

Front Porch

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

DENVER, COLORADO

STAPLETON

JUNE 2015

A First Look at DIA's Westin Hotel



Denver International Airport's iconic tents are reflected on the north side of the new DIA Westin Hotel. The 519-room, 14-story hotel is expected to open before Thanksgiving.

By Carol Roberts

Behind the striking architecture of the new DIA Westin Hotel lies a myriad of complex issues that go well beyond those of typical hotel construction. The dis-

tinctive swale, for example, didn't come about just to create a structure that looks like wings. The height limit at the swale was set at the time DIA was constructed to establish a view corridor from the tents. In addition the FAA modeled the

plan and determined that the height limit at the swale gave a better view of the south end of the airfield from the control tower (located almost a mile away in Concourse C).

But an entire hotel at the height of (continued on page 38)

Much to be proud of but a long way to go Twenty Years Since DPS Busing



A light from a police helicopter shines down on some of the 38 fire-bombed buses at the DPS bus facility at 6th Ave and Federal on February 6, 1970. No one was ever charged with the crime. Photo by Steve Larson—Denver Post file photo

By Maegan Parker Brooks

“Our nation, I fear, will be ill served by the court's refusal to remedy separate and unequal education,” wrote Supreme Court Justice Thurgood

Marshall. “For unless our children begin to learn together, there is little hope that our people will ever learn to live together.” In the present moment of strained race relations wrought by profiling, police brutality (continued on page 8)

Ideas for Summer Fun



Checking out a tomato at the Stapleton Farmers Market

A free and open-to-the-public scavenger hunt will be held 6/13 at Fred Thomas Park (see page 28).

Farmers Markets: Stapleton has one every Sunday starting 6/21; Lowry has one every Tuesday starting 6/2.

Sweet William Market, last Saturday of the month.

Check the calendar and events section for concerts and cinema on Stapleton's greens, local festivals, and lots of other summer activities.

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Nepal Earthquake 8 | Denver Zoo Future Plans 12 | Middle School Plans for 2016 14 | Stapleton Development Update 34 | SUN Annual Meeting 36

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Newspaper for updates
on local news and events.



Michael Jorgenson waits on the side of pool during “adult swim” at Stapleton’s newest swimming pool, Maverick, at 8822 Beekman Place that opened in May.



All of the events listed below are FREE or support nonprofits.
All are open to the public (additional events are listed on pages 28-31).

JUNE

Tuesday, June 2

Lowry Farmers Market. 4pm until dusk.
Every Tuesday through Sept. 29
www.lowrydenver.com

Thurs., June 4–Sat., June 6

Theatre on The Green “Chicago”
The Green* will be turned into scandal-ridden Chicago of the 1920s for this 5th annual production at Stapleton by Aurora Fox. 7pm nightly.

Saturday, June 6

The Urban Farm Day at The Green* 3-6pm. Goats, sheep, mini horses and more. theurbanfarm.org (see page 29)

Monday, June 8–July 30

Weekly Family Fun nights at Stapleton Pools, 6–8pm
Mondays - Jet Stream*
Tuesdays - Puddle Jumper*
Wednesdays - F15* and Maverick*
Thursdays - Aviator*

Tuesday, June 9

Rocky Mountain Arsenal Wildlife Refuge* master revision plan public meeting.
6-8pm. Central Park Rec Center* (see page 31)

Thursday, June 11

MajaBlu Concert Series - Maestro Jeff Hughes and Otis Taylor 6:30–9pm. Conservatory Green*

Thursday, June 11

Active Minds- Turkey. 6:45-7:45pm. Sam Gary Library* 720.865.0325. www.activeminds.com

Saturday, June 13

Community Scavenger Hunt
20th Anniversary Green Book Celebration
9am-1pm, Fred Thomas Park (see page 28)

Saturday, June 13

Relay for Life. 2-10pm. The Green*
Facebook: Relay for Life Stapleton

Saturday, June 13

Annual Park Hill Garden Walk featuring 10 houses. 10am-4pm. Exact locations not disclosed yet. parkhillgardenwalk.org. (see page 28)

Thursday, June 18

Bluff Lake Fireside Chat. Reptiles, amphibians, and worms. 6:30-8pm. Bluff Lake Nature Center*

Friday, June 19

Cinema in the Park. 8:30pm on The Green* Singing in the Rain. Also includes presentation by Front Porch film critic “Indie Prof.” (see page 17)

Saturday, June 20

Denver Century Ride at Shops at Northfield, 8340 Northfield Boulevard. All day (see page 30)
denvercenturyride.com

JUNE

Saturday, June 20

Concert on The Green - “Under a Blood Red Sky” 7–9pm. The Green*

Sunday, June 21

Stapleton Farmers Market on The Green*
8:30am-12:30pm
Every Sunday through Oct. 18

Wednesday, June 24

Bike to Work Day. Register to win prizes and receive breakfast and water at certain locations.
BikeToWorkDay.us or NETransportation.org

Wednesday, June 24

Active Minds- The Struggle of Syria. 6:30-7:30pm.
Park Hill Library, 4705 Montview Blvd.
720.865.0250. www.activeminds.com

Thursday, June 25

Active Minds- Scotland. 6:45-7:45pm. Sam Gary Library* 720.865.0325. www.activeminds.com

Saturday, June 27

Sweet William Market at The Green* 9am-2pm
(last Saturday of the month through Sept.)

JULY

Saturday, July 4

Stapleton 4th of July Pancake Breakfast & Parade.
Breakfast at 9am at Fountain Pavilion in Central Park.
Pools will open at noon with DJs.
www.stapletoncommunity.com

Saturday, July 4

4th Annual Park Hill 4th of July Parade. 1-3pm.
Park Hill, 23rd Ave. from Dexter to Kearney.
www.parkhillparade.org

Saturday, July 18

Stapleton Beer Festival. 9am-5pm on The Green*
To purchase tickets visit stapletoncommunity.com

* More information at Events@stapletoncommunity.com
The Green: 8700 E. 21st Ave.
Conservatory Green: Valencia & E. 49th Place
Sam Gary Library: 2961 Roslyn St.
Central Park Rec Center: 9651 E. MLK Blvd.
Bluff Lake Nature Center: 4755 Paris
Aviator pool: 8054 E. 28th Ave.
Puddle Jumper pool: 2401 Xenia St.
F15 pool: 2831 Hanover St.
Jet Stream pool: 3574 Alton St.
Runway 35 pool: 8863 E. 47th Ave.
Maverick pool: 8822 Beekman Pl.

Events & Announcements at Stapleton



Theatre on The Green

The MCA is excited to have the Aurora Fox Theatre return this June to bring you a weekend full of theatrical performances and entertainment. Theatre on The Green will be presenting Chicago, a universal tale of fame, fortune and all that jazz! Join us on The Green (29th Ave. & Roslyn St.) June 4, 5 & 6 at 7pm for one show-stopping song after another and dancing that will make you want to stand up and cheer.

Concerts & Movies on The Green

Bring your family and friends to our annual music and movie series on The Green. We will open the movie season this year with Big Hero 6 on Fri., June 12, and then on Fri., June 26 we will show Ferris Bueller’s Day Off. All outdoor movies are free and open to the public. Movies will begin at dark.

Concerts on The Green are also free and open to the public. All concerts will begin at 7pm. The first concert of the season will feature “Under a Blood Red Sky,” the U2 tribute band. Bring your picnic and blanket and join us for an evening of great music that will make you want to get up and dance.

4th of July Pancake Breakfast & Parade

The Annual Pancake Breakfast will begin at 9am at the Fountain Pavilion in Central Park. Tickets will be sold for the pancake breakfast at the event. Tickets are \$5/adult, \$3/child or purchase a family 4-pack (2 adults/2 children) for \$12. All donations will benefit the Stapleton Stingrays Swim Teams.

Following the parade, the pools will open at noon. There will be a DJ at each pool from noon until 4pm and all pools will close at 6pm.

Friday Night Flights–Wine Tastings

The first wine tasting of the summer will be held at the West Crescent and will showcase wines from a variety of regions. Find a sitter and come enjoy a wonderful evening sampling wines under the stars. Whole Foods will provide cheese and meat tastings. This fun evening will be on Fri., July 24 from 7–9pm. Tickets are \$15 each for residents and \$20 each for nonresidents.

Participants must be 21 and will need tickets for this event. To register for this event, visit www.stapletoncommunity.com or call 303.388.0724. You may pick up your tickets at the MCA office Mon.–Fri., 9am–5pm each week. Space is limited.

Cinema in the Park

Come join us on The Green, Fri., June 19, for our second year of Cinema in the Park. The first film will feature the classic Singin’ in the Rain starring Gene Kelly, Debbie Reynolds and Donald O’ Connor. It is a film that can be enjoyed on many levels, and it remains as fresh and fun as it was upon release.

This event is free and open to anyone eager to explore thought-provoking interpretations in the world of film. Our own “Indie Prof,” Dr. Vincent Piturro, will lead a discussion about the movie beginning at 8:30pm.

Active Minds

Turkey
Emerging from World War I as a shrunken version of the Ottoman Empire, Turkey plays a pivotal role in the world. A strong U.S. ally during the Cold War, it is now one of the world’s largest Muslim democracies. Join Active Minds as we explore Turkey’s past and current challenges, including struggles with its Kurdish minority and its role in the rise of the terrorist organization calling itself ISIS. This seminar will be held Thurs., June 11, from 6:45–7:45pm.

Scotland

The lasting implications of the Sept. 18, 2014, vote may not be clear for some time, but at a minimum, it highlights a segment of the population unhappy with the status quo and looking for change. Join Active Minds as we explore Scotland’s history, its current situation and the future direction it may be heading. This seminar will be held Thurs., June 25, from 6:45–7:45pm.

These events are free and everyone is welcome. For more information, visit www.ActiveMindsForLife.com. Location: Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St.

Stapleton Beer Festival

SBF tickets are now on sale! Mark your calendars for the 6th Annual Stapleton Beer Festival to be held on Sat., July 18 on The Green. VIP tickets include an extra hour of beer tasting (includes specialty craft beers), souvenir glass, tasting glass and food truck vouchers.

General admission includes a tasting glass, food truck vouchers and tastings during the event. Residents may register for this event through their online ActiveNet account. Nonresidents must complete a “Nonresident Registration Form” (available on our website, www.stapletoncommunity.com) to register. This is a ticketed event. Tickets may be picked up in the MCA office Mon.–Fri., 9am–5pm prior to the event.

2015 Kids Triathlon

The 2015 Kids Triathlon will be held on Sun., August 23. The event will begin at 8am at the Jet Stream Pool. This race will have all components of an official triathlon, including timing chips, finisher medals, race T-shirts and a kids’ swag bag! Registration opens at noon on June 1. To register your child or for more details, visit www.stapletoncommunity.com. Space is limited so register early.

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

Diane Deeter
Community Director
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Master Community Association

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**SHOPS AT
NORTHFIELD
STAPLETON**
BY HARKINS THEATRES



After the earthquake, the group of international travelers assessed the damage in flattened villages.

By Madeline Schroeder

The ground began to shake and nearby houses made of stone slabs rattled as if about to collapse. Boulders crashed down the side of immense peaks, taking helpless yaks with them.

Park Hill Resident Survives Nepal Earthquake

This is how Clay Burns remembers the moment the 7.8-magnitude earthquake hit on April 25 in the Tsum Valley, Nepal. This, together with another powerful quake on May 12, killed nearly 8,700 people and injured 16,800 across the country, according to the Associated Press.

Burns, a Park Hill resident, had been trekking the valley with other tourists when the earthquake hit. Landslides triggered by the quake blocked the route to leave the valley and they were trapped for eight days. They survived and are now determined to help the Tsumba people who need food, medicine and tents, especially as monsoon season approaches.

These remote areas are low priority for relief efforts. Most of the resources go to areas with higher populations like the capital Kathmandu. “In a way it was good we were trekking at the time because they wouldn’t have anyone else to help them,” Burns says.

Until 2008, the valley was not open to outside people, according to the Tsum Welfare Committee, a not-for-profit dedicated to preserving its history. Tsum Valley is sanctioned as a sacred place in the Buddhist religion and known for meditation and monasteries. Four thousand people live in the valley. They survive on buckwheat, potatoes, rice and lentils. Abutted by the Ganesh Himalayas and inaccessible by road, it is uniquely remote and the high altitude brings many challenges.

Burns decided to trek the valley when he met a massage teacher who was organizing a trip to do volunteer massage work on the Tsumba people. As a professional massage therapist and eternal wanderer, he loved the idea.

Burns has studied massage techniques all around the

world. For a couple of months at a time, he will live in Park Hill with his parents but inevitably his nomadic spirit whisks him away only to return a month or a year later. Ironically, almost exactly a year ago, he was traveling in Chile when the 8.2-magnitude earthquake struck off the coast and triggered tsunamis.

The group trekking the valley included 18 people from the U.S., France, Germany, Australia, Austria, Argentina and Vietnam. The plan was to trek the Tsum Valley for a whole month: 10 days to get to the valley, 10 days in the valley, and 10 days to trek out. They began on April 7.

They were able to spend 10 days in the valley before the earthquake hit. It was hard to tell how bad the damage was until they reached a village. “The village below was totally



Photos provided by Sacred Dance Nepal

In the days before the earthquake hit, the group explored the valley. Here Clay Burns leans on a beyl, or prayer wall.

flattened. That’s when we started to understand how serious this was,” Burns says. That’s also when they discovered they were trapped.

Other international travelers who had been trekking various parts of the valley and were (continued on page 6)

THE PAPER THAT’S ON THE COFFEE TABLE... ...NOT IN THE RECYCLING BIN



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	DART Auto	38		St Joseph Hospital - Stadium Stampede	17	Medical Doctors	Advanced Pediatric Associates	31		Kim Davis @ Re/Max of Cherry Creek Inc	11
Children's Camps	The Art Garage	34		Stapleton Foundation – Stapleton Scavenger Hunt	7		Allergy & Asthma Care and Prevention Center	19		Kim Kouba - Perry & Co	14
Churches	Augustana Lutheran Church	35		Sweet William Market	14		Colorado Institute for Maternal & Fetal Health	15		RE/MAX Momentum Stapleton	26
	Denver Presbyterian Church	27	Financial	Edward Jones	34		Denver Dermatology	23		The Kearns Team, RE/MAX Alliance	25
	Go Church	5		Thrivent Financial, Ted Kouba	22		Med-Fit, PLLC- Weight Loss Specialist	23		Tolan Real Estate	9
	Park Hill United Methodist Church	32	Fitness	Bladium Sports and Fitness Center	8		Mountain Spine & Pain Physicians	22		Wolfe & Epperson Real Estate	30
	St. Luke's Church	31		Jewish Community Center	26		New West Physicians / Ascent Family Medicine	34	Rental	The Grove at Stapleton	35
	Stapleton Fellowship Church	20		Stapleton Mom and Tor Bootcamp	25		Sapphire Pediatrics	37	Research Studies	IMAGE Research Group	23
Community Organization	Stapleton Master Community Assoc	2	Flooring	Cross Flooring	33		St Joseph Hospital - Certified Nurse-Midwives	12		University of Colorado Department of Medicine	29
Dance Classes	Dance Institute LLC	34	Health and Wellness	CU Plastic Surgery	6		Stapleton Ob-Gyn	32	Restaurants	Delectable Egg	27
Dental	A Wild Smile Pediatric Dentistry	21		Hand & Stone Massage – Northfield Stapleton	28		Stapleton Pediatrics	39		Fat Jack's Supersubs	35
	Clair Family Dentistry	14		New Day Acupuncture	33		Stapleton Women's Health, PC	37		It's Brothers Bar & Grill	3
	Lowry Family Dentistry	16	Home Builders	New Town Builders	18	Mortgage	Thoroughbred Financial	9		The Berkshire	11
	Stapleton Dental	36		Parkwood Homes	21	Museum	History Colorado Center	8		The Table Top, LLC	28
	Stapleton Orthodontics	28	Home Furnishings	Rare Finds Warehouse	21	Music Lessons	Neighborhood Music Stapleton	18	Retail	Shops at Northfield Stapleton	40
	Steele Dentistry of Stapleton	27	Home Improvement	Mobile Framemasters	37		Swallow Hill Music Association	20		Soccer Fashion	36
	Trommeter Orthodontics	33		The Window Source of Denver	20	Opticians	Stapleton Family Eye Center	24	Schools	International School of Denver	39
	Williams Family Dentistry	13	Hospitals	Rocky Mountain Hospital for Children	30	Painting	Ciechanowicz Painting	38		Monarch Montessori Charter & First Steps at Monarch Montessori	36
Design and Remodeling	Best Builders	33	Housecleaning	Number 1 House Cleaning	36	Pets	Denver Dumb Friends League	10	Storage	Extra Space Storage in the Northfield Stapleton Neighborhood	24
	Blueprint Design & Construction, Inc.	34	Landscape Architects	Urban Gardens, Inc.	35		Happy Dog Daycare	27	Window Coverings	Budget Blinds	25
	Diane Gordon Design	38	Lawn Care/ Landscape	JKJ Lawn Sprinkler, Inc.	29	Photography	Photographer Katy Tartakoff	25		Rocky Mountain Shutters	32
	Three Week Kitchens, Baths in a Week	28	Lawyers	Gama Law Firm, LLC	29	Political Ad	Deborah Johnson	38	Window Washing	Better View Window Cleaning	29
Driving School	Street Smart Driving Schools	19		Litvak Litvak Mehrtens and Carlton, P.C.	26	Pre-Schools/ Childcare	KidsTown Drop-In Child Care Center	37	Service Directory & Classifieds	Service Directory & Classifieds	37
Entertainment	Aurora Fox	30					Montessori del Mundo	23			

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ARE YOU READY FOR AN ADVENTURE? When you were a kid, did you have a friend who was always asking that question? Maybe YOU were that friend. The best adventures often start with an invitation to do something that seems so big you know it can only happen with your friends. We have an opportunity to do something bigger than ourselves, something that makes our hearts beat a little faster and makes a real difference in our community. It's an idea that requires friends and faith, and it's all about connecting people to Christ. **Together we are starting a new church in Stapleton - Go Church.** If you are ready for an adventure, we invite you to visit www.gochurch.today and join our Launch Team. *- Nick & Becky Callaway*



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GO GLOBAL

LIVE LIKE JESUS



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We are building a Launch Team to reach Stapleton and beyond with the life-changing love of Christ. We are not looking for rock stars. We want people with a heart to reach other people with the life-giving message of Jesus. We believe God wants to do something incredible in our lives and in our community. We are looking for the team God is calling. **Bottom line, we want to connect with you!**



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A NEW AND EXCITING CHURCH IN STAPLETON

WWW.GOCHURCH.TODAY



Clockwise starting upper left

A Tsumba woman stands on the remains of her house.

