ve been able to establish the culture of the school. It was a really important first step, and now it makes sense to grow.”

The school will have two classes for 4-years-olds, four kindergartens, three first grades, and they are projecting one class of second, third, fourth and fifth grades with 25 students per class. The school is expecting to move into their



Lead Administrator/Principal Sonny Zinn (middle), Lead Teacher Jeff Bushnell and his wife and Co-Lead Teacher Traci Bushnell, are thrilled Isabella Bird will expand to ECE-5 in August 2014.

brand new building at 2701 N. Lima in July 2014.

While there have been challenges being in a small shared space this year, Isabella Bird has warmly embraced having a small school since “you can’t reach the mind until you first reach the heart.” Teachers know every student’s name and family. Fearing losing that intimacy in the big new building,

Bushnell says, “We will have to be mindful of it. The goal is to maintain that same level of intimacy—it’s key to who we are philosophically.”

Bushnell says the school is adding grades to serve the families moving into the new homes being built in Stapleton.

Alyssa Whitehead-Bust, DPS Chief of Innovation and Reform, says DPS will provide plenty of resources as staff builds the curriculum for the additional grades.

Stapleton Elementary Schools to Have Priority Zones

The DPS Board voted 7-0 in favor of reserving 25 percent of the seats in Stapleton’s five shared-boundary elementary schools for those who live in a school’s priority zone. No children currently attending one of these elementary schools will be required to change schools as a result of this proposal. The policy just applies to new students at these five schools. The top four priorities, stated below, ALL apply to Stapleton-area shared-boundary residents.

For grades 1 through 5, priorities are: 1) Currently attending students, 2) Students with siblings currently attending and returning to the school, 3) Children of full-time staff at the school and 4) 25 percent of the seats remaining are reserved for proximity-zone students.

For grades ECE and K: 1) Students with siblings currently attending and returning to the school, 2) Students who are currently attending ECE at the school, 3) Children of full-time staff at the school, 4) 25 percent of the seats remaining are reserved for proximity-zone students.

As a result of this expansion of a shared elementary-school boundary covering a large geographic area and to ensure equitable allocation of transportation resources across the district, current transportation routes and stops will need to be significantly modified. This will mean fewer bus stops, requiring many students to walk farther to get to their closest stop.

The full policy that was approved by the DPS Board is posted at FrontPorchStapleton.com.

DPS Shared-Boundary Middle School Transportation Policy

Students who live within the Greater Park Hill/Stapleton shared boundary and are entering grades 6, 7 or 8 in one of the five shared-boundary schools will be provided transportation to and from those schools (Denver Discovery School, DSST: Conservatory Green, DSST: Stapleton, McAuliffe, Bill Roberts).

- Students who reside less than two and one-half (2.5) miles from one of the Greater Park Hill/Stapleton shared-boundary middle schools will go to their closest middle school to access transportation.

- Students who reside more than 2.5 miles from one of the shared-boundary middle schools will access transportation at their closest middle school or, potentially, at a community-based stop.

- Once the complete list of bus stops is established, families may choose from any of the established stops based on what’s most convenient for them.

Information provided by DPS. The full DPS transportation policy is posted at FrontPorchStapleton.com.

Front Porch Online Middle School Guide Expands to Include Hill and Odyssey

By Carol Roberts

Since the Park Hill/Stapleton shared-boundary middle-school policy is new for fall 2014, the December *Front Porch* provided a side-by-side comparison of those schools and a Q&A with their principals.

Now the same comparative information is available on the *Front Porch* website for Hill Campus of Arts and Sciences (the boundary school for Lowry, East Colfax, Mayfair, Montclair and Hale) and for The Odyssey School, a DPS K-8 charter school in Park Hill.

Hill Middle School Principal Sean Kavanaugh says the 825-student school offers a well-rounded educational experience in both the arts and the sciences. Hill will be adding a STEM program next year, Project Lead the Way, providing an elective option that focuses on the sciences. And they will implement 360° which he calls a compelling alternative to the way math is taught. A Hill parent says, “The vibe at Hill Campus of Arts and Sciences is achievement focused with a thick layer of individuality.”

The Odyssey School, which has 78 middle-schoolers (in a K-8 school with 234 students), offers significant amounts of personalized learning, with occasional whole-class learning opportunities, says Principal Marcia Fulton. The Odyssey School is an expeditionary learning community that fosters each child’s unique potential and spirit of adventure. The curriculum is designed around rigorous, purposeful, project-based learning expeditions tied to Colorado State Standards. The motto of the school is: *We are crew not passengers.*

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—Community Giving—



At 7am on Saturday, December 7, a helicopter carrying Santa, an elf and Mayor Hancock landed at the Northfield Target. Volunteers from Denver Active 20-30 raised funds to provide 160 children with a \$50 shopping spree to buy gifts for their families. The children waited outside in the freezing weather to see Santa arrive and Denver Active 20-30 volunteers then helped each child budget and find gifts while the store was open only for this purpose. Each child also received a gift from Santa. Councilman Chris Herndon arranged for the event to happen in Denver instead of at the Glendale Target, as it has in years past.



Wrapping Gifts For a Cause

On Dec. 8, more than 100 volunteers gathered to wrap gifts and prepare them for delivery to dozens of families living in poverty throughout the Denver metro area. WeeCycle, an organization that collects new and gently used baby gear and donates it to families in need, partnered with Brunch With A Purpose for this event. Jayme Ritchie, Stapleton resident and founder and

executive director of Weecycle, says two nonprofits working together to help one another and the community at large is not as common of an occurrence as it should be. She called the event a “natural partnership opportunity” for Weecycle and Brunch With A Purpose. For more information on these organizations, visit www.Weecycle.org and www.BrunchWithAPurpose.org.

Bill Roberts School-Wide Outreach Day

By Madeline Schroeder

Katy Perry plays over the speakers, and kids wear reindeer and Santa hats. The gym looks like Santa's workshop as more than 100 Bill Roberts students make gifts and zip down a giftwrapping assembly line.

“Are you guys having fun?” comes over the speakers.

The crowd answers a jubilant “Yes!”

On December 12, Bill Roberts School held a schoolwide winter outreach day. Every class donated at least 100 items to Aurora Warms the Night, a nonprofit that feeds and shelters the homeless and connects them to needed services. The students and their parents donated food, clothing, toys and books. During the outreach day, every classroom helped organize, package and wrap the items for Aurora Warms the Night, which also gives motel vouchers to the homeless when the temperature falls below 20 degrees.

