

Front Porch

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

DENVER, COLORADO

STAPLETON

FEBRUARY 2017



1/21/17 — Women's March, Civic Center Park



1/20/17 — Presidential Inaugural Event, Pete's Greek Town Cafe

Only Blocks from Each Other but Miles Apart

By Carol Roberts

Signs that this presidential inauguration had energized Denver were strikingly evident downtown and in our NE quadrant. Within a four-and-a-half mile radius of city park, seven public events drew over 122,000 people in a 12-day period.

The largest by far, of course, was the Women's March with its unprecedented numbers and signs reflecting a wide range of issues and concerns. And at the MLK Marade, which occurs annually in this time period, the content of speeches and crowd responses reflected the messages also

coming from other events. A rally to protect immigrants and refugees called for passage of legislation to make Colorado a sanctuary state. Two events specifically addressed the concerns of people who will lose their health care if/when the Affordable Care Act is repealed. And two

events addressed criminal justice reform—one specifically about Denver's policy on use of force by the police.

On pages 5 to 11 we offer our readers a closer look at these events and the causes and messages they are bringing to the attention of our community. *(continued on page 5)*

NE Denver Sends New Legislators to the Capitol



The Colorado House and Senate gather in the house chamber to hear Governor Hickenlooper's state of the state speech.

By John Fernandez

The list of problems facing the Colorado Legislature has a familiar ring: school finance, roadway gridlock, and a state budget contorted and constrained by conflicting amendments to the state constitution. But under the golden dome of our state Capitol,

there's an unmistakable air of optimism. Some of it results, ironically, from the transition to a new federal administration and the promised changes to the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Threats to cherished programs galvanize and energize the opposition. For legislative newcomers like Rep. Chris Hansen, the threat

represents an opportunity: "I am very optimistic that conditions have evolved from two years ago. Now, there's no stalling until the next election."

Hansen believes a long season of rhetoric has passed, and the time has come for legislators nationally and *(continued on page 38)*



Photo courtesy of Neighborhood Music

Front Porch Annual Camp Guide

Over a hundred camps are listed in our five-page directory starting on page 29. Camps for all ages and interests are all here. Choose from: art, music, dance, sports, technology, media, nature, outdoor adventures, cooking, climbing, writing a college essay and more.

Printed with soy-based ink. Paper contains 30% postconsumer waste.

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



Construction continues on the old Stapleton control tower, where Punch Bowl Social hopes to open in June.



Most of the events listed below are FREE or support nonprofits. Additional events are listed on pages 26-27. Also visit FrontPorchStapleton.com to view additional events and to submit events.

FEBRUARY

Through March 10

10am–5pm M–F or by appt. DAVA (Downtown Aurora Visual Arts) 1405 Florence St. Aurora, CO 80010 www.davarts.org

Thursday, February 9

Active Minds Seminar “Australia” 6:45–7:45pm, Sam Gary Library* activeminds.org

Fri., Feb. 10 & Sat., Feb. 11

Valentine’s Soiree, Friday, 4–9pm VIP/Sneak Peak Night Shopping Extravaganza, Saturday, Noon–8pm. Come check out new businesses at Stanley Marketplace and discover featured artisans in The Hangar at Stanley. www.facebook.com/thehangaratstanley

Wednesday, February 15

Virtual Town Hall Meeting on the Central 70 Expansion Project, 7 – 8pm. Call 1-877-229-8493, enter pin 112034.

FEBRUARY

Thursday, February 16

Live Town Hall on the Central 70 Expansion Project, 5 – 7:30pm at the Swansea Recreation Center, 2650 E. 49th Ave.

Friday, February 17

Friday Night Films – Cinema series at The Cube,* 6–9pm. Visit stapletoncommunity.com for film details.

Thursday, February 23

Active Minds Seminar “Venezuela” 6:45–7:45pm, Sam Gary Library* activeminds.org

Locations

*More info. on these events at www.stapletoncommunity.com
Sam Gary Library: 2961 Roslyn St.
The Cube: 8371 E. Northfield Blvd.

Events & Announcements at Stapleton

Saturday Night Live...For Kids Only!

The Stapleton MCA and Central Park Recreation Center are partnering to host a night of fun for children ages 7–12 from 6–9pm. The first SNL will be held on Saturday, Feb. 4 at the Central Park Rec Center. Early registration will be open until end of business Wednesday (4pm) prior to each SNL event date. Registrations will be accepted at the door, \$20 (cash only) per participant. Join us for a night of fun with games, dinner, snacks and more!

Active Minds Seminar

This is a free, no-reservation-needed public program brought to you by the Stapleton MCA. Location: Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St.

Thursday, Feb. 9, 6:45–7:45pm

Australia

Australia, or The Land Down Under, as it is affectionately known, is a country, an island and a continent. It is a land of diverse physical beauty, unique wildlife and many historical similarities to the United States. Join us as we explore the history and landscape of this key U.S. ally. We will review Australia’s beginning as a prisoner settlement, its role in numerous global conflicts and its modern challenges to protect its unique features.

Thursday, Feb. 23, 6:45–7:45pm

Venezuela

Venezuela is in crisis. There is not enough food, let alone other goods. Hospitals are crumbling and the health care system is completely broken. Electricity blackouts have become routine and crime is rampant. Join Active Minds as we explore how this once promising economy and evolving democracy has wound up in shambles. We will look at how the price of oil, the policies of the late President Hugo Chavez, and other factors converged to create this perfect storm and explore what the future holds for this important South American country.

Friday Night Films

Friday, Feb. 17, 6–9pm

Join the MCA for our Cinema series at The Cube to explore thought-provoking interpretations in the world of film. Dr. Vincent Piturro, the “Indie Prof,” will lead a discussion before and after the film’s showing. The event will start at 6pm and feature the Sundance prize-winning documentary *3½ Minutes, 10 Bullets*. The film examines the 2012 shooting of Jordan Russell Davis as well as the media coverage and protest that resulted from the shooting. This event will be held at The Cube (8371 Northfield Blvd.). Films are \$5 for residents, \$10 for nonresidents. All tickets \$10 day of event (depending on availability). Price of admission includes popcorn and a drink of your choice (water, soda, beer or wine)! Tickets can be purchased at stapletoncommunity.com.

Friday Night Tastings-Wine Tasting

Friday, Feb. 24, 6–8pm

The MCA will host a series of educational wine tastings at our new space, The Cube. Each month will have a different theme. February’s theme will be Chardonnays and

Cabernet Sauvignons from different world regions. Resident tickets are \$15, nonresidents \$20. All tickets \$20 day of the event. Tickets can be purchased at stapletoncommunity.com.

Swim & Dive Team Registration

Wednesday, March 8, 12pm

Stapleton residents can register for Stingray Swim and Dive teams via your online ActiveNet account or in person at the MCA office or The Cube. Registration begins at 12pm. Nonresidents can register for the Stingray Swim and Dive teams on Wed., April 5 at noon. For more about the Stingray program, visit www.stapletoncommunity.com.

Swim Lesson Registration

Wednesday, March 15, 12pm

Stapleton residents can register for all swim programs beginning at noon on March 15. Registration can be completed via your online ActiveNet account or in person at the MCA office or The Cube. We can no longer accept registrations over the phone. Nonresidents can register for all swim programs on Wed., April 5 at noon.

Snow Removal Policy

During Major Snow Events as defined by current Denver City & County standards, the Stapleton MCA will initiate its emergency snow removal plan for the alleys along with the city’s plan for neighborhood streets. In the event of a major snow event, the snow removal plan will include the continuous use of heavy equipment, light equipment and hand work to remove the snow from alleys, intersections and major pedestrian paths. Alley work will be limited to the removal of enough snow from the alleys so residents can access their garages. This emergency-only procedure involves attempting to open up a single drive lane through each alley in the community. The drive lanes will not be scraped down to pavement, to eliminate the need to truck any snow off-site.

This procedure does not negate individual property owners from participating in the snow removal during these types of storms. Although we are unable to address the complete removal of snow on the roads, it is our goal during major snow events to remove enough material to allow for some level of travel in and out of the alleys. Paths and parks are done to open up some level of pedestrian travel. We will continue to address all the pocket parks and pathways to ensure that they are as snow free as possible to promote pedestrian access throughout the community. For detailed information about the snow removal policy, visit www.stapletoncommunity.com.

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

Jennifer Olsen
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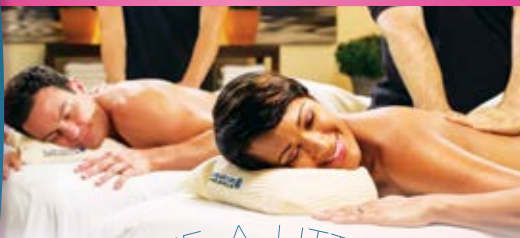
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Jim Ward: The Man Who Made Manual Busing A Success

By Anne Hebert

Author's Note: One of the best and most formative experiences of my life was belonging to the first class of students bused to Manual High School in 1974. It is a sentiment echoed by many of my fellow classmates from those years and it has heavily influenced the way we, as a group, understand the world and our relationships in it. It would not be an overstatement to say that the long-lasting effects of our unique experience were positive and enriching. We are proud to say we are Manual Thunderbolts.

In 1974, acting under the direction of the U.S. Supreme Court, Judge William Doyle issued an order that the Denver Public Schools (DPS) be desegregated. Manual was designated to receive new students from predominantly white neighborhoods. Determined to make integration a success at Manual, Colorado's first African-American high school principal, James D. Ward, began recruiting teachers from George Washington High School. George Washington students living in Denver's Crestmoor neighborhood were among those transitioning to Manual, and Ward was committed to ensuring the safety and success of all new students arriving as part of the desegregation order. Ward established a group of teachers, parents and students to help foster a welcoming atmosphere integral to a successful transition.

Dedicated to providing guidance, inclusion and opportunity to all students, Ward began his career at DPS as a teacher at Whitier Elementary School. He moved to Cole Junior High School, serving as assistant principal, then served as principal at Wyatt Elementary School before finally moving to Manual in 1966. At Manual, Ward again made history by appointing the first

African-American coaches, Ed Calloway, Sr. (varsity basketball), Alex Burl (varsity football), Ira Brown (varsity tennis) and Lonnie Porter (assistant basketball), in a Colorado public high school.

A constant presence in the foyer, hallways, courtyard and lunchroom, Ward bantered with students as he encouraged them to move along between classes. Ward also attended sports events, music concerts, school plays and extracurricular activities that took place outside

of normal school hours. Encouraging student collaboration, Ward led by example.

Mary Weber, a 1978 Manual graduate says, "I don't know why desegregation worked so well at Manual. Maybe it was because, for a change, the white kids were bused into the black community. Maybe it was because it was a smaller school than most urban high schools. A lot of the credit goes to our warm and gregarious principal, 'Big Jim' Ward, who was everybody's friend. He brought in some of the

best teachers from other schools and met with black and white parents to reassure them that everything would be fine. He instilled a sense of pride in us that made us want to prove that our school could work. Jim Ward was a transformational figure. He was the right person to lead us through those tumultuous days."

Walter Huff grew up down the street from Manual and graduated in 1978. He remembers the neighborhood anticipating the start of the school year and the influx of bused students. "Everyone thought there might be problems, but there weren't any. That was mostly due to Mr. Ward meeting with families and students to let them know how things would work." Huff remembers Ward with fondness, saying, "Mr. Ward gave lots of love but he was very disciplined. He was very interested in our education and if you acted like you weren't at school to learn, he let you know that wasn't okay." Huff attributes the cooperative atmosphere at Manual to Ward. "He had the skill set to ensure people from all areas got along. He was almost like a matchmaker in that way." These days, Huff volunteers time at Manual serving as a mentor to students. He is also active in the Friends of Manual Alumni Group. "Some of the best times of my life were at (continued on page 28)



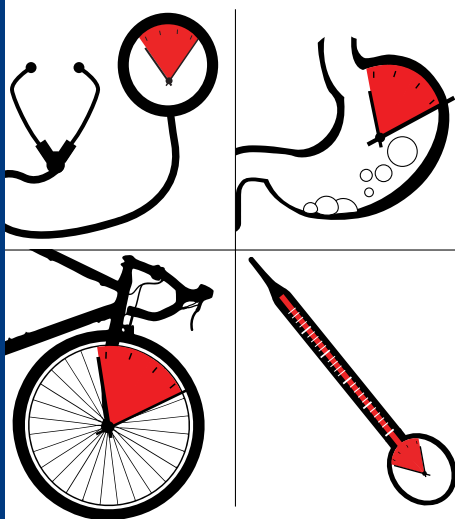
Jim Ward remained a friendly presence at Manual after his retirement.

Photo courtesy of the Denver Post



Homecoming Royalty Greg Gardner and Kim Jackson – Fall 1977

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

1/21/17 — Shorter AME Church — 1,000 people

SOLIDARITY ACTION FOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM



Denver Director of Safety Stephanie O'Malley, Police Chief Robert White, and Sheriff Patrick Firman stand at Shorter AME Church event.

A thousand people gathered at Shorter African American Episcopal Church to tell personal stories of incidents with law enforcement and provide data to back up four specific requests for action by state and local officials. The event was organized by Together Colorado, a non-partisan, multi-racial, multi-faith

organization with the goal of transforming communities through the efforts of 150 congregations, schools and faith leaders.

This first request for action is a "point of contact bill" that requires police to give a lawful explanation for why people are pulled over. State Representative Joe Salazar told the group, to loud applause, that his proposed bill also includes dropping all charges if there wasn't a lawful reason.

The second request for action relates to communication between local police and the federal government. Rep. Salazar says he started work on the Ralph Carr Freedom Defense bill before the election because he got a sense Donald Trump might win. "Based on his statements against our Muslim and immigrant communities and so many others, I developed a bill. It's the first of its kind—it's never been brought forward in any state." The bill says if the federal government adopts policies targeting people because



of their religion, national origin or race, or tries to develop a registry, or establish internment camps that the state of Colorado will refuse to participate in those policies. Based on the 10th Amendment, he says, states have control over their law enforcement. "We're not only sending a message to Donald Trump, we're also sending a message to other states to rise up right now."



The third request was for the sheriff to reinstate the community engagement group to find alternatives to detention. Natalia Marshall tragically illustrated the need for alternatives to detention with the story of her uncle, Michael Marshall, who suffered from schizophrenia and was taken to jail. Off his medication he was anxious and tried to escape. Natalia says though he weighed only 112 pounds, he was tackled down and they covered his face while he was vomiting, which caused him to asphyxiate. Sheriff Firman stood before the audience and agreed to the request to reinstate the advisory group.

The last request was for Denver Police Chief White to work with a community advisory group in developing the use of force policy. White stood before the audience and declined to work with an advisory group. He believes he can get broader community feedback by putting his draft policy out for comment at public meetings. Our article on page 11 describes the first of his three community meetings.



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1/21/17 — Civic Center — 100,000+ people

WOMEN'S MARCH



Above: These young women's chant and sign, "Speak up," reflect a primary goal of the march and impetus for participation.
Below: A single sign sums up many of the recurring themes of the day.



As the march time drew nearer, the crowd, shown here with the library and art museum in the background, became ever tighter, waiting shoulder to shoulder to march down 15th St. Despite a delay getting started, everyone remained upbeat



Following the march, the crowd turned toward the Civic Center stage, facing south with the downtown Denver skyline to their backs. The program featured a diverse group of distinguished women who each spoke or sang briefly. The crowd

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and polite, meeting their new, very close neighbors and enjoying the range and creativity of the signs that rose above their heads.

View video from the rally at FrontPorch Stapleton.com



responded with a roar when asked if they are ready to protect the younger generation from coerced or forced sexual actions and tell the leaders of this nation that this is an issue.

By Melinda Pearson

Denver, with an estimated population of 682,500, saw at least 15% of that number packed into Civic Center Park for the Women's March. (Some estimates put the number as high as 200,000.) Participants were there to protest the policies of the new administration and to reassert their commitment to universal civil rights, reproductive freedom and non-violent action, among other causes displayed on the multitude of signs. The Denver marchers were joined by others around the country, including over 500,000 in Washington, D.C. and an estimated total of three million worldwide.