Only the frame of a house is left after the earthquake.

The group of 35 people trekking the Tsum Valley congregate to discuss the damage and what they can do to help. Clay Burns stands at back in the white hat.

The Tsumba people receive bags of rice funded by the international travelers after leaving the Tsum Valley.



(continued from page 4) trapped as well joined their group, now totaling 35 people. A Tsumba named Dhawa Gyanjen Lama, who had been guiding a French couple through the valley, opened up his guesthouse and fed all the travelers.

"They barely have anything and they were still taking care of us," Burns says. No one in the group was able to get cell service until two days after the earthquake. At that point, the tourists had been reported missing in their home countries. The U.S. embassy tracked the cell phone number of one of the tourists and was able to get in contact with the group to assure they were sending evacuation helicopters in a few days.

In the meantime, they tried to help the Tsumba people but there wasn't much they could do. They needed sup-

plies and it was too dangerous to attempt rebuilding homes that were on the verge of collapse. At one point, a lama arrived and gave each Tsumba \$100, but money really had no value with no way to get to Kathmandu to buy supplies.

"We were concerned because we were such a large group that we were using up their resources. We were trying to figure out if the embassy was sending helicopters, then maybe they could also send supplies to the Nepalese people," Burns says.

A couple of days later, helicopters began to arrive. Every helicopter looked the same and it was unclear who was supposed to go where. Anxious travelers chaotically jumped in. Burns struggled to understand this scene—tourists scrambling to get out of the valley as fast as possible but leaving behind the Tsumba people with nothing.

Home again, Burns has vigorously been raising money and sending it to Dhawa, whose wife works for a helicopter company and has been able to send supplies.

Perhaps it was the dramatic landscape that seemed more heaven than Earth, or the val-

ley's sacred history, but throughout it all Burns felt a mystical element that protected them. "To get from trauma to gratitude I've really had to simplify everything now. Move more slowly. Eat more slowly. Focus on what's in front of me. Be more present. Otherwise it's just too overwhelming." To learn more about the Tsum Valley and relief efforts, visit www.youtube.com/watch?v=QqGGsESWxnw. Clay Burns can be reached at email clayaburns1@gmail.com.



Photos provided by Sacred Dance Nepal



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Happy Haynes

Indeed, the quality of schools across Denver's city core varied by racial population; inexperienced and probationary teachers were assigned to schools with large minority populations and these schools were

both overcrowded and lacked the resources that the predominantly white schools enjoyed. To remedy these disparities, the court ordered a districtwide policy of desegregation. For more than 20 years following this momentous decree, DPS operated under the watchful eye of a federal judge—even as they worked in consultation with court-appointed consultants to design plans aimed to combat the effects of segregation.

These plans included the most common and most controversial provision of the era: busing. Although busing—removing students from their neighborhoods and transporting them to schools across the city to create more racially balanced student populations—became the symbol of opposition to desegregation in Denver, there was much more to the district's desegregation strategy. Other provisions included access to bilingual and bicultural education, affirmative actions taken to hire more faculty and staff of color, and the reallocation of district resources to improve the quality of school facilities across the city. Dr. Evie Dennis, who was part of the DPS community relations team

tasked with implementing the desegregation order, pointed out that it was only when Superintendent Lou Kishkunas' daughter got bused to Cole Junior High—a formerly segregated school—that Cole “got new books, got painted, and got cleaned up.”

“Shining a Light”

“Sometimes the changes were painful,” admits DPS alumna, former city councilwoman and current school board member Happy Haynes, “but one of the things desegregation does is shine a light.” Haynes remembers her experience as a top student at Barrett Elementary, who then went to Gove Middle School and had to “scramble to compete” with white students. Although Haynes found the initial adjustment to an integrated atmosphere unnerving, she now identifies it as a source of her self-confidence. “For black and Latino kids in this environment . . . you found out you were just as good as they [whites] were. And you could see the difference in preparation, but you also said, ‘That’s okay. I can do that.’”

Rita Montero, DPS alumna, parent,



Rita Montero

and former school board member, suggests that the benefits of desegregation extended to the district's white students as well. “What it did for white kids was to force white kids to be in an environment with black kids and Latinos. And they loved it! And now whites talk about it as older people as ‘the good old days.’”

Current DPS parent and former school board member Mary Seawell explains that, imperfect as its implementation was, the “court order made this something to talk about and people got angry and people were engaging and they were talking about their values around integration and democracy and what it all meant.”

Dividing the City

This elevated public dialogue and these integrated life experiences did not come without great costs, however. As Denver's school desegregation case made its way through the courts, arsonists destroyed one-third of the district's school buses; a pipe bomb exploded on the front porch of the lead plaintiff in the case, and a bomb also went off in the district offices.

“What almost killed the district,” according to DPS alumna, parent, and former school board member Sue Edwards “was the families who fled to the suburbs.” Laura Lefkowitz, also a former school board member and DPS parent, agrees. She refers to this flight as “the abandonment by the middle class of Denver Public



Mary Seawell

Schools,” explaining: “We lost 30,000 kids in the first decade as a result of busing and they were almost all white or middle-class kids. They were families that had options.”

Not long after families began fleeing to the suburbs to escape court-ordered desegregation in the city, Colorado voters passed two amendments that would ensure the DPS desegregation order would not affect other Colorado districts. The Poundstone Amendment prohibited Denver from annexing the surrounding suburban areas and Amendment Eight stipulated, in part, that no

“pupil be assigned or transported to any public educational institution for the purpose of achieving racial balance.” These two pieces of legislation, both passed by the 1974 state legislature, effectively isolated the federal desegregation order to the city of Denver.

As the decades wore on, the desegregation order became unpopular among even those communi- (continued on page 10)



Sue Edwards



For Sellers

Owner Jess Tolan, formerly of Coldwell Banker Devonshire, brings his luxury shop background to every listing. Tolan Real Estate in fact mirrors the luxury shops utilizing the same photographers, videographers, advertising, marketing tools and strategies. In contrast, Tolan Real Estate lists for less, producing savings for their sellers. Thus, the seller enjoys luxury marketing and service, without the luxury commission! We're running a Spring Listing Special and would love to hear from you!

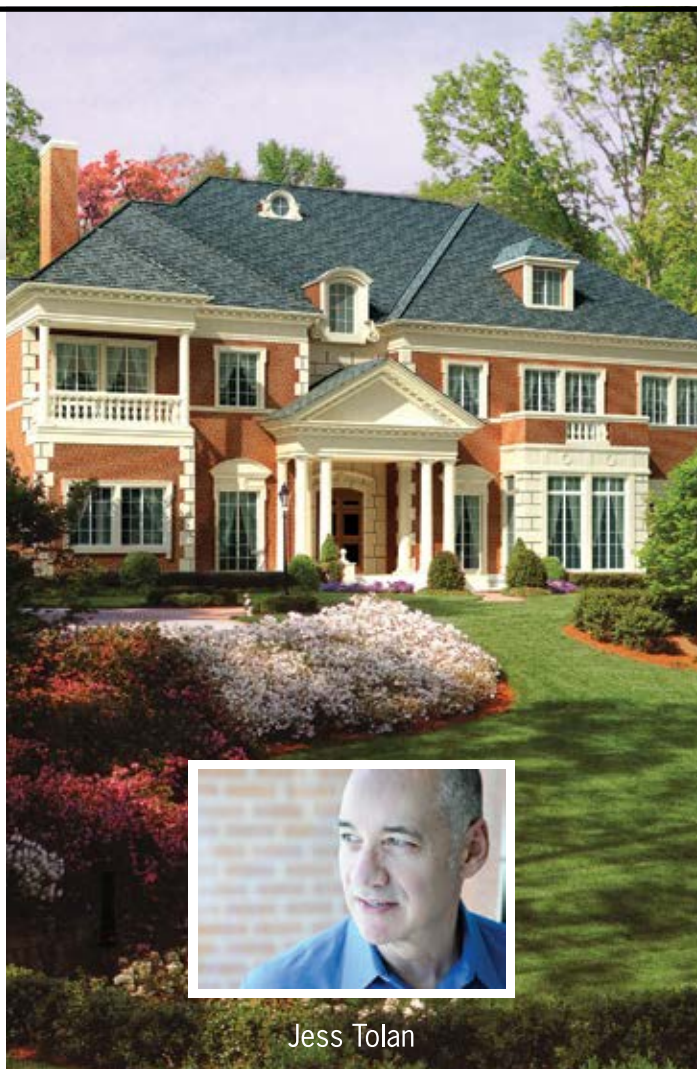
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Busing



Laura Lefkowitz

(continued from page 9) ties it was most tailored to benefit. Rev. Aaron Gray, a former school board member and later employee on DPS's Community Relations team, explains his eventual opposition to the desegregation order as "not so much

anti-busing as more that communities needed to be restored and communities needed to be built up... one of the things that gives a community pride is that it can identify 'our schools.'" Related to the notion that com-

munities rally around their neighborhood schools, is the idea Gray wanted to "affirm for the kids: that they did not have to leave their communities and go somewhere to go to school and then come home," which he thinks sent the message that their neighborhoods were inferior.

racial composition of DPS had changed dramatically during the busing era. Not only had the student population declined by more than 30,000 pupils, by the mid-1990s two-thirds of district's population were racial or ethnic minorities. This demographic reversal, coupled with the return to neighborhood schools, has only compounded the racial isolation of DPS students in the last 20 years since the desegregation mandate was revoked. Today, fewer than 20 percent of schools across the district would meet the former court-ordered criterion that "required DPS to maintain a ratio of the races that was plus or minus 15 percent of the district average," explains Lefkowitz.

And yet, DPS confronts this racial isolation armed with wisdom won from experience. Gray, for instance, underscores the need for "consistent leadership," recalling that the frequent turnover among DPS superintendents during the busing era impeded the desegregation order's success. Lefkowitz suggests further that "the district never had consistent positive leadership that

Firemen hose down the buses in the February 1970 bus bombing. No one knows who did the bombing and no one claimed responsibility, but it has been assumed that it was related to racial tensions.
Photo by Steve Larson—Denver Post file photo

would call people out on their racism," even as she praises the present board for explicitly acknowledging the district's opportunity gap. "You've got to call it out, you've got to name it," says Haynes, referring to the marked disparity in graduation rates as well as reading and writing proficiency between the district's Anglo and its African American and Latino students. The board's five-year strategic plan, the "Denver Plan 2020," pledges to narrow this chasm.

Alongside the need for consistent positive leadership, Seawall suggests that Denver's history teaches us "that you can't just put kids together in a building and think it's going to all be okay." Instead, "You really have to be intentional about creating school cultures that are aware and dedicated to having all kids empowered, if you really want to have successful integration." DPS grandparent, parent and alumnus Chris Martinez concurs: "You can put people and resources into every school," but "you're not going to get the same results if you don't change the cultures within those buildings."

Those cultural changes—of high expectations for each child, of support and resources to help every child succeed, and of valuing the unique perspectives diversity engenders—are nurtured through broader societal dialogue, agreed the discussants. "The most productive



"(The) Denver that is now before this court is very different from what it was when the lawsuit began. The current mayor of Denver is black. His predecessor was Hispanic. A black woman has been superintendent of schools. Black and Hispanic men and women are in the City Council, the school board, the Colorado Legislature and other political positions."

Judge Richard Matsch, 1995 (lifting court-ordered busing)

Lessons Learned

In September of 1995, Federal Judge Richard P. Matsch released Denver from the desegregation order, explaining that the "Denver that is now before this court is very different from what it was when the lawsuit began." Matsch acknowledged, "The current mayor of Denver is black. His predecessor was Hispanic. A black woman has been superintendent of schools. Black and Hispanic men and women are in the City Council, the school board, the Colorado Legislature and other political positions." The city's diverse leadership, Matsch reasoned, was now capable of ensuring resources were more equitably divided among the district—a decision influenced, in part, by Mayor Wellington Webb, who favored an end to busing because of the negative impact it had on the city.

Both the city's leadership and the



Landri Taylor

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thing,” recognizes current school board member Landri Taylor, “is having these conversations in a way that we have no fear.” Rich uninhibited dialogue is what helps make “Denver a great city,” according to Dr. Evie Dennis, who became the district’s first female and first African American superintendent. “I still believe in it,” Dennis says of the district she helped navigate through the uncharted era of desegregation. “I still have great belief in the school system, I really do. As I look at school districts across the country, Denver can be proud. We can be proud,” declares Dennis.



Chris Martinez



Rev. Aaron Gray

Stapleton resident Maegan Parker Brooks, PhD, is writing a book about debates over the desegregation of public schools in the American West. She will be moving to Oregon to join the faculty at Willamette University this fall.



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The 15-Year Plan: Denver Zoo Thinks Big

By Madeline Schroeder

Imagine the Denver Zoo and what would make it a better experience. Most likely, some of the things that come to mind are included in the Master Revision Plan that was released in May.

This massive 15-year plan identifies everything that needs improvement and dreams up new guest experiences. "There are a number of different things we've unveiled, like swimming with polar bears or being up in a tree house looking over the African savannah, that we think create really unique experiences moving forward," says George Pond, vice president for design and campus management at Denver Zoo. Yes, he did say swimming with polar bears (more information below).

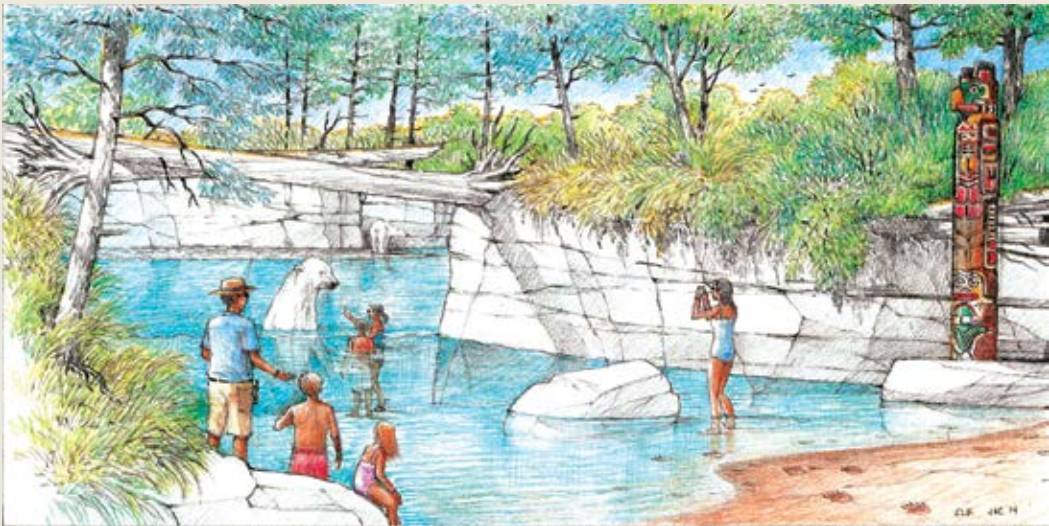
From 2010 to 2012, the Denver Zoo Planning Department performed a Facility Assessment to evaluate the state of the zoo. The assessment revealed the zoo has several outdated buildings in need of repair. The plan removes these buildings and adds new ones, without taking up

any new space. The largest building will be a Waste Management Building, which is part of the zoo's goal for zero waste by 2025.

The facility assessment also revealed certain areas of the zoo are confusing to navigate or over-congested with people, so the plan proposes new walkways for a more natural flow. It also adds a "Braided Path," or a trail that diverges from the main path for kids to explore and get a closer view of animals.

Currently, as part of the master plan, the zoo is constructing Giraffe Encounter, where from 10am to 4pm daily visitors can purchase a token to walk up a platform by the giraffe yard and feed lettuce to giraffes Dikembe, Kipele, Masika and Heshimu. At the Giraffe Encounter, volunteers and employees will give educational talks.

"By educating and engaging people at



The proposed Polar Bear Encounter at the Coastal Exhibit would allow people swim in a shallow pool and view polar bears underwater (separated by a glass wall). Rendering provided by Denver Zoo.