Toys and books were also donated to William Roberts' sister school, John H. Amesse Elementary. And toys went to Children's Hospital Colorado for kids after surgery.

More than 800 books and games, 400



Sixth grade helpers hand canned food to students moving along an assembly line for packaging bags to give to the homeless.

cold-weather items and 1,000 meals were counted. Last year, they helped more than 1,000 families, and they believe they assisted more this year.

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Central Park Rec Ctr.
9651 E. MLK Blvd.
Denver, CO 80238
720-317-3802
M: 12-8pm
W: 4-8pm
Sat: 10am-1pm

Moorhead Rec Ctr.
2390 Havana St.
Aurora, CO 80010
720-987-5592
Tues: 2-6pm
Thurs: 11am-6pm
Sat: 12-4pm

Speak with your be well Health Coverage Guide at your neighborhood be well Center.

To learn more about Connect for Health Colorado, please visit www.ConnectForHealthCO.com or www.bewellconnect.org.



Conseguir cobertura

Ahora se requiere un seguro de salud (por ley) para todo el mundo con pocas excepciones!

La ayuda está disponible para que usted pueda **"Conseguir cobertura!"**

Connect for Health Colorado es un nuevo mercado para comprar un seguro asequible para usted y su familia. Es el único lugar donde se puede determinar si usted califica para recibir ayuda financiera

Llame al 303-468-3228 o mande correo electrónico a getcovered@stapletonfoundation.org para programar su uno-a-una cita o visite o llame a uno de los Centros de be well que se enumeran a continuación.

Hiawatha Davis Rec Ctr.
3334 Holly St.
Denver, CO 80207
720-317-3753
M: 4-8pm
W: 12-8pm
Sat: 10am-1pm

Central Park Rec Ctr.
9651 E. MLK Blvd.
Denver, CO 80238
720-317-3802
M: 12-8pm
W: 4-8pm
Sat: 10am-1pm

Moorhead Rec Ctr.
2390 Havana St.
Aurora, CO 80010
Hablo español
720-987-5592
Tues: 2-6pm
Thurs: 11am-6pm
Sat: 12-4pm

Hable con su Guía de be well de Cobertura de Salud y en su be well centro de recreo.

Para obtener más información acerca de Connect for Health Colorado, por favor visite www.ConnectforHealthCO.com o www.bewellconnect.org

DISCLAIMER: The Front Porch obtains event information through websites and press releases and cannot guarantee that events will occur as listed. Please use contact information to check for updates.

Please See Frontporchstapleton.com for Events Occurring the First Week of the Month.

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.goldentriangelofdenver.com

Navajo Street Art District. 5-9pm, and weekly gallery openings. 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.

Through 1/1 Wednesday- Denver Botanic Gardens Blossoms of Light. 5:30-9:30pm. Denver Botanic Gardens. 1007 York St. 720.865.3514, www.botanicgardens.org

Through 1/5 Sunday- Zoo Lights. Denver Zoo, 5:30-9pm. www.denverzoo.org

Through 1/17 Treecycle 2014. Questions: call 311 or visit DenverGov.org/DenverRecycles

Through 2/16- Southwest Rink at Skyline Park. FREE ice skating in downtown Denver; bring skates or rent: \$2/pair. www.downtowndenver.com

1/4 Saturday- Four Mile Historic Park Hay Bales & Tall Tales. Pioneer story time & quilting activity. 12-1pm. All ages. Free; donations appreciated. 715 S. Forest St. 720.865.0800, info@fourmilepark.org, FourMileHistoricPark.org

1/8 Wednesday to 1/11 Saturday- Colorado RV Travel Show. Tickets: \$7/online, \$10/door; cash only. 12 and under free. Colorado Convention Center, 700 14th St. www.gsevents.com

1/9 Thursday- National Western Parade. 12pm. Downtown Denver. FREE.

www.nationalwestern.com

1/9 Thursday to 1/26 Sunday- National Western Stock Show and Rodeo. National Western Complex. www.nationalwestern.com

1/10 Friday to 1/12 Sunday- Denver Boat Show. Colorado Convention Center, 700 14th St.

Downtown Denver. Tickets: \$12. Fri. 12-10pm; Sat. 10am-10pm, Sun. 10am-5pm. www.denverboatshow.com

1/11 Saturday- Symphony at the Movies: Singing in the Rain. Boettcher Concert Hall, 1000 14th St. 7:30pm. Tickets: www.coloradosymphony.org

1/16 Thursday to 1/19 Sunday- Denver International Sportsman's Expo. Colorado Convention Center, 700 14th, Downtown Denver. Thurs/Fri. 12-9pm; Sat. 10am-8pm; Sun. 10am-5pm. www.denverconvention.com

1/17 Friday to 1/29 Sunday- 32nd Annual Indian Market and SW Showcase. Fri. 1-7 pm; Sat. 10am-7pm; Sun. 10am-5pm. Adm.: \$13; under 13 free; good for all shows/demos all weekend. Denver Merchandise Mart, 451 E 58th Ave. www.indianmarket.net

1/18 Saturday- Cockpit Demo Day. Wings Over the Rockies Museum, Lowry. 10am-2pm. www.wingsmuseum.org

1/18 Friday- Lin Rountree Concert. Presented by All Fours Entertainment charitable concert series. Denver Pavilions, 500 16th St. #320. 5:30-7:30pm. Tickets \$25 gen. adm.; \$35 VIP. www.allfoursentertainment.com

1/20 Monday- Martin Luther King Jr. Parade. Largest in U.S. Gather at Colfax and Columbine, program and march to Civic Center Park. 8:30am. www.drmartinlkingjrhc.org

1/22 Wednesday and 1/23 Thursday- Denver Brass and An Evening of Dancing Horses. 7:30pm. National Western Complex. www.nationalwestern.com, 303.295.2979

1/24 Friday- Colorado Symphony presents John Paul George and Ringo. Boettcher Concert Hall, 1000 14th St. 7:30pm. Tickets: www.coloradosymphony.org

1/24 Friday and 1/25 Saturday- Denver Winter Brewfest. 7pm. Mile High Station. \$40-\$45. Benefits Swallow Hill Music. www.denverbrewfest.com/winter

Tiny Tots Love Music, Denver Brass. Special concert for tiny tots and parents; introduce little ones to magic of live music. Various dates/locations. Tickets: www.denverbrass.org

Tiny Tots, Inside the Orchestra. 45-minute Colorado Symphony concerts for kids 6 and under who sit next to musicians and hear classical music they may recognize! Various venues/dates. Concerts: 9:30 and 10:30am. \$7.50; children under 2 free. Tickets: www.inside-theorchestra.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

PARKWOOD HOMES

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Asheville kitchen

Did you get what you wanted for Christmas?

