There’s no “cow town” without cows.  
By Dick Kreck  
Denver residents may be divided on whether their city should become a mega metropolitan area or preserve its roots that stretch back to the dusty, rootin’-tootin’ days of 100 years ago. But for 16 days in January, everyone agrees that the National Western Stock Show is a rip-roarin’ good time.  

The 109th edition of the show kicks off January 9 and runs through January 24 at the

DENVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS is facing a capacity problem in the Park Hill-Stapleton shared boundary middle schools. Families with children are continuing to move to the area and all the middle schools except one, McAuliffe International School, have maxed out their space.  

Under the leadership of the successful Principal Kurt Dennis, McAuliffe has consistently been the top pick in the DPS choice lottery system, where families prioritize schools within the boundary area. McAuliffe has top-performing students, a thriving arts programs, multiple sports teams, and an array of electives like choir, orchestra, journalism, stagecraft and Mandarin.  

Because of the high demand for McAuliffe and potential space for more students, DPS has turned its attention to the school to accommodate the growing middle school population in coming years.  

Currently, McAuliffe shares the

Changes Lie Ahead for McAuliffe

By Madeline Schroeder

DENVER, COLORADO

(continued on page 30)

LA HAS HOLLYWOOD, NY HAS TIMES SQUARE

Denver Has the Stock Show

There’s no “cow town” without cows.

By Dick Kreck

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MCA's Use of Private Security

The Stapleton Master Community Association (MCA) has initiated its emergency snow removal plan for the alleys in its community. The plan will include the continuous use of private security to patrol the alleys away from home, even if it's just for a few minutes. When walking, travel with friends during the day and at night, avoid deserted areas—do not cut through parks, alleys or vacant lots at night. If you think you’re being followed, cross the street, change direction or go to a public place where others are present.

Now through Fri., Jan 22
Downtown Auraria Art Walk "Mythical at the Sessions" exhibit. Youth artist prepares project year round. Free and open to the public. 11am-7pm. First Friday. 1465 Lawrence. Email gallery@auraria.org. Call 303-326-8896 or visit www.auraria.org.

Friday, January 8, 15 & 22

Saturday, January 9
Denver Preschool Program's Annual Preschool Showcases - 10am-12:30pm. Union Valley Ranch Recreation Center, 4900 Argonaut Way, Denver

Sunday, January 10
"Build a Bison" at Rocky Mountain Arsenal Wildlife Refuge @ Roosevelt Island. 1-3pm. 303-238-0232

Sunday, January 10

Tuesday, January 12
MCA's Use of Private Security. (See article.)

Thursday, January 7
Submit Info for Summer Camp Guide in February
Send the name of the camp, a one-line description, ages, dates, and contact information. Email information to frontporchevents@gmail.com.

A Guide to NE Denver Churches is now posted at FrontPorchStapleton.com. com or call the MCA office at 303.888.9000. Please feel free to contact jenkins@stapletoncommunity.com or call the MCA office at 303.388.0724.

Jennifer Olsen Communications Coordinator jenkins@stapletoncommunity.com

The Stapleton Front Porch is published by Stapleton Front Porch, LLC, 2556 Syracuse St., Denver, CO 80238. Over 36,000 papers are printed. The free paper is distributed during the first week of each month to homes and businesses in Stapleton, Park Hill, Lowry, Montclair, Mayfair and East Colfax.

EDITOR/PUBLISHERS: Carol Roberts – Managing Editor Steve Larson – Photography
ASSISTANT MANAGING EDITOR/WRITER: Madeline Schroeder
WRITER: John Fernandez
AD SALES: Karissa McGlynn 303-333-0257
KarissaMcGlynn@gmail.com

The 29th Ave. Town Center will keep its festive lighting through January 24.

Most of the events listed below are FREE or support nonprofits. Additional events are listed on pages 23-25.

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Memory Cafe an Escape for With Memory Loss & Their

Ed’s on his name tag, a nickname that harkens back to his time in the military. Both are clearly happy to have arrived at the Memory Café in the Lowry neighborhood’s Schlessman Family Branch Library. It’s a social outlet for the couple and a chance to help Ed with memory skills in fun and creative ways. Kathy describes Ed’s Alzheimer’s as being in the early stage, “but heading into mid-stage at this point—things are changing.” During the Memory Café, which started in October and meets the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month for 90 minutes, visitors take in musical entertainment, even singing along and playing simple instruments. They learn new skills, work puzzles and talk and laugh over coffee and doughnuts. Those happy times are also therapeutic for everyone in attendance.

Being able to strategize with other people about how to remain positive in the face of the challenges they live with is helpful. “The disease is not only isolating for the person with memory loss but it can be somewhat isolating for the person who is a caregiver,” says Kathy. She tries to spend time with her friends, “but there’s a point where, if friends don’t have a sense of what it means to have the disease or be living with someone (who does), they don’t have as much understanding. Although they are very caring, you don’t want to wear out your welcome when you’re talking to people.”

The Schlessman Memory Café was started in October by Reference Librarian Amy DelPo whose mother has Alzheimer’s disease. When her mother was in the middle stage, DelPo looked around Denver and couldn’t find much for her mother to do and says, “She was very lonely, isolated and withdrawn.” DelPo looked to the library, figuring there would be things she could take her mother to, but there weren’t. Then she looked online and learned about the Memory Café concept, started in Europe, with many throughout the U.S. There are currently eight Memory Cafés in Colorado, a program of the Alzheimer’s Association. But DelPo’s program is thought to be the only one in the state located in a library. Because most neighborhoods have a library that is accessible and familiar to residents, she hopes that the Memory Café concept will grow to many other libraries in Colorado.

A directory with links to these businesses can be found at www.FrontPorchStapleton.com > Business Directory

January 2016
Stapleton Front Porch 4
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Those Caretakers

The Memory Café models Dell’o had seen elsewhere were either only free-form social time or a very structured program. She combined the two with the more structured program at the start to help break the ice, such as singing, learning about meditation, a cooking class or art—and then more social time in the second part to allow for conversation. A grant from the Denver Public Library covers food, games and sometimes the guest presenter.

When Kera Magarill leads the group in singing and making music, that’s just part of her job as early stage service coordinator with the Alzheimer’s Association of Colorado where she provides social engagement programs. Her program also provides information and classes in future planning, including legal and financial issues for people recently diagnosed and their care persons. Magarill says the Memory Café helps normalize life for the attendees and help them battle the tendency toward becoming isolated.

Dell’o’s formerly social mother hesitated to go places out of fear of embarrassing herself by not remembering names or being unable to follow directions. “She immediately isolated herself and it was so sad,” says Dell’o. “That’s what I love about this group—you can come and not remember people’s names and you don’t need to be embarrassed because it’s understood that everyone here deals with memory so it’s just fine.” There is no criteria for who can come to the Memory Café. Anyone with any level of memory loss and every age is welcome.

Although the Memory Café is not a medical or educational program, the activities are mentally, physically and emotionally stimulating. That break from having life revolve around medical issues is beneficial. “I have people say to me, ‘It’s such a relief to come to something that isn’t medical’ because so much of what’s out there for this community is health care-based or social services-based, whereas this is just about ‘let’s have a good time,’” she says. “There’s still a lot of life to live and a lot of quality of life to enjoy and it’s kind of a relief to not have to be put in that box when you come here.”
The 2016 National Western Stock show kicks off with the annual parade downtown on January 7 at 12pm and runs from Jan. 9 – 24. Visit nationalwestern.com/schedule for a day-by-day listing of events.

Grounds admission prices are $13/weekday, $17/weekend & holiday for adults, and $2-3 for children 3 – 11 [the last Saturday is $19 and the last day is $10]. Gate admission is free on Jan 19. Parking is free every day in stock show lots.

Tickets for special events, including the Mexican Rodeo Extravaganza (Jan. 10) and the MLK Jr. African-American Heritage Rodeo (Jan. 18), can be purchased online or by phone at 303.295.6124 or nwtickets@nationalwestern.com. Special event tickets include grounds admission for the day of the show.

(continued on page 1)
one of the many best-in-show competitions for beef, pigs and sheep. Today, the stock show complex covers 120 acres, draws 18,000 entries to its horse show and continues to grow. In 2006, the National Western's 100th anniversary, attendance reached a whopping 726,972. The largest opening-day crowd of 44,616 took to the grounds in 2008 and drew its largest single-day attendance that year with 68,610.

Many Coloradans equate the stock show with frigid temperatures, but Billy Saul, the late public-relations man for the show, was fond of reminding would-be visitors, “There is no such thing as Stock Show weather.”

The National Western is on the brink of a new era. In November, Denverites voted to extend indefinitely a 1.75 percent tourism tax on hotels and car rentals to raise $476 million of a projected $778 million cost for construction and improvement—river cleanup, preservation, public transportation and the creation of art and cultural spaces. It’s also expected to rejuvenate the long-neglected neighborhoods around it.