Women, men and children of all ages carried handmade signs that expressed a range of attitudes and concerns. Many signs were funny, some dead serious, some angry. The signs expressed support for a gamut of causes —women's rights, health-care, reproductive freedom, racial justice, science, kindness. The acronym "C.A.R.E." was common, but participants customized it to their own concerns, i.e., "Concerned About Racial Equality," or "Can't Accept Republican Egomaniacs." Creative expressions included papier mache uterus, Trump puppets, Princess Leia costumes, and, especially, the ubiquitous hot pink knitted "pussy hats," a sly turnaround to a rude remark our new President once made.

Participants remarked on the politeness of the crowds, and came away feeling inspired, uplifted, and energized. But now the question arises, where will this energy go?

In the wake of the march—and indeed, even before it took place—the rise to power of the Trump administration has created a new sense of urgency among many progressive groups.

Capitalizing on this energy and taking a cue from successful Tea Party activities, direct action groups have been formed through social media, both within Women's March pages and separately, including Indivisible and C.A.P.E. (Community Activism for Progress and Equity). These groups are focused on contacting representatives at the national and state levels to express concerns about administration appointments and to promote a progressive agenda. Will the movement sustain itself and make the change it claims to want through these endeavors? Time will tell.



Diane Deeter's message, taken from Dr. Seuss's book, *The Lorax*, was a serious concern presented in a light way. Other signs, like the one below, reflected humorous but direct statements of disagreement with the new administration.



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1/16/17 — City Park — 20,000+ (approx.) MLK RALLY & MARADE

Public officials and dignitaries representing Denver and Colorado at the annual MLK Marade honored Dr. King with stories about him and reminded the crowd to take inspiration from his work. But the speeches on this cold snowy day reflected a new urgency to work together and a concern that progress that has been made may be at risk.

Mayor Michael Hancock told the marchers that Dr. King was asked on several occasions to lead a movement that would bring equal rights to Black Americans. His initial response: "I can't, I have a young family to care for." But upon reflection he concluded, "Why not me? Maybe this is my calling."

"In America in 2017," said Hancock, "a lot of people are questioning the direction of our nation—where we have a president who'd rather tweet out than to offer a hand of hope and unity. Now more

than ever, every one of us in this country, must ask ourselves the question, Why not me?"

Congresswoman Diana DeGette reminded the assembled crowd that we've come a long way since Dr. King and John Lewis marched in Selma. "We have expanded voting rights. We let immigrants in this country." But, she warned, "Unless we march today all of that may be in jeopardy. To keep the freedoms and human rights Dr. King talked about, we have to be vigilant today and every day going forward. So many of these things we take for granted are at risk. Our ability to go and vote. Immigrants' ability to come have a safe and fulfilled life in this country. Women's ability to have equal rights to get health care. All these things are at risk. We are here today to say we won't let that happen."

As Senator Michael Bennet put it, "The single most powerful word in our democracy is 'we.' We shall overcome."

The crowd responded to Lt. Governor



Donna Lynne with loud cheering and clapping when she said, "We have a fight in Colorado that we're going to lead. Our congressional delegation is hopefully going to stand up for the Affordable Care Act. It has created tremendous benefit to Colorado. We're going to lead a fight here in honor of Dr. King and his message of equity and equality. We are going to fight as hard as it takes."

Governor Hickenlooper reminded attendees that prior marches have led to change and cited the Civil Rights Act and the Voting Rights Act as examples. "We need to live as he lived and to act. Health care and education, along with basic civil rights are the key issues going forward."

Former Mayor Wellington Webb and his wife Wilma started the MLK event in Denver in 1980. The former mayor mixed a little humor in his advice to young activists. "You have to go where the power is to do what is necessary to make a change. You don't go to 7/11 to get



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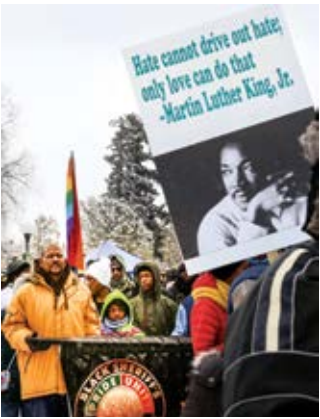
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a stop sign. You have to go to the right place if you're going to win the struggle. We have to fight for immigrant families. We can't separate children from their mothers and fathers. We all have to work together for unity of purpose.

"What I'm saying to you here with this non-legit guy getting sworn in, he said he's going to build a wall between Mexico and the United States. What are you building a wall for? Hispanics are digging tunnels. If you're going to build a wall who's going to do it? They know how to do that work. I know this crowd...you all ain't building no wall.

"So we have to be realistic about what we're for, who we're for and who we're against. This ain't rocket science. If they support you, you fight together because we're stronger united."



Wilma Webb told the crowd that they need to be united, as the civil rights movement was. They must have respect for each other and follow four essential steps: First identify the injustice. Second, confront the body doing wrong. Third, purify your own heart to do what's right, not what's expedient or gets you attention or causes the problem to be worse. Fourth, have a righteous remedy. "You can't walk with no kind of goal or program. If you don't, all you have is a walk for nothing."

Looking ahead, she says health care will be an issue. "As soon as it comes up, we better be out there. Everyone should have a right to see a doctor. Dr. King would be proud of us."



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1/14/17 — Fletcher Plaza, Aurora — 150 people RALLY TO PROTECT IMMIGRANTS & REFUGEES

Mi Familia Vota, which organized the rally, works to bring a sense of empowerment to voters on issues including immigration reform, healthcare, voting rights, climate change and workers' rights.

Speaker JoAnn Fujioka (left) told of President Franklin Roosevelt's executive order

in 1942 authorizing the physical removal of Japanese Americans into internment camps—Fujioka's family and 120,000 other U.S. residents of Japanese ancestry lost their homes, belongings and businesses. She implored the crowd to pack the state house in support of a bill by Colorado

State Representative Joe Salazar to make Colorado a sanctuary state.

Timothy Tyler, minister of Shorter African American Episcopal Church, called for black, brown and all people of conscience to stand together against a movement to separate people. "We must reach out to people who are marginalized because of homelessness, racism, misogyny....let people marry who they want to marry. We won't allow walls. We'll stand together and fight together—and if need be we'll die together to make America great. We will have victory."

Karen Perez, (left) who arrived from Mexico at age three months told the crowd, "It terrifies me that I can be deported. I'm asking for nothing free. Just the opportunity to work and give a life to my kids."



1/15/17 — Laborer's Hall — 500 people RALLY TO PREVENT REPEAL OF ACA

1/25/17 — Listening Session at National Jewish Hospital — 200 people

Congresswoman Diana DeGette, who organized this event, says her top priority is to make people who are covered by the Affordable Care Act (ACA) aware of the impact the repeal will have. Additional officials joined her to participate in the event and talk to attendees after the presentation: Lt. Governor Donna Lynne, Colorado House Speaker Crisanta Duran, Congressman Ed Perlmutter and Local President of the Service Employees International Union Ron Ruggiero.

DeGette points out that Colorado's uninsured rate dropped from 14% to 6.7% with the ACA—and if it's repealed, 588,000 Coloradans stand to lose their care. Benefits that may go away or change include: lifetime limits; women's rates and coverage; coverage for those with pre-existing conditions; and keeping young adults up to age 26 on their parents' policy. A repeal would also result in a change in employer plans since such benefits would no longer be required.

If DeGette's first priority is creating

an awareness and knowledge of the changes that lie ahead, her second and third goals are listening to her constituents' stories and motivating people to act by contacting their elected representatives if they disagree with new policies.

Stapleton resident Todd Ahlenius, who attended the rally, says people with serious and costly health issues are now able to afford insurance and prescriptions that allow them to live independently. If lifetime limits and preexisting clauses are reinstated they



Photo courtesy of Rep. Diana DeGette

would likely lose their insurance and with it their ability to manage their health and live independently. Ahlenius speaks from personal experience. He has a child who spent 15 months in Children's Hospital and takes a cardiac drug that would cost over \$700 a month.

Park Hill resident David Lipowitz also had a personal reason to attend

the rally. His 15-year-old son has needed periodic surgeries since he was born. When a job change for Lipowitz meant his son couldn't continue with the same medical team, Lipowitz was able to purchase a plan on the exchange that kept his son's doctors, an option he would likely lose with the repeal of the ACA.



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1/24/17 — Holly St. Boys & Girls Club — 120+ people POLICE POLICY ON USE OF FORCE

A video excerpt from this meeting is posted at FrontPorchStapleton.com

Left: DPD Police Chief Robert White explains his draft of the Police Use of Force Policy.

Right: Lorita Watson, representing Together Colorado at the meeting, requests a clarification.

Below: Chief White listens to Lynn Eagle Feather, whose mentally ill son, Paul Castaway, was killed by a police officer. In that case, the DA report concluded the officer acted appropriately and did not file charges against him. Police training to deal with mentally ill people was one of the suggestions made at the meeting.



By Anne Hebert

On Jan. 24, community members packed a room at the Boys & Girls Club in North Park Hill to meet with Denver Police Chief Robert White at the first of three scheduled community meetings. Answering the call for explanation and clarification, the meeting gave White

an opportunity to present proposed policy changes and ask attendees for input.

"I believe, philosophically, that policing has changed over the last five to 10 years, but the police have not," says White. Believing that now is the time for a change in culture at the Denver Police Dept. (DPD), White makes the distinction between traditional

methods of law enforcement and the dynamic and innovative direction the new policy takes. Stressing the need for community engagement and feedback, White says the meetings arose from the realization that "voices needed to be heard face-to-face." The policy draft serves as the foundation for discussion and citizen involvement.

Concerns voiced by attendees included the use of force by officers against citizens contending with mental health issues, homelessness and disabilities. Also cited were specific instances of the public perception of unfounded or aggressive force by police officers—specifically against people of color. White said, "While" (continued on page 12)



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Police Use of Force

(continued from page 11) immediate danger justifies an officer using force,” he also emphasized, ‘My life was in danger,’ is not a get-out-of-jail-free justification. Officers must always be able to articulate that an action was objectively reasonable and necessary.”

DPD Deputy Chief of Administration Matthew Murray added, “We need to keep a balance in the communities we serve, and victims have to be at the heart of the conversation. We have to look at what we do to make sure it’s legal, but also that it makes sense and it’s the right thing to do.” Murray indicated that once a final policy is in place, the training will take about six months to complete. “Each officer needs to have a very clear understanding of what the expectations are.”

Precinct 511 Lt. Ian Culverhouse told the *Front Porch*, “This new policy draft is not a vast departure from what we have in place. It does emphasize more strongly the sanctity of life and de-escalation.” He says it’s important for officers to consider how the use of force will be judged and viewed afterwards. “De-escalation policies encourage officers not to rush into situations that are avoidable if possible.

We already have language in our current policy that points out sanctity of life, but we want to continue to make that the number one goal so it does not get misunderstood in any way.”



Participants gathered in small groups to make suggestions, which included the need for officer accountability, a clear definition of de-escalation training, and cultural awareness and implicit bias training.

Meeting attendee Dr. Alan Fine has worked as a psychiatrist in the mental health field for over 30 years. “There has to be a better working relationship between officers and mental health professionals to ensure that working techniques for de-escalation are adopted by law enforcement,” Fine said. “Often, the techniques officers use can aggravate a situation rather than effecting de-escalation, which is the intent.”

After meeting in small groups, attendees

presented suggestions. Overriding concerns include a need for clear definition of de-escalation training and officer accountability; a switch from a police-first to a community-first perspective; a lack of community involvement; and the need for cultural awareness and implicit bias training. Many felt that while the policy is on the right track, it needs a lot of definition and clarification.

Chief White promised citizens the department will work to improve DPD community perception by ensuring that officers engage with the community. This includes 35 percent of officer time be devoted

to proactive patrolling enhancing crime prevention through community relationships. “The department will review all comments from the community meetings and those submitted by the public.” We will send an acknowledgement to individuals submitting suggestions via email so they know their input has been received. We promise to consider every suggestion as long as it is legal.”

Stapleton Resident



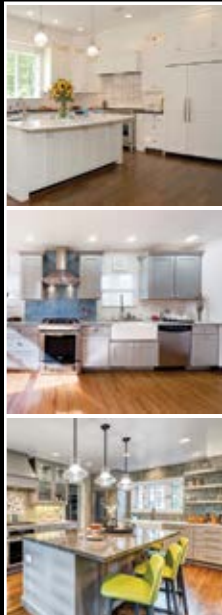
Stapleton resident Dr. Max Wachtel

By Anne Hebert

Does a fugitive evading capture require a cunning criminal mind, random luck, or both? That is the question that the new CBS reality television series, *Hunted*, tries to answer. Billed as “the most elaborate game of hide and seek ever,” it features nine teams of two in a real-life manhunt as they attempt to disappear in today’s digital world. Tracked by a team of highly skilled specialists that combine traditional tracking methods with newer, state-of-the-art tactics, a team that manages to elude capture for 28 days wins a \$250,000 payday.

Stapleton resident, Dr. Maximillian “Max” Wachtel, serves as the expert behavioral profiler on the show’s law enforcement team. With a clinical practice in forensic psychology, he performs evaluations for private attorneys and the court system. Viewers in Colorado may

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Cast in CBS Reality Show “Hunted”



Wachtel (far right) and the *Hunted* Law Enforcement Team

recognize Dr. Wachtel as a regular contributor on KUSA 9News. He is often consulted about reactions to traumatic events like the aftermath of the Aurora Theater shooting, and everyday events such as the stress related to today's politics. Wachtel is the author of the book, *The One Rule For Boys*.

The series was shot in 30 straight days. Wachtel explains that some of the “fugitives” “made smart—and not-so-smart moves.” Wachtel explains that criminal behavior is actually harder to carry out successfully than one would think. “One silly mistake will inevitably lead to capture unless it's offset by sheer, dumb luck.”

Most impressive to Wachtel was collaborating with the other law enforcement

team members. “It was really amazing to see my fellow law enforcement professionals at work,” says Wachtel. “They're great at their jobs, and it was fascinating to see how a TV show comes together.”

Some of the final outcomes of the show will be a surprise—even to Dr. Wachtel. “I can't wait to watch the show to see how my behavioral profiles worked. It will truly be a chance to see what works, and what doesn't.”

If the show is a hit, a second season will be ordered by CBS. Wachtel is hopeful that if that happens, he might get to return. “I'd love to shoot another season and do it all over again,” he says.

For details about *Hunted* or to watch previously aired episodes, visit cbs.com/shows/hunted/.



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Park Hill Ponders



Rebecca Rogers, one of the founders of the Historic Park Hill Committee (HPHC), is pictured in front of her home.

By Anne Hebert

Would historic designation thoughtfully protect and preserve the architecture and character of Park Hill? Or would it add a cumbersome review process that could deny homeowners the right to choose design alterations to enhance the space, energy efficiency and value of their property?

Rebecca Rogers, one of the founders of the Historic Park Hill Committee (HPHC), has lived in Park Hill since 2003. Remodels and construction that changed the appearance of original structures provided the impetus for a general outreach to neighbors to consider preservation options. “We found that many of our neighbors want to keep the architecture that makes Park Hill unique. Protecting the smaller bungalows also became a priority,” says Rogers. The concerned neighbors decided in 2016 to form the HPHC to pursue a historic designation with the city of Denver’s Landmark Preservation Commission. They are now renewing their outreach efforts to provide Park Hill residents with information about the issue.

Matt Bradford, who is in the construction industry, has lived in Park Hill for 23 years. He largely agrees with a historic designation based, in part, on the changes he’s seen in other neighborhoods like the Highlands and Washington Park. “While there have been some construction projects that have been done well, there are others that have not. Cheap construction or poorly planned projects take away from the soul of a neighborhood steeped in tradition. A historic designation would help prevent scraping and pop-tops that are done with profit as the primary motivation.”

The Denver City Council must vote to approve a historic district designation, which would require homeowners to submit plans for exterior structural and property changes to a Landmark Commission, appointed by the mayor of Denver, for review. This review is in addition to

the normal permits required by the city of Denver. While there is no fee for the design review process, the commission determines if proposed changes will be done in a manner that complements the structure, the surrounding homes, and the neighborhood. Commission approval would be required before work could begin. Properties in historic districts generally have higher property values.