If you're like most of us, you still have a few things on your wish list...

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- Lower energy bills every month
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- A large lot for my kids and a garden
- A new kitchen, built the way I want it

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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.denver-urbanhomesteading.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

1/5 to 1/26 Sundays- Nurturing the Nurturer. 4-week mind/body workshop at Harmony Yoga. www.harmony-yoga.com

1/11 Saturday- 17th Annual Quaker Oatmeal Festival and Quicker Quaker 5K Walk/Run. Downtown Lafayette. www.lafayettecolorado.com

1/18 Saturday- Yoga Sponsored by Nobody's Perfect Healthy Lifestyle. FREE. 10:30-11:30am. Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St. RSVP: Michelle@NobodysPerfectHealth.com. Limited to 20 participants.

2/7 Friday- Give Kids Smile, Free Dental Care. Lowry Family Dentistry will provide FREE dental care to children ages 3-15 in our community. Includes exams, x-rays, cleanings, fluoride treatments, oral hygiene instructions, restorative and emergency treatment. 303.366.3000

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. 3:45pm. 2nd & 4th Fridays, Panera Bread, 13th and Grant. 303.861.1447 or www.SmallBiz-Chamber.org

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

1/7 Tuesday- Germany. 10:15-11:15am. Jewish Community Center, 350 S Dahlia St. 303.316.6359

1/9 Thursday- Paris: Biography of a City. 7pm. Stapleton Master Community Assoc., 2823 Roslyn St. 303.388.0724

1/14 Tuesday-Germany. 12:30-1:30pm. Tattered Cover, 2526 E Colfax. 303.322.7727

LIBRARIES

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

All DPL libraries closed Monday, Jan. 20 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.

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

Pauline Robinson Library, 5575 E. 33rd Ave. 720.865.0290. Closed Sun.

Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St. 720.865.0325.

New Family Program Series first Sat. monthly.

1/4- Rabbits Take a Winter Break Comedy Magic Show, 11am-noon

2/1- Master Magician Mark Strivings, 11am-noon

New Stem-Opolis at the Sam Gary Library. 5-week 1-hour sessions for early elementary (K-3) and upper elementary (3-5) grades will focus on STEM (science, technology, engineering and math). First sessions Jan. to mid-Feb. are full! Check back in Feb. for info on dates for next sessions and to register at 720.865.0325, ext. 2.

Schlessman Family Library, 100 Poplar St. (1st and Quebec). Closed Fri. 720.865.0000. Closed Jan. 1 to Jan. 18 for new carpet installation

NORTHEAST DENVER/AURORA EVENTS

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

Denver School of the Arts- December performances, tickets/complete listings: www.dsa.dpsk12.org/performances or www.dsapresents.org. Montview and Quebec

1/15 Wednesday- Venture Prep Open House. 5pm. Smiley Campus, 26th and Holly.

1/25 Saturday- The Colorado Healthy Marriage Project. 9am-5pm. Sam Gary Library. FREE federally recognized healthy marriage/relationship workshops in Colorado, comprehensive, research-based and fun. Lunch, all materials provided. Contact: Info@myrelationshipcenter.org. Sponsored by Northfield Church

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 to register for programs.

January Events- Unity on the Avenue. 4670 E. 17th Ave. www.unityontheavenue.org or 303.322.3901

DENVER ART MUSEUM

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

Passport to Paris through 2/9. This is a ticketed exhibit. Through 1/20- Yellowstone: Project for the Nation.

DENVER MUSEUM OF NATURE AND SCIENCE

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

Through 1/5- MythBusters: The Explosive Exhibition. Exhibit ticket required in addition to museum admission.

1/16 Thursday- Science Lounge. Cocktails/entertainment every 3rd Thurs. of month. 6:30-9:30pm. \$8/members; \$10/nonmembers

Planetarium- To Space and Back; Black Holes, The Other Side of Infinity; One World, One Sky; Cosmic Journey. www.dmns.org/planetarium/current-show

IMAX Movies- Meerkats 3D, Great White Shark 3D. Mysteries of the Unseen World 3D. 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

1/3 – Paranormal Activity: The Marked Ones

1/10 – August: Osage County, Her, Lone Survivor

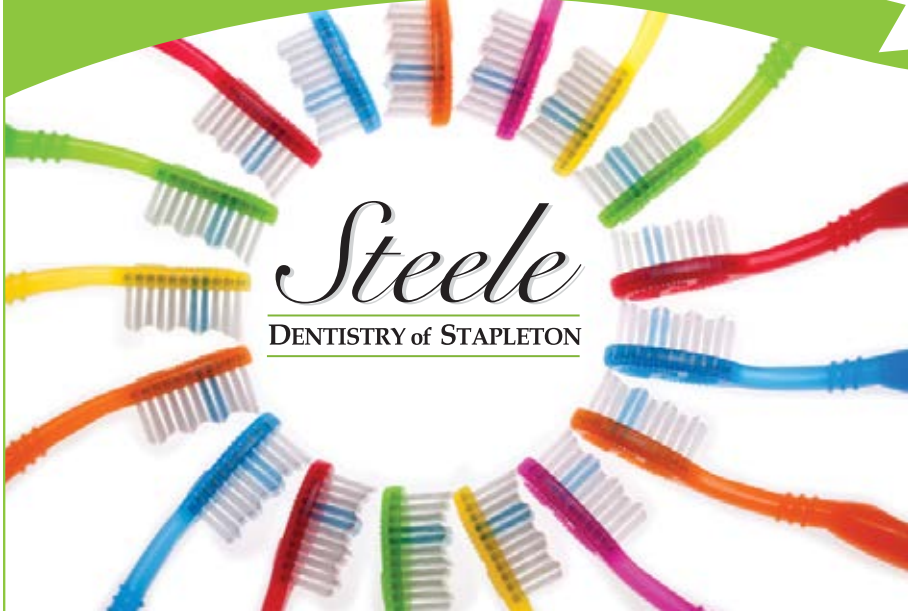
1/17 – Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit, The Nut Job, Ride Along, The Visitor

1/24 – The Best Offer, I, Frankenstein, The Past

1/31 – Labor Day, That Awkward Moment


Improv Comedy Club and Dinner The- (continued on page 22)

DENTISTRY FOR YOUR WHOLE FAMILY



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DENVERPRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

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5926 E COLFAX AVE
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HTTP://ON.FB.ME/1C7NP0V

COLORADO SPRINGS

417 N CIRCLE DR
COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80909
719-597-4429
HTTP://ON.FB.ME/1HX7SGW

BERTHOUD

1017 N 2ND ST
BERTHOUD, CO 80513
970-344-5060
HTTP://ON.FB.ME/1JB0CGD

(continued from page 21)

atre- 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

Reservations required for events marked *.