Denver Mayor Michael Hancock, whose administration threw its full weight behind the proposal, told the Denver Business Journal, “It’s a big number but we have to keep it in perspective with the city’s role for being the catalyst in reconnecting the neighborhoods” with “a new entertainment, education and tourist attraction.”

Dick Kreck was a longtime Denver Post editor and columnist. He asked that his writing fee be donated to the children’s program at the local library.
Healthy Women Needed for Cardiovascular Research Study

Purpose of the Research Study:
- The purpose of this study is to investigate how the menopause transition and the loss of estrogen impacts the health and function of arteries in women.

Main Inclusion/Exclusion Criteria:
- Premenopausal women 18-49 years, Perimenopausal women 40-55 years and Postmenopausal women between the age of 45-70 years
- Non-smokers
- Volunteers should NOT currently be taking Birth Control or Hormone Replacement Therapy (HRT) or exercising vigorously more than 2 days per week.

Main Procedures Involved:
- Physician supervised exercise stress test
- Ultrasound of the blood vessels and heart
- Blood cholesterol profile
- Comprehensive dietary analyses
- Measurements of bone mineral density and body composition

Compensation provided.
If you are interested in participating please contact Lila Sibbern at 720-848-6419 or shape.study@ucdenver.edu
Division of Geriatric Medicine COMIRB #06-0537 5/9/2014  PS Kerrie Moreau, PhD

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- The Hawkins Family

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By Carol Roberts
Since 2011 when the National Western Stock Show talked of moving, Denver has put significant efforts into planning for the highest and best future uses of the facility, culminating in the National Western Center Master Plan released in March 2015—and recent success securing funds to implement the plan. The renderings shown here provide a snapshot of the long-term vision, estimated to cost $856.4 million dollars (not including redevelopment of the aging Coliseum) over ten or more years.

The funding that enables work to begin on the massive project includes a rental car and lodger’s tax of 1.75 percent. Denver voters, in November, approved ballot measure 2C.
The Stock Show of the Future

Above: The new Tradeshow/Exhibition Hall (6) and new arena (7) are located along Brighton Blvd. and the new Bettie Cram Drive, which will continue west over a new bridge to Globeville.

Below left: The Stadium Arena Market (8), built in 1909, will be redeveloped and the CSU Center (9) will be constructed. The vision for the Colorado Commons (10) plaza area is to have small retail spaces, areas for events, research growing plots and a small urban farm.

Not shown in renderings: The Livestock Exchange building (11) and the the Forney Museum (12) will remain. The Coliseum (13) will be redeveloped at a future point.

For more information visit DenverGov.org/NationalWestern

(3) The “N” Line to Thornton is projected to open in 2018 with a rail stop at the National Western Stock Show. Visible beyond the rail line looking west is the new Equestrian Center (4) on the right and the Livestock Center (5) on the left. The left foreground building is the Trade Show/Exhibition Hall. In the right foreground corner area will be transit oriented development and parking.

that permanently continues this tax that otherwise would have expired in a few years. That revenue source will enable the project to borrow for infrastructure work and get initial projects started.

In addition, $121.5 million in funds through the Regional Tourism Act (RTA) were approved in December. A mayor’s office press release states, “Buildings such as the new Livestock Center, Stockyards/Events Pavilion and the Equestrian Center will create new tourist opportunities.”

Further funding commitments have been made by the Stock Show ($50 million) and Colorado State University ($16.2 million).

The first three steps as the project moves forward will be land acquisition, rail consolidation, and site remediation, says Erika Martinez, Communications Director for the North Denver Cornerstone Collaborative, the mayor’s initiative for the stock show project lead by Kelly Leid.

The stock show currently has 120 acres and will grow to the 270 acres shown here. Land acquisition has begun. The S. Platte riverfront plans will require moving rail lines to create riverfront access when the stockyard area is used for festivals, as shown in the upper left photo. And based on prior industrial uses and testing, it is known that some degree of environmental remediation will be required before project construction can begin. A complicating factor during construction will be the need to keep the Stock Show open and accessible throughout the 10-year project.
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By John Fernandez

Local principals and teachers say they weren’t surprised by the newly released PARCC results, which had lower scores than prior tests. But, they point out, PARCC isn’t just harder, it’s fundamentally different. PARCC is considered a “next generation” assessment, a deliberate attempt to test in a different way, focusing more on problem solving, critical thinking and explanation—described by teachers as critical, real-life skills.

Westerly Creek Elementary School Principal Jill Corcoran says, “Students are asked to read, to comprehend, to organize, to answer a series of questions from different perspectives, to use evidence to support an answer.” Patricia Lea, Bill Roberts K-8 principal, supports that statement, saying, “There’s a lot of explaining required in this genre of a test. You have to defend a position. It’s a good approach, just as in real life.”

Denver Discovery middle school math teacher Mandy Hicks says, “One hundred percent of every second of every lesson I teach, I’m thinking about that test. Not because I am data-obsessed but because I know that is how we are measuring success and that’s how ultimately the kid will feel successful.”

Despite the federal (and state) requirement for testing, students may opt out of a PARCC test. The average participation rate of NE Denver schools in the Front Porch distribution area was 96.2%. DPS’ participation rates ranged from 67.7% to 98% across all schools. At its most extreme statewide, participation rates fell as low as 4% for some tests.

The PARCC assessment was given last spring to students in grades three through 11. It’s a computer-based test at all grade levels, requiring strong computer navigation skills. See page 12 to read this author’s experience taking a portion of the third

**The Charts**

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These charts show NE Denver schools in the Front Porch distribution area on the English Language Arts tests (ELA) and on the math tests. The scores show the percentage of students at the two highest performance levels: meeting or exceeding expectations. The remaining performance levels were “did not meet expectations,” “partially met expectations” and “approached expectations.” Extended charts are available for downloading at FrontPorchStapleton.com.

**NE Denver Elementary Schools**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>ELA % Met or Exceeded Expectations</th>
<th>Math % Met or Exceeded Expectations</th>
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The educators hope future scores will become available before summer so they can analyze the data to see the subject areas where their students were strong in that area to share lesson plans.

Despite their acceptance of the test and the Common Core standards, the elementary teachers and principals have plenty to say about difficulties in implementation. Problems included not enough computers, bandwidth limitations forcing staggered test-taking times, and third-graders’ computer readiness given the typing and other skills needed. The job of logistics is so daunting that each school has a “SAL” or site assessment lead. The SAL coordinates test-taking times, and third-graders’ computer readiness given the typing and other skills needed. The job of logistics is so daunting that each school has a “SAL” or site assessment lead. The SAL coordinates test-taking times, and third-graders’ computer readiness given the typing and other skills needed.

The PARCC English Language Arts (ELA) test requires three 75- to 90-minute test sessions; math requires four 60-minute sessions. This is on top of similar requirements for science and social studies assessments. Teachers welcome the 90-minute reduction in PARCC testing now being planned for spring 2016.

Nevertheless, the elementary teachers and principals agree that the amount of time allocated for this so-called “summative” testing is excessive for their lower-grade students. For the 2015–2016 school year, PARCC testing will be limited to grades three through nine.

The district will be sending individual student score reports to parents (continued on page 12).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NE Denver Middle Schools</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>ELA % Met or Exceeded Expectations</th>
<th>Math % Met or Exceeded Expectations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Denver Discovery School</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>64.8%</td>
<td>52.7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Denver School of the Arts</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>63.5%</td>
<td>54.6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Denver School of the Arts</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>63.7%</td>
<td>65.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ler | 8     | 62.3%                             | 66.9%                             |
| DSST: Conservatory Green Middle School | 6 | 54.5% | 46.10% |
| DSST: Stapleton Middle School | 6 | 46.1% | 39.9% |
| DSST: Stapleton Middle School | 7 | 67.9% | 59.6% |
| DSST: Stapleton Middle School | 8 | 67.7% | 62.4% |
| MSU-College of Arts and Sciences | 6 | 37.1% | 31.6% |
| MSU-College of Arts and Sciences | 7 | 36.9% | 30.5% |
| MSU-College of Arts and Sciences | 8 | 49.6% | 32.3% |
| The Copley School        | 6     | 80.0%                             | 74.5%                             |
| The Copley School        | 7     | 58.3%                             | 52.6%                             |
| The Copley School        | 8     | 59.3%                             | 59.8%                             |
| William (Bill) Roberts K-8 | 6 | 80.7% | 77.2% |
| William (Bill) Roberts K-8 | 7 | 65.3% | 44.8% |
| William (Bill) Roberts K-8 | 8 | 59.2% | 44.7% |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NE Denver High Schools</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>ELA % Met or Exceeded Expectations</th>
<th>Math % Met or Exceeded Expectations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<td>86.1%</td>
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<td>64.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>DSST: Stapleton High School</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>63.5%</td>
<td>64.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DSST: Stapleton High School</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>67.4%</td>
<td>64.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DSST: Stapleton High School</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>67.1%</td>
<td>64.0%</td>
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<tr>
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<td>29.3%</td>
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<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>East High School</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>38.5%</td>
<td>20.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George Washington High School</td>
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<td>45.7%</td>
<td>28.7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>George Washington High School</td>
<td>10</td>
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<td>24.0%</td>
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<td>Westerly Prep High School</td>
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<td>14.5%</td>
<td>8.6%</td>
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</table>

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**By John Fernandes**

So what’s it like taking a PARCC test? Does it really require the analytical and critical thinking skills said to be hallmarks of the Common Core and overall Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS) system?