However well-intentioned, the HPHC is not without its detractors. Residents opposed to the designation believe it would add a cumbersome review process that could deny homeowners the right to choose design alterations to enhance the space, energy efficiency and value of their property. These residents created an opposition group called Stop Historic Park Hill. They cite permit processes, environmental impact, economic impact and insurance issues as some of the reasons to oppose the designation.

Real estate agent Judy Wolfe, a Park Hill resident since 1972, is opposed to the designation. She believes the neighborhood is a work-in-progress. “The restrictions a historic designation would impose are definitely food for thought,” says Wolfe. “We need to make sure that the rights of property owners are respected and they are able to modify their homes to meet their needs.”

A common landscape feature of many Park Hill homes is a grassy knoll nicknamed the “Denver Bump.” These mini-hills are difficult to mow and the upkeep can be tedious. Wolfe has built a multitiered retaining wall to make her property easier to maintain and increase her gardening space. She has also replaced her windows with a more energy-efficient option. “Those opposed to the historic designation are concerned that the property values of the smaller homes will be adversely affected if restrictions are imposed,” Wolfe says. “It may discourage buyers from purchasing a smaller bungalow if they anticipate they’ll need more living space in a few years.”

Leah Capritta and her husband, who oppose the historic designation, bought their

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Historic Designation

Park Hill home 12 years ago. They love the area for its proximity to the Denver Zoo, the Denver Museum of Nature & Science, City Park, and the short commute downtown.

A fixer-upper when it was purchased, Capritta says they have made changes to both the outside of their Tudor home and to their landscaping. One of the changes was to build a retaining wall in the front yard. "We wanted to create an easier area to mow and maintain attractively while shielding the yard from Colorado Blvd." As it turns out, protecting their yard from street traffic was important. A couple of years ago, a semi truck ran off the road and crashed into a corner of their retaining wall. "If a historic designation had been in place at the time, the wall might have been deemed noncompliant, says Capritta.

The area being considered for historic designation is the original Park Hill subdivision, a 32-block area platted by Baron Alloys Gullaume Eugene Von Winkler in

ance of support either way," prompting the group to withhold a position on historic designation. "Regulations leave a lot of room for interpretation," says Hunter. "The GPHC feels a responsibility to help facilitate the dialogue on both sides. In the meantime, we'll see how the issue evolves." Councilman Chris Herndon concurs. "I don't have a position on the issue at this time," says Herndon. "The application is something I would want to carefully review. Historic designation does affect individual property rights, and I don't take that lightly. I will make a determination when an application is presented."

"It's a tough decision, and there are pros and cons to both sides," says Rogers. "There is no real easy fix, but we feel strongly that people deserve to have correct information in order to make well-informed decisions." Residents may contact the committee by visiting the HPHC website. Suggestions, questions



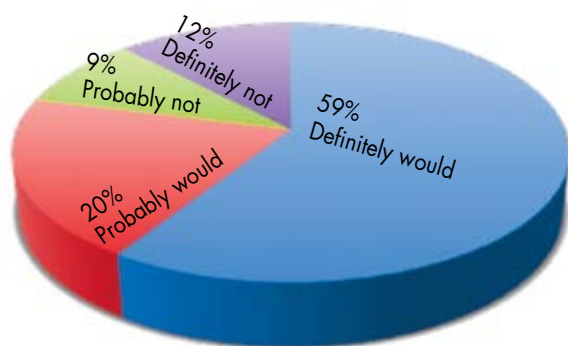
Leah Capritta stands in front of her wall that a semi truck crashed into. She opposes the Park Hill historic designation and thinks it may deem such a wall noncompliant

1887. It includes the east side of Colorado Blvd. to Dahlia and the north side of Montview Blvd. to 26th.

Ryan Hunter serves on the board for Greater Park Hill Community (GPHC). Representing the entire area in question, he says, "Currently, there is no real preponder-

and concerns can all be submitted online and will be addressed by the committee at their bi-monthly meetings.

For more information about Park Hill historic designation, visit www.historicparkhill.org and www.stophistoricparkhill.com.



In October 2016, residents of registered historic neighborhoods in Denver were surveyed on whether, after living in such a neighborhood, they would support historic designation again. The chart shows responses from Montclair, Baker, Alamo Placita, Driving Park, Allen Ghost, East Seventh Avenue and Country Club neighborhoods. A PDF of the entire survey can be found with this article online at frontporchstapleton.com.

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A Line Horn to Sound at Least Six More Months

By John Fernandez

An early February decision by the Federal Railroad Administration is expected to grant an additional “operational waiver” for RTD’s A Line. This would allow the commuter rail line to continue to operate without a fully certified “Positive Train Control” system. Until the PTC is certified by the federal government, the trains will sound their horns when approaching all 13 street crossings along the

line that runs between Denver Union Station and Denver International Airport.

Documents used by RTD in a presentation to FRA in December suggest an estimate of six months from the previous waiver, granted in early November, to work out problems with the PTC that are causing crossing arm gates to descend too early and rise later than design standards require. That suggests it will be May before the PTC system can be certified. RTD cannot apply for quiet zone status for the A

Line until certification is achieved.

That process takes another 60 to 90 days. A quiet zone is allowed by federal rule when certain safety standards are met at crossings. Those include gates, medians, signage, bells and lights, all of which have been installed on the A Line. Once approved, freight trains, as well as the commuter rail vehicles, can run silently through the crossings.

RTD spokesperson Nate Currey told the Front Porch it would be a “reasonable inference” to conclude that the A Line will not run quiet for at least six more months. Currey said RTD and its A Line concessionaire, Denver Transit Partners, are making “significant progress” with software fixes that are bringing the gate crossings closer to meeting the requirement that gates achieve the raising and lowering times 90 percent of the time.

RTD has recently begun testing the PCS as a system along its entire 23-mile length with empty trains that run in between the late evening trains that depart Denver Union Station every 30 minutes.

Since the most recent 90-day waiver was granted on Nov. 5, the A Line has been forced to operate with flaggers at all the grade crossings. Currey expects the FRA will require the flaggers to continue until the PCS is certified. DTP is incurring that expense along with penalty payments at the rate of \$250,000 a month for the A Line and \$100,000 a month for the B Line for failing to meet performance standards. Communities along the G Line are suffering as well because the FRA will not allow train testing on that



An A Line train moves through Central Park Station at twilight.

line to even begin until the PTC serving the A and B Lines is certified. G Line service to Arvada and Wheat Ridge was supposed to have begun before the end of 2016.

Despite the troubles, Currey says ridership remains strong at just more than 18,000 riders a day. He says on-time performance is “steady”, clocking in at 85.3% for December, a bit below the six-month average of 87.1%.

A Line passengers have experienced one other form of delay: trains slowing down as they approach broken rail. Currey says cracks in the rail have appeared in three places: just north of Pena Boulevard, just east of Central Park Station and at one location on the B Line. He says cracks like this are not unusual in a new system and were in fact detected by the PTC system. The cracks are repaired with a temporary joint bar before the damaged section is cut out and replaced. Currey says such cracks are not unusual in a new system and result from normal stress accentuated by the extreme temperature swings common in Colorado.

Editors Note: RTD plans to hold a press conference about the latest waiver extension request in early February. The Front Porch will report on that press conference on our Facebook page and web site.

STANLEY OPENINGS

Stanley Marketplace is located at 2501 Dallas St., Aurora. The 100,000+ square foot building that started out as an airplane ejector seat factory on land adjoining the old Stapleton Airport will soon be home to about 50 businesses. New businesses are opening gradually. The listings below are expected to open sometime in February.

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Mike Johnston Jumps in '18 Guv's Race

By John Fernandez

Twenty-three months and counting... former Colorado Sen. Mike Johnston has thrown his hat in the ring for the 2018 race to replace term-limited Governor John Hickenlooper. He says he announced so early because he wants to have a “long conversation” with Coloradans about priorities, taxes and trade-offs. This way he can avoid the “tactics of a six-month sprint” and focus on strategies he believes are necessary to address the challenges facing the state.

Workforce development and the economy are the top items on Johnston's list of priorities. He says the most significant issue facing Colorado is the “tremendous disruption coming to a whole set of industries in this era of globalization and automation.” He wants to see Colorado be “the first state in the country to have a proactive plan to prepare workers who can thrive in that kind of economy and learn how to support and develop industries that make it the best place to work in the country. It's about building a movement to change the way that politics is done.”

At his January 17 Park Hill press conference, Johnston promoted the concept of a tuition-free two-year workforce training program to “up-skill or re-skill” folks so they aren't left behind by the new economy. In return, the program beneficiaries would commit a few weekends of public service, like a civilian National Guard, to provide a wide range of services, from fire protection to flood damage mitigation to childhood education. He did not specify a funding source but said it would be revenue neutral. From a societal perspective, he said, such an investment in economic prevention would cost less than treating unemployment or underemployment after the fact.

Other top priorities for Johnston are education funding and transportation infrastructure.

Johnston believes a seven-year track record of “working across the aisle” as a state senator will find a receptive audience in Colorado. “We are at an historic moment. People are coming off the most divided and destructive political cycle in modern memory.” He said this is “not the vision or values that people in Colorado share,” and the ironic result of the past presidential campaign is that people are saying they want to be “more engaged in politics and



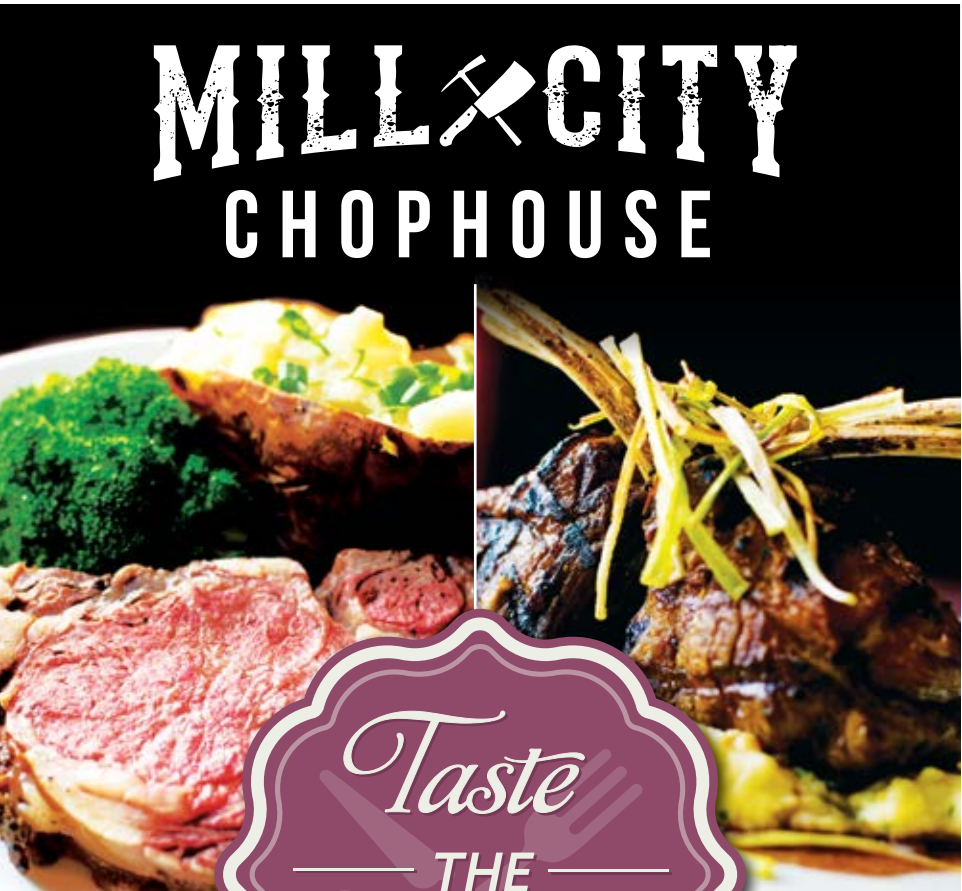
Michael Johnston and his son Emmet, 9, at Bill Roberts School.

prove that it's still possible to build the ideas in the public square and then build coalitions that can accomplish things”.

He sees “less and less opportunity for productive resolution of these questions at the federal level” and a corresponding increase in problem-solving potential at the state level. He said he wants to be the “executive with the power to drive” those solutions: “Colorado seems to be the right place to have an impact now.”

He professes not to be concerned that any number of high profile Democrats will also announce their gubernatorial bids. “Who's running was not part of my deliberation.” Instead, he looks forward to the methodical preparation of a “comprehensive plan” for aligning goals with the state budget based on conversations held throughout the state over the next year and half. “We are in a place right now where the rubber is not hitting the road. Services that people want can no longer be funded out of the budget we have. We have to decide if we want to live in a state with fewer services and resources or do we want a different structure to get those services funded?”

Johnston told the *Front Porch* he is excited to be the “first Stapletonian to run for governor and to have the first gubernatorial campaign headquartered in Park Hill.” Johnston's campaign office is located at 5405 33rd Str (33rd & Hudson).



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RECOGNITIONS

Lamontagne Leaves the Bluff

By John Fernandez

Jeff Lamontagne knew he wouldn't be able to endure the commute forever so after five and a half years as executive director of the Bluff Lake Nature Center, the Lakewood resident has resigned to take on a job closer to home – as executive director of the Friends of Dinosaur Ridge in Morrison. The attraction there, “kids, science, the outdoors,” is what brought Lamontagne to Bluff Lake back in 2011.

Lamontagne departs for Dinosaur Ridge satisfied that he has left the Bluff Lake physical asset and the non-profit organization in a better place. He points to four themes as evidence:

- Creation of a year-round lake by stopping leaks in the dam wall and lake

coalition, Bluff Lake will receive \$238,000 to support construction of a “modest” welcome/information center, a new nature play area and funding for more Nature Exploration Teams where youth get in-depth environmental education on-site at BLNC.

- Fostering more camaraderie and enthusiasm within the board of directors, staff and volunteers. “We have reached a place where everyone understands that we can do both preservation and outreach to the community. The site is still special and it's not going to be an amusement park.”

He says the 123 acre nature center was a “quiet, out of the way place” when the non-profit was founded more than 20 years ago. Now, Stapleton has grown up around



Jeff Lamontagne is pictured with a plaque that lists donors to the Bluff Lake project that rebuilt the 132-year-old dam and sealed the lake bed so it will have water year round.

bottom. The \$3.1 million dollar project, including an 1100-foot long barrier wall, was the first improvement since the mud and stone dam was constructed 132 years ago. “It's just more of a healthy, year-round lake and that's a big deal. It impacts our education program, the aesthetics and the wildlife.”

- Expansion of summer camps, tripling in size from 70 to 200 participants plus a wait list. “I'm very happy about that. The camps get rave reviews.”
- Increasing community outreach through events such as bird walks, Blues and Brews, and the Boo on the Bluff (trick-or-treat event). Lamontagne is especially optimistic about Bluff Lake's participation in a GO-CO-funded project to increase youth access to Northeast Denver outdoor assets. As one member of the GoWild

it but Bluff Lake remains the wildest, most natural part of the Sand Creek Regional Greenway—“a shining gem that the community can be proud of.” He hopes his successor will continue the outreach effort to make the asset even more welcoming. “There's not a full understanding of how unusual it is for land like that to be within city limits.”

Lamontagne's last day was January 13. An interim director, Ron Mirenda, has been named and the solicitation of a permanent executive director has begun. BLNC Board President Erika Walker says Mirenda is highly experienced but will not be applying for the permanent position. She hopes to have the position filled by mid-April. She said Lamontagne had done an “exceptional job” and wants his successor to bring a similar set of skills including strong leadership, non-profit management and a commitment to preservation.

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Brian Ricker, new Isabella Bird principal, chats with a student at lunch time.

A Fresh Start for Izzi B

By Melinda Pearson

The promotion of “Jancing”—when a group gathers to simultaneously jog and dance to individual music while wearing headphones—might not be the single most important thing that Brian Ricker accomplishes in his new role as principal of Isabella Bird Community School, but his embrace of it speaks to his leadership style.

“Jancing” started at the school last year, among teachers and staff, and groups of a dozen or more would gather around different locations in Denver to participate. Sort of like a flash mob, as Ricker described it. This year, he and his staff are bringing it to the students—a way for them to move and play during the long winter months when outside recreation isn’t possible.