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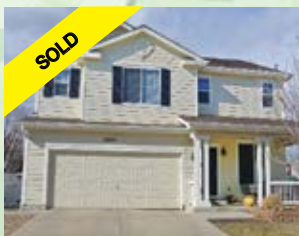
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Loren Berry, zookeeper, (left) and Brittany Frederick, Guest Engagement Manager, (right) describe the Giraffe Encounter where visitors will be able to feed giraffes from a platform. Construction is underway (shown below) and it is expected to open in late June.

the zoo, we believe it secures a better future for animals,” Pond says. Striking the right balance between guest experience and animal health and well-being is not difficult because it all falls under the one goal of securing a better future for animals, according to Pond.

“Even if people leave just knowing the names of the giraffes, they’ll go home and talk about it with their friends, and beyond that we hope people will learn why giraffes are important,” says Brittany Frederick, who works in the education department at the zoo.

Giraffe Encounter is expected to open in late June (the exact date is not determined). Also part of the master plan, several other exhibits have been proposed for the coming years, including:

Asian Highlands & Asian Predators: This exhibit will feature temperate Asian species, or animals that can endure cold weather. Possible species to be added include the Amur tiger, snow leopard, Amur leopard, takin, Prezwalski’s horse, Pallas’ cat, Bactrian camel, sloth, cinereous vulture, bustards and cranes.

Africa: A Wild Savannah: This exhibit will add baobab trees, which are native to Africa and resemble tall broccoli. The exhibit will also have an outdoor theater for animal encounters. Black rhinoceros, giraffe, Grevy’s zebra, gerenuk, okapi, bongo, ground hornbills, storks, vultures, waterfowl and cranes may potentially be added.

Africa: The Watering Hole: A new restaurant called The Watering Hole will replace the zoo’s current restaurant and grille and will be located in a more accessible area of the zoo for visitors.

Africa: The West Portal: The portal will be dedicated to education and located at the west end of the parking garage. People will be able to look down on the African savanna exhibit from a tree house. There will be public shows and presentations. The lower level will house a science lab for middle, high school and college students.

Coastal: At the coastal exhibit, visitors will learn how animals adapt to changing ecosystems and harsh conditions, and feature polar bears. A glass wall will separate the polar bear tank from a shallow pool where people will be able to swim and view the animals underwater (see rendering). Polar bears, sea lions, harbor seals and Stellar’s sea eagles are proposed for this exhibit.

Coastal: The East Portal: This area will be for special events and feature an underwater walkway. Proposed species include salmon, trout, Arctic char, eel, catfish and crayfish.

The Denver Zoo is currently prioritizing which part of the plan to do first, and seeking funds through fundraisers and donors. To learn more about the upcoming changes, visit <http://www.denverzoo.org/master-plan>.



What Else is Happening at Denver Zoo This Summer?

Be a Zookeeper Zone: Kids ages 2-10 and their adults can learn about being a zookeeper in three different exhibits

access to a rooftop view of the orangutans and gorillas.

Nature Connects, Art with LEGO Bricks: Starting August 7, life-size animal and plant sculptures made out of LEGO bricks will be scattered throughout the zoo.

Tropical Discovery Meet and Greet: This tour allows access to behind-the-scenes of the Tropical Discovery exhibit that houses rainforest species.

Penguin Encounter: See how zookeepers prepare food and care for the penguins in a guided tour. At the end, visitors will be able to interact with penguins.

Backstage Experience: This 3-hour guided tour involves more close-up interaction with animals, like touching turtles. It ends with front-row seats at the summer Wildlife Show.

Great Apes Encounter: This walking history of Denver Zoo ends at the great apes exhibit where zookeepers will discuss working with the animals. The tour gives

Backstage Experience Junior: This is very similar to the Backstage Experience, but only 90 minutes and geared toward younger children.

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New Opportunities, New Controversies in Middle School Shared Boundary

By Rebecca Loy

The runaway success of McAuliffe International School's move to the Smiley campus has created new opportunities but also new controversies, both of which were on display at a May 11 meeting between school officials and Park Hill and Stapleton families to discuss growth options for the shared middle school boundary.

The expected departure of the Venture Prep charter school, which currently shares the Smiley campus with McAuliffe, will soon open nearly 400 seats of additional capacity—and those seats will be sorely needed, as Stapleton's middle-school-age population continues to grow and Park Hill sees skyrocketing rates of families choosing into the shared boundary.

The question, and the most heavily discussed issue at the May 11 meeting, is what exactly to do with the extra space at Smiley. One option would allow McAuliffe, the wildly popular International Baccalaureate (I.B.) program whose enrollment soared above 800 students for the upcoming school year, to expand further, up to 1,200 seats. A second option would be to co-locate a second, 600-seat middle school on the Smiley campus, reducing the size of McAuliffe to 600 seats.

Parents at the meeting were generally unenthusiastic about the possibility of a shared campus, with several pointing out the logistical challenges of sharing common spaces like the cafeteria, auditorium and athletic fields. Others worried about the potential that one program could be vastly more successful than the other. There was also concern that shrinking the size of McAuliffe by some 200 seats would require cuts to teaching staff and programming.

"A smaller school can't offer the same suite of options," said Stapleton resident Kathy Epperson. "McAuliffe has dynamic

programming like language instruction in French, Spanish and Mandarin, six different engineering courses, and seven arts electives in part because it has [the student body to support this programming]." If the district shrinks the school, there will be less money for that programming, she added. Upheaval among the staff could also result, as some teachers and administrators may lose their jobs to downsizing.

Parents asked McAuliffe principal Kurt Dennis what an increase in size to 1,200 seats would mean for the school and its students. Dennis emphasized that it would be important to plan any such expansion with adequate advance notice, so that the school has "time to grow thoughtfully and intentionally." Assuming that is the case, Dennis said he believes a larger McAuliffe "can create the supports and structures our students need for success."

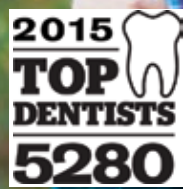
In an e-mail following up on his comments, Dennis explained that allowing the school to expand would, counterintuitively, create a smaller feel for students. Each incoming sixth-grade class would be assigned an assistant principal and mental health team that would travel with that class for all three years, he said. Also, each grade would occupy a different area of the school, making it feel to students more like they are at a 400-seat school.

Expanding McAuliffe would increase capacity in the area's top choice program in the shared boundary. It would also allow the school to offer more after-school enrichments and elective options, Dennis said, including multiple teams and club sports to ensure that students have the opportunity to participate in sports at all ability levels. In addition, Dennis vowed to lobby the district to allow additional competitive sports teams at an expanded McAuliffe so athletes would not be disadvantaged by attending a larger middle school.

An expansion could also help address the



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McAuliffe International School students attend an all-school event in their auditorium.

hot-button issue that created some tense moments at the May 11 meeting: the fact that 122 rising sixth-graders who listed McAuliffe as their first choice were unable to get in for the 2015-16 school year.

Several Park Hill residents argued that DPS should create a proximity preference that would allow their children to attend McAuliffe ahead of Stapleton residents. They pointed out that Denver’s 2020 strategic plan calls for every student to have access to a quality neighborhood school, and argued that the shared boundary had diluted this goal, tearing some kids away from their elementary school classmates and community. In response, several Stapleton residents pointed out that it was the creation of the shared boundary, and McAuliffe’s move from Stapleton to the Smiley campus, that had made Park Hill’s neighborhood school suddenly so desirable. Just a couple of years ago, when the only neighborhood option was the failing Smiley Middle School, the vast majority of Park Hill residents sent their kids elsewhere; barely 20 percent chose to attend

Smiley. Now, nearly 80 percent are choosing to remain within the shared boundary.

At least one parent lamented the tone of the entire argument. “I find it troubling that we’re talking about this side of Quebec and that side of Quebec,” said Scott Esserman, Park Hill resident and parent of students at Montclair Elementary and Denver Discovery School. “We have five outstanding middle schools to choose from. It’s an embarrassment of riches. Other families in DPS have no quality options.”

Current district planning calls for the sixth-grade class at McAuliffe to increase from 282 seats in 2015 to between 325 and 350 in 2016, to accommodate growth in the number of students from both Park Hill (due to the increased choice-in rates) and Stapleton (due to demographics and new development).

Brian Eschbacher, director of policy, planning and analysis for DPS, said he does not anticipate additional growth from Park Hill beyond 2016. Indeed, he said, the potential of a new I.B. middle school in the Whittier

neighborhood, modeled after McAuliffe, may pull some families from west Park Hill, decreasing capacity pressures on the shared boundary. However, Stapleton’s share of boundary growth will continue into 2017 and 2018, thanks to the incoming demographic “bubble” of current second- and third-graders. Additional students are also anticipated from explosive residential growth north of I-70, where more than 3,000 new homes will start construction by 2019.

While the district’s public discussions of medium-term planning tend to be vague at best, there were some questions that suggested what the future of the boundary may look like.

When a parent asked about the possibility of expanding Isabella Bird Community School to be K–8, school leader Sonny Zinn said unequivocally, “We’d like to expand.” The school’s cafeteria, auditorium, athletic fields and underlying infrastructure were designed to support a possible future middle school, though new construction would be

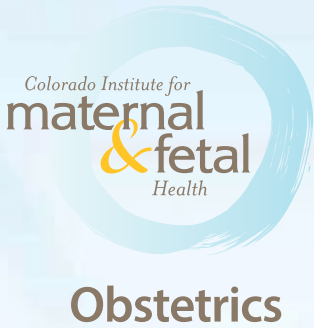
needed to add the necessary classroom space.

On the other hand, Stapleton resident Sophia Breigleb argued that community feedback received by Stapleton United Neighbors make it “clear that the community prefers a stand-alone comprehensive middle school over small ones or K–8s.” She said parents “appreciate all the programs that a larger middle school can offer,” and argued that the popularity of McAuliffe is a clear message to DPS administrators that the community strongly prefers larger middle schools.

In a similar vein, several parents lamented the placement of a second campus of the Denver School of Science and Technology in Conservatory Green, a decision that has been criticized as lacking community input. In response, Alyssa Whitehead-Bust, chief academic and innovation officer at DPS, noted that “the school is on a three-year lease,” and said its current location is “a temporary one,” furthering speculation that the school may move outside the Stapleton/Park Hill boundary, and a different program may move into its current location.

Another issue raised by some Conservatory Green residents was their concern about text in the district’s written materials at the meeting that referenced an increase in middle school capacity for those who reside south of I-70. The separate analysis of capacity north and south of I-70 alarmed those who worry that it may augur a future split in the shared boundary at the freeway. As resident Deanna Miller put it, “What about Conservatory Green? Are we going to be part of the shared boundary or not?” When asked this question subsequent to the May 11 meeting, Eschbacher replied “(Conservatory Green) is part of the shared boundary. Our idea is to allow families to stay on their side of the highway if they wish. By adding capacity south of I-70, we will be able to meet that need.”

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Get to Know Dr. Sarah Appleton

Sarah Appleton attended medical school at Penn State University and trained at University of California, San Diego. Sarah lives in Stapleton with her family.

Just the Facts

Made in Colorado: Drywall

by James Hagadorn



It's rare to see items labeled "Made in USA"—but several indispensable products are made right here in Colorado. A rarified subset of these even have ingredients that come from in-state, rather than being assembled here using parts manufactured in far-flung places.

One of them surrounds you—drywall.

Sometimes known as gyp-board or sheet-rock, this inconspicuous product lines the walls of most homes and businesses. Back in the day, walls were made of lath-and-plaster, but such material fell out of favor because it was heavy, less fire resistant, and hard to patch. Not to mention that it took a week to plaster a home versus two days to hang and mud drywall. As a result, most builders use drywall to mantle a building's interior framing.

The key ingredient in drywall is a type of salt called gypsum ($\text{CaSO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$). It's known to mineral collectors as selenite or desert roses, to sculptors as alabaster, and to kids everywhere as "plaster of Paris." Gypsum has some unusual structural properties that make it like Mother Nature's reusable glue, mainly owing to the fact that if you heat gypsum, it easily bonds and unbonds to water (the H_2O , above) and cures to a solid state.

Colorado's gypsum occurs underground, in layered sedimentary rocks that were originally deposited on the seafloor 250–300 million years ago, when Colorado was an ancient sea. Like rock candy that grows on a string as sugar-saturated water cools, our gypsum grew on the seafloor as the salty waters of the ocean evaporated, and its water was unable to hold the salt in solution. You can witness the same process happening today, where bathtub rings of gypsum are precipitating on shorelines of the Great

Salt Lake and Dead Sea.

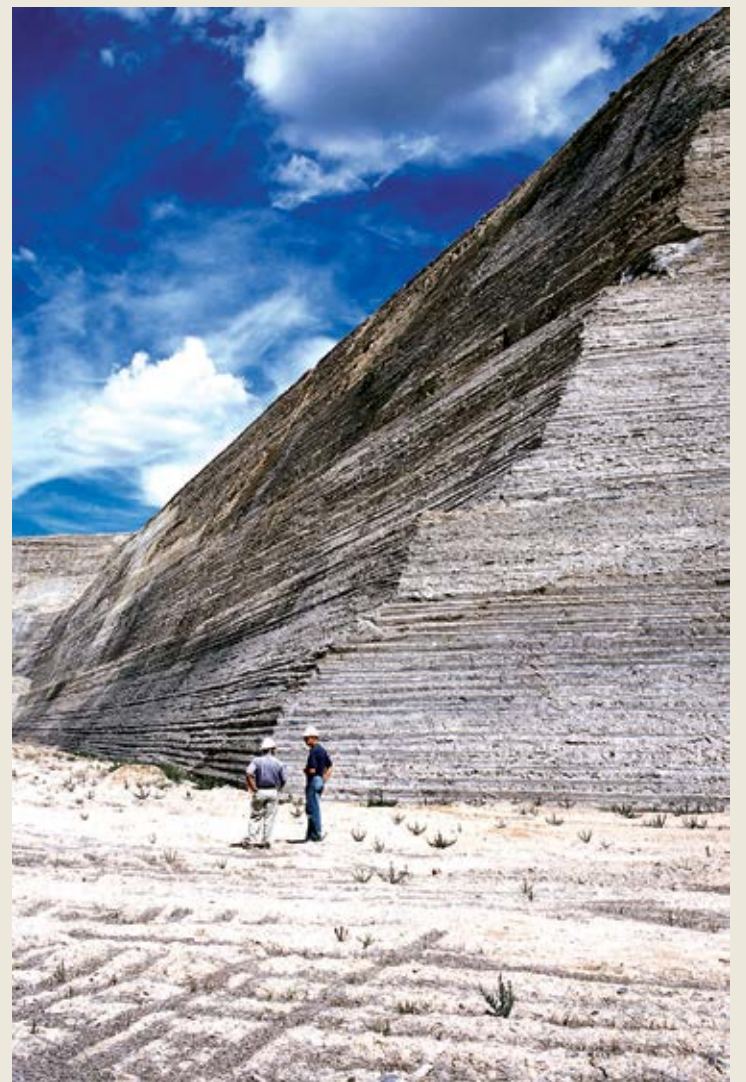
Gypsum has been mined here for over a century. Colorado's smallest gypsum mines are in the Livermore area, where deposits of gypsum are so fine in their crystal structure and color that they are exported all over the country. Marketed as alabaster, artists carve Livermore gypsum into sculptures, bowls, and other ornamental art. The rest of the Livermore area's gypsum is recycled in-state. Ground-up chunks of it are added to cement (mostly in Lyons, Colo.), where it helps stabilize the cement mix and prevents flash setup of concrete when it is mixed to line wells, make sidewalks, and poured on streets and home foundations. Finely powdered gypsum from Livermore is shipped to the San Luis and Grand valleys where potato, grape, and peach farmers use it as a soil amendment. The calcium, or "Ca" in the gypsum helps these plants avoid fungal diseases, facilitates leaching of some of the sodium in soils that inhibits plant growth, and is also taken up directly by the plants as a nutrient.

The majority of our gypsum is mined north of the Gypsum exit on I-70. There, a giant Zamboni-like machine scrapes nearly

pure gypsum, layer-by-layer from the mountain. It is trucked to a football-field-sized plant south of the highway where it's powdered, baked, and mixed in a gizmo that looks something like a giant cake-mixer. The gypsum-water mix is then squeezed out between two giant rolls of recycled paper (hailing from Oklahoma City), where it's squeezed, dried, and chopped into sheets like those you might see at Home Depot or Lowe's. Take a peek next time you're there—over 80 percent of their



Looking southward from the top of one of the main gypsum quarries in Gypsum, CO. Foreground: Crushed gypsum and waste rock piled in the quarry floor; in the distance is the Eagle-Gypsum airport. Photo: American Gypsum



Miners discuss the stair-step-shaped wall of excavated gypsum in Gypsum, CO. Photo: American Gypsum

drywall is made in Colorado. We produce so much drywall that it's exported by truck and by rail to many western and Midwestern states. The American Gypsum Company produces it so fast that they could pave a lane of I-70 from downtown Denver to Greenwood Springs in 24 hours. Whoa!

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

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

Gueros (2014)

This Mexican road film from director Alonzo Ruiz Palacios was the darling of last year’s TriBeCa Film Festival, where it won the award for Best Cinematography. It tells the story of a troubled boy (Tomás) who is sent to live with his brother Sombra in Mexico City circa 1999. Sombra and his roommate are university students at the time of the university strike that rocked the city for over eight months. But the film takes its time getting to that point. It’s a road movie that doesn’t go very far, but at the same time, it covers a great deal of ground.