Here’s what third-graders face. First, they need significant computer skills: reading detailed instructions, scrolling forwards and backwards and up and down, activating mouse-overs, dragging-and-dropping, highlighting text, typing, clicking on radio buttons, toggling between skills and deleting prior choices.

PARCC units covering math and English Language Arts range from 75 to 90 minutes each for a total of seven sessions. The test is not for the easily distracted. In the online English practice test, the first set of questions is based on a 31-paragraph excerpt of a children’s story akin to an Aesop’s fable, heavy on symbolism and metaphor, but reading the story takes time, and then the questions begin:

- Select a sentence that best describes what’s happening in a picture.
- Complete a chart by dropping and dragging boxed phrases that answer a question.
- Select the phrase that contains the main idea of the story or article.
- Identify a word's meaning as it is used in a specific paragraph.
- Select from given phrases the one that provides details supporting the selection in the prior question.
- Write an essay that explains how a character’s actions and words are important to a plot.
- Personal favorite question on this third grade ELA exam was reading two articles addressing similar but different subjects, then selecting sentences and dropping them into a Venn diagram to indicate which sentences applied to both articles (where the circles overlapped) and which applied to only one article.
- On to the math test … It may be computerized but this is no simple “fill in the bubble” exercise. The interface requires multiple ways of interacting, often in a sequence of tasks that build upon each other.
- Pointing and clicking on a number line.
- Typing in a number or an explanation.
- Selecting one or more correct answers from statements or from models such as geometric shapes.
- Selecting boxes in a grid to create an array and then quantify the array.
- Selecting from a drop-down menu to correctly complete an equation, along the way choosing the appropriate math symbols, e.g., +, -, \times, \div.

A sample question asked students to explain why “Daniel” is not correct in this statement: “Daniel says the number with the greatest value he can make with the digits 5, 7, and 6 using the digits only once is 657 because the 7 is in the place with the greatest value.” Students are then asked to devise the number with the greatest value using each digit only once, and then explain why this number has the greatest value.

In another question, the student is asked to look at a drawing of a wall divided into six equal vertical panels, four of which are painted. From there, the student is asked to describe in fractions how much of the wall is and is not painted. A separate exercise asks the student to write a fraction between 3/2 and 5/6 and explain how they know this.

The tests are clever and sophisticated, and students are asked to do more than regurgitate memorized information. The emphasis is on problem solving and understanding the concepts—they have to cite evidence supporting their answer or explanation.

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**Educators Weigh in on PARCC**

(continued from page 11) by early January. Each school is expected to hold a parents’ meeting in January to discuss the test results with the school community, but the elementary principals said there simply isn’t time to go over individual student’s scores with parents.

The current results from tests taken last spring are being used to establish a baseline. Trend information on performance over time will be the real payoff. Ironically, however, a debate is taking place over Colorado’s continued participation in PARCC (see “What’s The Future of PARCC?” on page 13).

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**Taking A 3rd Grade PARCC Test**

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**Social Security Rules Are Changing.**

Is it time to revisit your retirement strategy?

A limited opportunity for married couples to use previous rules expires May 2016. Congress recently terminated certain strategies many folks were counting on to increase their Social Security benefits in retirement.

Attend a one-hour complimentary session to learn how these changes may impact your retirement plans. Attendees are eligible for a free consultation to discuss retirement income and investment strategies.

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**Augustana Firm Believers**

Personal Trainer Karen Terry teaches strengthening and stretching exercises.

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**Yoga**

Yogafit Level 4 Teacher Robyn Lambert teaches Hatha and restorative style yoga to students ages 10-15.

Tuesdays, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

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**By Xcel Energy**

At Xcel Energy, we understand the importance of giving back to the communities we serve. That’s why we invest in making them the best possible places in which to live and work. We’re honored to receive the Denver Business Journal’s 2015 Partners in Philanthropy award, recognizing companies for their philanthropic efforts to the community and building a culture with strong charitable commitments.

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**Firm Believers**

Karen Terry

Gloria Vargas

- Yoga Fit Level 4 Teacher

Robyn Lambert

- Yoga at Augusana

January 2016
What’s The Future of PARCC?

By John Fernandez

In a remarkable coincidence, two long-awaited educational events occurred in the same week in December: release of the PARCC test results for Colorado students and congressional passage of ESSA, a new federal education bill that has the potential to undo PARCC.

Even as PARCC was being developed, critics complained of the burden and expense of testing, and what is viewed by some as unwarranted meddling in the local control of education. Steve Durham, chair of the State Board of Education, was recently quoted in Chalkbeat, an online education publication as saying, “The odds of continuing with that particular assessment are slim beyond next year. But I have only one vote.”

In December, that publication also reported that the newly appointed State Commissioner of Education Richard Crandall has “signaled an openness to undo PARCC.”

He noted that measures have already been taken to reduce the testing burden by 90 minutes for the 2015-2016 school year, bringing the PARCC test has been eliminated for below the 2 percent limit to almost 1 percent, and the PARCC test has been eliminated for testing as a percentage of total instructional time.

The Front Porch’s request for comment from the Colorado Department of Education yielded this response: “Colorado will be administering the PARCC exams in spring 2016. We are looking into the possibility of an assessment pilot project in which we would look at other ways of assessing students over the next few years. The ESSA opens the door to these types of pilot projects.”

ESSA, the Every Student Succeeds Act, supersedes the No Child Left Behind Act that dates to 2001 and was a hallmark of the Bush presidency. Signed by President Obama in December, ESSA retains features such as the testing requirement and calendar but will allow, over time, more flexibility at the state level on matters such as how schools and districts are evaluated.

By contrast, Johnston said, “What we’re hearing overwhelmingly from principals, superintendents and teachers is stand back, let us do our work, stand down, don’t change it, don’t fix it, don’t revise it, don’t overhaul it, just give us the chance to make the changes that we’ve flown it.”

He noted that measures have already been taken to reduce the testing burden by 90 minutes for the 2015-2016 school year, bringing testing as a percentage of total instructional time below the 2 percent limit to almost 1 percent, and the PARCC test has been eliminated for 10th- and 11th-graders.

Johnston also cautioned that it would take years and millions of dollars to develop replacement tests that, in the end, would require “double testing” to have them validated against PARCC.

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New RTD Rates Start Jan. 1
All fares are free from 7pm New Year’s Eve until midnight Jan. 1

RTD’s new fare structure starting January 1, 2016 was designed to simplify fares and payment. New features include:

- Day passes offering rides unlimited trips through the entire service day for the cost of a single round trip, simplified rail zones; a flat $9 fare for services to and from Denver International Airport; and printers aboard buses for day pass purchases.
- Local day passes will cost $5.20 and Regional/Airport day passes will cost $9. Day passes will provide unlimited trips throughout a service day for the cost of a round trip and the Regional/Airport day pass will include an Airport fare.
- New bus and rail trip categories are Local, Regional and Airport.
- Express bus routes will become Local or Regional trips, with some fares along these routes going down in price.
- New rail zones are A, B, C and Airport. Travel in one or two zones will require a Local fare; travel in three zones will require a Regional fare; and travel in the Airport zone will require an Airport fare.
- A one-way Local trip will cost $2.60; a one-way Regional trip will cost $4.50; and a one-way trip to or from DIA will cost $9.
- Half-fare discounts will still be available for elementary, middle and high school students ages 6-19, Medicare recipients, passengers with disabilities and people ages 65 and above. A one-way Local Discount trip will cost $1.50 and a Regional or Airport Discount trip will cost $4.50 for qualifying passengers.
- Active military personnel will continue to ride RTD services at no cost, as is the current policy.
- 10-Ride tickets books are available at retail outlets and provide an approximately 10 percent discount on single rides.
- Passengers can find more information about RTD’s new fares at www.rtd-denver.com/fares-2016.shtml or by calling RTD Customer Care at 303-299-6000.