This grassroots style—nonhierarchical, attentive to social-emotional needs, student-centered—suits the fledgling school, now in its third year in Stapleton. Its original administrative leaders, Sonny Zinn, Traci Bushnell and Jeff Zinn, left their leadership positions at the end of last year, and Ricker, who had been working at “Izzi B” as a principal in training, took the helm this fall, along with two new assistant principals.

“One of the things that I’ve really appreciated and all of us in our community appreciate around our school is the ‘heart-centered approach,’” says Ricker. “Our five guiding principles ... direct the work we do.” These five principles—summarized as compassion, collaboration, wellness, inclusion and global citizenship—give the school its unique culture, one that is embraced by its community and, increasingly, DPS. “It’s wonderful to see the district heading in that direction ... building in that sense of equity and social-emotional focus,” he says.

Ricker also recognizes the importance of academics in elementary education, however, and is particularly keen to improve in that area. “In addition to focusing on the whole child ... we’re also providing that rich, academic content in the classroom ... deepening their critical thinking skills,” he says. While the school is not driven by test scores or SPF ratings, Ricker appreciates the importance of such data, “It is evidence that helps us understand where we’re going and where we might need to make adjustments.”

To bolster academics, the school has implemented a new teacher-leader model, hiring four teacher leaders to provide tar-

geted support to teachers in the classroom, and new Assistant Principal Laura Glaab is leading a push to build data models to help in their analysis. They have adopted the Bridges math curriculum and are further developing their focus on units of inquiry, “diving deeply into authentic learning experiences, engaging with problems of the world and finding solutions to them,” he says.

Improving discipline is another area that Ricker is focused on this year. New assistant principal and dean of culture Kim Hundley is leading that endeavor. Izzi B employs a compassionate communication model called “Heart Talk,” which guides interpersonal communication at the school. In this model, a stepwise process of empathetic listening and response is used, and, as the school’s handbook holds, “punishment is not employed.”

This approach has, for some, meant that Izzi B became “a place to send kids if they’re not going to get responded to about behavior. If they’ve had trouble other places,” says Ricker, and it needed retooling. Ricker and his staff are focused on providing “a clear and more consistent behavior policy” that emphasizes increased accountability, while retaining compassionate communication. They are already seeing the results of this change, with fewer visits to the office, fewer outbursts, and improvements in teacher-student communication, he says.

One signature Izzi B program that Ricker is continuing to support and develop is the Newcomer Center. In this program, refugee students from around the world are welcomed into dedicated classrooms in grades K-2. The students learn English, American customs, and fill in learning gaps, helped along the way by student ambassadors from the mainstream track at Izzi B, who regularly visit and interact with the refugee children.

The presence of this program at Izzi B enriches the school, which recently hosted an “All Cultures Night,” where families from the Newcomer Center and the traditional classrooms shared dance, music and food from around the world. “One of the things we believe in is building a global perspective with kids,” says Ricker. By providing children in Stapleton the opportunity to engage with people of different backgrounds, “kids recognize the world is larger than their small community.” To learn more about Isabella Bird Community School, visit www.isabellabird.dpsk12.org.

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Newest Restaurant at Stanley: Quick, Affordable, Natural Ingredients



Above: Yellowbelly Chicken is located at the southeast corner of Stanley Marketplace. Right: Owners Joe Serafin, Barry Davis and Mike Friedberg enjoy opening night at their new Aurora location.

By Laurie Dunklee

“We serve healthier versions of foods you already love,” says Michael Friedberg, co-owner of Yellowbelly Chicken, opened Jan. 18 in the Stanley Marketplace.

Yellowbelly Chicken offers fried and rotisserie chicken that is GMO- and gluten-free, as well as salads and sides made with all-natural ingredients. “We’re passionate about getting people to eat better without drinking green smoothies three times a day,” Friedberg said. “Our food is food people crave, done better. The chicken is cooked in GMO-free rice bran oil. Our macaroni pie and smashed potato fries are favorites, as are our seasonal, locally sourced vegetables. Our roasted, marinated beets were a risk, but people love them. We serve a baby kale salad with grape-sweetened vinaigrette and coleslaw with raw Brussels sprouts.”

Yellowbelly started when three friends—Friedberg, Barry Davis and Eric Wupper-

mann—met in Vail and opened their first restaurant there in 2012. The restaurant expanded to Boulder in 2013. Yellowbelly’s head of operations is Joe Serafin, formerly the chief operations officer for Noodles & Company. “Joe is an expert in growth,” said Friedberg. “He took Noodles & Company from three stores to 110 stores. We hope to expand, since our mission is healthy food and we think every community should have that.”

Wuppermann is an internationally trained chef from Trinidad and Tobago; Barry Davis brings the influence of Southern-style cooking from his Kentucky roots.

Friedberg said the Stanley Marketplace is a great fit for the restaurant, occupying an 1,800-square-foot space on the south side, under the Stanley sign. “The Stanley has a bright, lively atmosphere that does our food justice. Over our first weekend we broke every record for our company. It was great to see so many families enjoying our shareable family meals.”



The restaurant celebrated its opening by donating 100 percent of sales to No Kid Hungry, an organization working to eliminate childhood hunger. “We raised \$3,000, which is a lot considering every dollar buys 10 meals,” Friedberg said. “One in five kids in this country is food insecure; those of us in the culinary industry want to do our part to help.”

Friedberg is an elite athlete who was on the U.S. Ski Team and won a World Cup in

2001. He is an avid cyclist who races nearly every weekend and donates all of his prize money to No Kid Hungry. In May, he’ll ride the Chefs Cycle 300-mile endurance event to benefit No Kid Hungry. The third annual event, held in Santa Rosa, Calif., hopes to engage 250 chefs and raise \$2 million.

Yellowbelly Chicken is open seven days a week from 11am to 9pm at 2501 Dallas St. For more information, see YellowbellyChicken.com or call 720.259.2393.



Yellowbelly Chicken’s opening night was a fundraiser for “No Kid Hungry.”

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Each month, the Indie Prof reviews a current film in the theater and second film or series available on DVD or instant-streaming service. However, with the Academy Awards approaching, he provides commentary on likely contenders. Follow "Indie Prof" on Facebook for updates about film events and more reviews.

As of press time, the nominations for the 88th Academy Awards on Feb. 26 have not yet been announced. There will certainly be some surprises, but I have compiled a list of films most likely to be nominated for Best Picture. Let's see how I do.

The contenders:

Moonlight

This is a fantastic film—raw and lyrical at the same time. The cinematography starts out as hand-held and all close-ups, but takes a turn in the third act as it mirrors the story. The direction is the real star, and the performances are beautiful. The story follows an inner-city Miami boy as he grows into a man. That boy is raised in the drug culture and he stays in the drug culture, but this story has a twist. It's a little bit *Persepolis* and a lot *Boys in the Trees*. One of the best parts is that it has an open ending that reminds of Truffaut's *The 400 Blows*. Go see it!

One note: I saw it on a cold Monday night with only three other people in the theater. By the end of the film, I was the only one left. It may not be a film for everyone, but it should be.

Arrival

Smart sci-fi is usually a hard sell. Add a

heavy dose of linguistics and aliens that are not anthropomorphic and you get what seems like a non-starter in Hollywood. Yet we get an elegant film with a beautiful performance from Amy Adams,

dense screenwriting, and intricate editing. It is complex filmmaking that doesn't speak down to its audience. All is overseen by Denis Villeneuve's (*Sicario*, *Prisoners*) masterful direction.

The story is simple: aliens come to Earth and hover over several world locations. Linguist Louise Banks (Amy Adams) is employed to communicate with the aliens, fighting a burgeoning global militarism. The film highlights the power of communication and shines with a glowing humanism. As I've stated before, the best Sci-Fi tells us more about ourselves than the Other. This film does just that.

Manchester By The Sea

This was one of the early Oscar favorites that has fizzled a bit as of late. It is the heartbreaking, even difficult story of a New England family torn apart by a death. Casey Affleck plays troubled handyman Lee Chandler, a man with a sorrowful



past, and he gives an Oscar-worthy performance in the process. When his older brother dies and leaves him custody of his teenaged son, Lee must decide if he is fit to parent.

Director Kenneth Lonergan is a steady and experienced hand (*You Can Count on Me*), but his

real skill is as a writer, and that shows here. What the film may lack in visual flair is made up for in the writing and the excellent performances. The film may win in those categories.

Lion

If the Oscar for Best Picture was for "Best Story," this film would win. It tells the remarkable tale of Saroo Brierly, who at 5 years old found himself lost at a train station in rural India. He spent a few weeks on the streets of Calcutta before being sent to an orphanage where he was adopted by an Australian family. Eventually, with the help of the (new) Internet, he would reunite with his family in India. This gross oversimplification doesn't begin to describe the harrowing, touching, unbelievable story of Saroo and his journey. It is the tearjerker in this bunch.

While the film has flashes of cinematic brilliance, it stays close to the story and focuses on the actor's performances—all sound decisions and all excellent performances. The entire package is very good, but it doesn't match up to the other entrants in this field.

La-La Land

This is the hands-down favorite for the Best Picture Oscar, and deservedly so. It is stylish, well-written, well-acted, well-directed, and it has a surprise ending that updates the wonderful musical genre. That last point is no trifle—the Academy loves paeans to classic Hollywood, and this film delivers. At the same time, it feels very fresh and very current, and it therefore checks two of the boxes for the Academy. Another thing the Academy likes is reversing the populist mood, and this film rates off the charts there.

Putting the Academy aside, this is wonderful, vibrant filmmaking that lifts us all. The production values are especially invigorating, evident from the breathtaking cinematography in the opening musical sequence (in the middle of a Los Angeles traffic jam). The performances are all very good—Emma Stone and Ryan Gosling solidify their star status, and Damien Chazelle's directing is particularly good. Regardless of the Oscars, this is a must-see film.



The other (possible) nominees:

Silence

This newest grand masterpiece by Martin Scorsese has all of the famous director's hallmarks: stylish cinematography, moments of realism punctuated by shocking violence, and interesting, dynamic characters. At a three-hour run time, it is not for everyone, but it is for most.

Hidden Figures

This gem of a film goes into the category of *Lion*: a great, uplifting, powerful story. While the filmmaking is not as dynamic as some of the other entrants, it is certainly worth consideration and definitely worth the admission price.

Fences

This wonderful film based on the August Wilson play is expertly directed and acted by Denzel Washington. Yet it too is outshined by some of the other entrants. The writing and acting are superb: Washington and Viola Davis will get a long look in the acting categories.

Hell or High Water

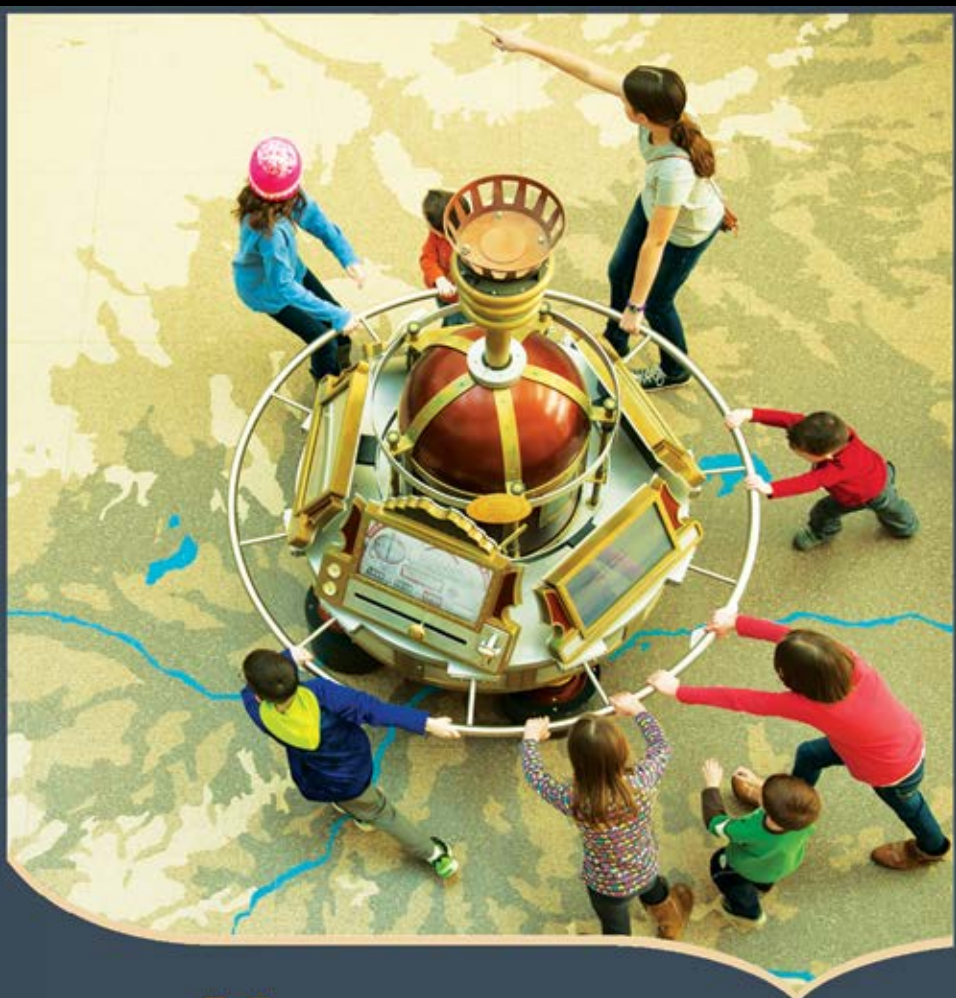
An underrated film with strong performances by Chris Pine, Ben Foster, and Jeff Bridges, I think this might be the opposite of the "Best Story" argument. This is more of a visual achievement with outstanding performances.

What will win: *La-La Land*

My choice: *Moonlight*

Enjoy the show!

Vincent Piturro, Ph.D., is an associate professor of Cinema Studies at Metropolitan State University of Denver. He can be reached at vpiturro@msudenver.com.



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Tragedy Strikes the Urban Farm

By Melinda Pearson

Between dusk on January 21st and dawn on January 22nd, ten animals at The Urban Farm at Stapleton were violently killed, including goats, sheep, and two rabbits. Dakota, a well-loved goat and former grand champion of the National Western Stock Show, was pregnant with triplets. One sheep, Cloud, was being treated by veterinarians as we go to press and was expected to recover.

Fifteen children participate in the 4-H goat program, which will have to be entirely restarted in the Spring. Amy Marrs of The Urban Farm said this was their entire breeding stock of high-quality meat goats. Participants in 4-H at The Urban Farm are taught the principles of raising animals and understand that some of the animals fostered in the farm-to-table program end up as food, but this attack is different. “We try to build resiliency here. This is not how I would have chosen to build resiliency, but that’s what we’re going to do,” said Marrs.

All of the animals had been secured in pens, and early news reports suggested that human violence might be to blame. Authorities, however, found two stray dogs wandering the Smith Rd. property, and an examina-



Children in the 4-H program at The Urban Farm Stapleton are pictured here with some of the goats that were killed. Replacing the stock will be costly—the Urban Farm is accepting donations at TheUrbanFarm.org.

were no inconsistencies. In other words, there is no evidence of any human involvement. He said that the last known owners, who adopted the dog in September, 2016, lived in Commerce City, and animal control has been attempting to contact them. Should charges be warranted, that would be up to the District Attorney’s office, Culverhouse said.

At the time the beloved animals at the farm were killed, nine of The Urban Farm’s sheep were safe on the Stock Show grounds, where one had received a grand championship award. These animals, two of whom are pregnant, will be used to repopulate the sheep herd, but donations and support from the community are welcome. Staff are working to reinforce pens, but “the most beautiful thing would be if we could somehow rally to get a barn, that would be the safest thing for them,” said Marrs. Please visit www.theurbanfarm.org for updates on the situation and to donate to repopulate their stock.

tion by a state veterinarian demonstrated that the dogs were responsible for the fatal attack. “There’s an instinctual, animal part to a dog that can kick in, and that’s what happened,” said Marrs. “There were two of them and two makes a pack.” The dogs, who appeared to be

mixes of Labrador retriever and blue heeler, were taken by animal control while authorities attempted to locate the owners, said Marrs.