Hours: Mon.-Sun., 6am-6pm. Visitor Center: Tues.-

Sun., 9am-4pm. Refuge closed federal holidays.

303.289.0930. Directions/events: http://www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky_mountain_arsenal/

1/5 Sunday- Eagles on Holiday.* 1-5pm

1/5 Sunday- Game Day 9-3pm. Repeats 1/19
Sunday

1/11 Saturday- Photo Workshop.* 10-11am

1/18 Saturday- Winter Raptors.* 1-3pm

1/25 Saturday- Hawk Quest Presents Live Birds
of Prey.* 10-11am

2/1 Saturday- Junior Duck Stamp Workshop.*
10am-noon

THEATRE

Through 2/2/14- Young Frankenstein. Vintage
Theatre. 1468 Dayton St, Aurora. www.vintagetheatre.com

1/4 to 1/26- Evita. Buell Theater, Denver Center
for Performing Arts. www.denvercenter.org

Through 1/9- Aida. Aurora Fox Arts Center,
presented by Ignite Theatre. 9900 E Colfax Ave.
www.aurorafoxartscenter.org

Through 1/25/14- The Traveesty of Lear. The Betsy
Stage, 1133 S. Huron St. Performances Thurs/Fri/
Sat 8pm; Sundays 2pm. All performances FREE;
donations accepted. Thebetsystage.com

1/10 to 3/1- Voddville. Avenue Theater, 417 E. 17th
Ave. www.avenuetheater.com

1/11 to 2/8- Barefoot in the Park. Spotlight
Theatre Company at John Hand Theater. www.johnhandtheater.com

1/18 Saturday- Way Out West. Presented by Sto-
ries on Stage. 1:30 and 7:30pm. Su Teatro Cultural

and Performing Arts Center. 721 Santa Fe Dr.
www.storiesonstage.org, 303.494.0523

1/23 to 1/26 Willy Wonka and the Chocolate
Factory. Presented by Christian Youth Theatre,
Colorado Heights University Theater. 3001 S
Federal Blvd. www.cyt-denver.org

1/24 to 2/23- The Mousetrap. Arvada Center,
6901 Wadsworth Blvd. www.arvadacenter.org
1/28 to 2/2- Mama Mia. Buell Theater, Denver
Center for Performing Arts. www.denvercenter.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 critically needs
adult volunteers. Contact: girlscoutsofcolorado.org,
inquiry@gscolorado.org or 1.877.404.5708

Project Worthmore. Volunteers for teams
(6-month commit) to assist Burmese refu-
gees 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; trans-
portation reimbursed. www.voacolorado.org,
303.297.0408 (Naomi Taggart)

Assistance League of Denver. Seeks mem-
bers to help underserved in metro Denver.
Programs for victims, students, children,
seniors. www.denver.assistanceleague.org or
303.322.5205

Reading Volunteers Needed. At Odyssey School

RECURRING MEETINGS

BUSINESS GROUPS

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

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

WORK-FROM-HOME GROUP.
1st Wednesday, 12-1pm.
Smartspace, 2373 Central Park
Blvd #100. Brown bag or group
order for lunch.
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 Ac-
tivities. 9 AM-12 Noon. Contact
Caroline Fry, Sand Creek Regional
Greenway
CFry@Sandcreekgreenway.org or
Lucia.Corrrell@dotnet.net for
place each month.

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

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

INTEREST GROUPS

BLUFF LAKE BIRDERS. 1st Satur-
day, 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. www.cycleton.com
303.329.0069.

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

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

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

STAPLETON WINE APPRECIA-
TION 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 ADVISO-
RY BOARD MTG. 3rd Thursday,
7:30-9am. 7350 E. 29th Ave., 3rd fl.
303.393.7700

STAPLETON DEVELOPMENT
CORPORATION MTG. 4th Thurs-
day, 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.
stapletonunitedneighbors@gmail.com

SUN TRANSPORTATION COM-
MITTEE. 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

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

ADOPTED IN SEARCH SUP-
PORT 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

OA OPEN DISCUSSION
MEETING Every Monday 7:00 pm,
@ Hangar 61 8700 E 21st Ave
Denver CO 80238 Mary 720-291-
9065 or Mike 303-325-6650

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

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

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

Through 1/5- The Elves and the Shoemaker. Denver Puppet Theatre, 3156 W 38th Ave. Tickets: \$7 ages 3 and up. 303.458.6446, www.denverpuppettheater.com

Tuesdays in January- Four Mile Historic Park Small Settlers Ages 2-5 accompanied by parent/caregiver. 9-10am. \$5/child, adults free. Members free. 715 S. Forest St. Advance register: 720.865.0814 or education@fourmilepark.org.

Through 1/31- F Series Pickups. Free with museum admission. 4303 Brighton Blvd. www.forneymuseum.org

1/4 Saturday and 1/5 Sunday- Forney Transportation Museum Moffat Modelers Toy Train Layout. Scale toy train layout open first weekend every month. Free with museum admission. 4303 Brighton Blvd. www.forneymuseum.org

1/4 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

1/8 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

1/9 to 3/2- Cricket. Denver Puppet Theatre, 3156 W 38th Ave. Tickets: \$7 ages 3 and up. 303.458.6446, www.denverpuppettheater.com

1/9 Thursday- Wands and Wishes Character Story Time at The Bookies Bookstore. 2nd Thurs each month, characters read interactive stories, sing song, pose for photos; different character monthly. 10:30am. FREE. 4315 E. Mississippi Ave. wandsandwishesoccasions.com, 303.883.6778

1/11 and 1/25 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.lowesbuildandgrow.com

1/12 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

Thursdays in January- 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

1/31 Friday and 2/1 Saturday- Disney Junior Live on Tour, Pirate and Princess Adventure- Bellco Theatre, Colorado Convention Center, 700 14th St. Tickets from \$16. www.ticketmaster.com

(continued on page 24)



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Events

(continued from page 23)

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

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

Sew Creative Stapleton- Variety of sewing classes for kids ages 6 and older, including adults. www.sewcreativestapleton.com

Stapleton All Sports- Registering for cheer, yoga and basketball beginning Jan. 2014. www.stapletonallsports.com

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

Kim Robards School of Dance- Classes for dancers all ages/skill levels: modern, ballet, jazz, tap, repertory, hip hop. 9900 E. Colfax Ave, Aurora. Schedule/performance info: www.kimrobardsdance.org

From Lady Knight to Cowgirl

DSSST: Stapleton senior Bailee Cotton, who has a 3.9 GPA and close to 10 AP classes on her transcript, also has a full-ride scholarship to play basketball at the University of Wyoming. Cotton, a shooting forward, led the Frontier League in both points scored and rebounds last season. As a team captain, Bailee helped the Lady Knights to a 24-3 record and a third place finish in the Class 3A semifinals.