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Growing families.

Stapleton Front Porch
Think It Up Stops in Denver

By Madeleine Schneider

Think It Up, a national program for public school teachers and students grades 7-12, made a stop at George Washington High School on December 8.

Think It Up was created by the Entertainment Industry Foundation and donorschoose.org to bring excitement into learning by helping students and teachers get funding for projects they’ve designed. On average, teachers spend $500 of their own money on resources and supplies for their students, according to Mary Espinosa, associate vice president of communications for the Entertainment Industry Foundation.

Winning projects are included on donorschoose.org where the public and donors can make contributions.

Since launching in September, Think It Up has funded 600 projects across the U.S. In North Carolina students created a weather balloon and sent it into space. In New Jersey a group designed a remote-controlled car that drives itself out of a maze.

The program also launched “Think It Up Live” events where students and teachers pitch their ideas to judges, similar to the show Shark Tank, where budding entrepreneurs seeking funding pitch business ideas to a board of investors.

More than 200 students from all over Colorado gathered in the gym at George Washington for the Denver Think It Up Live on December 8. The night began with speeches by Denver Mayor Michael B. Hancock, Denver Public Schools Board of Education President Anne Rowe, and Colorado Avalanche center Matt Duchene.

“It’s amazing to see collaboration between teachers and adults. These student-led projects will create a great future and a great now,” Anne Rowe said in her opening address.

Groups of four students and one teacher who volunteered to be a part of the event were given a poster board with specific questions about their projects. They were given 45 minutes to complete a presentation they would pitch to judges.

During the brainstorming session, professional business mentors walked around offering expertise on how to sell ideas to the judges. A group of three seniors, one junior, and their AP calculus teacher from George Washington first discussed what matters to them at GW and what could make an impact for the larger community.

They threw out ideas to build ramps in the school for handicapped students, add drainage ditches to avoid flooding in the school basement like the damage that occurred from the massive rainfalls in 2014, or construct a new school greenhouse. As time ticked, the intensity picked up. “Let’s go, let’s keep moving,” one student said.

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After the session ended, each group had 15 minutes to pitch their idea. On this particular day, all the winning projects were half off, so if a group needed $500 for books, Think It Up shipped it for $250. The six finalist teams also got an extra $750 to kick-start their project. The winning project got $1,000.

“Change the World” was among the six teams that were chosen and received $750. “They’re all such great kids. It’s always fun working with them,” said Joseph Bolz, the AP calculus teacher who worked on the team. To view any of the projects or make a contribution, visit www.thinkitup.org.
A

rs recently as the ’70s, wintry Colorado drives were quite perilous. Many moun-
tain roadbeds stayed caked in snow and ice for weeks or more, despite plowing.

In contrast—today we think nothing of cruising through mountain passes mere hours
after storms hit. In part that’s because Colorado’s street scientists deploy a fine-tuned array of salty
substances to keep roads from becoming auto-
mobile-taking runks.

What are these compounds, how do they
work, and what are their impacts?

Solid salts, brine, and traction sand are the
most common tools. Their key ingredients are
naturally occurring minerals that lower the
freezing point of water. Just like the alcohol that’s
in wiper fluid, these minerals prevent ice from
forming and slice like a hot butter knife through
existing ice.

Road brine is a mag chloride-rich liquid
that also contains a sketch of corrosion
inhibitor. Some of this mag chloride comes
from giant man-made ponds of water that
are evaporated on the edges of Utah’s Great
Salt Lake. In winter, brine is sprayed on the
road as a storm commences to help break
snow’s hold on the road and allow plows
to remove the snow. Sometimes it’s used to
muriculate traction sand, to help the sand
stick to the road rather than bounce
off or become airborne as it’s being spread
from the back of a truck. In summer, mag
chloride brine is applied to some dirt roads
to help reduce dust and harden the roadbed.
It’s hygroscopic, so in warmer weather it
sucks water vapor from the air and acts like
a glue to hold the road’s sand and gravel
particles together.

Traction sand is usually mixed with
brine, or with a small amount of solid salt.
The solid salt prevents damp sand from
freezing into clumps and helps it flow
smoothly into a sand-truck’s hopper and dis-
tributor. Our sand is mined in Utah from
Jurassic (165 million-year-old) rocks that formed
as an ancient Persian Gulf-like sea dried up.
As the water evaporated, it left its dissolved
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salts behind.
Each month, the Indie Prof reviews a current film in the theater and a second film that is available on DVD or VOD. As Oscar season draws near, this month I review two of the contenders.

**Mustang (2015)**

Wow. I see a lot of movies. I always try to keep a dispassionate distance from the film, so I can give an objective review. Most critics do. I found that impossible to do with this film, however. It bit me, and my reaction was purely visceral. So what you read here is siphoned through that reaction. Maybe that’s not such a bad thing.

In the beginning of Mustang, the five Turkish sisters who embody the symbolic essence of the title are full of life. When we meet them, they are walking home from school, playing with boys in the sea, stealing apples from a neighbor (forbidden fruit!), enjoying each other’s company, and displaying the strong will and rebellion we find in most teenagers girls on the planet. The veneer doesn’t last.

They live in a Black Sea enclave with their strict Muslim grandmother and uncle (their parents have long passed), and when their grandmother finds out about their (mis)-deeds, she beats them. Their uncle then begins to fortify the house as if they were in a prison. Grandma quickly gives them lessons in wifey-hood: cooking, cleaning, dressing, and sewing, and then begins to marry them off one by one. The first two, the oldest, go quickly. As the youngest of the bunch, Lale, and the sometime narrator of the film, adroitly puts it: “Two down.”

Despite the ugly content at times, the film emits a fairy tale brilliance: the cinematography is lush and verdant yet simple and understated, the music and silence engage in a melancholic ballet, and the acting wows. First time writer/director Deniz Gamze Erguven fashions a story that is both contemporary and timeless—channeling Austen and every other writer or filmmaker broaching the topic of young females trying to keep their independence while being pummeled by some type of dogma. Erguven is a Turkish national who now lives in France, and make no mistake, this film was mostly meant for Western audiences. It ignited a firestorm and the film doesn’t make judgments nor does it place explicit blame. It uses the non-narrative style Kapadia used before, leaving the narrating to the participants and Winehouse’s own lyrics. It is an interesting, well-made, sad, and disturbing documentary that serves as an example of our current society. Pick up those binoculars.

You will like this if you enjoyed *Senna*, Twenty Feet From Stardom, and/or Gimme Shelter.

Now playing at various VOD outlets.

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

**Amy (2015)**

Jim Morrison, Jimi Hendrix, Janis Joplin, Kurt Cobain, and Amy Winehouse. In today’s 24-hour digital society, we have more non-stop access to stars, there is a bevy of extant material on them, and we can gaze into anyone’s personal life with shocking, and disturbing, ease. This documentary taps into that nerve: through a montage of video and audio interviews with her friends and family, still photographs, phone conversations, paparazzi footage, and turn-your-head-away-embarrassing moments, Winehouse’s life is chronicled in a new documentary by Asif Kapadia (*Senna*). It is one of the favorites for the Best Documentary Feature at this year’s Oscars.

We are all voyeurs. Whether we admit it or not, we all like to sit in our chairs, binoculars in hand, and watch people’s lives outside the window. Hitchcock knew we have an insatiable voyeurism, but he also knew there was a price to pay for such voyeurism. The story of Amy Winehouse is one we’ve heard before: a young, talented singer/songwriter is thrust into a superstardom that she can’t handle and then is undone by alcohol and drugs. Yet there is something intensely watchable about this film—perhaps because it is so recent, perhaps because of the close and immediate access we are afforded, or perhaps because the culpability may lead back to all of us.

There is no shortage of villains here: her mother, who dismissed her teenaged bulimia; her father, who nixed an attempt at sending her to rehab early on; and her husband, who turned her on to hard drugs and rode the co-dependency train with her. Of course Amy herself was no angel and the film doesn’t make judgments nor does it place explicit blame. It uses the non-narrative style Kapadia used before, leaving the narrating to the participants and Winehouse’s own lyrics. It is an interesting, well-made, sad, and disturbing documentary that serves as an example of our current society. Pick up those binoculars.

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At Children’s Hospital Colorado, healing comes in many forms. Seacrest Studios, which opened in June 2014, is designed to heal and lift the spirits of patients. It is a 1,000-square-foot in-house radio station located off the main lobby where patients can participate in or host live shows that stream on channel BBOY 45, named after the hospital’s mascot, Balloon Boy. The show airs 10am to 3pm Monday through Friday to patient rooms and waiting areas throughout the hospital.