Lt. Ian Culverhouse confirmed that the preliminary necropsy by the state veterinarian was consistent with dog bites, and there



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Just the Facts

Snowball Earth

by James Hagadorn



Imagine the entire earth covered in ice. It's not that far-fetched. It actually happened—and more than once.

Was it because Anna got mad at Elsa? No—but the real reason is even cooler. Scientists only figured it out after a rather provocative hypothesis tied a bunch of bizarre evidence together.

The first clues were discovered on some desolate Atlantic islands. There geologists found layers of rock formed by glaciers, but sandwiched between tropical rocks. How had this happened? Did the islands tectonically drift from the tropics to the poles and then back?

Nope. Microscopic magnetic particles in the rocks showed that when they were originally deposited, the rocks were located near the equator. This could only mean one thing—that the tropics had once been covered by ice.

No problem, you say? There are glaciers atop plenty of equatorial mountains, like the ones that feed the Nile or that dot Ecuadorian rainforests. Maybe such high-elevation glaciers could explain the equatorial ice evidence geologists were finding.

Except that the tropical strata below and above the glacial rocks weren't deposited at high elevation. Rather, they were deposited in warm water, near tidal flats and ocean beaches.

It gets even crazier. In other reaches of the globe, scientists scratched their heads about similarly bipolar deposits—in Australia, Africa, Asia, and our own Rocky Mountains. Much like paleontologists figured out that dinosaurs all disappeared at the same time, it took a long time for geologists to figure out that all these glacial-tropical rocks were about the same age.

Meaning: Maybe the entire planet, even

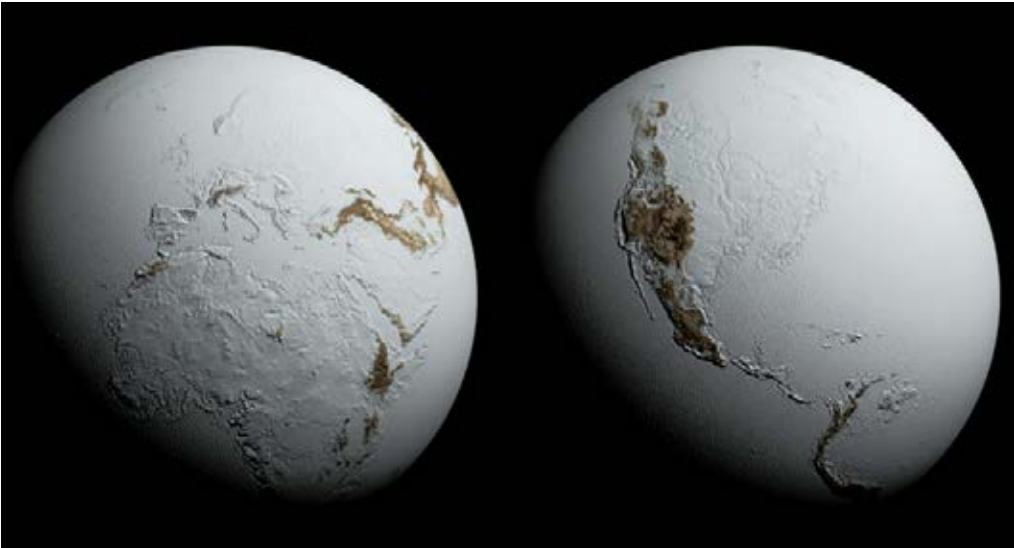
delightful places like Ecuador, had once been covered by vast sheets of ice. A Snowball Earth!

Such a preposterous hypothesis wouldn't have stood a chance if it hadn't been grounded in some seemingly unrelated Cold War science. A climate model, produced by a Soviet physicist trying to figure out the impacts of society's CO₂ emissions, provided one key element. It showed that if our polar ice caps grew to within about 30 degrees of the equa-

plates had become amalgamated in a giant supercontinent that straddled the equator. This configuration had two impacts. The first was that it reduced absorption of much of the sun's heat that is normally absorbed by equatorial oceans. The second was that the intense rainfall in the tropics broke down mountains, rocks and soils faster—a process that sucks planet-warming CO₂ out of the atmosphere. When you couple this one-two combo with the fact that the ancient sun was fainter, it could have cooled the earth, triggering one of those runaway ice ages, where polar ice grew unchecked until it blanketed the planet.



Rocks like these ones, exposed in the Uinta Mountains of Colorado and Utah, signal times when our planet was a Snowball Earth. Image: J. Whiteley



Imagine the earth enveloped in ice, as it was during Snowball Earth times, hundreds of millions of years ago. Image: Neethis

tor (think: Houston), so much of the sun's radiation would be reflected by ice that the planet's capacity to melt ice would be exceeded by the rate at which it produced and built it up. Like a runaway freight train, ice caps would grow unabated, eventually extending all the way to the equator and enveloping the earth in an apocalyptic winter.

Pre-Snowball, the earth's continental

To break out of this icy trap, greenhouse gases like CO₂ and methane, regularly belching out of volcanoes, needed to build up in the atmosphere. Based on the chemistry of lime-rich, tropical rocks that overlie the glacial deposits, greenhouse gas concentrations rose to over 350 times present-day levels! Such concentrations would have been able to absorb enough heat from the sun's incoming rays to

melt the globe's icy blanket and break us out of Snowball Earth.

Nature tends to repeat herself. As evidence mounts for tying all these oddities together, we've learned that there were likely more than one of these Snowball Earth events.

The oldest ones have their remnants all around you. That's because most of society's iron and manganese, elements used to make steel and inhibit corrosion in beer cans, were deposited during Snowball times. With the oceans capped by ice, dissolved iron and manganese vented from seafloor fissures had nowhere to go. Seawater concentrations reached epic levels, and this metallic stew periodically precipitated out onto the seafloor, forming colossal metal deposits.

Out of the ashes of the last apocalyptic Snowball Earth event came life. During that event, rather than just metals building up, the key life-supporting nutrient phosphorous built up in the oceans. When the Snowball broke, photosynthesizing algae bloomed in preposterous proportions, boosting the ocean's and atmosphere's oxygen levels far beyond what the planet had seen before. This now-abundant waste product likely helped some rather innocuous multi-celled creatures start moving around and explode in diversity and size: the first animals.

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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By Melinda Pearson

The providers at the new Rose Medical Center Stapleton ER in Conservatory Green consider their facility an extension of the Rose Medical Center emergency department (ED). The new freestanding ER simply has a “longer hallway” to the Rose Medical Center, a phrase coined by Dr. Andrew Ziller, medical director of emergency services at Rose.

Ziller described a recent incident where a 25-year-old with abdominal pain arrived at the ER. After an examination and CT scan, he determined it was appendicitis, so Ziller contacted the on-call surgeon at Rose, where the patient was immediately transferred and admitted. “The only difference was the transport,” said Ziller. And transport from the Rose Stapleton ER to Rose Medical Center costs the same as a gurney ride down a hallway—nothing.

The state-of-the-art emergency room on Northfield Blvd. and Wabash St. is staffed around the clock by personnel who also rotate regularly through the ED at Rose. At all times, this includes at least one accredited emergency physician, two registered nurses and a paramedic. More providers are brought on as needed during the busiest periods, which are typically from 4pm to 11pm at this location.

The small but comfortable waiting rooms—separate

New Emergency Room



From left: Dr. Ashley Mull, Dr. Andrew Ziller, emergency services director Steve Forbes, and nurse manager Mary Corcoran. The primary trauma room includes resuscitation equipment and a

ones for adult and pediatric patients—are designed more for accompanying families than patients. As soon as possible, Rose moves patients to individual rooms so triage takes place behind the doors, not in the waiting areas, says Steve Forbes, director of emergency services.

Facilities

The Rose Stapleton ER facility includes two rooms designed specifically for pediatric patients, four “regular” adult rooms and a variety of specialized rooms, including an OB-GYN room with neonatal resuscitation equipment, a decontamination area linked to an isolation room, and, of course, a high-level trauma room with full resuscitation capacity. The trauma room is equipped with a robot-controlled camera that links to Rose specialists in neurology,

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telemedicine link to neurology, pediatrics, and psychology, allowing off-site providers to robotically examine patients and advise treating physicians.

psychiatry and pediatrics, who can use it to examine patients remotely and advise emergency staff as needed.

Supportive services at the Rose Stapleton ER include a full laboratory, a pharmacy primarily used for on-site services, and advanced radiology. Mary Corcoran, RN, the clinical nurse manager, says the new CT scanner at the Stapleton ER is “better than the one at Rose Hospital,” although she noted that Rose will catch up soon once it is remodeled.

Deciding Where to Go

Questions in the minds of many consumers are how to decide between urgent care, an emergency room or an emergency department, and whether an ambulance is needed. Providers we spoke with recognized this decision can be a complicated issue, one that might require calls to insurance

help lines or primary care providers to sort out. But in terms of the services that are offered, Ziller provided some clarity.

As the first offsite ER of Rose Medical Center, Rose Stapleton ER offers the same level and quality of care as the Rose Medical Center ED. Although the Stapleton ER is not designed to handle major traumas on a regular basis, it can do so, and it can transport patients to higher-level facilities with operating rooms after stabilizing them. It has an ambulance entrance at the rear as well as separate walk-in entrances for children and adults.

Ziller also describes how emergency rooms differ from urgent care facilities. Emergency facilities have specially trained staff, including board-certified emergency physicians and RNs, while urgent care facilities typically rely more on mid-level providers, such as physician assistants, and do not always have RNs on staff. And while ERs are always open, urgent care centers have set hours. Most, though not all, urgent care centers offer basic laboratory services and plain film radiology, compared to the full lab and advanced imaging of a free-standing emergency room.

Rose Stapleton ER works with local urgent care facilities to provide a higher level of care if needed, but Ziller tries to



The Rose Stapleton ER has a new CT scanner, allowing for rapid, advanced imaging that can help providers give quick and accurate diagnoses, potentially improving patient outcomes.

avoid multiple transfers when possible. Care at an emergency facility can often cost considerably more than similar care at an urgent care, however, so consumers need to be conscientious when deciding where to seek care. Rose offers information on its website to help patients decide between emergency and urgent care.

According to Forbes, national trends show high levels of patient satisfaction with freestanding ERs. Rose Stapleton ER



Clinical nurse manager, Mary Corcoran, shows off one of the facility's two dedicated pediatric trauma rooms, which has specialized equipment to treat children.

seems to be following that trend, with a steady increase in patient visits since it opened on Dec. 23, 2016, averaging about 15 a day as of mid-January. Approximately 20 percent of these are pediatric visits, compared to just 5 percent at the main Rose emergency department, a difference that will surprise nobody in Stapleton.

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DENVER METRO EVENTS

Through 2/14—Southwest Rink at Skyline Park. FREE ice skating in downtown Denver; bring skates or rent: \$2/pair. www.downtowndenver.com

Through 2/22—Unknown Writer's Contest. Sponsored by Denver Women's Press Club, cash prizes for winners and constructive comments for all entrants in fiction, nonfiction and poetry. Open to those 18+ whose work never appeared with paid byline. Complete rules: <http://dwpconline.org/outreach/unknown-writers-contest/>

2/2 to 2/4—Colorado All State Choir Festival. 500 of finest Colo. high school singers who passed 2 rigorous auditions. Men's Choir, Women's Choir and Mixed Choir with 3 of finest U.S. choral conductors. Bellco Theater, Colo. Convention Center. \$12-\$18. www.aschoir.com

2/3 Friday—First Friday Art Walks. Santa Fe Arts District, Tennyson Art Walk, River North (RiNo) Art District, Golden Triangle Museum, Nava-jo Street Art District. www.denver.org/things-to-do/denver-arts-culture/denver-art-districts

2/4 to 2/12—Colorado Garden and Home Show. Colorado Convention Center, Downtown Denver. Flowering gardens, 1,400+ booths; spring landscaping, patio/outdoor projects.: \$12 & \$10 at King Soopers; kids 12/under free. www.coloradogardenfoundation.org

2/8 to 2/20—19th Annual Denver Jewish Film Festival. Mizel Arts and Cultural Center, 5-10pm. Titles/times/prices: <http://maccjcc.org/film-festival>

2/10 to 2/12—Monster Jam. Pepsi Center. \$20-\$50; kids 2-12 \$10. All tickets +\$2 day of show. www.monsterjam.com, www.pepsicenter.com

2/11 Saturday—Eighties Hangar Dance. Take sweetheart back with '80s eighties music, dance, dress and trivia contests, renew wedding vows; tastings and dinner from top caterers, cash bar. 6-11pm. Wings Over the Rockies Museum, Lowry. www.wingsmuseum.org

2/11 to 2/12—Good Vibrations. The Denver Brass and 17th Ave. Allstars take you back to days of Elvis, The Beach Boys, The Four Seasons, and Dion and the Belmonts. Wear poodle skirts, slicked hair, and gather friends/family. 2/11 7:30pm; 2/12 2pm. <http://www.denverbrass.org>

2/11 Saturday—How the West Was Sung. Central City Opera with Molly Brown

House. 11am and 1pm, ages 6 and up. Tickets: www.mollybrown.org

2/14 Tuesday—Picture Perfect—Denver Clerk and Recorder's 10th Annual Valentine's Celebration. 8am-4:30pm. Judges and clergy on hand to perform free marriage ceremonies for couples. Food/beverages available for the couples. Drawings for gifts from local businesses, elected officials and other city agencies. Webb Building, 201 W. Colfax, Dept. 101. Marriage certificates: \$30, apply online: www.denverclerkandrecorder.org

2/16 Thursday—Molly Brown House Thirsty Thursdays- A Young Professionals Group. 6-8pm. Poisons and madness in Victorian era. Ages 21-45. Must be 21 to attend. \$15/person. www.mollybrown.org

2/17 to 2/26—Ballet MasterWorks. Colorado Ballet presents Firebird, Serenade and Petite Mort at Ellie Caulkins Opera House. Tickets: \$30-\$155 at 303.837.8888 or www.coloradoballet.org. <http://coloradoballet.org/performances/ballet-masterworks-2017>

2/24 to 3/5—Denver Restaurant Week. 200+ restaurants offer multicourse meals for special pricing. Menus and pricing: www.denverrestaurantweek.com

2/26 Sunday—Colorado Children's Chorale Concert- A Classical Afternoon. 3-5 pm. Montview Blvd. Presbyterian Church, 1980 Dahlia St. Tickets: www.childrenschorale.org

3/4 to 3/5—Rocky Mountain Train Show. Denver Mart, 10am-4pm. Adults and kids 12 and over \$9. Under 12, scouts in uniform and active duty with military ID Free. Admission good for both days. 451 E 58th Ave. www.rockymountaintrainshow.com

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

2/25 Saturday—Special Olympics Denver Polar Plunge and Splash and Dash. 5K run/walk and polar plunge to benefit Special Olympics. Beer Garden, live music, contests. 1pm. Denver's City Park. www.specialolympicsco.org

2/25 Saturday—Cupids Undie Run. McNichols Civic Center Bldg., 144 W. Colfax Ave. 12pm; run 2pm. Benefits Children's Tumor Foundation. www.cupidsundierun.com

2/26 Sunday—Fight for Air Stair Climb. Benefits American Lung Assoc. \$35

entry fee; \$100 minimum fundraising. Individual or team. Republic Plaza, 16th and Tremont Entrance. www.lung.org

KIDS AND FAMILIES

Through 2/24—Denver Puppet Theater. Aesop's Fables. www.denverpuppettheater.com

2/1 Wednesday—Preschool Story Time. 9:30 am, ages 2-5 with caregiver. History Colorado Center, 1200 Broadway www.history-coloradocenter.org

2/2 to 2/23—Star K Kids. Thursdays, 9:30 and 11am; kids 5 and under. Morrison Nature Center, 16002 E. Smith Rd., Aurora. www.aurora.gov/nature

2/4 Saturday—Cockpit Demo Day. Wings Over the Rockies Museum, Lowry. www.wingsmuseum.org