"The university is a perfect fit for me," said Bailee Cotton. "It has my exact major, architectural engineering, and it is giving me the opportunity to continue playing basketball. It's a great balance of education and athletics."

Bailee became the second student in the history of DSST: Stapleton High School to receive a full-ride scholarship to an NCAA Division 1 school for athletics and academics. Bailee's sister, Bradlee Cotton, joined the ceremony via Skype. Bradlee, a freshman at the University of Northern Arizona, was the first student athlete to receive a full-ride athletic scholarship to an NCAA Division 1 school last year. The University of Northern Arizona also recruited Bailee, but she ultimately decided to have a college experience separate from her sister.

Information provided by Meagan Dorsch, DSST Communications Manager



Bailee Cotton holds her letter of intent to play basketball at University of Wyoming.

Photo courtesy of DSST

Children's Book Offers a Look at Chinese Culture

By Madeline Schroeder

When Stapleton resident Tricia Chinn Campbell was pregnant with her first child Chance she wrote down all the things she wanted him to learn. Years later, she strung them together into a book, *Kai and The Magic Jacket*, which was published in the summer of 2012.

The lack of Chinese children's books written in English inspired Campbell to include her culture in the book. She is Chinese American and grew up in Seattle in a large Chinese community. She misses the cultural organizations there.

The book features a 5-year-old half-Chinese, half-Anglo boy named Kai, based on Chance. Kai is given an ornate silk Chinese jacket passed down through the family for generations. Whenever he puts on the jacket, his ancestors visit in spirit. They guide Kai and help him resist peer pressure and deal with bullying. Kai's great-grandmother tells him, "One day you won't need this because you will be old enough to make your own decisions. We're



Photo courtesy of Tricia Chinn Campbell

Tricia Chinn Campbell

It's time...to buy or sell!

So often sellers wait until those yards have greened up and flowers are blooming to list their homes for sale. Yet, keep in mind, there is less competition in the market during the winter months and buyers are actively shopping now to leverage the low interest rates before those warm up too. If making a move is one of those New Year's resolutions, get started! Give me a shout and we'll book some time.



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here to help you until then.”

Campbell believes young children can see things like ancestral spirits that they may not understand. “I want to help kids with these things.”

When Chance was a baby he awoke early in the morning, pointed to their spiral staircase, smiled and waved. “Whatever or whoever he was waving to, it was something he was comfortable with and it was a good thing,” she says.

Campbell has also always felt a spiritual connection to her deceased grandmother.

While she says some people may feel uncomfortable talking about spirits, she says it’s okay to introduce kids to new ideas, especially in a fun and creative way like a children’s book.

She never suspected she would write a children’s book. Campbell worked in advertising and marketing in Seattle and Los Angeles. In June, she and her husband moved from Summit County to Stapleton to raise their family. She is now a stay-at-home mom and in the midst of a second book, which will be released next year.

To learn more about *Kai and the Magic Jacket* or to purchase the book, visit KaiAndTheMagicJacket.com.

be well Honors Seven for Leadership in Health Education and Service

Seven individuals who contributed greatly to the health and well-being of residents in our local communities were honored at the 4th annual be well and Community Celebration held Nov. 15. The be well zone includes the neighborhoods of Stapleton, Greater Park Hill, NE

Park Hill, East Montclair and NW Aurora. Sen. Mark Udall was the event’s guest speaker. The following recipients and awards were: Thal Woods for Physical Activity Leadership; Judy Schure for Nutrition Leadership; Lelia Odom and Bob Semro for Community Advocate Leadership; Kathryn Kollowa for Preventative Care Leadership; Luis



Left to right, be well award recipients: Bob Semro and Lelia Odom for Community Advocate Leadership; Thal Woods for Physical Activity Leadership; Kathryn Kollowa for Preventative Care Leadership; and Luis Perello for Youth Leadership.



Photos courtesy of be well

Parello for Youth Leadership; and Dr. Noah Makovsky for Outstanding Provider Leadership. The varied achievements included providing free fitness activities and health education for youths, spearheading healthy living programs in schools, educating the public about the Affordable Care Act and

accessing care, facilitating community health screenings, serving with distinction on the be well Youth Council, and being a dedicated doctor who takes time with patients to ensure they understand how to maintain a healthy lifestyle. For more about be well and its programs, go to www.bewellconnect.net.

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Connecting the Dots Along Westerly Creek

By Madeline Schroeder

Ten years ago, Park Hill residents Marcia Johnson (a former city councilwoman) and Brian Hyde were bold enough to imagine a continuous greenway along Westerly Creek from Lowry to Stapleton, though the reality seemed far in the future. “It’s so logical,” says Johnson, who spearheaded the project for the Westerly Creek connection when she took office in 2003. “The two biggest infill projects, Lowry and Stapleton, are only nine blocks apart, *nine* blocks, and there are wonderful amenities in both. If there was a comfortable path, people would actually use all of those.”

Westerly Creek has been a convoluted path, or a dotted line according to Johnson. Parts take right angles, some go through gritty urban areas with underused or vacant buildings, and sections of the creek are not daylighted, they flow through underground pipes. But piece by piece, the creek

is beginning to resemble the early vision.

The City of Denver has created a plan for a park along Westerly Creek in the two blocks north of 11th, and is looking for funds to build it. This new park will connect to New Freedom Park, at 13th and Xenia, which was a dirt field of glass before it was turned into a park with a community garden in 2012 for the surrounding refugee community. However, Westerly Creek cuts through the middle of the park, limiting access between the two sides of the creek and making it potentially dangerous, according to William Wenk, principal at Wenk Associates Landscape & Architecture Planning. Just this September, the creek swept a blind man and his dog two blocks downstream until police rescued them. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency hired Wenk Associates to regrade the channel there and build a new crossing.