As Tomas arrives at his brother’s house, his brother and roommate are stagnant. Aside from playing with a young neighbor, they don’t do much. They sit, smoke, and listen to Sombra’s crush Ana read poetry over the radio. The camera obliges the action and sits stagnant, watching the characters. With long takes and deep-focus photography, we get a sense of the inertia of their lives.

But as the plot forces the boys to leave quickly, the cinematography changes as well, going from stasis to movement. Suddenly the camera is active, the editing is dynamic, and even the soundtrack kicks into gear. In historical terms, the film moves from Italian Neorealism to the French New Wave in the first hour of the film. It is quite fun to watch,

in both thematic and stylistic terms. The boys finally make it to the actual strike, find Ana, and then continue on their



Scene from *Guerros*

Scene from *Fury*



road trip. The film finds its footing here—the cinematography is fresh, the acting is very good all around, and the pacing is alive.

Director Ruiz Palacios is a part of the Mexican New Wave, a group that includes recent Oscar winners Alfonso Cuarón and Alejandro González Iñárritu, as well as Guillermo del Toro. These directors have produced some of the finest work on the planet over the past 10–15 years, and they show no signs of slowing down. Ruiz Palacios is not in the stratosphere of the other directors yet, but this is an excellent film that sets him on his way.

You will enjoy this film if you liked *Amores Perros*, *Y tu mamá también*, and/or *Motorcycle Diaries*.

Starts at the Sie Film Center on June 12.

Fury (2014)

I grew up on war films—John Wayne, Jimmy Stewart, Humphrey Bogart, and all the greats of Classic Hollywood Cinema. My father fought in WWII, and he was at D-Day. When *Saving Private Ryan* came out, we watched it together, and I was especially struck by the gruesome opening sequence on Omaha Beach. I asked him if this approximated reality, to which he replied, “Not even close.” The point was clear: a Hollywood film cannot duplicate

the horror of war.

Director David Ayer’s *Fury* rectifies that. The story of

one tank behind enemy lines in April 1945, it is a brutal, straight-ahead rendering of fighting in Germany toward the end of the war. The Germans became desperate at this point, and they enlisted every man, woman, and child available to fight. They were also suffering from lack of food and supplies. It all adds up to a Hell on Earth that is difficult to describe. Film, however, has the unique quality of making visceral just such circumstances.

The tank is led by a war-hardened sergeant named Wardaddy, brilliantly played by Brad Pitt in a towering performance. This is a man who has seen it all and killed much of what he has seen. The rest of the crew is a motley bunch of not-very-likeable veterans and one rookie plucked from the typing pool. That rookie’s first job is to clean the tank after a recent battle. He literally picks up the face—and only the face—of his predecessor as he does so. Welcome to the War, kid. And it only goes downhill from there.

There is no specific narrative here, none of the characters are very likeable, untold numbers of characters die horrible deaths in every way imaginable, and there is nothing in the way of redemption. So what is the appeal? Granted, this is not a film for everyone, but if you are interested in a more realistic portrayal of the war, then tune in. But be warned, you enter a gruesome inferno.

You will like this film if you enjoyed *Saving Private Ryan*, *Blackhawk Down*, and/or *Restrepo*.

Available at Redbox and all VOD outlets.

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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Meet the Kids

Oddball, endearing and quirky answers to life's questions

By Madeline Schroeder

The Internet is an extremely powerful force. It has the power to educate, collaborate and organize. At the same time, the Internet invites obscenity and hatred, and is a cesspool of bullying. How can the Internet remain a positive force?

A group of sixth-graders from Denver Discovery met to discuss this topic. As 11- and 12-year-olds, Jenna Kwong, Blake Underwood, Ryan Hilty, Max Ramirez and Ayla Perez have had digital upbringings and they believe there should be more surveillance and censorship over the Internet.

This thinking is surprising. Most people have fiercely resisted control over the Internet in fear of losing their First Amendment right of freedom of speech. Obvious examples like China or Russia where there is very little Internet freedom make the hair stand up on the back of Americans' necks. But the sixth-graders swung the other direction.

"Things like cyberbullying and harassment, that's really only an American thing and I think it's good for companies to take down those types of pages because if America doesn't do something about it, it's only going to get worse," Max Ramirez said.

"I think sometimes Americans have too much freedom on the Internet and people post a lot of bad stuff," Ayla Perez added.

All of them have witnessed offensive or inappropriate photos, comments and conduct on the Internet.

Someone in our school, I don't want to say who, created a hate page for someone.

I saw some violent and sad posts by people on Instagram so I deleted my account.

I've seen people comment, "You're ugly" when someone posts a selfie.

Because there is no facial expression or voice inflection on the Internet, it is



Sixth-graders at Denver Discovery left to right: Jenna Kwong, Blake Underwood, Ryan Hilty, Max Ramirez and Ayla Perez.

Sixth-Graders Say Americans Have Too Much Internet Freedom

difficult to tell what is funny and what is offensive. The students admitted to having offended friends over the Internet in the past and regret some of the things they've said.

"People can become very depressed about themselves on the Internet," Ryan Hilty said. This is the reason his parents have not allowed him to get the photo-sharing app Instagram. "I think most of us here realize there are cyberbullying norms that you should follow, like the golden rule to treat people the way you want to be treated. But, really anything goes on the Internet."

This year they studied Internet freedom in their social studies class and were each assigned a country to study its Internet freedom laws. They found countries like China and Russia are too strict, but some countries are doing it better than the U.S.

"I personally studied Canada and I think they've got it down. The U.S. just

allows everything. In Canada you can use everything but some things are blocked (like how to look up a bomb) or there are things you can't say," Blake Underwood said.

Most applications and websites' terms of use state the user may not post anything offensive. For example, Instagram does not allow "violent, nude, partially nude, discriminatory, unlawful, infringing, hateful, pornographic or sexually suggestive photos or other content via the Service."

At the same time, Instagram and other sites do not take responsibility for the content to avoid liability. Users own their content. The sixth-graders believe it is wrong for companies to not take ownership.

First, they agreed there should be strict repercussions for people who abuse terms of use. They have all seen photos that fall under Instagram's criteria for inappropriate material. If a person posts something offensive, they should be kicked off and not allowed to create another account,

which means phones would need to be tracked so a person cannot create another account from the same phone.

To avoid nasty or hurtful comments, Max Ramirez proposed the warning, "Are you sure you want to say this?" should pop up when a person is about to post. "Sometimes people are just mad and click and post, but if the computer questions you, it makes your brain think, 'Oh, should I do this? Will people understand it the wrong way?'" he said.

In the end, the sixth-graders came to the consensus that controlling the Internet is an infinite task, but taking that extra second to ask, "Should I do this?" can make a difference. Change can begin with the day-to-day online interactions. "Think before you post," they said. Even that much could make a more positive climate online.



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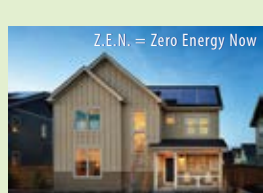
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The Book Worm

The *Front Porch* prints book reviews, rotating to a different library or bookstore each month. June reviews are by volunteers from the Park Hill Community Bookstore, 4620 E. 23rd. People interested in writing book reviews, e-mail Madeline Schroeder at madeline@frontporchstapleton.com.

Twenty-seven Square Miles: Landscape and History at Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge

by John Hoffercker (reviewed by Jack Farrar)

In the not-too-distant past, it was difficult to imagine that Rocky Flats or the Rocky Mountain Arsenal would become wildlife habitats. The former was the site of nuclear weapon warhead construction, the latter for production and storage of deadly nerve gas and other horrific chemical weapons. The conversion of Rocky Flats to a refuge is still a work in progress (and still controversial), but much of the Arsenal rehabilitation program has been completed.

University of Colorado professor John Hoffercker's *Twenty-Seven Square Miles* is an informative, brief (91 pages) natural and political history of the Arsenal. You'll learn about the evolution of the landscape, Native Americans, hunters and trappers who lived on the site, homesteaders and farmers, the Arsenal's significant role in the Cold War, and how a massive cleanup job once thought

impossible was achieved. Fascinating stuff.

Soldier Girls: The Battles of Three Women at Home and at War

by Helen Thorpe
(reviewed by Jack Farrar)

Denver writer Helen Thorpe's two books are noteworthy not only for the enormous amount of meticulous research and interviewing involved, but because they shed light on very politically charged subjects without being judgmental.

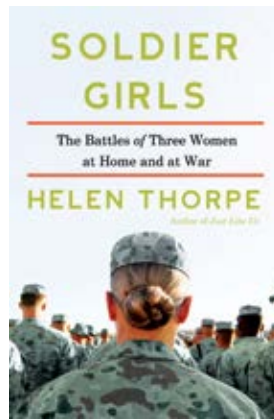
Thorpe's most recent effort, *Soldier Girls*, reflects the same painstaking

attention to detail and the integrity of her subjects—three women who take very different paths to/lessons from deployment in Afghanistan and Iraq. It's an important book that combines the characteristics of a novel and a newspaper series. It makes us think about war, sexism, poverty and patriotism, while avoiding the bromides and myths.

Ordinary Thunderstorms

by William Boyd
(reviewed by John Krause)

Ordinary Thunderstorms is anything but ordinary. It is an outstanding "no good deed goes unpunished" story. Adam Kindred is the do-gooder who decides to reunite a folder with its owner, a gentleman who inadvertently

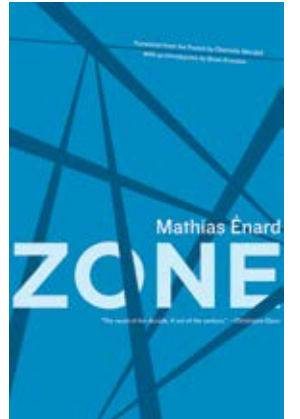


left it behind in a bistro where he and Kindred had briefly chatted minutes before. In William Boyd's crafty rendering, a few pages later Kindred finds himself running frantically from both the police and a menacing stranger who assaulted him. Before Adam can stop running, he needs to learn what has happened and why: and, as he does, the reader is treated to a deftly drawn, Dickensian cast of characters from London's slums, rescue missions, hospitals and corporate boardrooms. A great read.

Zone

by Mathias Enard
(reviewed by Jack Farrar)

This novel by French writer Mathias Enard is strangely appealing. It is essentially a 500-page sentence (interspersed with some paragraph-style passages). There is no real plot. The central character is on a train, traveling from Milan to Rome. He is to present a report to the pope about war atrocities. Expect lots of violence and some surprising moments of humor. Don't let the quirkiness of the one-sentence novel throw you; the book is actually quite readable.



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Big Brothers Has a Big Impact on Kids

By Courtney Drake-McDonough

With four sisters, Michael Castro really wanted an older brother. Wade Frisbie is the youngest of three brothers and really wanted to be someone's older brother. For the past six years, the two have gotten exactly what they wanted and needed as little brother and big brother in the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Colorado, Inc. program. The relationship has provided benefits to both that go beyond just filling a role they felt was missing in their lives.

Frisbie, a Stapleton resident and financial advisor, had wanted to volunteer with the organization for a long time to be able to "show a child there's a lot of opportunity in the world." Castro, 13, wanted the older brother experience saying, adamantly, "I don't have a brother whatsoever! I wanted to do something that would simulate what it was like to have an older brother."

After registering with Big Brothers Big Sisters, Frisbie went through a background check and answered a lot of questions about his interests to determine mutual interests with available children. "The process is really good at trying to match like-to-like," he says. It took four months before he was matched with a then 7-year-old Castro whose first Big Brother relationship hadn't been a

good match. Castro reached out again for a Big Brother and was paired with Frisbie. "They matched me up with someone almost exactly like me, which makes it easier to talk to him," says Castro.

The mission of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Colorado Inc., according to their website, is "to provide children facing adversity with strong and enduring, professionally supported one-to-one relationships that change their lives for the better, forever." They have mentoring programs that focus on education, sports or on general activities, which is the one Frisbie and Castro are part of. Volunteer mentors are asked to commit a minimum of one year to the relationship, spending time with the child two to four times per month. Staff members



Michael Castro and Wade Frisbie chat in the Stapleton 29th Avenue Town Center. The two are a part of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Colorado, Inc., a program that pairs a child in need of a role model with an adult who has similar interests. Castro and Frisbie have been brothers for six years.

help support the relationships and provide some planned enrichment activities such as camping, bowling and field days for all of the Big Brother Big Sister pairs.

Castro credits his relationship with Frisbie for getting him involved in a variety of activities. "It actually gets me to do stuff," says Castro. "Michael likes to play video games a lot so we try to do a little bit of that but also get him out, doing things outside like riding bikes, playing dodgeball, going to the park and watching movies," says Frisbie. "We try to do stuff that isn't expensive but is still fun and that we can do together," he says, adding that the organization discourages doing expensive things with the kids. "They are always trying to find things that the kids can do on their own later and with their families."

Frisbie and Castro's mother communicate often about what's going on in the teenager's life. Frisbie knows it's a big responsibility to be part of Castro's life and plans to continue the relationship even after their formal mentoring program ends. "Sometimes it's all play and we have a great time together and sometimes we talk about school or what's going on in his family. We have an open dialogue," Frisbie says. "I don't think we've ever not been able to talk to each other." Castro

seconds that saying, "I can talk to him about just about anything."

Although Castro's energy level is sometimes too much for Frisbie who says his little brother is nonstop, he says, "I get to interact and see him grow. It's pretty fun to watch." Through the relationship, Frisbie has learned a lot. "He has taught me to slow down and really listen instead of just thinking I know something." For his part, Castro says he has learned there are people in the world who have common interests with him. He has also learned how to be a better big brother to his younger sister and wants to one day be a Big Brother for the organization. He sums up his plans for his future Little Brother saying, "I'm going to take him out to have fun and he can always talk to me about his problems and school and stuff. And I'll pretty much just stick up for him."

Last year, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Colorado Inc. had more than 1,870 one-to-one mentoring relationships. However, the organization says that 70 percent of their child inquiries are from boys but only 30 percent of the volunteer inquiries are from men. The organization says there is a particular need for mentors in the northeast neighborhoods including Stapleton and Park Hill. Learn more at www.biglittlecolorado.org/.

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2015 Legislative Wrap-Up



State Senator Pat Steadman (D) represents District 3, which includes Montclair, Mayfair, Hale and Lowry.

By Carol Roberts
The *Front Porch* looked back on conversations with our legislators at the beginning of the 2015 session (printed in our February issue) and found they were all successful in passing a number of bills they had identified as high priority for this session.

TABOR

As the state's tax base grows, refunds under the Taxpayer Bill of

Rights (TABOR) will be impacting the state's budget more and more in the future.

Proposition BB will be on the ballot this fall to let voters reaffirm their original intent to tax marijuana sales, let the state keep the revenue, and put \$40 million toward school construction. A little known clause in TABOR exempted revenue from the first fiscal year of marijuana sales, so voters will have to vote yes again to carry out their original intent. Sen. Pat Steadman, who sponsored this bill, called his efforts to get Proposition BB on the ballot "truly one of the most complex things I've undertaken."

Reps. McCann and Court proposed a bill to have a line item on state tax returns allowing people to voluntarily give back TABOR refunds to the state, but that bill did not pass.

JUSTICE

Rep. Angela Williams told the *Front Porch* in January that racial disparity issues in policing were a high priority for her this session. A total of six bills were passed as a "Rebuilding Trust" package of legislation; four were sponsored or co-sponsored by Williams:

Law Enforcement Use of Body-worn Cameras provides funding to increase the number of Colorado officers wearing body cameras.

Disclose Misrepresentations by Police Officers prevents police officers from hiding unfavorable entries

in their personnel files simply by joining a different police force.

Police Shooting Data Collection collects more data on officer-involved shootings.

Police Officer Training Improvements adds four civilians to the certification board for Colorado law enforcement agencies and requires it to take steps to promote diversity in police recruiting and to include anti-bias, community policing and de-escalation courses in police officers' regular in-service training.

Sen. Mike Johnston, who talked in January about the lack of data on racial profiling, successfully sponsored the *Police Data Collection and Community Policing (CLEAR)* Act that requires the Department of Criminal Justice to compile and report data on the demographic breakdown of stops, arrests, charging, sentencing, parole hearing, and parole outcomes, with emphasis

placed on determining if there is any racial or gender bias that exists in our policing system.

Johnston and McCann successfully sponsored the *Felony Offense for Repeat DUI Offenders* bill. They pointed out in our January conversation that Colorado was one of only five states that didn't have a higher penalty after multiple DUIs. The new bill requires interventions for prior offenses and makes the fourth DUI conviction a class 4 felony.

McCann successfully sponsored the *Juvenile Petty Offense Contracts* bill. Under certain conditions, minors over 10 can now be offered a petty offense contract that spells out behaviors such as restitution, community service, school attendance, or restorative justice practices.

Successful completion of the contract would keep these juveniles out of the justice system.

Steadman added in his report that bills to repeal legislation on background checks for gun purchases did not pass.

SOCIAL PROGRAMS

Johnston, in January, described his goal to pass a *Pay for Success* bill that would allow local governments and nonprofit providers to enter into contracts that would only obligate the state to pay for services if the contractor delivered on the outcome. Johnston's successful bill requires a contractor to

raise the capital for the project, and if the project works and saves the state money, the state will pay the contractor back with the savings. If the project does not work and does not save the state money, the contractor will not be reimbursed.