2/4 Saturday—Home Depot Kids Workshop. 9am-12pm. FREE how-to clinics first Sat. monthly, ages 5-12. Get Home Depot apron, wooden project and project pin. Metro-area Home Depot stores. www.homedepot.com

2/5 Sunday—Junior Rangers. Ages 6-12, 1:30-3pm. Learn about plants and animals of Star K Ranch. RSVP required, 303.326.8650. www.aurora.gov/nature

2/7 to 2/28—Little Wings Club. Tuesdays in Feb. 11-11:45am for kids 11 and under and their adults. Space-themed story and craft. Free with admission. www.wingsmuseum.org

2/7 to 2/28—Tuesdays in February 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

2/8 Wednesday—Inside the Orchestra's Tiny Tots Performances. Surrounded by 30+ piece orchestra, kids 6 and under. Also opera singers, modern dancers. 9:30-10:15am and 10:45-11:30am. Followed by 15 minutes to meet musicians and try instruments. \$9.95 for 12 months+; financial assistance available. Register: insidetheorchestra.org/tiny-tots-events or 303.355.7855. Mile Hi Church, 9077 W. Alameda Ave. Lakewood. Also: **2/18 Saturday**—History Colorado Center, 1200 Broadway and **2/27 Monday** at Boettcher

Concert Hall, 1000 14th St. <http://insidetheorchestra.org/tiny-tots-events>

2/9 to 2/12—Just Between Friends of Denver. Huge sale children's clothes and furniture, maternity and media items. National Western Complex, 4655 Humboldt St. Check website for pre-sale passes/hours, admission fees, free days, discounts on different days. <http://denver.jbfsale.com>, <http://facebook.com/jbfdenver>

2/10 Friday—Four Mile Historic Park Hay Bales and Tall Tales. 12-1pm; free with admission. 715 S. Forest St. www.fourmilepark.org

2/11 to 2/24—Lowe's Build and Grow workshops. Bring kids to Lowe's 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

2/12 Sunday—Peter and the Wolf. 1pm. Boettcher Concert Hall. www.coloradosymphony.org

2/25 to 2/26—Ballet Ariel Presents A Little Cinderella with Tea Party. Special Tea Party with Cinderella, Prince Charming and other costumed cast members on stage following performance. Sat., 2/25 and Sun., 2/26 at 3pm. Cleo Parker Robinson Theatre, 119 Park Ave. W. Tickets: www.balletariel.org or 303.945.4388. <http://www.balletariel.org>

3/4 to 3/5- Rocky Mountain Train Show. Denver Mart, 10am-4pm. Adults/kids 12 and up \$9. Under 12, scouts in uniform and active duty with military ID Free. Admission good for both days. 451 E 58th Ave. www.rockymountaintrainshow.com

LECTURES AND CLASSES

2/7 Tuesday—Active Minds (Free)—Muhammad Ali. 10:15-11:15am. Jewish Community Center, 350 S Dahlia St. 303.316.6359. www.ActiveMinds.com

2/9 Thursday—Active Minds (Free)—Australia. 6:45-7:45pm. Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St. 720.865.0325. www.ActiveMinds.com

2/23 Thursday—Active Minds (Free)—Venezuela. 6:45-7:45pm. Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St. 720.865.0325. www.ActiveMinds.com

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2/28 Tuesday—Active Minds (Free)—New Orleans: Biography of a City. 5-6pm. Tattered Cover, 2526 E. Colfax. 303.322.7727. www.ActiveMinds.com

MUSEUMS—DENVER ART MUSEUM Through 2/12—Glory of Venice: Masterworks of the Renaissance. 50 works from Italian collections of Venetian Renaissance artists whose style shaped Venice as international art/culture hub. Included in museum admission; free: youth 18 and under and all on museum free days. Closed Mondays. Related programming/lectures: denverartmuseum.org. <http://denverartmuseum.org/exhibitions/glory-venice>, <http://denverartmuseum.org>

Through 4/2—Star Wars and the Power of Costume. Denver Art Museum, featuring original costumes from the movies; exhibit ticket required. www.denverartmuseum.org

Through 5/28—Shock Wave: Japanese Fashion Design, 1980-90s. Gorgeous works of Japanese designers who started fashion revolution in Paris in 1980s-90s. denverartmuseum.org, <http://denverartmuseum.org/exhibitions/shock-wave>

2/7 to 2/14—Hearts for Art. DAM invites visitors to show love for favorite artwork from 2/7-2/14. Mark favorite piece with single heart on floor, snap photos of artwork crush and share on favorite social media site, tag with #denverartmuseum and #heartsforart. Hearts/photography permitted in all galleries except Star Wars exhibition, Glory of Venice and works marked with No Photography sign. <http://denverartmuseum.org/calendar/hearts-art-2017>, <http://denverartmuseum.org>

2/24 Friday—Denver Art Museum Untitled Final Fridays. 6-10pm. Adult evening out final Friday monthly. www.denverartmuseum.org

MUSEUMS—DENVER MUSEUM OF NATURE & SCIENCE Through 2/5—Mummies: Secrets from the Tombs. Special ticket required. www.dmns.org

Through 2/28—Planetarium. Black Holes: The Other Side of Infinity, Cosmic Journey: A Solar System Adventure, Destination Solar System, One World One Sky: Big Bird's Adventure. www.dmns.org

Through 4/13—IMAX. Wild Africa 3D, Mummies: Secrets of the Pharaohs, Extreme Weather. www.dmns.org

2/16 Thursday—Science Lounge. Third Thursdays, 6:30-9:30pm. \$10/members; \$12/nonmembers. www.dmns.org

MUSEUMS—FREE DAYS

2/3 to 2/24—Clyfford Still Museum Free Friday Evenings. 5-8pm. SCFD Free day. www.clyffordstillmuseum.org

2/4 Saturday—Denver Art Museum Free Day. SCFD Free day. www.denverartmuseum.org

2/7 Tuesday—Children's Museum Free Target Tuesday. 4-8pm. www.cmdenver.org

2/7 Tuesday—Denver Art Museum Free Day. SCFD Free day. www.denverartmuseum.org

2/7 Tuesday—Denver Botanic Gardens Free Day. SCFD Free day. www.botanicgardens.org

2/10 Friday—Four Mile Historic Park Free Day. SCFD Free day. www.fourmilepark.org

2/11 Saturday—Butterfly Pavilion Discounted Admission Day. Admission \$5. www.butterflies.org

2/11 Saturday—Denver Firefighters Museum. SCFD Free day. www.denverfirefightersmuseum.org

2/12 to 2/13—Denver Zoo Free Days. SCFD Free Days. Also 2/17. www.denverzoo.org

2/24 Friday—Clyfford Still Museum Free Day. SCFD Free day. www.clyffordstillmuseum.org

2/27 Monday—Denver Museum of Nature & Science Free Day. SCFD Free day. www.dmns.org

NORTHEAST DENVER/AURORA EVENTS 2/1 to 2/28—Denver School of the Arts. Montview and Quebec. Feb. performances, tickets/complete listings: www.dsapresents.org, www.dsa.dpsk12.org/performances

2/1 Wednesday—Blessed Sacrament Catholic School Middle School Faire. Middle school open house and showcase. 6-7:30pm. 1973 Elm St. Blessed Sacrament Catholic School. www.bsccs-denver.net

2/2 Thursday—Art Gym Denver Broken Hearts. An unorthodox approach to month of love with artists whose work shows ideas/notions of what it's like experiencing a broken heart. 5-8 pm Opening Reception—meet artists and enjoy light refreshments, hors d'oeuvres. Free, open to the public. Show runs thru Feb. 1460 Leyden St. <http://artgymdenver.com>

2/7 Tuesday—League of Women Voters Presents Discussion on The Paths to Greater Public Participation in Government. McCollum Room, Montview Presbyterian Church, 1980 Dahlia St. 5:30pm. www.lwvdenver.org

2/10 Friday—Visions of Love. Benefit for Anchor Center for Blind Children. Chocolate/wine pairings, hors d'oeuvres, music, etc., included in ticket price. Signature VIP Experience includes 2 exclusive tasting passes. 6-9pm. Tickets: \$45/person (advance), \$55 (door), \$75 (VIP) Anchor Center for Blind Children, 2550 Roslyn St. Individual/corporate sponsorships available (contact Denver Delta Gamma Alumnae at denverdgamma@gmail.com). www.eventbrite.com/e/7th-annual-visions-of-love-tickets-28876926665, <https://www.anchorcenter.org/news/wine-chocolate-visions-love-returns-february-10/>

2/12 Sunday—Aurora Symphony—Children & Family Concert. Free! Kids enjoy "An Animal's Carnival." Designed as first-time concert experience. 45 minutes includes instrument petting-zoo, face painting, balloon animals, special guests. Narrated in English and Spanish. <http://www.aurorasymphony.org/children-youth.html>

2/15 Wednesday—Cocktails for a Cause. Benefits Hope House. 5:30-10pm. \$10 admission fee and donation of suggested items for nonprofit from list on website. Wings Over the Rockies Museum, Lowry. www.cocktailsforacauseco.org

2/21 Tuesday—League of Women Voters Presents Integration of Behavioral and Physical Health. McCollum Room, Montview Presbyterian Church, 1980 Dahlia St. 5:30pm. www.lwvdenver.org

2/24 to 2/25—boys2MEN Career Workshop (Aviation). The Crowley Foundation hosts boys2MEN Aviation 2-Day Workshop. Young men ages 14-18 with interest/curiosity about aviation encouraged to attend. Official log book offers direct path to obtaining a pilots' license, and official course completion certificate. Will go up in air for firsthand flying experience. #CFNewHeights. Contact Kenneth Crowley Sr. at 720.935.6465 or kenneth@crowleycollegeprep.com. <https://goo.gl/sTujRT>, <http://crowleycollegeprep.com>

2/26 Sunday—Colorado Children's Choral Choir: A Classic Afternoon. 3-5 pm. Montview Blvd. Presbyterian Church, 1980 Dahlia St. Tickets: www.childrenschorale.org

3/1 Wednesday-- Ash Wednesday Worship/Communion. 11am and 7pm. Noon soup lunch, Pancake supper 5:30-7pm. Augustana Lutheran Church. 5000 E. Alameda Ave. 303.388.4678. www.augustanadenver.org

3/2 Thursday—Art Gym Denver Varied Perceptions. Andrew Beckham, Marcus DeSieno, and Amy Theiss Giese 3/2-3.25. Opening reception, 3/2 | 5-8pm. Light refreshments/hors d'oeuvres. Free, open to public. 1460 Leyden St. 303.320.8347. <http://artgymdenver.com>

NORTHFIELD EVENTS

2/3 Friday—Harkins Theatres 18 New Release. The Red Turtle; Rings; The Space Between Us. www.harkinstheatres.com

2/10 Friday—Harkins Theatres 18 New Release. Fifty Shades Darker; John Wick: Chapter 2; The LEGO Batman Movie. www.harkinstheatres.com

View more events or submit events
FrontPorchStapleton.com > Events

2/17 Friday—Harkins Theatres 18 New Release. A Cure for Wellness; Fist Fight; Footprints: The Path of Your Life; The Great Wall. www.harkinstheatres.com

2/24 Friday—Harkins Theatres 18 New Release. Get Out; Rock Dog

ROCKY MOUNTAIN ARSENAL NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE 2/9 Thursday—Wild Valentine. For toddlers ages 3-5 and their adults. Discover how animals use song, dance, play to attract a valentine, play act and valentines craft. 10-10:45am. www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky_mountain_arsenal/

2/11 to 2/18—Wildlife Viewing Tours. 2/11 and 2/18. 9:30-11am. Naturalist leads bus tour through refuge to view bald eagles, bison, coyotes, deer, raptors, etc. Tour in Spanish, 2/4, 11am. RSVP required. www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky_mountain_arsenal/

2/12 Sunday—The Masked Bandit. Learn about the Refuge's black-footed ferret.

2/25 Saturday—Talon Talk- Presented by Nature's Educators. 10:30-11:30am. Auditorium program with Nature's Educators and their live birds of prey. RSVP required. www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky_mountain_arsenal/

2/25 Saturday—Who's Tracking Who? 1-2:30pm. Learn to identify tracks in indoor program then outdoors to test knowledge. Make plaster cast of tracks. RSVP required. www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky_mountain_arsenal/

VOLUNTEER

Single Volunteers of Greater Denver. All-volunteer, not-for-profit group of singles who want to meet others and perform commu-

nity service assisting nonprofit organizations for events and other activities. www.svgd.org

THEATRE

Through 2/4—Becky's New Car. Fire House Theater Company at John Hand Theater. www.firehousetheatercompany.com

Through 2/12—Almost, Maine. Avenue Theatre, 417 E. 17th Ave. www.avenuetheater.com

Through 2/19—Myth. Aurora Fox Arts Center, 9900 E. Colfax Ave. www.aurorafox-artscenter.org

Through 2/26—The Book of Will. Buell Theatre, Denver Center for the Performing Arts, 14th and Curtis. www.denvercenter.org

Through 2/26—The Christians. Stage Theatre, Denver Center for the Performing Arts, 14th and Curtis. www.denvercenter.org

Through 3/5—Brilliant Traces. Vintage Theatre. 1468 Dayton St., Aurora Cultural Arts District. www.vintagetheatre.org

Through 3/12—An Act of God. Garner Galleria Theatre, Denver Center for the Performing Arts. www.denvercenter.org

2/2 to 5/19—A Year with Frog and Toad. Arvada Center, 6901 Wadsworth Blvd., Arvada. www.arvadacenter.org

2/16 to 2/19—Motown the Musical. Buell Theater, Denver Center for the Performing Arts. www.denvercenter.org

2/18 to 3/18—Sabrina Fair. Presented by Lowry's Spotlight at John Hand Theater, 7653 E. 1st. Pl. 720.530.4596. \$18-23. www.ThisIsSpotlight.com. Front Porch Special, use code FRONT-PORCH to get \$3 off your tickets.

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Manual Principal Jim Ward

(continued from page 3) Manual,” says Huff.

As a sophomore, Mark “Paco” Slosky remembers attending the State Basketball Championship finals in 1976. Manual faced off against Cherry Creek High School at Denver’s McNichols Arena. The Manual High School Thunderbolts had been ranked second all yearlong, trailing top-ranked Cherry Creek. The game pitted one of the wealthiest suburban high schools in the state against one of the smallest inner-city schools. Both teams were undefeated heading into the game.

Slosky had missed his ride and arrived just before the tipoff. Searching desperately for a place to sit, he realized his only option might be to sit on the side of the opposing Cherry Creek team. As he recalls, “I was sure I wouldn’t find a seat on the Manual side and I was getting panicked. I heard a booming voice yelling, ‘Paco Slosky, get over here!’ It was Mr. Ward. I had never



From the 1978 Manual Yearbook

had a conversation with him and had no idea that he even knew who I was. I sat next to him to watch one of the best back-and-forth games in Colorado history. Manual won the game and the state championship. Mr. Ward grabbed me and hugged me for what seemed like an eternity. When I looked up at him, he had tears of joy streaming down his face. At that moment, I knew I was a Thunderbolt for life.”

Ward recruited Dr. Joyce Marie Davis, the first African-American vocal music director and instructor in a Colorado senior high school. Davis was the vocal music director at Manual from 1970 until her retirement in 1992. She led the concert choir and select choir (Bolt Vibration) in performances throughout the state, including the governor’s inauguration and a performance that aired on Channel 7, KMGH television.

Davis’s daughter Ervia Davis recalls, “Mama and Mr. Ward had a relationship based upon extreme admiration and respect. He made sure she always knew he had her back and she had what she needed.”

Davis introduced her students to music of all genres. “Racial differences made



1978 Manual yearbook seniors. Author of this article, Anne Hebert, is middle left.

no difference to my mother,” says Davis. “Her attitude was, kids are kids and students are students. Music can engage everyone equally.”

Dick Jordan, another teacher recruited by Ward, taught history and guided a school river trip each May. Joking with each year’s class, he speculated that in the year 2000, if all of his students gave him one dollar, he’d be a rich man. Several of Jordan’s former students organized to make that dream come true. Hundreds of students met Jordan downtown at a pre-arranged gathering to greet him, ring in the new millennium, and reminisce about their Manual experience.