“The studio heals your heart and your soul and your mental health,” says Chris Coleman, the studio manager. The Ryan Seacrest Foundation funded a handful of these studios at children’s hospitals nationwide. Unlike most radio studios with 10-year-old coffee cups and dark lighting, Seacrest Studios is high-tech, bright and inviting, and very sanitary. The space is dedicated purely to fun.

“We figure these kids’ lives right now are inundated with beeps, cords, IV poles, numbers and tests, so we keep this space as nonmedical as possible because it’s all about escape and fun,” Coleman says.

Coleman has been with the operation since the beginning. He and his co-director and child life specialist Cody Hudson come up with all the daily programming, which they make sure is always interactive rather than observational so kids are involved in every show. The programming ranges from game shows to performances to celebrity interviews. Ed Sheeran, Missy Franklin and Gavin Degraw have all visited the studio. Hudson or Coleman introduces the celebrity, but then patients ask all the questions. “Kids say whatever is on the top of their minds. Like the Deep Thoughts skit on Saturday Night Live that said, ‘A child’s face says it all, especially the mouth part,’” Coleman says. Of course there is the occasional whacky comment on air, like one patient who said to Missy Franklin, “You know, I have a leaky bladder,” which Coleman immediately followed with, “OK, let’s play a quick game!”

Studio manager Chris Coleman laughs while producing a show in the Seacrest Studios at Children’s Hospital Colorado, where patients can participate in or host live shows.

Celebrities like Ed Sheeran shown here visit the radio studio to spend time with patients.

By Madeline Schroeder
At Children’s Hospital Colorado, healing comes in many forms. Seacrest Studios, which opened in June 2014, is designed to heal and lift the spirits of patients. It is a 1,000-square-foot in-house radio station located off the main lobby where patients can participate in or host live shows that stream on channel BBOY 45, named after the hospital’s mascot, Balloon Boy. The show airs 10am to 3pm Monday through Friday to patient rooms and waiting areas throughout the hospital.

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The Ryan Seacrest Foundation funded a handful of these studios at children’s hospitals nationwide. Unlike most radio studios with 10-year-old coffee cups and dark lighting, Seacrest Studios is high-tech, bright and inviting, and very sanitary. The space is dedicated purely to fun.

“We figure these kids’ lives right now are inundated with beeps, cords, IV poles, numbers and tests, so we keep this space as nonmedical as possible because it’s all about escape and fun,” Coleman says.

Coleman has been with the operation since the beginning. He and his co-director and child life specialist Cody Hudson come up with all the daily programming, which they make sure is always interactive rather than observational so kids are involved in every show. The programming ranges from game shows to performances to celebrity interviews. Ed Sheeran, Missy Franklin and Gavin Degraw have all visited the studio. Hudson or Coleman introduces the celebrity, but then patients ask all the questions. “Kids say whatever is on the top of their minds. Like the Deep Thoughts skit on Saturday Night Live that said, ‘A child’s face says it all, especially the mouth part,’” Coleman says. Of course there is the occasional whacky comment on air, like one patient who said to Missy Franklin, “You know, I have a leaky bladder,” which Coleman immediately followed with, “OK, let’s play a quick game!”

Studio manager Chris Coleman laughs while producing a show in the Seacrest Studios at Children’s Hospital Colorado, where patients can participate in or host live shows.

By Madeline Schroeder

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January 2016  18

Stapleton Front Porch
Coleman and Hudson improvise a lot to keep the conversation moving and quickly accommodate patient requests on air. They encourage kids to get as creative as they want. Coleman and Hudson have had pies chucked in their faces on a slow-motion camera. They’ve made up games with Broncos players where they jump really fast this way, and then turn, and jump really fast another way. “Pretty soon we were all sweating and very competitive,” Coleman says and laughs.

Patients also have the opportunity to come up with their own regular shows. Each week features Eric’s baseball show, Elizabeth’s superhero spotlight, and Carter’s bug show complete with a singing bug duo on Segways.

Some families who fly in to the hospital for treatment have scheduled their visits around the radio programs. One mother could not get her son to get on the plane to go to the hospital until the Seacrest Studios opened and now he can’t wait to visit. These are the types of stories that remind Coleman and Hudson why they love what they do. “I have the privilege of helping these people get through a tough time so I have no choice but to smile,” Hudson says.

There is a lot of smiling and laughing in this studio, not just kids but adults as well. To see more photos or watch videos of celebrity interviews, visit the Children’s Hospital Colorado YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/user/thechildrenshospital/videos.

The show airs 10am to 3pm Monday through Friday to patient rooms and waiting areas throughout the hospital, shown on the screen at back. Patients who are unable to leave their room can call in to make requests or answer questions.

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4. Free wine on Sunday.
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7. You don’t have to check your brains at the door.
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9. You can believe in Dinosaurs.
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North of I-70, across from Post Office
By Courtney Drake-McDonough

Larry Leith, founder of Tokyo Joe’s, answered the call. Through social media and emails (his name and email address are on every cup), the Stapleton neighborhood said they wanted the restaurant on their turf. “This area was very requested,” says Leith, who has 30 locations in Colorado, five in other states and 11 more on the way. “We’re looked in this area, literally, for five years and never quite found the right project.” The neighborhood was ready, lining up at the door for their December 17 opening.

With giant, red oval light fixtures overhead, made by Tokyo Joe’s, the space is distinctive, continuing with their intention to give a distinctive look to each location. The company is big on architecture and design, with Leith saying they are equally known for their architecture as they are for their food. The newly built building gave them both the benefit and challenges of a corner location. “It had to read from all three sides and we wanted to make sure we were keeping with the theme of what’s going on around here,” Leith explains.

A former pro skier, Leith started Tokyo Joe’s 20 years ago, inspired by his coaches’ advice to eat healthy, focusing on a chicken and rice-based diet. “It was always about a healthy, clean place to eat that wasn’t ‘health food,’ where people could eat affordably all the time,” he says. Serving Japanese-oriented cuisine, everything is grilled or steamed without use of woks, deep fryers or microwaves.

Kate Eggleston, the general manager will be the face of the Northfield Stapleton restaurant. She has been with the company for more than 10 years, working her way up the ranks, serving on the opening team for all of the out-of-state locations. “Kate’s a rock star!” says Leith. “Northfield scored because they get to keep her.”

As part of the company’s “joospitality” movement, a play on “hospitality,” the general managers will have a strong presence out on the floor, mingling and getting to know people who come in. “You’ll see me out in the dining room a lot,” says Eggleston.

Leith and Eggleston are excited to bring Tokyo Joe’s to Northfield. “We’ve been practicing this for 20 years,” says Leith. “We’ve evolved a lot but the concept is better than it’s ever been—that’s what happens with practice.”
T.C. Clark, owner of the new Northfield restaurant Salati, Italian Street Food (right) and Culinary Director, Shahin Afsharian Campuzano sit in the main dining area.

Above: A tiny Italian chef greets customers at the door.
Below: Salati took over the adjoining retail so they could have a more casual dining area (shown below) and a more formal dining area (left) equipped with a full bar.

**Authentic Italian Street Food—Now Open in Northfield**

By Courtney Drake-McDonough

He calls it a "labor of love," referring to the October opening of Salati, Italian Street Food in Northfield. It started with love, too, when restaurateur T.C. Clark and his wife went to his homeland, Italy, for their honeymoon. They encountered a lot of street food, sold off of carts or out of little huts where "a little Italian grandma would slide open a window and, boom, the smell would hit you," recalls Clark. One street food, the piadina, stood out to the couple. Flat bread thrown onto a hot stone bubbled up before being wrapped around meats, cheeses, vegetables and sauces. The couple was hooked and wanted to bring the idea back to Colorado.

Besides being delicious, Clark really loved the idea of walking up to a vendor and getting authentic, fresh food they could customize with the ingredients they wanted. Despite running Milo's, a sports bar in South Denver, Clark couldn’t get the idea out of his head of opening a place based on the concept of "Salati," slang for “savory.” To Clark, that meant food that is enjoyed as it is seen, heard and tasted.

To bring that full experience to life, Clark hired his Culinary Director, Shahin Afsharian Campuzano, who has experience cooking all over the world. “I told him ‘here’s the concept but you’re a classically-trained chef. You’re going to get to play and bring your skill set to Salati’ and he has, he’s amazing,” says Clark.

During the day, one side of Salati focuses on express meals where diners can choose from a piadina bread, pasta or salad base, adding a protein (including a pork porchetta which has had 32 hours of preparation), sauces or dressings and vegetable additions. Come evening, Salati becomes something more. While diners can still take advantage of the express side, they can also relax in the lounge area with a full bar and menu of Italian style tapas, designed to be shared. The idea of communal food where people would have a drink, share food and be together came from Clark’s childhood. “There were huge tables, everyone standing around eating, waving their arms in the air, being Italians, having a good time, eating good food…that was my family,” says Clark.