A bill to offer *more protection to children in foster care* was passed by McCann. If foster children are missing, the bill requires that they be reported to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and to local law enforcement no later than 24 hours after the disappearance is noted. McCann's experience has shown that this population is particularly vulnerable

to human trafficking.

In her end-of-session report, McCann notes that a privately funded program that brought a 40 percent reduction in teen pregnancies and a 30 percent reduction in abortions passed the House, but failed in the Senate—so that successful program will unfortunately end due to lack of funding.

GOVERNANCE & BUDGET

Rep. Court, successfully passed *Improving the Statewide Initiative Process*, a bill that ensures voters will have a clear understanding of the fiscal impact of proposed measures. It requires that the fiscal impact of a ballot initiative, prepared by nonpartisan staff, be both in the Blue Book for voters and also on the first page of petitions voters are asked to sign.

Steadman, as a member of the Joint Budget Committee, worked on the daunting task of creating a balanced budget for the state. At the end of five months of work, the budget passed with strong

bipartisan support (31 to 2 in the Senate).

EDUCATION

According to Steadman's session-end report, \$60 million was invested in a new funding allocation model for colleges and universities; \$20 million went to scholarships and financial aid; and \$25 million went toward prior cuts in "the negative factor." School funding consists of a base, per pupil amount, plus "factors" that make funding more equitable depending on the needs of individual districts. During the recession, the legislature defined these "factors" as not subject to the Amendment 23 school funding requirement, and funding for the "factors" was reduced dramatically. Steadman says the education funding shortfall due to these "negative factor" cuts is estimated to be \$855 million.

Court sponsored bills that adjust the DPS contribution to pension plans (as suggested by the PERA board) that will enable DPS to put about \$20 million more per year in classrooms.

On the controversial subject of testing, McCann's end-of-session report states time will be reduced in most grades but remain the same for the transitional grades 5, 6, 8 and 9.

WORKFORCE TRAINING

Williams in January talked about the need to provide unemployed workers the opportunity to develop new skills. Her successful bill, *Skilled Worker Outreach, Recruitment, Training*, offers grants to providers that offer credentialed training programs to give workers new skills in industries that have a high demand for qualified workers.



State Senator Mike Johnston (D) represents District 33, which includes Stapleton and Park Hill.



State Rep. Lois Court (D) represents District 6, which includes all of Lowry, E. Montclair, Montclair and Mayfair.



State Rep. Beth McCann (D) represents District 8, which includes all of Park Hill from Locust to Colorado Blvd., Hale, East Colfax, and two precincts in Stapleton just north of Montview and east of Central Park Blvd.



State Representative Angela Williams (D) represents District 7, which includes all but two Stapleton precincts and Park Hill from Quebec to Monaco (south to Montview).

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Regus Executive Office Space and Stapleton Endodontics are open at 8354 Northfield Blvd.

Regus Executive Office Space

Regus Executive Office Space, which opened March 19 in the Shops at Northfield, offers short- and long-term office space and support services for businesses. “It’s a flexible solution for all types of businesses, from one-person startups to corporations,” said Jeremy Sarby, general manager of the new Northfield location. “We offer office and meeting room space from 60 square feet to 400 square feet, for use for one hour to long term.”

Regus also provides administrative and tech support as part of the lease package. “Our admin team answers calls, opens mail and books appointments for clients, as well as preparing Excel spreadsheets and PowerPoint presentations,” said Sarby. “All our employees are trained in tech support. Our cost-saving structure takes the overhead out of traditional office space so businesses can focus on their bottom line. All you need is a laptop and a warm body to get going.”

Regus started in 1989 in Brussels and now has 3,000 locations in 100 countries. Stapleton’s 5,500-square-foot operation is the 20th location in Denver.

Sarby said, overall in Regus offices, 50 percent of the clients are solo entrepreneurs and the other 50 percent are two- to three-person operations and larger. Globally, the company provides support for Twitter, Exxon and BP.

Regus Executive Office Space, 8354 Northfield Blvd., Building G, Suite 3700, can be reached at 720-709-4700 or regus.com.

Stapleton Endodontics

Endodontist Dr. Jason Read opened Stapleton Endodontics May 25 in Northfield. Endodontics is root canals and related dental treatment. Read said he chose Stapleton for his startup practice because it’s a growing neighborhood that needs endodontic specialists. “I wanted to go where I’m needed,” he said.

Read said the best part of his job is getting people out of pain. “I’m like an ER doc,” Read said. “Tooth pain can be intense because it is inflammation inside the tooth, which cannot expand. I provide complete and immediate pain relief.”

The office offers top-of-the-line equipment for accurate diagnosis and treatment, Read said. “We have a 3D CT scan, which is rare for a startup because they are expensive—around \$100,000. The 3D imaging is a game-changer in my practice because it takes the guesswork out of diagnoses.” Read was attracted to the new 1760-square-foot space because of the light. “The wall-to-ceiling windows make it really beautiful,” he said. “We made the office a cozy fall thing using earth tones, and the operatories are ergonomic for the patients and the doctor.” Stapleton Endodontics, 8354 Northfield Blvd., Suite #2750, can be reached at 720.859.1717 or office@stapletonendo.com. For more information, see stapletonendo.com.

New Businesses in North Stapleton



Autowash at 5050 Central Park Blvd. will open in mid-June.

Autowash

Cars and dogs in need of a bath can get cleaned up at the new Autowash, 50th and Central Park Blvd. (next to ExtraSpace Storage), opening in mid-June.

Owner Dennis Dreeszen opened his first Autowash at 20th and Central Park in 2013 and says it’s a hit with dog-washers. “The trick is to get people to use it the first time,” he said. “It’s a faster, easier way to wash the dog and everyone loves it. It’s fun for the dog and the family. What we learned is to remind folks to bring a towel. People forget, and it’s hard to blow-dry a soaked dog.”

The new north Stapleton Autowash is in a good location to serve the Stapleton, Commerce City and Montbello neighborhoods, Dreeszen said.

Autowash adheres to a “green” philosophy, said Dreeszen. “We use all LED lighting, and we reclaim between 30 and 50 percent of the water used. We use soap that is non-acidic and non-hazardous.”

Autowash, open 24 hours, is well-lit at night and has 24-hour surveillance for safety, Dreeszen said.

Read online about the first Stapleton Autowash that opened in 2013. Find the new Autowash in north Stapleton at 5050 Central Park Blvd., 303-927-9061, or go to autowashstapleton.com.



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ExtraSpace Storage at 5602 Central Park Blvd. opened in March.

ExtraSpace Storage

The new ExtraSpace Storage, at Northfield and Central Park boulevards, meets the needs of a growing community, said facility co-owner Lisa Glynn: “Denver is experiencing job and population growth and people are transitioning into Stapleton. We meet a temporary need to store their belongings while they transition from one home to another.”

The 100,000-square-foot facility, opened March 2, offers storage units ranging from 5-by-5 feet to 10-by-30 feet. “The 10 by 10 is the most popular,” Glynn said. “It’s a good mid-size unit that will hold most of a one-bedroom apartment.”

Glynn and her partner, Tom Razo, also own the nearby ExtraSpace Storage facility at Martin Luther King Blvd. and Ulster St. ExtraSpace storage operates 32 locations in Colorado and 1,100 nationwide.

Security is provided by an on-site manager, multiple video cameras and a coded gate access. The units are climate-controlled to protect the items stored. “The units are kept between 55 and 85 degrees Fahrenheit, protecting the contents from Colorado’s wide temperature swings,” Glynn said. “This is important for nice furniture, pictures and electronics. It also reduces dust and pests.”

ExtraSpace Storage, 5062 Central Park Blvd., can be reached at 303.615.3755, or 855.717.2992, toll-free. For more information, see extraspace.com.

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Michelle and Lance Shimomura, co-owners of the new Goddard School shown at right, sit in one of the classrooms with their 20-month-old twin daughters, Emily and Gabrielle, and 4-year-old Grant.

New Preschool's Philosophy: Fun Leads to Learning



By Laurie Dunklee

The Goddard School, which opened May 11 in north Stapleton, is part of a preschool chain with a difference. "Owners are on-site full time to get things done," said Lance Shimomura, co-owner of the new school with his wife, Michele. "You are leaving your child here, so you want to know that the main point person is available at all times. Nobody needs to call a corporate office somewhere else in order to get something fixed."

The school serves children from 6 weeks to 5 years old with programs to nurture growth and encourage learning. "We have room for up to 130 children," said Shimomura. "We started enrolling last fall and right now our infant and toddler classes are full with wait lists. We have room for preschoolers and pre-kindergarten with no wait lists."

The school will have up to 24 teachers when it's at full capacity, Shimomura said.

"The faculty is growing as enrollment grows. We're ramping up to two teachers in each classroom and five more support teachers to fill in. Our two directors also work in the classrooms."

The new 8,000-square-foot Goddard School, across Northfield Blvd. northeast of Macy's, is one of 420 individually owned franchises in the U.S. The facility has eight classrooms, offices and a large playroom, as well as a playground. "We searched for a site for over a year," Shimomura said. "It had to be right. It's not easy to find an acre of open land in Denver right now. It turns out that Forest City's master plan slated this site for a preschool. So we're pleased to be in Stapleton."

A grand opening celebration, June 13 from 11am to 1pm, is open to the community. Tours and lunch will be provided, as well as activities for kids.

The Shimomuras have three children who

attend Goddard School: a 4-year-old boy and 20-month-old twin girls. Finding childcare for their son led to their involvement in the Goddard School.

"The trigger was we were looking for a high-quality preschool," Shimomura said. "They are hard to find. We were introduced to a few but there were wait lists. We realized there's a high demand for high-quality preschools."

Goddard schools met their requirements. "It's not daycare, where they just change diapers. It's a school with a structure and a curriculum that hires professional educators."

The founding principle of The Goddard School's curriculum, according to their website, is that children experience the deepest, most genuine learning when they are having fun. "I see my son having fun and his attention is involved," Shimomura said. "Parents can't always see it, but the teachers are applying a lesson plan. Having fun builds the kids'

interest and self-esteem, and keeps them excited about coming to school. Looking at his daily activity reports makes it clear that he's learning and putting the pieces together."

Goddard's educational framework focuses on seven learning areas: personal and social; math; science and technology; language; physical development; creativity; and social studies. Children are guided through age-appropriate activities by highly trained teachers. Shimomura said tuition costs are competitive with other preschools in the area.

"Hiring passionate, professional educators is key," Shimomura said. "Parents will seek us out because of how good our teachers are."

Goddard's two-week summer camps begin June 8. "Sessions concentrate on different subjects and are *a la carte*, to fit family vacation schedules," Shimomura said.

The Goddard School's hours are 7am to 6pm. Find them at 4901 N. Wabash St., 720.943.0672 or goddardschool.com.

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Northfield Bar Caters to Late-Night Diners



Left to Right, John Dilivio, Asst. General Manager; Eric Guiberson, General Manager; and Seth Baughman, Asst. General Manager at It's Brothers Bar & Grill in Northfield.

By Laurie Dunklee

Need a late-night meal but nothing's open? It's Brothers Bar & Grill, which opened in late May in Northfield, serves their full menu until midnight and appetizers until 2am.

"It can be hard to get food late at night because few places are open, but our late-night kitchen fills that niche," said Eric Guiberson, general manager of the new sports bar across from the Harkins Theater.

The Northfield location is the third It's Brothers Bar & Grill in Colorado. The others are downtown at 19th and Market, and in Lone Tree on Park Meadows Drive. The family owned business, started in 1990 in Wisconsin, operates 19 restaurants nationwide.

"The owners [brothers Marc and Eric Fortney] scope out up-and-coming areas," Guiberson said. "When they flew into DIA, they saw all the construction kicking up here in Stapleton. They started inquiring and realized this area will be booming. So we're digging in on the ground floor."

"The restaurant is part of a growing entertainment district in Northfield, along with movie theaters, a comedy club, live shows and more restaurants. Plans are out there for a bowling alley. Northfield is creating a mini-downtown feel, without going all the way to LoDo."

It's Brothers Bar & Grill creates a dual-concept bar and restaurant, said Guiberson. "We're open every day from 11am until 2am. Until 10pm we're a high-end sports bar for all ages; after 10 we're 21 and up. So during the day we serve families and at night

we'll have live bands."

It's Brothers serves 40 beers on tap, including 20 local beers and some unusual offerings such as Not Your Father's Root Beer from Wisconsin. "We change the selection monthly and bring in seasonal beers," Guiberson said. "This summer we'll have a shandy beer with a refreshing lemonade flavor."

The kitchen prepares made-from-scratch foods, including sauces, salad dressings and marinades. "Even the potato chips are made from scratch," says the website. "Our burgers are fresh, not frozen, and we specialize in stuffed burgers—like our bacon-and-cheddar-stuffed burger is phenomenal," Guiberson said. "We also serve salads and full entrees, as well as appetizers. Specialties are our hand-battered Wisconsin cheese curds and our beer-cheese soup."

Guiberson describes the decor as "a nice mix of nostalgic and modern." "The woodwork makes it warm and inviting, and antique neon signs make it unique. Our owners are always on the lookout for cool stuff. We have a Studebaker sign and one for Pegasus Tires with the flying horse. On the modern side, we have 20 big TVs for watching games. Every seat in the house has a great view of a TV."

It's Brothers Bar & Grill has about 30 tables inside and 25 on the outdoor patio. "The patio will be open most of the year because we'll have heaters outside," Guiberson said.

It's Brothers Bar & Grill is at 8270 E. Northfield Blvd. and can be reached at 303.953.0229. For more information, see brothersbar.com.

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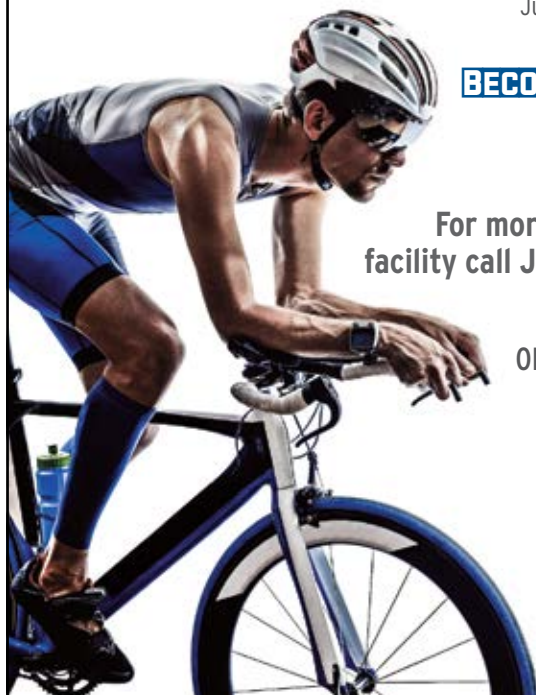
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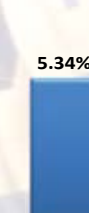
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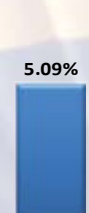
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Back Pain Leads Chiropractor to His Calling



Dr. Doug Devine works with patient Erin Lockwood at his new office located in Stapleton at 2330 Central Park Blvd.

By Courtney Drake-McDonough

The irony isn't lost on Doug Devine. After careers in the military and finance, it took severe back pain from a parachuting injury, plus a healthy dose of skepticism, to find his calling. Devine knows what he's up against in convincing people of the benefits of chiropractic care. He was one of those people who needed convincing, hesitant to go to a "voodoo chiropractor" as he referred to them. But faced with surgery as the only option left after traditional treatments including injections, muscle relaxers and physical therapy didn't last, Devine pursued chiropractic care. In addition to lasting pain relief, he found other surprising physical and mental benefits along with a new career path—as a chiropractor.

Dr. Devine, D.C., or "Dr. Doug" as he prefers to be called, occupies a live/work space on Central Park Blvd. A Stapleton resident since the fall, he opened Stapleton Chiropractic in April to help people's bodies function better and to educate them.

Devine had tried chiropractic treatments for his back before but the pain relief was only temporary. After getting a coworker's recommendation for a different doctor who explained what was happening to Devine and why, throughout treatment, Devine found his back improving along with other, unexpected changes. Hamstrings that had been tight since college suddenly loosened, increasing his flexibility. His frequent colds stopped and he noticed his negative outlook on life changing to a very positive one.

Now as a practicing chiropractor him-

self, Devine says chiropractic care can address a wide variety of conditions for people of all ages (including infants and children) such as headaches, vertigo, mind fog, menstrual issues, frequent colds, knee pain, bed wetting and ear infections. "Anything that's going wrong with your body could be helped by chiropractic because the body is driven by the brain," explains Devine, adding that the brain communicates to the body and the body gets feedback back up to the brain via the nervous system. "It's like the highway for our bodies to get messages to and from the brain. If that highway has potholes, or speed bumps or a tree falls, those messages aren't going to make it to their destination with the clarity that's needed." He says chiropractic fills in the potholes, takes away the speed bumps, and removes the trees "so the messages can get where they go in a timely and correct fashion," allowing the body to begin to heal itself.