Jarrell McCracken taught at Manual during those years and was committed to the ideals of inclusion and opportunity established by Ward. Fondly remembered by students and fellow teachers, the Jerry McCracken Scholarship Fund was created after his death.

Denver mayor Michael Hancock, a 1987 Manual graduate, recalls Ward serving at the school as a volunteer after his retirement. He says, “Mr. Ward was very present and very respected. The Manual he built was a diverse, open and inclusive place.” Hancock also remembers his time at Manual as an extremely positive experience. “There aren’t many schools that created such opportunities for lasting friendships among students that, otherwise, would probably never have met. Students at Manual came from neighborhoods all over Denver.”

Other notable Manual alumni include the first African-American mayor of Denver, Wellington Webb; the first African-American mayor of Seattle, Norman Rice; boxer, poet and activist Rodolfo “Corky” Gonzales; writer Ted Conover; and National Public Radio correspondent Scott Horsley. Manual also honed the talents of first-rate basketball and baseball athletes, including Micheal Ray Richardson, Billy Lewis, Daniel Banuelos/Cortez and LaVon Williams.

Manual experienced some difficult years after busing ended and Jim Ward retired. However, the McAuliffe Manual middle school program, now in its first year at Smiley, will likely revive memories of Jim Ward’s legacy when it moves to the Manual building next year.

For more information, visit www.friendsofmanual.org.

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2017 Front Porch Guide to Summer Camps



Lynx Arts Camp at CU Denver

2017 Tennis Camp with Coach Wilson and Coach Munroe (DSST). 6/5-6/9 and 6/12-6/16, 9:15-11:15am and 11:30am-1:45pm. Stapleton courts (Montview and Syracuse). Weekly camps on fundamentals and competitive games. Ages: 5-12. Coach Jenny Wilson: munroejmm@gmail.com

23rd Annual Denver Rocky Mountain Chess Camps. 6/12-16 and 7/10-12. Full-, half-day options, 9am-4pm. 8:1 staff/student ratio. Scorekeeping, etiquette, tournament preparation, logical thinking and strategic planning. Also 2-day workshops, tournaments, follow-up classes. 303.770.6696 or www.ColoradoMasterChess.com 8787

Adventures Outside Day Camps. Kids entering 1st-5th grades, Junior River Rangers kids entering 6th-9th grade. 3 metro river locations. 6/5-8/11. \$215-\$240/wk. Greenway Foundation. greenwayfoundation.org/summercamp, 720.306.8000, camp@greenwayfoundation.org

Air Force Academy Sports Camps. 3 sessions. Boys/girls ages 8+: swimming, gymnastics, baseball, basketball, lacrosse, volleyball, cheerleading, cross country/track, diving, fencing, hockey, golf and tennis. Overnight/day options available. goairforcefalcons.com/camps

Altitude Youth Ultimate. Ultimate Frisbee: disc fundamentals, athletic skills, rules and teamwork/sportsmanship. New/experienced players; only need running shoes or soccer-style cleats. Receive T-shirt and disc. Includes daily lunch. Camps Mon.-Thur., run thru June and mid-July. Ages 7-10 (half-day 9am-1pm), 11-14 and 15-18 camps 9am-4pm. \$265 full-day (\$165 half-day). Denver/Boulder locations. www.altitudeyouthultimate.org, Jeff@altitudeyouthultimate.org

Art Students League of Denver. Drawing, painting, ceramics, mixed media, sculpture. A.m. and p.m. camps. Prices vary. 303.778.6990, asld.org

Arvada Center Summer Arts Camps. Theater, visual arts, dance, ceramics, music, creative writing, storytelling and photography. www.arvadacenter.org, 720.898.7200

Augustana Lutheran Church Vacation Bible School. Kids starting 1st to leaving 5th grade. Week of singing, crafts, games, faith. www.augustanadenver.org, 303.388.4678. Augustana Lutheran Church, 5000 E. Alameda Ave.

Aurora Cultural Arts Theatre. Various locations across Aurora. Ages 4-18. Half days. Sessions: Acting Up ages 4-6; Little Foxes ages 7-10; Teen Acting Camps and Broadway Bound ages 11 up. www.aurorafox.org, 303.739.6520

Avid4 Adventure. Pre-K-7th-graders bike, climb, paddle, hike in outdoors for skills and confidence. Weekly June-Aug. Westerly Creek Elem., 8800 E. 28th Ave., Stapleton. 9am-3pm. Extended care: 8am-6pm. Save \$25-\$70/camp/session till 2/29. Use code: EARLYBIRD. Locations in Boulder, Golden, Highlands Ranch, Denver, Lafayette, Castle Rock, Colorado Springs. www.avid4.com, 800-977-9873

Ballet Ariel Summer Camp. Ballet, modern, acting for dancers, etc. 7/10-14 and 7/24-28, Mon.-Fri. 10am-3pm. Tuition includes before/aftercare betw. 8:30am-5pm. Beginning/Intermediate level ages 9-12; Intermediate/Advanced level ages 12-18. 7808 E. Cherry

Creek S. Dr., Ste. 209. 303.945.4388, www.balletariel.org/school

Bikes Together Bike Camp. 2825 Fairfax. Five 2-week sessions start 6/5 for ages 7-14. Melds teamwork, service, bike maintenance education, safe riding skills, group rides, field trips and capstone mountain biking experience. <http://bikecamp.bikestogether.org>

Bladium Kids Camps. Highly active week camps; full- or half-day. 6/6-8/19. 2400 Central Park Blvd. 303.320.3033, denverkids@bladium.com, bladiumdenver.com/youth-kids/kids-camps

Bluff Lake Nature Center Summer Camp. Weekly outdoor nature camps, ages 6-11. Nature exploration, hands-on science lessons, games, crafts, unstructured play. Small groups, family feel. Weekly themes: Riverwalkers, Time Trekkers, Eco Engineers and Pathfinders. Half-day (9am-12:30pm); Full-day (9am-3pm) with pre/post camp extended hours (7:30am-5:30pm) available. 6/5-8/11. www.blufflake.org.

Bounce Stapleton Summer Camp. Certified fitness professionals. Art, science, sports, obstacle courses, gymnastics, fun movement. 8am-4pm; extended hours available. Ages 5-12. Weekly: 6/6-8/12. \$300/wk. www.bouncestapleton.com, robin@bouncestapleton.com

Butterfly Pavilion Summer Camps. Day and weeklong programming ages 5-10. www.butterflies.org

Camp Chief Ouray (CCO). Traditional overnight cabin camp ages 7-17. College counselors; 6-9 kids own gender/age. Low staff/camper ratio. 5,100 acres of mountains, valleys, streams, meadows. Ages 15-18 can do Leader-in-Training, Counselor-in-Training, Wrangler-in-Training and Wilderness Leadership. www.campchiefouray.org/

Camp Chief Ouray Family Camp. YMCA of the Rockies in Granby. Labor Day weekend 9/2-5; family getaway where all generations enjoy traditional camp activities. <http://campchiefouray.org/adult-family-camps/family-camp/>

Camp Granite Lake. Sleepaway camp. Sailing, rock climbing, woodworking, horseback riding, canoeing, ceramics, SUP, backpacking, archery, culinary arts. 135-acre mountain property with private 8-acre lake 1 hr. from Stapleton. 2-week sessions ages finishing 2nd-9th grade. ACA Accredited, CDHS licensed. Discounts, payment plans, scholarships available. campgranitelake.com, 720.249.2997 to schedule on-site tour or slideshow.

Camp McAuliffe. 5/30-6/2 and 6/5-9. Dance, emerging artists, basketball, acting, math, robotics, speed and agility, futsal, etc. Ages 9-14. A.m./p.m. sessions. www.McAuliffe.dpsk12.org. Cost varies; limited financial scholarships. brandi_wright@dpsk12.org to apply.

Camp Timberline. Overnight camps, kids 7-18. Mission to reach/strengthen kids for Christ through sports/mountain adventure. Water sports included, Estes Park area. www.camptimberline.com

City of Aurora Summer Camps. Arts, music, cooking, craft, hobbies, drama, golf, etc. Various Aurora locations. Ages 3-14. Register opens 4/11. Website for descriptions/cost/age. www.auroragov.org/recreation, 303.326.8560

(continued on page 30)

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experience required. www.colorado-schoolofstrings.com, Kelly Benson, 720.420.5000, kelly@coloradoschoolofstrings.com

CorePower Yoga Kids Camp for Ages 5-10. 2 1-week camp sessions kids 5-10. Session 1: 7/10-14; session 2: 7/24-28. Both M-F 1:30-4pm. \$189 if paid on/before 6/30; \$199 after. Yoga basics and breath, movement, concentration, meditation with stories/myths of the practice. CorePower Yoga Stapleton: 7485 E. 29th Pl. 303.377.7444, stapleton@corepoweryoga.com

CorePower Yoga, Strength and Conditioning Camp. 1-week yoga strength/conditioning. 7/17-21 for females 12-16. \$189 paid on/before 6/30; \$199 after. M-F 1:30-4pm. Yoga basics breath, movement, concentration, athletic strength, meditation. Tailored for dancers, athletes and for strength. Application required. Space limited.

CorePower Yoga Stapleton: 7485 E. 29th Pl. 303.377.7444, dakini@corepoweryoga.com

Creative Learning Preschool Summer Camps. Quebec Square, 7505 E. 35th Ave., Ste. 340. Full-day or a.m. camp 3 4-week sessions. Daily: preschool curriculum, gym time, music, crafts, outside play, mealtime, centers. Ages 1-6. 303.377.8855, www.creative-learningdenver.com

Dance Institute Summer Camp. 4601 Quebec St. Affordable dance camps ages 4 and up. Weeklong; divided by age and abilities. Full- and 1/2-day camps available June, July and August. Also: 6-week intensive in ballet, pointe and lyrical. www.DanceInstituteDenver.com

Dardano's Summer Pre-School Gymnastics Adventure Camp. Dardano's School of Gymnastics, 2250 Kearney St. Boys/girls 3-5½. Two 4-week sessions begin 6/5 combine gymnastics with enrichment activities, arts/crafts, games. Weekly themes: Treasure Hunt, Outer Space, Beach Party & On The Go. Mon.-Thurs. 9:30am-12:30pm. Flexible scheduling. Sign up by day/week/full session. 303.355.0080, www.dardanosgym.com

DAVA Summer ART Program-Oasis Studio. Downtown Aurora Visual Arts free drop-in art program for personal expression through the arts. Ages 7-17. Ceramic, pottery, sculpture, drawing, painting, printmaking. Summer: 1:30-4:30pm, M-F. 1410 Florence St. davararts.org

David Ross Piano Studio-Songwriting/Composition Intensive Program. Music technology for those interested in recording, sequencing, looping, etc. One-on-one with songwriter/composer David Ross in Stapleton studio. Specialized/individual attention. Basic knowledge of music or instrument desirable, not necessary. Students entering grades 7-12. Flexible dates/times. pianomanross@yahoo.com, www.denverpianostudio.com

Denver Art Museum Classes & Day Camps. Ages 6-15. Half- and full-day camps. 100 W. 14th Ave. P'kway. 720.913.0130, www.denver-artmuseum.org, familyprograms@denverartmuseum.org

Denver Botanic Gardens' Garden Camps. Ages 6-12. Grow your mind, plant new friend and dig into the Gardens. Weeklong day camps. 1007 York St. 720.865.3580, catalog.botanicgardens.org, registrar@botanicgardens.org

Denver Center Theatre Academy. Learn to act, sing, dance and design sets. Taught by DCPA professional actors/directors. Scholarships available. Denver Center for the Performing Arts. 303.446.4892, academy@dcpa.org, denvercenter.org

Denver Dumb Friends League Camps. Learn safety around animals; work with shelter pets. Experienced staff, guest speakers and critters for week of activities/games/crafts. Various dates, Denver shelter. 303.751.5772, ddf.org/crittercamp

Denver Fencing Center Summer Camps. Beginner to advanced June, July and Aug.; ages 7+. 1930 S. Navajo St. (Ruby Hill Park). 303.922.7288, www.denverfencingcenter.com/camps.html

Denver Film Society Young Filmmakers Workshop. Make movies, collaborate with young filmmakers, work with industry professionals and show your film on big screen. Ages 12-18. New offerings in Acting and Animation. Denver School of the Arts; 7111 Montview Blvd. 8am-2pm. 2-week sessions begin 6/12 and thru 8/5. \$800, scholarships available. 303.595.3456, denverfilm.org

Denver Montclair International School Summer Camps. English and foreign language camp options; no prior language experience necessary. 206 Red Cross Way (Lowry). www.dmischool.com

Denver Museum of Nature & Science. Options from weeklong half-day to weeklong full-day camps. Ages 4-grade 6. Register online or get forms on website to mail in or 303.370.6000. www.dmns.org. 303.370.6455

Denver Parks and Rec Summer Day Camp. Quality licensed child care providers offer comprehensive arts/crafts, active games/sports, aquatics, field trips, special events for ages 5-12. Activities for all abilities. Before/aftercare available. www.denvergov.org

Denver Parks and Rec Summer in the Parks. Ages 7-12, M-F, 10am-3pm. \$450 fee for 8-week program (field trip fees extra). Quality licensed child care providers offer comprehensive arts/crafts, active games/sports, aquatics, field trips, special events. Website for locations and register.

(continued from page 29)

City of Commerce City Parks and Recreation Summer Camps. 6/6-8/4. Full-day camps with swimming, field trips weekly. Astronomy, horseback riding, paddle boarding, urban farming. State-licensed; CCAP-approved. Low child/staff ratios. Register opens 2/22. Ages 6-10 and 11-15. 6060 E. Parkway Dr., Commerce City. 303.289.3659, c3gov.com/camp

Colorado Academy Summer Programs. Variety of camps/programs kids 4 and up. Before-/after-care available. Catalog: www.coloradoacademysummer.org

Colorado Ballet Academy Summer Programs. All ages. Cost varies re weeks of participation. Colorado Ballet Academy, 1075 Santa Fe. 303.339.1623, www.coloradoballet.org

Colorado Rapids Youth Soccer Summer Camps. Ages 5-18, June-Aug. Cost varies per camp. Skills development: beginning fundamentals to elite player evolution. In Stapleton, Lowry or Dick's Sporting Goods Park. www.rapidsyouthsoccer.org, 303.399.5858

Colorado School of Strings Camps. Rockin' Strings 6/12-16, ages 7+, 12-3pm, \$200. Learn about strings in rock music, electric instruments, looping, chords, song writing. Previous experience required. Disney Music: 7/10-14, ages 5-8, 9:30-11:30am, \$150. Learn Disney music. Youth Orchestra Camp-Movie Music: 7/31-8/4, ages 6+, 9-11am, \$150. Learn ensemble playing, follow conductor. Open to violin, viola, cello and bass students. Introduction to Strings Camp: 8/14-18, ages 4-8, 10am-12pm, \$150. For new or young player. All instruments, learn basic note reading and rhythm. No previous



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First-come basis till filled. 720.865.0840, www.denvergov.org website, community.rec@denvergov.org.

Denver Parks and Rec Teen Adventures. Wide range of adventure-based activities, opportunity to develop lifelong social skills/experiences. Register online or in-person at Community Recreation, 1849 Emerson St. First-come, first-served basis till activity at capacity or thru Fri., 6/17. Limited to 40 teens. Ages 13-16. \$82. community.rec@denvergov.org, www.denvergov.org

Denver School of the Arts. Various programs/camps for grades 3-12. 6/5-7/21. DSA campus Montview and Quebec. Affordable/flexible programs in theatre, vocal music, musical theatre, sewing/costume construction, dance, visual arts, percussion, jazz, creative writing. \$70-\$250 depending on program. dsa.dpsk12.org, Tracy Holt: tracy_holt@dpsk12.org or Jaymie Montoya: dsasummercamps@gmail.com.