“Westerly Creek is a big part of our general improvement of Denver’s waterways,” says Mary

Beth Susman, city councilwoman for District 5. “This section (the two blocks north of 11th Ave.) is particularly significant to our recent creation of New Freedom Park and to the enjoyment and safety of neighbors. I am hopeful we will find the right partners to help us implement this beautiful plan in 2014 or 2015.”

Another upcoming improvement within the Westerly Creek corridor is a new vehicular bridge across the creek on Montview Boulevard. Currently, Westerly Creek flows under Montview Blvd. through two grossly undersized culverts, causing a major backup of water during flood conditions, like those in September 2013. That backup puts 107 properties in the 100-year floodplain south of Montview Blvd. The Aurora Water Department applied for and was awarded a FEMA grant to replace the existing culverts with a 60-foot-wide bridge that will have daylight between the lanes to enhance the pedestrian trail below. Aurora Parks will reshape the creek channel through Montview Park, extending the current greenway at Stapleton south from Montview to 17th Ave. The department also bought and tore down a gas station north of Montview along the east side of Westerly Creek to create a wider, more attractive stream bank and to



Aurora Water Operations & Maintenance

This conceptual drawing of the Montview Boulevard bridge shows it will be designed so daylight enters between the lanes to provide light for the pedestrian/bike path under the structure. Specific design elements have yet to be determined.

accommodate emergency vehicles under the bridge. Construction will begin in 2014 and will be completed by June 2015. Aurora Parks is simultaneously planning improvements to Montview Park, which will improve pedestrian access along Westerly Creek from Montview to 17th Ave. The bridge is funded by a partnership between the City of Aurora, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and Urban Drainage Flood Control District (UDFCD).

After Aurora finishes the Montview bridge and park and Denver finishes the two blocks north of 11th Ave., only four blocks, from 13th to 17th avenues, will remain to create a pedestrian path from Stapleton to Lowry.

“It’s now a hint of what I imagined,” Johnson says.

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The Executive Committee of the Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) in 2000: (top) Jim Wagenlander, (2nd row) Phil Dietrich, Pat McClearn, Terry Whitney, Alice Kelly, (seated) Joyce Gibson and Geoff Peterson. Terry Whitney is currently an SDC board member and Alice Kelly and Jim Wagenlander are still members of CAB.

Stapleton Development Corp.

(continued from p.6) How risky was it? "It's a risk to take on any real estate development—risk beyond what anybody would understand. It was an assessment of the risk and the opportunity and we felt really good about what the opportunity was," says Lehigh.

Lehigh says the contractual arrangement with SDC actually does not seem unusual to Forest City. "There's always a public dialogue with your partners, neighbors, whoever the constituencies are."

Though it's been primarily a collaborative relationship, there have been difficult times. The Community Advisory Board (CAB) submits an annual report to the SDC board on Forest City's performance in certain areas. In January 2012, the CAB asked SDC to withhold land sales because the sale of homes in the affordable program was well below the level set in the contract. SDC voted to meet with the City to address the issue.

"In any process you have a lot of different views and you don't always get what you want," says Haynes. "But the question is do you exercise the enforcement of not selling land based on one or two breeches or do you try to continue to push forward and make the changes as we go? I think the SDC board has used more the negotiation strategy...The SDC believes this has been a collaborative relationship and that's how we should proceed."

CAB members who've been committed to monitoring compliance with Green Book principles agree the Stapleton development has been a



success. "I'm a critic of some aspects, but it's an extraordinary project and it's been a spectacular success," says Jim Wagenlander. "This project has had such incredible community involvement, I believe, and many believe, that has been one of the major reasons for the success of Stapleton." CAB co-chair David Netz says he believes what has been built is actually better than the original concept.

But now, 13 years into a successful project, the paid staff at SDC who do the legal land transfers and support the volunteer board are facing uncertainty about their future. A flat amount was allocated to fund SDC and that money is just about gone. DIA says no more proceeds from land sales can be used for that purpose and the city, so far, says they do not have money for that purpose.



Dick Anderson, shown walking to work in 2004 when he was president of the Stapleton Development Corporation.

At the December SDC meeting, the volunteer board members voted to continue meeting, and under the terms of the contract they will retain their authority, but they spoke of their anger and frustration over the lack of funding for SDC staff. "The City and County of Denver has received huge benefits from the development of Stapleton, and to find ourselves in this corner is unfathomable," said Michael Kearns. Steven Miller added, "I think the circumstances we're facing now indicate the city is fully prepared for either the dissolution of SDC and/or the implications of the cease of operations of SDC."

Some SDC board members then met with the mayor and requested funding so SDC staff can continue in their role as the legal entity that transfers land to Forest City. The *Front Porch* will follow the story and keep readers informed.

The redevelopment of Stapleton is such a complicated process that most people don't know about or understand all the entities involved. Next month the Front Porch will continue to write about these entities and explain their roles in the redevelopment of Stapleton.

*[*The DURA website shows \$3.4 billion as projected cost at buildout.]*



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SUN Meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 6:30pm (Block Captain meeting) and 7:30pm (Board meeting) 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

SUN Q&A with Forest City

(questions answered by Tom Gleason)

How does Forest City incorporate public input into the design and decision-making process regarding Stapleton parks, town centers and other amenities?

A: Starting even before development commenced in May 2001, Forest City has participated in monthly meetings with the Stapleton Development Corporation's Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) and its committees on parks, housing, zoning and planning, and communications to solicit input on all key aspects of the redevelopment process. That citizen input is weighed in all important decisions Forest City makes as the master developer. Forest City has also been a regular participant in SUN forums to provide updates on development and solicit input from SUN members.

Forest City embraces the vision of The Stapleton Development Plan (commonly referred to as "The Green Book"), a set of broad principles designed to guide the redevelopment of Stapleton. The Green Book was the product of the input of citizens from Denver, Aurora and Commerce City who participated in more than 100 public meetings prior to the plan's formal acceptance by the City of Denver in 1995.

What factors contribute to development delays or changes? How are those changes approved, by whom, and how are the changes communicated?