While the burgeoning development of the Northfield area was a big draw to Clark in locating the first Salati (he hopes to open more locations around the Metro Denver area), it was really the broad-ranging demographics that were the appeal. Clark says, “We’ve met young kids to retirees and they’ve welcomed us with open arms. It has been over-the-top unexpected but really appreciated.”

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Stapleton Front Porch 21 January 2016
Periodically, the Front Porch publishes guides or comprehensive catalogues of resources from sports teams to music teachers to craft breweries. To view the full list, visit FrontPorchStapleton.com > News > Resource Guides. To be added to any of the guides, please e-mail frontporch@frontporch-stapleton.com.

2016 Front Porch Sports Guide

Northeast Denver offers numerous recreational and competitive sports teams. The annual Front Porch Sports Guide lists the leagues and their contact information.

BASEBALL
- Boys Baseball/Girls Softball – St. Denis Baseball & Softball League (SDBSCL)
- Boys Baseball/Girls Softball – Aurora Youth Little League (AYLL)

BASKETBALL
- Stapleton All Sports

GOLF
- Gold Crowns

GYNASTICS
- Colorado Premier Basketball Club

ICE HOCKEY
- Denver University Family & Youth Recreation

LACROSSE
- Denver City AM

RUGBY
- Glendale Youth Rugby

RUNNING
- Girls on the Run

SOCCER
- Colorado Rapids Youth Soccer

SWIMMING
- Denver Nuggets

TENNIS
- Tennis – Gates Tennis Center

Track & Field
- Denver Lightning Track Club

For more information about Women’s Health Research contact the FAME study:
Phone: 720-848-0299
Email: FAMEstudy@ucdenver.edu
www.medschool.ucdenver.edu/image

Women’s Health Research
University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus
COMIRB Protocol: #12-1157; Principal Investigator: Wendy Kohrt, PhD

Sports Guide by Chris Hegstrom
DENVER METRO EVENTS

Through 1/3—Zoo Lights. 5-930p.m. Denver Zoo. 720.337.1400. www.denverzoo.org

Through 1/10—Butterfly Pavilion Living Lights. Lights illuminate rainforest and outdoor gardens. Weekends, 5-9:30p.m nightly. Tickets: www.butterflights.org

Through 1/13—Tunes of the '50s, '60s and '70s. Free with museum admission. See website for special events for the exhibit. www.historycolorado.org

Through 2/15—Southwest Rink at Skylan Park. FREE ice skating in downtown Denver; bring skates or rent: $2/pair. www.denverwindenver.com

1/1 Friday—First Friday Art Walks. Santa Fe Arts District, Tennyson Art Walk, River North (RiNo) Art District, Golden Triangle Museum, Novajo Street Art District. www.denver.org/Things-to-do/denver-arts-culture/denver-art-districts

1/4 to 1/15—SwimCycle. Questions? call 311 or visit DenverGov.org/DenverRecycles

1/6 to 1/10—Colorado RV Travel Show. Tickets: $12. 12 and under free. Colorado Convention Center, 700 14th St. www.gsevents.com


1/7 to 1/24—National Western Stock Show and Rodeo. National Western Complex. Complete event listings: www.nationalwestern.com

1/8 to 1/10—Denver Boat Show. Colorado Convention Center, 700 14th St. Downtown Denver. Tickets: $12 16 and under free. Fri. 12:9p.m, Sat 10:9p.m, Sun 10:9p.m. 52 12 with website coupon. www.denverboashow.com

1/14 to 1/17—Deaver International Sportsmen’s Expo. Colorado Convention Center, 700 14th St. Downtown Denver. Tickets: $15, under 16 free. All door cash only. Thurs/Fri 11:9am-8p.m, Sat 10:9am-8p.m, Sun 10:9am-5p.m. www.sports expos.com

1/15 to 1/17—Colorado Symphony Presents Pizar in Concert. Boettcher Concert Hall. www.colorado symphony.org

1/18 Monday—Martin Luther King Jr. Parade and Program. Largest in U.S. Gather in City Park at Colfax and Columbine, program and march to Civic Center Park Program 10am. Parade formation approx. 10:45m after program. www.drmartinlutherkingjr.org

1/2 to 1/13—Denver Winter Brewfest. 7pm. Mile High Station. $35-50. Benefits Swallow Hill Music. www.denverwinterbrewfest.com/winter

1/2 to 1/24—35th Annual Indian Market and SW Showcase. Fri, 1-7p.m, Sat 10am-7p.m, Sun 10am-5pm. $13, under 13 free; good for all shows/demos all weekend. Denver Merchandise Mart, 451 E. 58th Ave. www.indianmarket.net


HEALTH AND WELLNESS

1/2 Saturday—Resolve 5K/10K. Denver City Park. 9am. www.fastnorththestate.com

1/8 Friday—Free Meditation Group. Meditate with others and focus on achieving peace and enlightenment: www.stressintel.com. Repeats 1/15/16 and 1/22/16

1/9 Saturday—Annual Quaker Oatmeal Festival and Quaker Oatmeal 5K Walk/Run. Downtown Lafayette. www.lafayettecolorado.com

1/22 Saturday—Denver Preschool Showcases. FREE one-stop opportunity for Denver families to find and compare quality preschool options, learn about tuition support and talk with Denver-area preschool resources. Activities for kids with appearances by PBS characters Clifford or Curious George. Held at Green Valley Ranch Rec Center (4890 Argonne Way) and The Studios at Overland Crossing (2205 S. Delaware St). 10am. 2pm. 720.206.7657. http://studiosatoverland crossing.com/ or http://dpd.org/showcase

KIDS AND FAMILIES

1/2 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.homdepot.com

1/5 to 1/26—Tuesdays in January Free Mile Historic Park Small Pets. Ages 2.5 accompanied by parent/caregiver 9-10am. $3/child. Adults free, members free. 7100D. Forest St. Adult register: 720.865.0814 or educat or@fourseamilepark.org www.fourseamilepark.org

1/6 Wednesday—Preschool Story Time. 9-30am, ages 2.5 with caregiver. History Colorado Center, 1200 Broadway www.historycolorado.org/docenter.org


1/7 to 1/28—Denver Puppet Theater. Aesop’s Fables. www.denverpuppettheater.com

1/9 Saturday—2016 Denver Preschool Showcases. FREE one-stop opportunity for Denver families to find and compare quality preschool options, learn about tuition support and talk with Denver-area preschool resources. Activities for kids with appearances by PBS characters Clifford or Curious George. Held at Green Valley Ranch Rec Center (4890 Argonne Way) and The Studios at Overland Crossing (2205 S. Delaware St). 10am. 2pm. 720.206.7657. http://studiosatoverlandcrossing.com/ or http://dpd.org/showcase

1/9 to 1/23—Lawn’s Build and Grow workshops. Bring kids to Lowe’s stores to build FREE wood project: Monthly, 2nd and 4th Saturdays. Free apron, gorilla, project-themed patch, merit certificate on completion. 10am. www.lowesbuildandgrow.com

1/10 Sunday—Junior Ragers. Ages 6-12, 1:30-3pm. Learn about plants and animals of Star K. Ranch. RSVP required, 303.326.8650. www.auroravog.org/nature


LECTURES AND CLASSES

1/5 Tuesday—Active Minds (Free)—Vietnam. 10:15-11:15am. Jewish Community Center, 350 S Dahlia St. 303.316.6359. www.ActiveMinds.com

1/6 Wednesday—Active Minds (Free)—Vietnam. 10:15-11:15am. Jewish Community Center, 350 S Dahlia St. 303.316.6359. www.ActiveMinds.com

1/9 Saturday—Thinking Italy. A Travel Planning Seminar. Informative travel seminar by experienced traveler, language teacher and Italian native. 10-11:30am. Light refreshments. Enrollment confirmed by follow-up email or call: No walk-ins. www.italianinstitute.com, 303.733.4335. Italian Institute, 3773 Cherry

(continued on p. 24)
If You’re Leaving Your Employer, Do You Know Your 401(k) Options?

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Mazik spoke with Kessler and returned to Alexander with his business card. “They’d like to meet you,” she said. Alexander took the card and kindly thanked her, but never went to see Kessler. When Mazik would travel through Denver, she’d stop in Stapleton for her Starbucks and follow up with Alexander whether he had gone. He fumbled and said he went but no one was there. So one day an assistant from the dentist’s office was waiting outside of Starbucks in the snow to give Alexander a new person with his new smile. “What I hadn’t known is that a person can be very happy and if they suppress that, it can do a lot of damage,” he says.

Alexander still works for The Voice and has started lecturing about homelessness and the gaps of understanding in society. At his first lecture, he had a standing ovation. “What they really saw and were feeling were my feelings no longer being suppressed, and me being able to fully express my happiness and joy.”