Devine considers chiropractic care a conservative approach. "I'm just touching your skin. I'm not putting anything in your body; I'm not adding chemicals to your body or cutting the skin; I'm not doing anything harsh," he says. "You don't always jump to the most radical things first—try the easiest things first." He adds, "Most people don't take care of their spine like they do their skin or teeth. They have no problem going to the dentist regularly for a checkup," he says. "But we can't see the spine so people have an easy time ignoring what they can't see. If our spines were external, there'd be a chiropractor on every block."

Stapleton Chiropractic is located at 2330 Central Park Blvd. and can be reached at 720.536.0707, Doug@StapletonChiropractic.com or www.stapletonchiropractic.com.

Culinary Students Share their Joy of Food with Ashley Elementary

In May, junior and senior culinary students from Johnson & Wales University (JWU) visited Ashley Elementary to discuss nutrition and cooking. Ninety-two percent of the children who attend Ashley qualify for free and reduced-price lunch programs.

“This is our turf, our home, and we recognize Ashley is underserved. We want to ignite that awareness of healthy eating,” says Adam Sacks, head chef. His culinary class prepared 120 box lunches for fourth- and fifth-graders. The lunches included a variety of small dishes for the kids to get exposed to different tastes. There were vegetarian, and gluten- and lactose-free options. Each box included recipes in English and Spanish, as most of the students at Ashley are native Spanish speakers.

“The food was really crunchy and good,” said Ruby Sanchez-Romero, a student at Ashley. She says her family normally packs her a sandwich for lunch so this was different.

To learn what else JWU does in the community, visit jwu.edu.



Ben Tillisch playfully interacts with students. The day was just as much about having fun and taking a break from the usual school day as it was about educating students on healthy eating practices.

Above: In the cafeteria at Ashley Elementary, culinary students from Johnson & Wales, Cameron Fiorenza and Katherine Daminski, talk about nutrition with students.

Right: Ben Tillisch and Kristina Espinoza laugh watching a student try on his chef hat.



Ashley students receive high fives as they exit the cafeteria.

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Saturday, June 13 Free Community-Wide Scavenger Hunt

By Carol Roberts

Front Porch readers are invited to explore Stapleton's most notable landmarks in a scavenger hunt, either by bike or on foot.

Participants who complete the Scavenger Hunt will be entered to win various prizes, including gift cards to Stapleton businesses and two grand prizes: a Family Four-Pack to *Frozen on Ice* and a new Cruiser Bike.

The event will start at Fred Thomas Park, where entertainment (including a DJ and musicians from Neighborhood Music), snacks and refreshments will be offered throughout the morning.

Participants are encouraged to register online before the event, but they can also register from 9 – 10am. Pre-registered participants will pick up their clues during the registration time. Teams can have up to six members.

Registered participants will be given a list of 10 clues and can choose from walking, biking and driving routes to complete the game. There will be a total of five routes, with one in north Stapleton. (For those who don't know Stapleton well,

information will be provided that will enable all participants to find the locations in their clue list.)

Participants with smart phones or cameras can take a picture at each of the 10 locations. Those without cameras will pick up a token to show they followed all the clues. Participants who return to Fred Thomas Park by 12pm and show proof of finding the 10 locations (with their photos or tokens) will be entered into a drawing. Prize winners will be announced at 12:30pm.

Every registered participant will get a free hat with a Green Book logo. Free valet bike parking and bike rental will be available.

This event, sponsored by the Stapleton Foundation, is to celebrate the 20th anniversary of "The Green Book,"

the document that envisioned what should happen to the seven square miles of the former Stapleton Airport.

Fred Thomas Park is located at 2400 N. Quebec St. Registration will be near the pavilion, which is in the center of the park.

For more information and to register for the scavenger hunt visit www.stapletondenver.com/scavenger-hunt.



THE STAPLETON DEVELOPMENT PLAN

For more events or to submit your own, visit FrontPorchStapleton.com > Events

Cocktails for a Cause Women's Event to Benefit Children

By Madeline Schroeder

Enjoy cocktails and giving to people in need? Cocktails for a Cause is an all-women group that gives products (not money) to local charities and will host an event on June 17 at Wings Over the Rockies, their new permanent location.

"It's a wonderful way to give back. You know what you bring is actually going to help," says founder Rene Harding who has always wondered where her money is going when she writes a check for a charity.

She started Cocktails for a Cause when she read stories about babies getting sick from wearing dirty diapers because their parents couldn't afford to buy them. Being an avid hostess, she invited her girlfriends over and instead of bringing wine or appetizers they brought diapers and baby wipes.

"I just love the power of women and what we can accomplish when we put our minds together. I loved knowing that those diapers were going to a child in need," she says. The attendance grew (and continues to grow) astronomically, now including about 400

participants ages 21-88. They give to 501(c)(3) charities around Colorado and this will be their 24th event in June, this time for the Tennyson Center.

The Tennyson Center for Children is a treatment center and K-12 school for children who have been neglected, abused or have a mental or learning disorder. Cocktails for a Cause is asking for a variety of items to donate to the Tennyson Center, including arts and crafts, bath towels, footballs, or stress-relief toys like stress balls, items asked for by the center.

Events by Cocktails for a Cause are free and welcome to all women, no matter how much an

individual is able to donate from the charity's items list. "Women come and mingle and hear about a charity for about a half-hour. Then they enjoy the wonderful food and wine and friendship," Harding says.

RSVP is required. The event will take place from 5:30–10pm at Wings Over the Rockies in Lowry, 7711 E. Academy Blvd. For more on requested items to bring or to RSVP, visit www.cocktailsforacauseco.org.

Cocktails for a Cause Benefit for Tennyson Center for Children

June 17, 5:30 - 10pm

Wings Over the Rockies,
7711 E. Academy Blvd

www.cocktailsforacauseco.org

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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.

SEASONAL/HOLIDAY EVENTS

7/2 Thursday—Old-Fashioned July 4th Celebration. Four Mile Historic Park. 5-10pm. Modern take on old-fashioned 4th of July. Food/drink for purchase, wagon rides, games and more. Stay to watch Glendale Fireworks. 715 S. Forest St. 720.865.0800. www.fourmilepark.org

7/2 Thursday—City of Glendale Fireworks. 8pm.

7/3 Friday—Independence Day Eve Celebration in Civic Center Park. 8pm. FREE community concert with patriotic favorites by Colorado Symphony. Lightshow and fireworks show. Denver Civic Center Park. www.civiccenterconservancy.org

7/4 Saturday—4th Annual Park Hill 4th of July Parade. 1-3pm. Park Hill, 23rd Ave. from Dexter to Kearney. www.parkhillparade.org

7/4 Saturday—Aurora 4th of July Spectacular. www.auroragov.org

7/4 Saturday—Colorado Rapids vs. Vancouver. Fireworks after game. Family fun zone 5pm; game 7:30pm. www.coloradorapids.com

7/4 Saturday—Denver Outlaws vs. Boston Cannons. 7pm. Sports Authority Field. Fireworks after game. www.denveroutlaws.com

7/4 Saturday—Liberty 4 Mile and Firecracker Kids Run. 8:30am. Washington Park. www.hallucinationsports.com

DENVER METRO EVENTS

6/2 to 6/23—Film on the Rocks. 7pm. Red Rocks Amphitheatre. Live music and movie on select Tuesdays thru summer. Tickets from \$12. Schedule: www.redrocksonline.com

6/4 to 6/6—Tea and Treasures Fundraiser. Presented by Assistance League of Denver, tea, table setting competition, garden and plant sale, tour historic Bosworth House. \$18/in advance; \$24/at door. 303.695.1246. www.denver.assistanceleague.org

6/5 Friday—First Friday Art Walks. Santa Fe Arts District, Tennyson Art Walk, River North (RiNo) Art District, Golden Triangle Museum, Navajo Street Art District. www.denver.org/things-to-do/denver-arts-culture/denver-art-districts

6/5 to 8/8—Colorado Shakespeare Festival. University of Colorado Boulder. www.coloradoshakes.org

6/6 to 6/7—Capitol Hill People's Fair. Civic Center Park. www.peoples-fair.com

6/6 Saturday—Yard Sale at DMMDT. 10 am- 2 pm. Denver Museum of Miniatures, Dolls and Toys will sell dolls, miniatures, toys, games, craft supplies, miscellaneous items. To sell own items, registration forms at museum and www.dmmdt.org/YardSaleRes.pdf. \$20 (\$10 for members). Tables to rent for \$10. 1880 Gaylord St. Street parking. Contact: education@dmmdt.org or 303.322.1053. www.dmmdt.org/YardSale.pdf, www.dmmdt.org/YardSaleRes.pdf

June 6—The Urban Farm Day at The Green

From 3-6pm on June 6, The Urban Farm 4-H will host a day of education about urban farming at The Green, 29th and Roslyn. The day will include a corral with goats, sheep, and mini horses. There will also be information about chickens, ducks, rabbits and games like egg candling, chicken washing, poultry jeopardy, and more. For more information visit theurbanfarm.org.

6/6 to 6/7—Denver Chalk Art Festival. Larimer Square. www.denver-chalkart.com

6/7 Sunday—Stories from Space 50th Anniversary of Project Gemini. Stephen Kelly chronicles NASA's Project Gemini with 3-part lecture series about goal to land a man on the moon. wingmuseum.org/stories-from-space-50th-anniversary-of-project-gemini/

6/11 to 6/12—Denver Library Used Book Sale. www.dplfriends.org

6/12 to 6/14—Golden Music Festival. Clear Creek History Park. www.goldenhistory.org

6/13 Saturday—Cockpit Demo Day. Free with admission. Wings Over the Rockies Museum, Lowry. 10am-2pm. www.wingsmuseum.org

6/13 Saturday—Brew Grass. 12-10pm. \$. 1200 Block of Old South Pearl St. www.swallowhillmusic.org

6/13 Saturday—Vintage Looks and Modern Twists- A Fashion Show. Celebrate fashion history with vintage styles and modern looks inspired by Molly Brown. 5-7pm. \$25. \$5 of every ticket benefits ARC Thrift Stores. www.mollybrown.org

6/14 Sunday—A Taste of Puerto Rico. Civic Center Park. www.atopr.com



June 13—Annual Park Hill Garden Walk

Master gardeners, enthusiasts and anyone looking for a summer activity is invited to the 2015 Park Hill Garden Walk from 10am to 4pm on June 13. The walk showcases 10 gardens featuring designed pathways, summer flowers, and shrubs and veggies. Garden art and sculpture are displayed as well, like this piece from last year's walk (photo by Park Hill residents Tom Wordinger and Bill Benzie). Each year, gardens are selected based on aesthetic, diversity, and proximity. The exact locations of the gardens are not disclosed until the day of. A map with descriptions and locations of gardens is included when purchasing a ticket and is received at the start of the walk. For more information or to buy tickets visit parkhillgardenwalk.org.

6/17 Wednesday—Belle and Sebastian with the Colorado Symphony. Red Rocks Amphitheatre, 7:30pm. www.coloradosymphony.org

6/19 to 6/21—Denver Greek Festival. Greek food, music, boutique, cathedral tours and more. 4610 E. Alameda. www.thegreekfestival.com

6/20 Saturday—Juneteenth Music Festival. Five Points Neighborhood, Welton St. betw. Park and 28th. www.juneteenthmusicfestival.com

6/20 Saturday—Festival of Faerie. Lafayette Co www.festivaloffaerie.com

6/20 Saturday—Westword Music Showcase. Golden Triangle. www.westword.com/musicshowcase

6/20 to 6/21—Denver Pridefest. Civic Center Park, downtown Denver. Parade 9:30am, Cheesman Park. 11am-7pm Sat, 10am-6pm Sun. www.glbtcOLORADO.org/pridefest

6/27 Saturday—48th Annual Denver 7's Rugby Tournament. 9am-6pm. Dicks Sporting Goods Park. www.denversevenrugby.com

6/27 to 6/28—Cherry Blossom Festival. Sakura Square, Lawrence St. betw. 19th and 20th. www.cherryblossomdenver.org

6/27 to 6/28 Third Annual South Platte Riverfest. Confluence Park. Free

demos, riverside recreational activities, live music and more. www.greenwayfoundation.org/south-platte-riverfest

7/3 to 7/5—Cherry Creek Arts Festival. www.cherryarts.org

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

6/3 to 9/30—Denver Bike Night. Wednesdays to 9/24. Evening bike rides thru downtown Denver. 7pm. Various start points. www.denvercruiser-ride.com

6/6 Saturday—Jodi's Race for Awareness. City Park. 8:30-11:30am. www.hallucinationsports.com

6/14 Sunday—Strides for Epilepsy. City Park. 9:30-11:30am. www.hallucinationsports.com

6/21 Sunday—USA Triathlon 2015 Splash and Dash Aquathlon Series. 9am. Washington Park, ages 7-15. Info and to register: www.denvergov.org/fitness

6/24 Wednesday—Bike to Work Day. To register: www.biketowork2014.com

6/27 Saturday—Climb For Courage. Falcon Stadium, Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs. www.hallucinationsports.com

(continued on pg. 30)

SEEKING HEALTHY ADULT VOLUNTEERS

HIV-V-A004: A clinical research study of investigational HIV vaccines

Developing an HIV vaccine remains a critical need in the fight against the spread of HIV. The purpose of this study is to assess the safety & immune system response to investigational HIV vaccines in healthy, HIV-uninfected, adult volunteers. These assessments will help researchers plan future vaccine studies.

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- In good health?
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(continued from p. 29)

Throughout June—The Pink Life Saver Mobile Mammography Van in Stapleton & Lowry

The University of Colorado Hospital owns and operates a van equipped with 3-D mammography, technical and clerical staff, and radiologists to conveniently perform breast screenings. According to University Hospital, 3-D mammograms can detect invasive breast cancer 40 percent sooner than traditional methods and reduce the number of false positives. Screenings take 20 minutes. The van is generally in Lowry on Tuesdays and Stapleton A.F. Family Williams on Fridays. All women older than 40 years old with insurance can schedule a screening. For more information or to schedule a screening contact Kourtney Hughes at kourtney.hughes@uchealth.org or 720.848.1604.

6/27 Saturday—Stadium Stampede. Sports Authority Field at Mile High Stadium. www.hallucination-sports.com

6/27 Saturday—Undy 5000: A Brief Run to Fight Colon Cancer. 5K in your undies to fight colon cancer. Denver City Park. www.undy5000.org

KIDS AND FAMILIES

6/1 to 8/8—Denver Public Library Summer of Reading.

Free activities, reading suggestions, incentives for Denver kids, divided into 3 age groups. www.summerofreading.org

6/2 to 6/19—Star K Nature Camp. Ages 6-12, Tues. to Fri. 9-12pm, 1-week sessions. Repeats 7/27-7/31. Other camps offered. Morrison Nature Center, 16002 E. Smith Rd., Aurora. 303.739.9428 www.auroragov.org/nature

6/2 to 6/30—Tuesdays in June—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. www.fourmilepark.org

6/5 Friday—Four Mile Historic Park Hay Bales and Tall Tales. 12-1pm. 715 S. Forest St. 720.865.0800. Free in conjunction with Free First Friday. www.fourmilepark.org

6/6 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

6/6 Saturday—KidSpree at Yumfest. 10am-6pm. Free entertainment and family activities with reasonably priced attractions and food for purchase. Aurora's largest family festival. Aurora Municipal Center, 15151 E. Alameda P'kway. www.auroragov.org

Free Informational Sessions

Social Security Planning

June 9 and 18, 10am and 1pm
June 16 and 24, 10am and 7pm
SmartSpace, 2373 Central Park Blvd, #100
By Scott Ranby, Kuhn Advisors.
scott@kuhnadvisors.com or call 303-803-1016.

Savvy Social Security Planning

June 22, 2pm Sam Gary Library
June 23, 7pm, Augustana Lutheran Church, 6000 E. Alameda.
By Ted Kouba, Thrivent Financial. RSVP 303-941-3894, theodore.kouba@thrivent.com

Home Buying in Today's Market

June 13, 10-12pm Stapleton Tap House, Northfield
By The Kearns Team. More info and to register: www.BuildingStapleton.com/buyerworkshop.

6/7 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

6/7 to 6/25—The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe. Little Foxes Children's Theatre, 9900 E. Colfax, 303-739-1970, www.aurorafox.org

6/11 Thursday—History Colorado Center IdeaLab. 11am-1pm. Build your own toy using broken ones. www.historycolorado.org

6/13 Saturday—Lowry Reading Garden and Hangar 3 Annual Celebration. Join Lowry Foundation in a hidden Lowry treasure at 5th Ave. and Trenton for family-friendly celebration. 2-4pm. Schlessman Library will sign up kids for Summer Reading Program and give storytime readings. Purchase commemorative book spines that adorn the reading garden. Free, with treats for kids. www.lowry.org

6/13 Saturday—National Get Outdoors Day Denver. Denver City Park. Rock climbing, live music, outdoor arts, bicycling, fishing, junior ranger activities, more. FREE. 10am-3pm. www.getoutdoorscolorado.org

6/13 to 6/27—Lowes Build and Grow Kids Clinics.