A: Development can be delayed by a number of factors, most often the forces of a weak or uncertain market. In the case of the Eastbridge Town Center, for example, potential grocery anchors have often expressed reluctance to make a commitment until residential development is more fully built out and the market demand has grown stronger. In regard to changes in planned development anywhere at Stapleton, changes requiring a change in zoning must be approved through the standard rezoning process of the City of Denver. Zoning changes are communicated to the community through the established processes of the City, which includes official communications to registered neighborhood organizations such as SUN. Changes in development plans are also provided to the community through Forest City's regular meetings with the Stapleton Development Corporation's Citizens Advisory Board.

The East Bridge Town Center development is top of mind for Stapleton residents. How does Forest City intend to keep the community informed of progress and residents' preferences that are being factored into the design?

A: Forest City has been keeping the community informed about progress through its regular meetings with the CAB and participation in SUN forums such as the recent block captains' meeting.

How is the development being funded north of I-70?

A: Development north of I-70 is funded in the same manner that development was funded south of I-70. Construction of major regional arterials such as the extension of Central Park Boulevard and the creation of regional parks are financed through Tax Increment Financing (TIF) in which revenues created by new development are used to retire bonds issued by the Denver Urban Renewal Authority. Local streets and in-tract (neighborhood) parks are financed by property taxes collected by the Westerly Creek Metropolitan District on all property at Stapleton.

The General Development Plan approval process of the City of Denver requires public input. In spring of 2014, we will have a GDP amendment for the design of Section 10, which is the section of Stapleton north of 56th Ave. Those public meetings will be posted and provide an opportunity for additional public comment.

Help SUN Help You

Visit Buffalo Wild Wings in Quebec Square on Sunday, Jan. 12 and mention Stapleton United Neighbors and they will donate 10 percent of your check to SUN, which will help us pay for our email list and survey system, meeting expenses, and more.

Sun Block Captain & Board Meeting Date Changes to Third Tuesday

The SUN Block Captain and Board meeting night has been changed to the third Tuesday of each month, still at 6:30pm (Block Captains) and 7:30pm (Board meeting) and still at the Rec Center.

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Op-Ed

White in America

By Stephen Shelley

Why is it so awkward and difficult for whites in America to discuss the institutionalized racism that is alive and well in our society? Reasons include denial, a lack of exposure to diversity, and a vested interest in the belief that racism is a relic from a troubled time in our nation's history. If you're white in America, you don't want to admit the actual state of racism because you know you are in many ways, directly or indirectly, responsible for the ongoing problem. Many whites hold to the notion that they had nothing to do with slavery, and therefore they take no responsibility for what happened 150 years ago. To be fair, blacks in America today had nothing to do with slavery either. However, their ancestors did, and the residual effects continue in various forms to this day.

For many who are white in America, it's easy to say, "We've come so far, racism is barely a problem anymore." If you are a minority in America, the answer is different. *The country* is better off than we were in the 1960s, as far as the laws we now have on the books. But legislating equality between the races is easy compared to changing people's attitudes about race, discrimination and equal opportunity for all.

Racism is defined as discrimination based on one's skin color—so this could also encompass blacks being racist towards whites. Despite the literal meaning of racism, there is a theory that it is impossible for a minority group to be racist toward the majority—racism is all about power and you must have it to practice racism.

Evidence of this theory came out during testimony in the Trayvon Martin trial when Rachel Jeantel stated Trayvon Martin called George Zimmerman "a creepy ass cracker." Most whites didn't seem to be offended and actually thought it was funny. When you're in the majority, you're not threatened. In contrast, when Riley Cooper of the Philadelphia Eagles addressed a black security guard using the "N"

word, the effect was disgraceful and oppressive—no other word in our society invokes such hateful, harmful connotations.

A good friend of mine asked a person of color what whites could do to bring equality to those suffering from inequality. The answer? "Speak truth to power."

Speaking truth to power means everything from lobbying our representatives to change policies such as having to show an I.D. to vote, or working to bridge the gap between salaries or abolishing "stop and frisk" policies, all of which target minorities. It also means calling people out when they tell racially motivated jokes or make racial slurs born of ignorance.

So what can whites in America do to end inequality and racism? Acknowledge the existence of racism and then work toward a solution in an honest dialogue between people of different heritages—a dialogue in which we identify the issues that keep us from living together in a world devoid of discrimination and oppression based on the color of people's skin.

How do we change people's view of other races and live with each other in harmony? While legislation can do much to bridge the gap of racial inequality, the key is to change the experiences members of each race have with each other. For example, when a white man meets a black man on a sidewalk and fails to make eye contact or crosses the street to avoid the situation, it lends itself to the negative experiences of both and perpetuates the stereotypes ingrained in the psyche of both parties.

When a white person in America says racism barely exists anymore it's much like a wealthy person refusing to see poverty as an issue in our society. When these people make such comments, what they're really saying is, "Racism and poverty is not a problem for me." My hope is that we can all come together in the realization that equality doesn't just benefit one race, it benefits the human race.

Stephen Shelley is a Stapleton resident who is a freelance writer.

Letter to the Editor

Response to December Front Porch article about HOA ban on farmyard animals outdoors

Corrections and clarifications:
We did have cockerels because we had purchased day old chicks and had no way of knowing if they were male or female, not until they started to crow, which was at 4 months. The neighbors contacted the City first when they heard crowing in our garage. Our kids do not chase the chickens around the courtyard. Yes, I have taken the bunny to the courtyard so he could hop around but I don't see how that is any worse than off-leash dogs that the home owners have in the courtyard.

Our family has never wanted a pig. This is a false statement by the board president, Mr. Dowdy.

Mr. Dowdy stated that "The majority gets to make the rules..." 5 out of 118 home owners is not the majority, 60 is. The board has not taken a poll of the association to support this. If Mr. Dowdy is referring to the majority of the courtyard then the ban should be in this courtyard and not in the association. However, after talking to my neighbors I have found out that some of them have no issue with our chickens and rabbit being in our own yard.

Caroline Vierow



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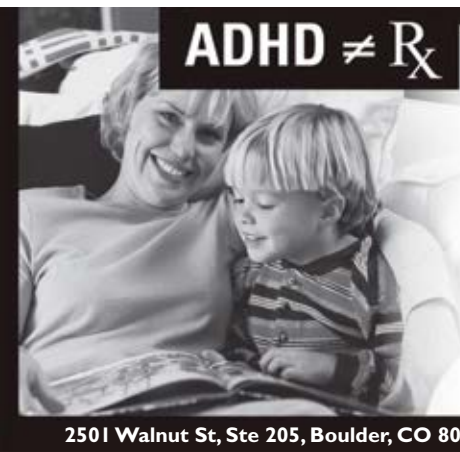
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Coloradans have a new record to celebrate—the NFL’s longest field goal. In a bone-chilling game against the Titans, the Broncos’ Matt Prater kicked a 64-yarder, breaking one of the NFL’s most iconic records. News of this accomplishment buzzed across the nation—even giving non-football fanatics something to admire. Yet many grumbled or belittled the accomplishment.