About a month ago, Mazik came by Starbucks and Alexander could finally show her his new smile. This time she did not have to coax him.

To contact John Alexander to speak at your church, business, class, etc., call 720.415.6098.
Affordable housing has emerged as a major priority for Mayor Hancock’s administration with efforts such as a new $10 million revolving fund and the “3by5” initiative, a commitment to construct at least 600 units per year over five years. Stapleton Foundation CEO Beverly Haddon advised the Housing Diversity Committee in November that “this is the opportune time” to approach the city with its concerns.

Rick Padilla, Denver’s Director of Housing and Neighborhood Development, attended the Housing Diversity Committee meeting on Dec. 10 as a visible presence of the city’s commitment to continue working with Forest City on the Stapleton affordable housing efforts. He promised to explore all financing options and mentioned the possibility of a “pilot project” for Stapleton’s transit oriented development (TOD) site—the large vacant parcel immediately south of the Central Park Boulevard commuter rail station where TOD has long been envisioned. He said he is “very encouraged” by recent discussions he has had with Forest City.

Preliminary ideas for accelerating the pace of affordable housing construction at Stapleton are expected to be presented at the January 28 SDC meeting. While the focus will be on how affordable housing can keep pace with market rate construction, questions are beginning to be raised about what responsibilities for affordable housing Forest City would eventually assume that deed restrictions on the re-sale of affordable units phase out after 15 years, eventually eroding the supply of affordable housing. Finally, CAB and SDC have repeatedly expressed that development of affordable units should keep pace with market rate development. Stapleton, which is being built on land formerly owned by the city, should have homes that people from all walks of life in Denver can afford.

As shown by Forest City’s third quarter housing statistics below, both market rate rentals and affordable-for-sale units are at about half of the desired levels.

- 7,325 total residential units built (61% of total build-out of 12,000 dwellings)
- 6,086 total for-sale units (83.1%)
- 289 affordable for-sale units (4.75% of for-sale dwellings)
- 1,239 total rental residential units (16.9%)
- 277 affordable rental units (22.4%) of which 160 are affordable at “very low income” levels (57.76%)
- 6,086 total for-sale units (83.1%) of which 160 are affordable at “very low income” levels (57.76%)

The Stapleton development agreement assumes that a “public subsidy” will be required to implement affordable housing here. The question is what will that subsidy be beyond Forest City’s land and cash donations, and from whom?

An additional factor in the overall plan for affordable housing at Stapleton is the mix of for-sale vs. rental units. The citizens’ groups believe Forest City is obligated to provide at least one-third of residential units in Stapleton as rentals. Forest City’s 2001 “Stapleton Affordable Housing Plan” states the “parties (Denver, Forest City) have assumed that approximately 8,000 for-sale dwelling units and 4,000 multi-family rental units will be developed at Stapleton upon final build-out.” Forest City refers to that mix as only a “projection.” CAB and its Housing Diversity Committee believe it is a requirement and cite years of housing reports by Forest City in which housing data is presented in terms of meeting the two-thirds/one-third mix.

CAB has noted three additional reasons for the importance of rental units in Stapleton: first, without a minimum amount of required rental housing, the otherwise agreed-upon goal of 20 per cent affordable rental is meaningless; second, the continuing uncertainty in the condo market, a market sector that has historically provided entry level for-sale housing; and third, the continuing strength of the rental housing market in the region.

CAB members have also expressed concern that deed restrictions on the re-sale of affordable units phase out after 15 years, eventually eroding the supply of affordable housing. Finally, CAB and SDC have repeatedly expressed that development of affordable units should keep pace with market rate development. Stapleton, which is being built on land formerly owned by the city, should have homes that people from all walks of life in Denver can afford.

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CAB members have also expressed concern that deed restrictions on the re-sale of affordable housing at Stapleton. The percentage of affordable rentals exceeds the required levels, but it is based on half as many total units as CAB believes should be built by now.

Despite its disagreement with CAB over whether the one-third rental mix is a require-ment or a projection, Forest City says the proportion of rental units is increasing with recent projects.

Affordable housing has emerged as a major priority for Mayor Hancock’s administra-tion with efforts such as a new $10 million revolving fund and the “3by5” initiative, a commitment to construct at least 600 units per year over five years. Stapleton Foundation CEO Beverly Haddon advised the Housing Diversity Committee in November that “this is the opportune time” to approach the city with its concerns.

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If Eligible, Please Donate Blood in Stapleton

—Saturdays: January 30, April 30, July 30—

By Amanda Allshouse, Instructor, Department of Biostatistics and Informatics Colorado School of Public Health and Board Member Stapleton United Neighbors

Bonfils and SUN will host blood drives in Stapleton on the 30th of January, April and July (last Saturdays of each month). Registration is online for the January 30 blood drive, www.bonfils.org. Choose Donate blood > Schedule an appointment > type in site code “5463.” It has been six years since a blood drive was sponsored by SUN; the last was to honor the memory of Edith Sherlock in early 2010. Former Stapleton resident and SUN board member Amanda Baldwin spearheaded multiple blood drives within the community. “I loved being involved in the Stapleton Blood Drives when I lived there. It always warmed my heart to see my neighbors take the time to roll up their sleeves and give the gift of life. When I approached the SUN board about starting the drives, I got so much support from them and the block captain network. The Bonfils representatives were blown away when we would quickly meet our goals, but I wasn’t surprised. Thanks to all who take the time to support the Stapleton Blood Drives and be a hero for someone in need.

There are many exclusions for participating in blood drives, making the participation of those who are eligible so much more appreciated. Many Stapleton residents are ineligible as donors must be older than 18 years old, weight more than 115 lbs, able bodied, feeling well, without history of some cancers, not pregnant, clear of malaria-endemic areas for at least one year, and more. Check the full list of exclusion criteria or prescreen when registering online.

Other members of the community cannot donate blood because the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) does not allow gay or bisexual men to donate if not abstinent within the past year. This policy was announced December 21, 2015 and is a revision from the previous stance from 1983 whereby a man who reported having had sex with another man (MSM) once since 1977 was permanently deferred from donating blood. This current federal policy is regardless of a man’s marital status despite being in the era of federally-recognized gay marriage per the June 26, 2015 Obergefell, et al. v. Hodges decision. In November 2015, France joined the UK, Australia, the Netherlands and Japan in allowing MSMs to donate blood if it had been more than one year since last MSM contact. In France, if sexual contact was limited to one partner within the past four months, a plasma donation is allowed.

In a position paper* Georges C. Benjamin, MD and Executive Director of The American Public Health Association, stated, “Such a [policy] continues to prevent low-risk individuals from contributing to our blood supply and maintains discriminatory practices based on outdated stereotypes. Instead, we strongly urge FDA to issue guidance that is grounded in science to ensure a safe and robust blood supply.” Then adding “Full elimination of (the 12-month ban) would result in 4.2 million newly eligible donors and an estimated 65,300 additional pints of blood donated each year increasing the total annual blood supply by 4 percent.” Bonfils stated, “Our top priority is to provide a safe and adequate blood supply for patients in need of blood transfusions. Blood centers are regulated by the FDA and we must abide by their guidelines. All blood centers will comply with the current FDA blood donation eligibility criteria.”

Blood donation is very important and much needed, especially at this time of year. An additional incentive for those eligible to participate is not in support of the FDA’s continued discriminatory stance preventing gay members of the community from participating.

In December, Denver police D1 Officer Tony Lopez Jr. lost a critical amount of blood after being shot seven times on duty. To donate in his honor, notify Bonfils. To share a story about why you will be donating, or your thoughts on this topic, email SUNoutreach@gmail.com. This year, Bonfils will be donating in honor of the late Corporal Barry Beam who required 50+ units during a five-month battle with an aggressive Lymphoma in 2015. http://www.abpa.org/-/media/files/pdf/advocacy/testimonyandcomments/150612_fdblooddonor.ashx

Letter to the Editor

Students Counter Misconceptions about DSST

As current students at DSST: Stapleton, we have heard families and friends mention many misconceptions about DSST schools. Three common misunderstood aspects of DSST include the academic environment, the supposed lack of athletic programs and creative opportunities, and the overall experience students will have. We hope to add our own voice to the conversation.

One of the most common misconceptions families have is that DSST has such a strict environment it is impossible for the students to have an enjoyable or exciting experience. The truth is that DSST sets expectations that hold students accountable and better prepares them for college. Although academics are a primary focus for the school, the core values are what truly shape the community. This creates a unique experience for students because it teaches them values that extend beyond the classroom.