Bring kids to Lowes stores to build FREE wood project: Monthly, 2nd and 4th Saturdays. free apron, goggles, project-themed patch, merit certificate on completion. 10am. www.lowesbuildandgrow.com

6/13 to 8/2—Colorado Renaissance Festival. Weekends, mid-June to early Aug. Larkspur. www.coloradorennaissance.com

6/26 Friday—Denver Botanic Gardens Family Fun Night. 4th Fri. each month explore nature at night in Mordecai Children's Garden. Monthly themes, snacks by campfire, other fun activities. www.botanicgardens.org

LECTURES AND CLASSES

6/11 Thursday—Active Minds (Free)- Turkey. 6:45-7:45pm. Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St. 720.865.0325. www.ActiveMinds.com

6/13 Saturday—Active Minds (Free)- Nelson Mandela and the Journey from Apartheid. 1-2pm. Pauline Robinson Library, 5575 E. 33rd Ave. 303.865.0290. www.ActiveMinds.com

6/23 Tuesday—Active Minds (Free)- ISIS. 5-6pm. Tattered Cover, 2526 E. Colfax. 303.322.7727. www.ActiveMinds.com

6/24 Wednesday—Active Minds (Free)- The Struggle of Syria. 6:30-7:30pm. Park Hill Library, 4705 Montview Blvd. 720.865.0250. www.ActiveMinds.com

6/25 Thursday—Active Minds (Free)- Scotland. 6:45-7:45pm. Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St. 720.865.0325. www.ActiveMinds.com

June 20—Denver Century Ride in Northfield

From 6:30am to 4pm on Saturday, June 20, the Denver Century Ride will take place in neighborhoods throughout the Denver metro area, starting at the Shops at Northfield Stapleton. Different courses accommodate cyclists of all levels. At 6:30am, the Full Century, 3/4 Century and 1/2 Century rides will start; at 9:30 am, the 1/4 century ride will start. A free and open to the public street party will be held from 10 am to 4pm at the Shops at Northfield with live music, more than 20 exhibitor booths, children's activities, and food for purchase. To register or learn more visit denvercenturyride.com.

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MUSEUMS—DENVER MUSEUM OF NATURE & SCIENCE
Through 9/7—Mythic Creatures: Dragons, Unicorns and Mermaids. Exhibit free with admission. www.dmns.org

6/5 to 8/13—IMAX Movies. Tiny Giants 3D, Deepsea Challenge 3D, Humpback Whales 3D. www.dmns.org/imax/current-films

6/5 to 8/13—Planetarium. Dream to Discovery. www.dmns.org/planetarium/current-show

6/18 Thursday—Science Lounge. Cocktails/entertainment every 3rd Thurs. of month. 6:30-9:30pm. \$8/members; \$10/nonmembers. www.dmns.org

MUSEUMS—FREE DAYS
6/2 Tuesday—Children’s Museum Free Target Tuesday. 4-8pm. www.cmdenver.org

6/5 Friday—Four Mile Historic Park Free Day. SCFD Free first Friday, 12pm-4pm. Repeats 6/5. www.fourmilepark.org

6/5 to 7/3—Clyfford Still Museum. SCFD Free day. Free admission every Friday 5-8pm and last Friday monthly all day. 1250 Bannock St. www.clyffordstillmuseum.org

6/6 Saturday—Denver Art Museum Free Day. SCFD Free day. www.denverartmuseum.org

6/11 Thursday—Aurora History Museum Free Day. SCFD Free day. Repeats 6/17 and 6/23. www.auroragov.org

6/29 Monday—Denver Museum of Nature & Science Free Day. SCFD Free day. www.dmns.org

NORTHEAST DENVER/AURORA EVENTS
6/6 Saturday—Lowry Wine Walk. Lowry Town Center. \$20 wine walk and free concert 6-10pm. www.lowry.org

6/18 Thursday—Bluff Lake Fireside Chat. Reptiles, Amphibians and Worms, Oh My! 6:30-8pm. All ages welcome. \$1 suggested donation. Bluff Lake Nature Center, 3400 Havana Way. Keith@blufflake.org. www.blufflakenaturecenter.org

6/27 Saturday—Aurora Arts Festival- Re Up. Theme is recycle, upcycle. Theatre performances, live music, art displays, more. 10am-8pm. Fletcher Plaza, 9898 E. Colfax. www.auroraculture.org

6/27 Saturday—Sweet William Market at The Green. 29th at Syracuse. 9am-2pm.

NORTHFIELD EVENTS
6/5 Friday—Harkins Theatres 18 New Release. Insidious 3; Love and Mercy; Spy. www.harkinstheatres.com

6/12 Friday—Harkins Theatres 18 New Release. Jurassic World. www.harkinstheatres.com

6/19 Friday—Harkins Theatres 18 New Release. Dope; inside Out; Me and Earl and the Dying Girl. www.harkinstheatres.com

6/20 Saturday—Denver Century Ride and Street Party. Northfield Main Street. www.denvercenturyride.com

6/26 Friday—Harkins Theatres 18 New Release. Max; Ted 2. www.harkinstheatres.com

ROCKY MOUNTAIN ARSENAL NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
6/3 to 6/24—Nature Explorers. Wednesdays, 9-11:30am. Activities, crafts and stories for kids ages 6-12, different theme weekly. www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky_mountain_arsenal/

6/6 Saturday—I Dig the Refuge. 10-11:30am. Ages 8+ learn basics of archaeology with behind-the-scenes tour to examine artifacts found at refuge. RSVP required. www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky_mountain_arsenal/

June 9—Share your thoughts about the plan for the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge
In April, the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge released a 15-year plan for the site (read the story at: <http://frontporchstapleton.com/article/changes-coming-wildlife-refuge/>) Now the refuge is seeking public review in a series of meetings throughout Northeast Denver, including 6-8pm Tuesday, June 9, at Central Park Recreation Center, 9651 Martin Luther King Blvd. For more information call the refuge project leader David Lucas 303-289-0350.

6/6 Saturday—Wildlife Viewing Tours. 9:30-11:30am (repeats Fri. 6/12 and 6/26 and Sat. 6/20). Naturalist leads bus tour through refuge to view bald eagles, bison, coyotes, deer, raptors, etc. RSVP required. www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky_mountain_arsenal/

6/13 Saturday—Hike-N-Bird. 8:30-11am. Novice to expert birders. Hike explores woodland, wetland and prairie habitats. Must be comfortable hiking up to 3 miles. RSVP required.

6/17 Wednesday—Nature Tots- “Magnificent Monarchs.” For toddlers ages 3-5 and their adults. 10am-11am. Repeats 6/19. RSVP required. http://www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky_mountain_arsenal/

6/20 Saturday—Monarch Butterfly Storytelling. 10-10:30am. www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky_mountain_arsenal/

6/27 Saturday—Who’s Tracking Who? 10-11:30am. Ages 6+ learn to find, identify and more about wildlife behavior through animal tracks. www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky_mountain_arsenal/

SCHOOLS AND EDUCATION
6/9 Tuesday—Venture Prep High School Open House. Interested students/families learn about the successful college-prep program for coming 2015-16 school year. 6-7 pm. Smiley Campus, 2540 Holly St. Reserve a space: 303.893.0805. www.ventureprep.org

THEATRE
Through 6/13—Rope. Spotlight Theatre Company at John Hand Theater. 7653 E. 1st Place, Lowry. www.johnhandtheater.org

Through 6/14—Night Mother. Vintage Theatre. 1468 Dayton St., Aurora Cultural Arts District. www.vintagetheatre.org

Through 6/21—Unmarried in America. Vintage Theatre. 1468 Dayton St., Aurora Cultural Arts District. www.vintagetheatre.org


Through 6/28—Defending the Caveman. Garner Galleria Theater, Denver Center for the Performing Arts. www.denvercenter.org

6/3 to 7/5—Wicked. Buell Theater. www.denvercenter.org

Announcements
Free NE Transportation Map Coming Soon
Northeast Transportation Connections (NETC) has created a map for living in northeast Denver that shows all transportation connections and public amenities. This includes bike paths, bus routes, recreation centers, post offices, medical services, food and retail, community centers, law enforcement, etc. “Our focus is to get people out of their cars and know where all of these facilities are,” says Angie Malpiede, executive director of NETC. The map will soon be available at The Hub (NETC’s bike library at 7484 E. 29th Ave.) and at public facilities throughout the northeast area. An interactive version will be available soon. For more information, visit netransportation.org.

Foster Grandparents Program Offers Stipend to Income-Qualified Volunteers
Motivated seniors who are living on a low, fixed income and enjoy working with children are invited to join the Volunteers of America Foster Grandparents. Volunteers work in early childhood centers that focus on literacy and numeracy for at-risk children and youth. People 55 or older with an income less than \$23,340 for a single-person household or under \$31,460 for a couple are eligible. Foster grandparents are asked to devote 15 to 40 hours a week at a school working with children. For their time and volunteer service, the foster grandparents receive a nontaxable stipend to supplement their income that does not affect Social Security. The program offers paid time off, holidays and trainings as well as transportation reimbursement. For more information, visit www.voacolorado.org.

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9. You can believe in Dinosaurs.
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... male and female, we ordain them.
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6. (Aug)
5. (Sept)
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3. (Nov)
2. (Dec)
1. (Jan)

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Photo courtesy of Tom Cummings

McAuliffe Baseball Team City Champions

The McAuliffe Sun Devils baseball team finished 12-0, winning seven games in shutouts. They allowed only seven runs all season, and scored 119 runs in their 12 games. In the playoffs for the city championship, they outscored their opponents 35-1. The team didn't trail in a game through the entire season.

PUBLIC ART

CPB Sculpture Is “Any Man” Running to Catch a Train

By Brenda Tierney, RTD FasTracks, Public Information Manager

When the East Rail Line opens in 2016, a unique commuter will be seen running to catch the train at Central Park Blvd. (CPB) Station. A sculpture titled *Balloon Man Running* by Colorado artist Sean O’Meallie will be placed at the southwest corner of the Smith Road entrance to the Park-n-Ride, across from the commuter rail station. “The Balloon Man is ‘any man,’ meaning any human. Most of us today, young and old, and of different backgrounds, can relate to a balloon figure. This guy is running to or from something. He’s pretty inflated and busy with it,” says O’Meallie, who was selected from hundreds of applicants to design, fabricate and install the artwork.

The 12-foot-high sculpture will be poised atop a 20-foot pillar and oriented toward the station, as if running to catch the train. The sculpture has a luminous paint surface that shimmers under natural and artificial light. It will be lit using LED lights, and during programmed intervals, a series of soft colors will be cast, making it appear blue at one moment, green the next, and so on. “Although the Balloon Man is sparkly white during the day, the color changes at night will add nicely to the skyline of the area



and be a source of amusement,” O’Meallie says.

“As I approached the project, I noticed that RTD has a pretty great variety of nice sculptures identifying the many stations,” O’Meallie says. “I’m delighted to win this commission, and I think *Balloon Man Running* will help distinguish the Central Park Station while adding to the emotional uplift of RTD’s public art program.”

Sandra Fettingis, another local artist, has been commissioned to install artwork on the windscreens at all the East Line rail stations. At the bus bays, architects have included native flora and fauna images on the windscreens and an analematic sundial (a sundial with hour markers in an elliptical pattern) is planned for the park-n-Ride, providing Central Park station with more artwork than any other station in the RTD system.

Balloon Man Running is one of 15 art commissions selected over the past few months for the Regional Transportation District’s EAGLE commuter rail project that includes the East Line to DIA, the Gold Line to Arvada and Wheat Ridge and the Northwest Line to Westminster. The art commissions were funded through RTD’s Art-n-Transit program and are all expected to be installed prior to each rail line’s opening.

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Laura Boyer, MD (left), Katie Rustici, MD (center), Robin Fennimore, MD (right)



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Empathy, Respect Earn Stapleton Resident Recognition



Donned in Raptor gear for Eagle Crest High School, where he teaches, Michael Hoops sits on his front porch in Stapleton.

By Madeline Schroeder

Michael Hoops, or “Hoops” as the students call him, believes being a great teacher starts with caring and creating a connection with students.

The Stapleton resident and freshmen biology teacher at Eagle Crest High School was recently named a 2015 9News Teacher Who Cares for making an outstanding positive impact on students. He has taught for 18 years; the past five have been at Eagle Crest.

“Sometimes it’s all about the academics and the pressure with testing, all that stuff. I think sometimes the human side of students’ stories doesn’t get heard. They want that; they want to be heard. I hope I do that with my kiddos,” Hoops says.

At the beginning of every class he does a segment called Cares, Concerns and Celebrations for everyone in the class, including himself, to share what’s happening in their lives. Sometimes kids just briefly mention a sports game they won and then other times they open up about deeply emotional parts of their lives. “Just yesterday a student told the class about coming out to her foster parents and being scared to tell her real parents. This was in front of the whole class, and the whole class is listening. We got the opportunity to tell her it’s

okay and we’re really proud of her. You wouldn’t believe some of the stories.”

Hoops has learned a lot about how to create connection with his students through his work at The Conflict Center, a Denver nonprofit that teaches how to avoid violence and effectively work through conflicts. Specifically, they teach communication skills, consequences, negotiation, anger management classes, conflict management, and assertiveness. Volunteers go to schools, workplaces, communities, and more. Hoops has volunteered with The Conflict Center for eight years and served as board president for three. What he practices at The Conflict Center directly transfers to his work as a teacher.

For example, rather than automatically suspending a student for acting out, Hoops teaches the student skills to resolve their issues. “Conflict is inevitable, but violence is not. We want them to understand what to do when there is conflict,” he says.

Through teaching and The Conflict Center, he has grown empathy for everything the students go through and understands they act the way they do for a reason. One of the greatest rewards is seeing his freshmen students grow older and then graduate. “I tell them, go and contribute.”

RECOGNITIONS

11-Year-Old Wins Race for Open Space 5K

By Madeline Schroeder

Eleven-year-old Stapleton resident Riley Buese was the overall winner in the female category at the 2015 Race for Open Space 5K on May 3 with a time of 21:45. This was her first-ever first place in a running event and her fastest 5K.

“I like running because I can think and reflect on my day. After school I have homework and hang out with my family, so running is the time I can just think,” she says.

She is a sixth-grader at Bill Roberts K-8 School where she has been a part of the running program for three years. She says she has typically gotten third place in cross-country meets so the win at Race for Open Space was a big surprise.

Buese runs 3–5 miles four or five times a week, and on Sundays she runs with a group. She says running is growing as a sport among kids. “I like running on trails and in the wilderness rather than by houses.” She plans to run more races this summer.



Riley Buese (No. 296) won first-place overall in the female category at the Race for Open Space 5K. She is 11 years old.

Photos by Kate Kramer



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SUN Community Forum

King Soopers

“The Evergreen (Eastbridge retail) project won’t happen without King Soopers,” said Jim Chrisman, Forest City Vice President, at the annual Stapleton United Neighbors meeting on May 19. But he also confirmed, in response to a question, that King Soopers is “definitely” going in (at MLK and Havana). If they break ground this fall (as they expect), they would open late summer or early fall. The plan is to have Geneva Court as a north-south connection for vehicles but it won’t be a public right-of-way with sidewalks. King Soopers is currently responding to Stapleton Design Review guidelines—how they are complying with them and, if they can’t comply, giving reasons why. Chrisman said that document will be made public. Both SUN and *Front Porch* will post it when it becomes available.

Eastbridge Retail Development

Chrisman read an update from Tyler Carlson of Evergreen Development, who was unable to attend. Evergreen, which will develop 20,000 sf of retail space in Eastbridge, is partnering with a sub-group of Larimer Associates (the entity that leases Larimer Square and Union Station). Evergreen will lead project design, approvals, King Soopers coordination, and construction. The partners from Larimer will lead project leasing and project management. The only signed leases so far are with Troy Guard, who will open two restaurants: one

for breakfast and an undefined restaurant/bar with a rooftop deck. The retail project will be on the same construction schedule as King Soopers.

Eastbridge Gas Station

Forest City is meeting with King Soopers and Dr. Williams, who wants to expand her dental office that adjoins the gas station property, to determine if additional land from the gas station parcel would allow her to expand in place. The gas station is definitely moving to the northeast corner of MLK and Havana. No site plan of the gas station will be available until a decision is made by Dr. Williams/King Soopers about the lot.

More Retail North of MLK?

Asked what is happening to the empty lot on the north of MLK, Chrisman responded, “My hope would be that Evergreen is very successful and there is increasing demand for more retail uses there. Evergreen has expressed an interest. My hope is there would be another 8-10,000 square feet (of retail).”

Shops at Conservatory Green Update

Michael Cassutt, architect for Drake Development’s three Conservatory Green retail/pro-



At SUN’s annual community meeting, Forest City Sr. VP Jim Chrisman points to a map showing the lot where Punch Bowl will be located.

fessional projects, added a few more tenant names to the projects’ lists, with the caveat they are not final until they get through permitting and other contingencies.

Phase 1—17,000 sf building, just east of Valencia:

- Brixx Wood Fired Pizza (west end patio)
- Dr. Mattheson, Dentist
- MCA (6,000 sf of community space for indoor programming)
- Jersey Mike’s Subs
- Tokyo Joe’s (east end patio)

Phase 2—14,000 sf building just west of Valencia:

- Five Guys Burgers (west end patio)
- Conservatory Green Dental
- Intersections Cafe and Coffee (breakfast restaurant, not yet finalized)
- Cuba Cuba Deli
- Great Clips
- Torchy’s Tacos (east end patio)

Phase 3—Conservatory Professional Plaza, 12,000 sf, just west of Xenia. Construction expected to start in July.