High altitude was invoked, suggesting the kick went farther than normal due to the

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Just the Facts

Colorado’s New Football Record

by James Hagadorn, Dimitri I. Klebe & Daniel Winester



less-dense Denver air. Others suggested that the cold temperatures made the air more dense, offsetting high-altitude effects. Such post-game rhetoric is common, but most of it is speculative. Let’s examine how much these factors actually matter.

Bob Beamon’s mindblowing long jump at the 1968 Mexico City Olympics produced similar speculation about whether altitude helped him earn the world record. In contrast to previous long-jump records, which were broken in incremental inch-wise increases, Beamon extended the previous mark by nearly two feet! His jump was so long that judges repeatedly measured its distance because the stadium’s automated system wasn’t capable of measuring such a length. Perhaps they were also shocked! Beamon’s effort, together with 13 other records set at that Olympics, were both celebrated and panned.



Like the Denver field goal, critics suggested that Mexico City’s 7,350-ft. elevation made the record jump easier to attain.

The less-dense-air logic stems from high-elevation cities having less atmosphere above them. Although primarily composed of light gases, the atmosphere weighs enough that it pushes downward on the gases below it, creating atmospheric pressure. The thicker the atmosphere above a city, the more the air on the surface is compressed, making it denser.

In order for a runner, jumper or ball to move, it must displace or move air out of the way. Denser air requires more energy to move out of the way, thus providing more resistance to the person or object moving through it. Thus, in high-elevation cities where the air is less dense, athletes expend less energy moving air out of the way and encounter less resistance. The net result is that a greater proportion of

their energy goes toward running fast, jumping far and kicking hard.

In principle, this makes sense. Yet in practice, it doesn’t always agree with the data. For example, most of the other record-setting Mexico Olympians only incrementally eclipsed previous records, and athletes who jumped before Beamon did not achieve personal bests in their jumps. That’s odd—why weren’t they all shattering their personal bests?

It wasn’t until 18 years later that an engineer figured it out by quantifying the environmental factors that assisted or inhibited Beamon’s jump. He determined that Mexico City’s less-dense air allowed Beamon to jump about six inches farther. A tailwind doubled that amount. Yet more than nine inches of the jump cannot be explained by “favorable” or “easier” environmental conditions—suggesting nothing less than outstanding athletic performance.

How did Denver’s thin air impact Matt Prater’s record-breaking kick? Did other environmental conditions, such as cold air or wind,



Dimitri I. Klebe



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assist or inhibit the kick? To address these questions, we analyzed Prater's kick, other top NFL and NCAA field goal kicks, and the environmental conditions in which they occurred. After constructing an environmental kick model, we analyzed what might happen if Prater's kick were to occur under "ideal" environmental conditions—as if the ball was kicked at sea level on a warm but not excessively humid, dry or windy day.

Because the air was somewhat humid during the Broncos game, we first examined humidity effects. After all, the previous record-setting field goal occurred in New Orleans nearly 43 years prior, in what was described as "soupy, thick humid air." Yet when we modeled the effects of humidity on Prater's kick, we were surprised that it actually could have *added* an eighth of an inch to the kick's distance.

What? Wouldn't high humidity inhibit the ball's movement through the air? Humid air sure seems harder to breathe. Counter-intuitively, humid air is *less* dense than dry air, because the relatively heavy nitrogen and oxygen molecules that make up the bulk of our air get displaced by lighter water vapor molecules. More light stuff in air equals less dense air. This explains the humidity assist. Overall, humidity's impact on impeding a moving football is small. Even the muggiest New Orleans air can only boost a kick by about 10 inches.

The biggest impacts on air density are atmospheric pressure and temperature. For Prater's kick, the low air pressure due to Denver's elevation allowed the football to travel more than six and a quarter yards farther than

it might have at sea level. Yet because cold air is more dense than warm air, subfreezing temperatures retarded the ball's travel by nearly three and a half yards.

In the same way that air density decreases with increasing elevation, the earth's gravity is often reduced at higher elevations. In principle, Prater's kick should have had a reduced downward tug upon it in Denver's high elevation, and been able to travel farther. But latitude plays a larger role, and compared to more southern stadiums like the one in New Orleans, Denver has *increased* local gravitational conditions. Colorado's gravity thus accelerates the movement of a football downward *faster*, resulting in a decrease in the distance of a kick. Fortunately, gravitational variations only have a small impact, potentially reducing Prater's kick distance by less than a quarter inch.

What about wind? A modest breeze flapped the goalpost flags during Prater's kick.

Given the air density and kick trajectory, this tailwind had the biggest impact of all—potentially contributing almost five yards of extra distance to the field goal. But considering how quickly winds and vortices can shift in a bowl-shaped stadium like Denver's, it's possible that the wind lulled a bit while the kick was in the air. Even with such a slowing, the baseline wind conditions would still have added at least one and a half yards to the kick distance.

Considered together, Denver's wind and air conditions allowed this kick to travel between four and a half to eight yards farther than it might have in "ideal" sea level conditions.

Is this the whole story? Nope. We haven't considered the ball yet. Its spin and wobble affects its ability to move through air. Spiraling footballs deftly slice the air at 80 mph, but wobblers move like gridiron tumbleweeds. What about temperature? Try

kicking a frozen football. Its lower elasticity makes it behave more like a rock, impeding transfer of energy from a kicker's leg to the ball, and altering the ball's recoil behavior. This might negate some or all of the yardage advantages we calculated from wind, gravity and air effects.

Although our analysis isn't yet complete, a 64-yard field goal is still an amazing feat. We hope these initial results are thought-provoking. In the meantime, we're proud of Matt Prater and all his Broncos teammates. We admire what it took to kick a ball 64 yards (actually, 64.2 yards!) in frigid conditions. And, we look forward to hearing about the next world record—hopefully to be set when the Broncos are in Super Bowl XLVIII!

James W. Hagadorn, Dimitri I. Klebe and Daniel Winester collaborated to produce this work. Suggestions and comments are welcome at jwhagadorn@dmns.org.



Matt Prater is just about to deliver his historic 64-yard kick.

Photo by Joe Amon/The Denver Post

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