A second misconception is that DSST lacks a variety of extracurricular activities. DSST Athletics is a thriving program that has gained a lot of momentum over such a short span of time. DSST: Stapleton High School has had success in Boys’ and Girls’ Basketball, Girls’ Volleyball, Tennis, Cross Country, Boys’ and Girls’ Soccer, and Boys’ Baseball. The same sports are offered in the middle schools, along with artistic clubs that range from acapella, to art club, to film, to creative writing. Most may not realize this, but DSST is overflowing with athletic and artistic talent, and students have opportunities in studying both science and the humanities.

Finally, many families worry that DSST cannot provide students with a traditional high school experience. It is true that DSST does not align with what many would consider a “traditional” high school; however, the culture of the school allows students to thrive as individuals, something larger, traditional schools may not be able to provide.

We hope families and students take this letter into consideration when choosing a new middle school or high school. In addition to our most recent PARCC scores, for which all three of DSST’s high schools ranked among the top four high schools in DPS in both math and English, we truly believe DSST to be a great community for all.

—Ben Vandal and Lizzy Pulis, DSST: Stapleton 11th-graders
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(continued from page 27) have under its agreement with the city once it completes its market rate projects.

CBAB also said it wants to explore options such as attracting additional affordable housing developers to Stapleton as well as public subsidies through local, state and federal governments.

Inspire Elementary to Open in 2016 at NHS

By Madeline Schroeder

A new school called Inspire Elementary will open for the 2016-17 school year and be included in DPS Choice, where families list school preferences, starting January 5. The school, originally referred to as Stapleton Elementary 1, will have 50 students K-2 its first year and share a building with Northfield High School (NHS) at the Paul Sandoval Campus.

Principal Marisol Enríquez has been hosting meetings for interested parents where approximately 50 families have been attending. The school has developed the motto “Inspire, Innovate, Impact.”

Inspire Elementary cannot be compared to any other elementary schools in the Stapleton boundary and is a hybrid, according to Principal Enríquez. It will use teaching elements of expeditionary learning and the Stanley T eacher Preparation Program.

Families will have the option to separate the young students from the older students in smaller library. Those classes will move to martial arts, and art classes, as well as a Communications, which will have a first-time appointment to the SDC Board.

Transition Ahead for Stapleton Foundation

Beverly Haddon, Stapleton Foundation CEO at the same CAB meeting, Beverly Haddon announced a “transition”—her plan to leave her CEO position next year after 14 years. For the next two months, she’ll be working with the Foundation board on a new strategic plan and hopes to post her position in the spring. The mission of the Stapleton Foundation is to advocate, sustain, and realize the principles of the 1995 Stapleton Development Plan, more commonly referred to as “The Green Book.” It runs programs focusing on education, health and wellness, transportation, and sustainability.

King Soopers Sale

Forest City spokesman Tom Gleason reported at the December 17 Citizens Advisory Board meeting that King Soopers has closed on the purchase of their new store which will anchor the Eastbridge Town Center project. He said King Soopers has told him previously that it would break ground on the project in January.

Big Wonderful Update

Residents on 26th Avenue across from Stanley Marketplace (2501 Dayton) have expressed concerns regarding The Big Wonderful, a weekend festival planned for the outdoor space at Stanley beginning 2016. The festival includes food trucks, beer and music. Residents are concerned about noise and parking and say they were not included in planning for the festival. Flightline Partner Mark Shaker says they have been very open throughout the development process and the festival will be low key. The City of Aurora will host a meeting at the Marvin Luther King Library in mid-January to discuss how the re-development of Stanley will affect neighboring residents, including The Big Wonderful. Check fromfrontpostchapel.com for the date of that meeting.

New SDC Appointees

The Mayor’s office announced the reappointment of Allegria “Happy” Haynes and Terry Whitney to the Stapleton Development Corporation Board of Directors. Eddie Miller, executive vice president of Big Sky Communications, has received a first-time appointment to the SDC Board.

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Stapleton Update

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Dance Institute

January 2016

January 2016
Upcoming changes planned for McAuliffe at the Smiley Campus

McAuliffe & Venture Prep share Smiley

McAuliffe
- 290 sixth-graders
- 270 seventh-graders
- 270 eighth-graders

Venture PREP
- 275 students

McAuliffe is the No. 1 school in choice in the Park Hill-Stapleton boundary. It currently operates at 113 percent capacity.

Venture PREP is charter high school that has been on the Smiley Campus for four years and will move at the end of the year to the Barrett Facility.

McAuliffe will expand & “McAuliffe 2” move in

McAuliffe
- 360 sixth-graders
- 290 seventh-graders
- 270 eighth-graders

“McAuliffe 2”
- 150-180 students (~100 less than Venture PREP)

“McAuliffe 2” will replicate the McAuliffe model. Smiley was chosen for McAuliffe administration to easily provide support getting the school on its feet.

Smiley campus with Venture PREP that has 275 students. Because of the shared space and increasing number of students at McAuliffe over the past years, McAuliffe is currently operating at 113 percent capacity, with teachers rolling around mobile workstations because there is not enough office space. So how could it possibly fit more?

At the end of this school year, Venture PREP will move to its permanent location at the Barrett facility.

For the 2016-17 school year, a new, smaller program, currently referred to as “McAuliffe 2,” will move in for the 2016-17 school year. This program will draw students from a different enrollment zone west of Colorado Blvd.

Smiley was chosen as the location because the new program is intended to be a replica of the McAuliffe model. By co-locating, Dennis and the McAuliffe team will be readily available to provide expertise for the program’s leaders.

McAuliffe 2 will only have 150–180 students, nearly 125 less than Venture PREP freeing up space in the building. The district plans to increase McAuliffe’s sixth-grade class from 290 to 360 next year (2016-17). After one year, McAuliffe 2 will move to its permanent location at Manual High School.

For 2017-18, McAuliffe will again reallocate space in the building based on options proposed by the Denver School Board. Option 1 would expand McAuliffe to take over the entire building with a total enrollment of 1,010 students, including 360 sixth-graders, 360 seventh-graders and 290 eighth-graders. Kurt Dennis has been directly involved in planning for this option and hopes it will be approved.

Option 2 would shrink the size of McAuliffe to a total enrollment of 830 students, including 180 sixth-graders (110 less than in 2016-17), 360 seventh-graders and 290 eighth-graders, as well as add a new, undecided program to share the building made up of 180 students.

If Option 2 is approved to shrink the school, Dennis will face a compromising position at the end of next year. Because he will hire staff to accommodate the added seats next year, he will have to fire staff when the class size shrinks down the following year. He will need to do this re-hiring and firing every year to accommodate the large “bubble” of sixth-graders as they move through the school.

“It would be detrimental to our staff culture and, in turn, our school culture having to go through that,” he says. He is much more hopeful about Option 1.

If Option 1 is approved to expand McAuliffe to occupy the entire building, there will be more students, but the school will operate at 100 percent capacity with the additional space rather than the current 113 percent.

At community engagement meetings that took place at Stapleton and Park Hill elementary schools throughout December, families seemed

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to favor expanding McAuliffe but were concerned that a big school may not be right for their child. Dennis, however, is very confident they can produce a small school feel. “We know that it seems counter-intuitive but in order for McAuliffe to ‘feel smaller,’ we need the school to grow larger,” he says.

As his proposal for the large school states, he will create small learning communities in each grade called “houses.” The house model has been used in several large cities, including New York City, Philadelphia and Chicago. Each house will have 180 students, eight teachers, one administrator, and one counselor. Students will spend 80 percent or four out of five classes during the day with their house, which will remain in one part of the building. The students will only leave houses for specialty electives like band or physical education.

In these houses, students will have the close relationships they would find in a smaller school. The administrator and counselor will stay with the students for all three years of middle school so that relationships stay consistent, and the parents keep the same primary connections with the school. But students will also be a part of a larger community and enjoy the benefits of a bigger school, including enrichment programs and potentially more sports teams. Dennis is working with the school district to confirm they will have more teams.

“Being able to offer kids the best of both worlds where they are a part of a small learning community and supported by a small group of staff for the vast majority of their school day, while at the same time allowing kids to benefit from the great offerings of a big school, is a win-win for everyone,” he says.

Because the school will occupy the whole building, students will also be able to enter and exit through three doors, whereas in the shared building they currently only use one.

Dennis will present his proposal for a larger McAuliffe in the 2017-18 school year at 6pm on Wednesday, Jan. 6 in the McAuliffe auditorium at 2540 Holly. A final decision will be made in mid-January.

Unfortunately, the proposed changes at McAuliffe will only be a two-year solution for the capacity problem. The school district will need to find another solution in 2018 or 2019, according to DPS spokesperson Brian Eschbacher. “We know we are going to add another middle school north of the highway [I-70] because that’s where a lot of the growth is,” he says.

Options may include expanding Isabella Bird Community School to a K-8 or potentially moving a school to the Paul Sandovol Campus that currently houses Northfield High School. Stay tuned.
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