- Dr. Shelley Sandoval, Veterinarian (west end)
- Center space not determined
- Dr. Preet Clair, Dentist (east end)

Punch Bowl

Food at Punch Bowl will be executive chef driven and made from scratch using local vendors and products as much as possible, said Richard Flaherty, Executive VP of Operations. They will serve brunch, lunch, happy hour, dinner, and a late night menu. And breakfast will be served every day until 3pm.

Flaherty says Punch Bowl is family oriented and hosts so many parties that events are a third of their business—and they have event specialists to assist people having events there.

At 10pm Punch Bowl transitions to serving age 21 and older. They will have 200 employees—and, in response to a question about wages, Flaherty confirmed they “pay a living wage” (at least \$10.85/hr for adults). They will stay open until 2am Thursday through Sunday if the demand is there. “If the demand is not there, we’ll change our hours,” says Flaherty.

The entire parcel of land from 32nd to MLK is 4.4 acres. Punch Bowl is purchasing two acres. Jim Chrisman says Forest City’s goal for the remaining 2.4 acres at the corner of Central Park Blvd. and MLK is either retail or multi family or both. He added that “the tower and the building will look like one thought-out project” and both parts will be “consistently brought up to a certain level,” though he said it is unknown at this time if there will be tower access.

Punch Bowl expects to open in late March or early April.

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Mosquitoes

Stapleton MCA Director Keven Burnett announced this is year two of their comprehensive mosquito management program that includes larviciding and testing. The MCA contracts with OtterTail, a provider of mosquito control services for many Denver metro jurisdictions (including the City of Boulder). “We focus 100% on the developed storm water systems that run through parks. We are in those areas every week. We post reports on MCA website. We do surveys and we test in conjunction with the Department of Environmental Health for west Nile in Stapleton.” Burnett suggested people call the MCA and have them check any other areas of concern to see if they are likely to become mosquito incubators.

Doug Kelly, Denver Department of Environmental announced Denver has a new mosquito control program that will be posted online soon. “We are probably looking at a pretty active mosquito year. We are asking you to help address the mosquito problem. The majority of mosquitoes come out of standing water in yards or fields or parks. Reduce or eliminate standing water and make sure something is moving the water in pools or ponds.”

Kelly suggests limiting outdoor activity during the dawn and dusk hours when the mosquitoes are most active. Wear long sleeves, put mosquito spray on your clothes and wear mosquito repellent. “If you start seeing multiple dead birds, especially black birds, call 311 and let us know. That’s the first indicator there might be some type of problem. The City and County of Denver does not spray unless there’s a real health need to do so. If we have an outbreak of west Nile virus, we’ll certainly take a look at that. Spraying causes some environmental and health problems, as well as the fact that it just isn’t effective. Larviciding, getting rid of those larvae before they’re able to turn into adults, is really the big thing.”

Questions about Roads and Traffic

Bar Chadwick from the City of Denver answered the following questions (if not otherwise noted):

Smith Road

Q: What’s happening on Smith Rd. between Central Park and Havana?

A: It is in the next three-year plan; it’s an important road. I think we’re trying to figure out everything around the train station and get that done, and then there will be future conversations. The plan says four lanes and Forest City has said two lanes. The city has acknowledged that maybe we can do it with two lanes, but the traffic studies haven’t been done.

Central Park Bridge

Q: Are we there yet with the traffic count on the Central Park Bridge (to add more lanes)?

A: Forest City has submitted plan for permits to build the other half of 40th. We think building the other half of 40th will kind of mitigate (traffic) coming off the highway, and hopefully in the next three years we’ll be able to do the last piece over Sand Creek (the additional two lanes on the bridge).

MLK Speeds

Q: As MLK gets connected it will be a fast street, and it will get faster as more people drive through. Has the city put any thought into traffic calming?

A: That will come through with the rest of the design. I don’t know where the final traffic

lights might be placed, but as we go into the final design, we’ll have the conversation. It will be posted at 35 but we’ll definitely look at that for traffic calming

Q: Has there been an analysis of what’s going to happen to MLK traffic? Obviously it’s going to be a big commuter route.

A: It will become a commuter route and that’s why it was important to make that connection. Part of the next phase of the design will be to make sure that people aren’t coming up the road at 60 mph.

Q: Between now and 2017 will you be doing anything to mitigate speed on MLK near Bluff Lake? I see the school children taking field trips and they are running across. There’s no crosswalk, nothing to slow the traffic down before the curve onto Moline. People are going 45.

A: David Vogel from SUN stated, “The crossing to Bluff Lake was a proposal that the SUN Transportation Committee made to the city in a document we gave them back in November. I think they posted some signs that show pedestrians cross there, but there’s no crosswalk.”

Chadwick suggested having planners, not just transportation engineers look at it.

Stapleton Now Is City Council District 8

Effective July 20, with City Council elections over, district boundaries will change and Stapleton will become District 8. Councilman Herndon’s phone number is changing to 720-337-8888, office address and email will remain the same.

Northfield HS Commons Construction Schedule

The architect design for the Commons building at Northfield is underway and will be completed by June, 2015. The building will include a cafeteria/stage area and a kitchen.

The project will be put out for competitive bids in June and July in response to a new DPS Board policy regarding contracting opportunities for Women and Minority Owned Businesses. The policy was enacted after phase one of the project began. (The new policy, called ACE – Equitable and Inclusive Contracting Policy is online at boarddocs.com in the policies tab.)

The bid will be awarded in August and construction will begin in August, after the current high school construction is completed. The Commons is expected to be finished in May 2016.

New Businesses Coming

A Jiffy Lube is being planned next to the 7 Eleven on Montview. The building will not be lit 24 hours a day and there will be no signage on the north side.

United Properties, which has already built warehouse space along 40th east of Central Park, is now planning to build out to Central Park Blvd. The Design Review committee had a very positive response to the planned architecture and landscaping.

Echo Park Automotive, a high end preowned vehicle dealer, is planned along 40th Ave., west of the Etkin Johnson building. The lot will be well-landscaped and have a car wash—and customers will get free car washes.



Maureen Blau, holding her daughter Delilah Jones, 4 months, raises a concern about safety issues crossing MLK at Bluff Lake.



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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 Events and SUN Annual Community Forum Wrap-Up

Two out of SUN's three major annual initiatives occurred in May: Stapleton Block Party Day, and the Annual Community Forum, both of which are in partnership with the MCA, the latter also with SDC.

Block Party Day

At least 10 parties occurred across the community on Block Party Day this year (May 16), despite the weather and a full calendar of community options. New block captains asked how other blocks how they do their party. Below are a summary of SUN block captain responses about parties on reporting blocks:

Average number of blocks participating together: 2.5 (range: 1-5)

Average number of people attending: 60 (range 30-80)

Locations: street (20%), alley (30%), pocket park/muse (50%).

Cost: \$0/potluck (70%), donations suggested (10%), \$17-20/adult \$9-10/kid (20%).

Start time: 1pm (20%), 2pm (10%), 3pm (20%), 4pm (40%), 5pm (10%).

For those that specified a stop time, parties starting at 3pm or later ended at 7 or 8pm, Parties starting at 1 or 2pm ended at 4 or 5pm.

Some blocks are opting to celebrate later in the summer. To learn whether your block has a block captain, email your street address to: SUNoutreach@gmail.com (addresses in such queries are not retained, compiled or distributed).

SUN Board Elections

The Annual Community Forum, was held Tuesday evening May 19 in the Rec Center Multipurpose room. SUN board elections occurred first and the new slate was quickly approved by the community. Updates from Denver Police Officer Sherikera Herrera included a summary of measures DPD is taking to better reach and interact with residents in Stapleton. While Stapleton's crime rate is low for Denver, most crime that occurs here is preventable through the closing/locking of doors, windows, cars, and garages.

Although the timing of the forum conflicted with a major retail event in Las Vegas, updates for 3 out of 4 major projects happening within Stapleton were available (full minutes available at www.StapletonUnitedNeighbors.org).

Shops at Conservatory Green

Shops at conservatory green had a detailed slide show from the project architect, showing how each of the anchor restaurants will be situated, and how parking will interface with nearby alleys.

Punch Bowl

Seasoned Development's Punch Bowl project was represented by two staff members, including one newly hired team member who will be an executive vice president operating out of the control tower location. The team addressed concerns from nearby neighbors about access to the parking area, adequate on-site parking, and hours meshing with the community.

Eastbridge Retail

Evergreen sent a long description with exciting details about the western side of the Eastbridge Development via e-mail, which was read by Forest City's Jim Chrisman. Available details include two restaurant concepts from Stapleton resident/regional restaurateur Troy Guard. The Eastern Eastbridge King Soopers Project did not have a representative, nor did they send a written update for the community. Forest City reported that King Soopers was currently responding to Stapleton Design Review Committee's 15 pages of comments on the design.

Eastbridge Gas Station

Forest City did not have an updated concept plan showing how the King Soopers gas station would be situated on the northern parcel in Eastbridge, and whether pumps would be located on the northernmost side of the parcel at least 100 meters from the housing to the south. Forest City could also not confirm whether the gas station would have 14 pumps as in the previous design.

SUN's position as stated in late 2014 is that a gas station is not compatible with the walkability of the Eastbridge Towncenter, and that the placement of the pumps within 100 meters of housing places an undue adverse health burden on nearby residents. Denver zoning includes no guidance about the closeness of gas stations and housing despite massive evidence that proximity to gas stations is associated with poorer health outcomes and increased health risks.

CAB Assessment of Forest City's Performance in 2014

An abbreviated review of Forest City's adherence to the Green Book was provided by the Citizen's Advisory Board (CAB). Priorities for completion of green space south of I-70 was reported as a goal, including a connection of the east-west greenway to Fitzsimons via 26th Ave; and meeting goals for income-qualified housing.

Funding for MLK Expansion/Quebec Widening

Bar Chadwick from the City of Denver described the timing, timeline and funding for the westerly creek north project, MLK extension, and Quebec Street projects.

Mosquitoes

A representative from Denver Environmental Health and the Stapleton Master Community Association (MCA) discussed mosquito mitigation. The MCA contracts with OtterTail for land that they manage.

New Phone Number for Councilman Herndon

Chris Herndon noted that his office phone number would be changing because of redistricting to 720-337-8888

SUN Kickball Tournament

The Kickball Tournament will be SUN's last major event in 2015, scheduled for August 8 to coincide with Denver Days. To register your team or learn about sponsorship, visit www.StapletonUnitedNeighbors.org, or email: StapletonUnitedNeighbors@gmail.com

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Letter to the Editor

Off leash and out-of-control dogs a recurring problem

I was saddened to read about the death of the puppy who was attacked by two other dogs in Westerly Creek Park (in the May *Front Porch*). Unfortunately, it was not a surprise. It was entirely predictable—and in my opinion, preventable. As you mentioned, dogs must be leashed and under the control of the owner.

As someone who walks or runs daily on the Stapleton trails, I also encounter dogs and dog owners daily. A few owners have their dogs properly leashed, are aware of the people around them, keep their dogs under control, and observe good etiquette.

Many, however, use extension leashes and seem to be completely unaware of the fact that the dog is NOT under their control. They are oblivious as to where their dogs are in relation to people around them. For example, they have three dogs on extension leashes that take up the entire sidewalk—each dog running in a different direction, and each leash entirely blocking the sidewalk. Runners, walkers and cyclists are forced to move, change their pace, stop, swerve, or dismount. It is an extreme hazard for cyclists. Three dogs on extension leashes are clearly not under an owner's control. The leash cannot be retracted quickly enough to avoid unexpected hazards. If you want to use the extension leash, step off the sidewalk and walk the

dogs in the grass where you have more latitude. Or, go to the "off leash" park.

I also witnessed a leashed dog lunge and bite a skateboarder who passed. It knocked the skateboarder off his board, and he was so frightened he grabbed his board and ran. The attack was completely unprovoked, and the

owner was totally shocked.

Another disturbing sight is young children walking dogs who are as large as or larger than they are. There is no way that those dogs are under the control of the owner. Similarly, in the above-referenced puppy attack, the owner attached the leashes to his or her waist and was dragged by the dogs. Yes, it takes a lot of strength to manage large dogs. Know your limitations.

And then, of course, there are the scoff-laws who think the law does not apply to them and do not even bother to leash their dogs. I pass at least one of those daily. And of course, I have seen those very dogs suddenly run into the street in front of on-coming cars, or lunge at other dogs. Those dogs are also at risk of coyote attacks.

Dog owners: you may think that your dog is friendly, or won't run, bite, or lunge—but you do not know that for sure. For the love of your dog and the safety of those around you, please use leashes, know that at all times the dogs must be under your control, and please be aware of cyclists, runners and walkers who may appear suddenly when you are daydreaming.

Let's work together to make this a healthier, safer community.

Sharon Cairns Mann
Homeowner and Resident, Stapleton

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Above: The escalator from the train/bus comes out at the south end of the terminal (at blue tarp). Below: Looking out at the plaza from the south end of the terminal by TSA.

DIA Hotel

(continued from page 1)

the swale would not have had enough rooms to be economically feasible—and the footprint couldn’t expand because the building is constrained between bridges. Accommodating 500 rooms required both going up and angling outward from the base. The design, originally started by Santiago Calatrava and taken over by the Gensler architecture firm, had to accommodate all those requirements—and be a hotel, a conference center, a transit center and an entertainment destination.

Arriving by Train or Bus

The ground level of the hotel is a transit center for RTD buses and the new commuter train (starting spring 2016). The May *Front Porch* showed pictures of the platform as the first test train pulled into the DIA station. Arriving passengers enter at level one of the hotel, which is open to the platform, and get on a five-story continuous escalator. Six minutes after stepping off the train, travelers can be at the south entry of the terminal, ready to go through TSA security (if they already have a boarding pass and don’t need to



check bags). One of three big art projects at the hotel site will be in the escalator. The walls will be faceted with crystals and five projectors will project slow-moving images.

Much of level one will be used by RTD and Denver Transit Partners as the “nerve center” that controls the trains and buses.

The Plaza—Level 5

The escalator comes out at level five, which is a plaza that is as big as a football field plus two or three basketball courts. Denver Arts and Venues has partnered with DIA to offer art shows, concerts, beer gardens and other events in the plaza, some in conjunction with special events

happening elsewhere in Denver. The public art in the plaza will be hundreds of small “blades” that move in the wind. The artist, Ned Kahn from Los Angeles, says the project was inspired by the prairie grass and wheat fields around the airport.

The central area of the hotel on level five is open to the plaza, and a restaurant will be at each end. Both restaurants will have outdoor seating on the plaza and on the opposite balcony side, as well as large opening doors to bring the outdoors into the restaurants in good weather. There will also be two “grab-and-go” food options on the plaza level, and two others on level one.



The Hotel—Levels 6 to 14

The lobby for hotel check-in and the bar are on level six. The curved windows match the curved glass exterior canopies that shelter the train platform (six stories below on the south side) and the plaza (one story below on the north side).

The fitness center and pool are on level 11 in the center of the building. The low point of the swale in the hotel roof is the ceiling of the fitness center—and that interior ceiling follows the upward curve of the swale.

Thirty-five suites are located in the corner rooms. The glass “curtain walls” are the structural walls of the building—and each pane is the full width of a standard room, so views are uninterrupted by structural elements. The Westin is hiring Colorado artists to create custom art for the rooms.

The Conference Center—Level 2

The pre-function area of the conference center looks out to the train platform and its glass canopy—a canopy that required

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Level 6 lobby and bar



North-facing standard room



Southwest-facing corner suite

over 50,000 hours of welding (the equivalent to one welder working for 25 years). The conference center includes a grand ball room, two junior ball rooms and 12 meeting rooms.

Levels 3 and 4

Level 3 contains mechanical equipment and is not open to the public.

In the future, level 4 will have a TSA security area. From there, passengers will go directly to the secure part of the terminal—but it will not be opened until the additional space and TSA service are needed.



Level 2 conference center common area



The valley where the train comes in required excavation of 1.5 million yards of dirt (which would fill Mile High Stadium two and half times). The dirt will be used for future taxiways and runways.

The length of the platform allows a train needing work to be brought to the front, with plenty of space for another train to arrive behind it. There is also room for another platform and more tracks to be added in the future.

Outdoor Art at the Platform

The platform is 800 feet long, almost three football fields in length. It sits in a “valley” where the trains arrive. Along the walls of this valley, Colorado artist Patrick Mar-

old will create “The Shadow Array,” 250 stripped beetle-kill logs set on pedestals that will cast shadows on the hillsides as the sun passes over. The stripped bark will be used for mulch at the airport.

platform allows a train needing work to be brought to the front, with plenty of space for another train to arrive behind it. There is also room for another platform and more tracks to be added in the future.

Let us help your kids stay healthy this summer – schedule check-ups and sports physicals today!



Advertisement for Stapleton Pediatrics listing medical staff: Noah Makovsky, MD; Brandon Davison-Tracy, MD; Amy Nash, MD; Richard Gustafson, MD; Nicole Erwin, MD; Robyn Smith, PA-C; Kara Lampe, PA-C; Noriko Rothberg, CPNP; Danny Kamlet, PA. Includes Facebook link and website.

Advertisement for Stapleton Pediatrics showing a woman and children, with address: 2975 Roslyn St. Unit 100, Denver, CO 80238. Includes phone number 303-399-7900.

Advertisement for Summer Camps at the International School of Denver. Features a child on a bungee jump and text: 'Ages 3-14 June 8 - August 10', 'summer camps', 'explore your world'. Includes website www.isdenver.org/camps.

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