Denver Zoo Camp Summer Safari 2017. Weeklong day camps for pre-K-8th grade. Animal lovers enjoy hands-on activities, zoo exploration, animal encounters/observations, crafts, games, stories, projects, etc. www.denverzoo.org

Digistars Make-a-Movie Workshop. Weeklong full-day camps June-Aug., grades 1-8. Claymation and live action moviemaking using green screen technology. Hands-on, kid-driven, and collaborative. Instructors are professional filmmakers or film students. Class size limited. Register early for best rates at DigistarsWorkshop.com.hgg

Dream BIG Day Camp. 1-3-6-9 weeks of team/individual sports, performing arts and arts/crafts. 6:1 ratios. Carnival, Western, Space, World Cup Soccer Days, rocketry, rock climbing, yoga and waterslides, etc. Mary Stein: 303.377.1805, www.dreambigdaycamp.com

DU P.A.S.S. Camp. 1-week summer camps: soccer, rock climbing, swimming, gymnastics, dance, flag football, etc. Univ. of Denver. 303.871.3908, recreation@du.edu, www.du.edu/ritchiecenter/youthprograms/passcamp

DU Sports Camps. Univ. of Denver sports camps for boys/girls, variety of ages. Basketball, soccer, gymnastics, hockey, tennis, volleyball, lacrosse. Overnight and day camp options. Cost varies, multiple dates. www.denverpioneers.com/camps

First Tee of Denver Summer Junior Golf Programs. Instruction for kids all ability levels ages 4 and up. www.thefirstteeofdenver.com

Four Mile Camp on Cherry Creek. Weeklong day camp combines history-centered activities, like wood-stove cooking and quilt-making, with outdoor exploration of Cherry Creek ecosystems and wildlife. Sessions: 6/19-23 and 7/17-21. 9am-3pm. \$270/camper; optional before/after care and half-day sessions available; FMHP members discount. Four Mile Historic Park, 715 S. Forest St. Contact education@fourmilepark.org or 720.865.0814.

Friends of Horses Day Camp. Weekly camps kids ages 7-13. Learn to work/care for horses including riding. Camps weekly 6/6 to 8/4, 9am-4pm. \$425/week. 303.649.1155 or www.fohrescue.com. 6351 S. Peoria St., Centennial, Colo.

Grand Slam Tennis Camps. Ages 7-13. Run by former Wimbledon singles semi-finalist and doubles finalist. Focus on proper stroke production and swing technique through drill work/game play. 6/5-9, 7/24-28, 7/31-8/4. 9:30am-12:30pm. \$225/week. Location: TBD; courts at Stapleton-area school. Sign up: meredithjmcgrath@yahoo.com

Heritage Camps for Adoptive Families. Ages 3-18 and parents. Various dates/Colo. locations thru summer. heritagecamps.org

History Colorado Junior Museum Camp. 6/19-23, 9am-4pm. \$250-\$280/week. www.historycolorado-center.org



Avid 4 Adventure

i9 Sports. Soccer, basketball, t-ball, flag football. i9sports.com

International School of Denver. Weekly language and sports camps 8:30am-3:30pm. \$300/wk. Extended care 3:30-5:30pm for additional fee. 206 Red Cross Way in Lowry. summercamps@isdenver.org, 303.340.3647, www.isdenver.org

Jewish Community Center. Day camps, sleep-away camps, sports camps and weeklong themed camps. Before/after care for extra fee. www.jccdenver.org, 303.316.6307

Johnson & Wales University Camps. All classes at Johnson and Wales Campus, 7150 Montview Blvd. Cooking classes in professional state-of-art kitchens with experienced chef instructors. 303.256.9462, 303.256.9569, denvercamps@jwu.edu, <http://bit.ly/jwucamps>

- Kitchen Basics Boot Camp.** 6/5-9, 9am-12pm., ages 8-12; and 6/5-9, 1-4pm, ages 13-17. Basic culinary skills, general kitchen terminology and knife skills. \$350.
- Beyond the Kitchen–Food Explorers.** 6/5–9, 1-4pm. Ages 8-12. Explore seed varieties, plant them, learn how our bodies use food to live, and kid-friendly challenges to reduce food waste. Active games; experience college campus while learning about food chain. \$300.
- Culinary Explorations–European Cuisine.** 6/12-16, 9am-4pm. Ages 13-17. Finer elements of classic/contemporary European cuisine and plate presentation. \$600.
- Culinary Explorations–Asian Cuisine.** 6/19-23, 9am-4pm. Ages 13-17. Learn flavors/styles of traditional and contemporary Asian cuisine. \$600
- Culinary Explorations–Baking & Pastry.** 6/12-16, ages 8-12, 9am-4pm. and 6/19-23, ages 12-17. Full-day camp for kids interested in expanding culinary horizons. Sweet and savory baked goods; cookie classics to contemporary bakery fare. \$600.
- Eco Discovery Camp.** 7/10-14, 9am-4pm. Ages 8-12. Campers perform/design experiments in real laboratory setting, receive hands-on experience outdoors investigating water quality, soil composition, biodiversity, global climate change, energy resources, energy consumption and pollution. \$350.
- Camp Catwalk–Fashion Fun.** 6/5-9, 9am-4pm. Fashionistas ages 13-17. Learn from industry professionals fashion illustration, sewing skills, fashion design, styling and design; sew and decorate a garment. \$350.
- Make Your College Essay Count.** 7/24–28, 9am-12pm. Ages 14-18. Designed for teens in process of completing college applications re “Who am I?” Examine facets of identity through interactive activities, group exercises with option to create personal statement for college admissions or 2-to-4-minute digital story.

Taught by DPS educators from high-performing high school with track record of helping students get into top colleges. \$250

- JWU Young Entrepreneurs Boot Camp.** 7/24-28, 1-4pm. Ages 13-17. Under guidance of JWU professors who consult for Small Business Development Center, campers explore creative entrepreneurial spirit, brainstorm business ideas, build business model and action plan to start a business. At end present business concept to panel of business experts for real-world feedback. \$350.
- Girls Only! Coding Camp.** 7/10-21, 9am-12pm. Ages 8-12. 2-week camp for girls interested in high-tech coding world and build own websites. \$475.
- Everyone Can Code! Camp.** 7/10-21, 1-4pm. Ages 8-12. 2-week camp for boys/girls ages

8-12 interested in high-tech coding world, build own websites. \$475.

- JWU Girls’ Basketball Camp.** 6/5-9, 8:30am-12pm. Girls 4th-8th grade. Work with college coaches/student-athletes on individual skills, develop teamwork. Coach Bob Kintzel: 303.256.9511 or register: <http://bit.ly/jwu-camps>. \$250.
- JWU Youth Lacrosse.** 6/12-15, 8:30am-12pm. Boys/girls ages 5-12. Fun games build upon technical skills. Coach Cristina Johnson: 303.256.9327 or register: <http://bit.ly/jwu-camps>. \$250.
- JWU Boys’ Basketball Camp.** 6/19-23, 9am-4pm, boys ages 5-12; 7/10-14, 9am-4pm boys ages 5-12. Campers learn/improve skills with college coaches/student athletes. Coach Quintin Grogan: 303.256.9319; register: <http://bit.ly/jwucamps>. Half day available: \$250; Full day: \$350.
- JWU Girls’ Basketball Camp.** 7/17-21, 8:30am-12pm. Girls: 4th-8th grade. Work with college coaches/student-athletes on individual skills, teamwork. Coach Bob Kintzel: 303.256.9511; register: <http://bit.ly/jwucamps>. \$250.
- JWU Youth Soccer.** 7/24-28, 8:30am-12pm. Boys/girls ages 5-12. Build upon technical skills. Coach Jennifer Colley: 303.256.9511; register: <http://bit.ly/jwucamps>. \$250.
- JWU Youth Basketball Camp.** 7/31-8/4, 9am-4pm. Boys/girls ages 5-12. Work with college coaches/student-athletes on individual skills and teamwork. Coach Quintin Grogan: 303.256.9319; register: <http://bit.ly/jwucamps>.
(continued on page 32)

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When: 5 two-week sessions
starting June 5th

Discover Denver on Two Wheels with Bike Camp



Lynx Arts Camp at CU Denver

(continued from page 31)

Half day available \$250; Full day \$350

Kathy's Kamp Summer Enrichment Camp. 6/5-7/28 except 7/3-7/4. Affordable childcare option. Sports, outdoor activities, cooking classes, reading education, arts/crafts, swimming. Run by Families Forward Resource Center, Z-Place, Evie Dennis Campus, 4800 Telluride St. \$83/week. 9am-3:30pm, (extra \$5/day start 7am and extra \$5/day stay to 6pm). CCAP accepted; fundraisers available to help parents raise money for camp fees. familiesforwardrc.org, 303.307.0718

Kent Denver Summer Session. Camps/classes in academics, athletics, technology and arts for pre-K-12th grade on Kent Denver campus. Bro-

chure: www.kentdenver.org

LYNX National Arts and Media Camps. 1 and 2-week options at CU Denver for high school students with hands-on programs taught by faculty/professional guest artists. Session 1 (6/18-30) Music Industry Program. Session 2 (7/9-21) features Filmmaking and Digital Animation/Motion Graphics. Session 3 (7/31-8/4) features Photography, Sculpture, Advance Singer/Songwriter and College of Arts & Media Preview Week. Camps \$600-\$2,100. Scholarships available. cam.ucdenver.edu/summercamps.

Metro State Roadrunners Soccer Camps. Boys/girls ages 6-14. www.MetroStateSoccerCamps.com.

Minds On, Hands On Summer Camp. 6550 E. 21st Ave. Incoming K-incoming 7th grade. Enrichment camp supports, brings to grade level readers, writers, mathematicians. Morning: academics, blocks of reading, math, language. Afternoon: cooking, arts/crafts, sewing, outdoor activities, constructive play. 6/6-7/22 except 7/3-7/4. 9am-4pm; early drop-off starts 8am; late pickup ends 5pm. \$150/week, plus \$5 early drop-off and \$5 late pickup weekly. Tammy Wiley: 720.404.2643, tammyyammytyme@yahoo.com

Montessori Children's House of Denver Summer Camp. 12 months-6th grade. Sessions in art, music, adventure, nature, foreign language, etc. 4 Denver campuses. 303.322.8324, mchdenver.org

Neighborhood Music Stapleton Summer Camps. Payment plans available. Theatre camps end with final performance, costumed on professional stage following camp dates.

- **Disney's Little Mermaid Jr. Musical Theater Summer Camp.** M-F. 9am-3pm. 6/5-6/23. \$850. Ages 7-16. Limit: 25 students.
- **Little Shop of Horrors Musical Theater Summer Camp.** M-F. 9am-3pm. 7/10-7/28. \$850. Ages 7-16. Limit 25 students.
- **Disney's Aristocats Kids Musical Theater Summer Camp.** M-F. 9am-12pm. 6/12-6/23. Cost: \$325. Ages 5-7. Limit 25 students.
- **Music & Hogwarts and Movies & Hogwarts.** Owl-post delivery nightly. Learn songs from John Williams score, join Frog Choir, practice spells/charms, take potions class and play Hogwarts' popular sport. Half- and full-day camp option, \$185-\$345.

Paddington Station Preschool Summer Camps. Session 1: 6/5-6/30; Session 2: 7/10-8/4. www.paddingtonstation.org/discover/summer/

Primrose Summer Adventure Club. In Stapleton for ages 5-12. Theme weeks: movie making, robotics, science of cooking. www.primrosestapleton.com

Rocky Mountain Theater for Kids. Ages 8-17, 1-, 2-, 3- and 4-week sessions. M-F, 9am-4pm, Yale and Evans. Extended care available. Productions include The Lion King, Madagascar, Aladdin, etc. www.theaterforkids.net

School of the Poetic City Summer Camps. Animation Lab 6/19-23. Master Animation Class (advanced) 6/26-30. Urban Art Camp (visit museums, make art) 6/12-16 and 7/17-21. Puppet Workshop.

7/10-14. All camps ages 5-15, \$400 per 5-day session, 9am-4pm. www.schoolofthepoeticcity.com.

Silicon STEM Academy Tech Camps. STEM-specific hands-on camps include computer programming/coding, engineering/basic/advanced robotics, digital media/photography, video editing and SAT prep/college planning. Siliconstemacademy.com. 4201 E. Yale Ave., 303.800.0011

S.M.A.R.T. Camps. Teacher-designed fast-paced learning style to set goals, work hard and have fun. Sports and fitness, math and coding, art, technology, team building, goal setting and inspirational stories. Grades K-6. Stapleton area. Session 1: 6/5-9; Session 2: 8/7-11. 9am-2pm. \$250/session. Tracy Schoneman: tracy_80206@yahoo.com

Snow Mountain Ranch Summer Day Camp. Ages 5-13. M-F, 8:30am-4:30pm. Daily registration \$35/child/day (\$5/child discount for members/lodging guests). Lunch for purchase. Register: http://snowmountainranch.org/summer-day-camp_open_in_March. Archery, climbing wall, arts/crafts, tie dye, mad science, zip line (grades 4+), tubing hill (grades 4+), horseback riding (additional cost), swimming,

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Stapleton All Sports. Weekly sports camps in Stapleton, includes tennis camps (6/12-6/23) and multi-sport camps (7/10-8/4). www.stapletonallsports.com.

Stapleton Fellowship Church Summer Camps. Creative Arts Camp: 6/27, 28, 29. 9-11:45am. \$35/child. Preschool Camp Session 1: 7/10-14. 8:30-11:30am. \$100/child. Preschool Camp Session 2: 7/17-21. 8:30-11:30am. \$110/child. www.stapletonchurch.com. amyers@stapletonchurch.com

Steve & Kate's Camp. Ages: Pre-K thru 7th-graders. Designed to put kids in charge of own learning experience so can try, fail and learn on own. 6/12-8/11, M-F, 7:30am-6pm. The Logan School for Creative Learning, 1005 Yosemite St. Director Chas Fricke. 720.439.7785, denver@steveandkate.com, www.steveandkate.com/denver

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Avid 4 Adventure

A hiker with a large green backpack stands on a dirt path next to a small stream. The hiker is wearing a white hat, a red shirt, and colorful shorts. The background shows a lush green valley with a river and distant mountains under a cloudy sky.

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Young Americans Center for Financial Education Day Camps. Weeklong camps include Young AmeriTowne, Girls Can, International Towne, Running Your Own Biz, Jr. \$ense and Be Your Own Boss. 303.321.2265, www.yacenter.org/SummerCamps

A young child with brown hair, wearing a light brown jacket, stands in a green field under a clear blue sky. The child is holding a large bunch of colorful balloons (red, yellow, green, blue, purple) with both hands, looking up at them with a smile. The balloons are tied together and float above the child's head.

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Feds Sign Off on Central I-70

The I-70 expansion project, from I-25 to Tower Road, received a major boost Jan. 19 when the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) announced its “record of decision” (ROD) ending the federal review process of the highway project and its environmental impacts. CDOT anticipates selecting a partner contractor this summer, followed by a four–five-year construction phase.

Project opponents would prefer that I-70 in this area be converted to a grade-level boulevard and that I-270 be expanded to carry the I-70 through traffic. They have filed a lawsuit against the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) over a change to how it measures air quality, making it easier for the project to comply with clean air standards. A separate lawsuit challenges the city of Denver’s proposal to convert part of the City Park Golf Course into a storm detention area, part of a larger “Platte to Park Hill” storm drainage project that will benefit CDOT’s Central 70 highway reconstruction. In November, the lawsuit survived a Denver motion to dismiss. And local neighborhood groups and the Colorado Latino Forum have lodged a federal civil rights complaint alleging severe environmental and economic impacts on the predominantly Latino communities of Globeville, Elyria and Swansea. The federal Department of Justice is investigating that complaint.

Rebecca White, CDOT public affairs director for the project, notes that none of the lawsuits thus far directly targets the roadway expansion project itself. “For a big project like this, we wouldn’t be surprised if there were additional (legal) challenges,” White said. She said she expects the civil rights investigation “to get resolved very soon and we plan to keep moving forward with the project.”

White said, “During the study process, CDOT looked at the reroute concept and found that considerable traffic currently using I-70 would divert to the local street network. For example, would a Stapleton resident headed downtown follow I-270 north, traveling miles out of direction or would they take MLK or Montview or Colfax? This is on top of the hundreds of freight-dependent businesses currently on I-70 that would be left with a city boulevard to navigate. This idea simply doesn’t make sense.”

Victory Crossing Victory

At the end of December, President Obama signed the Defense Authorization Act that includes a provision allowing Commerce City to “test out of” a land use restriction prohibiting residential uses in its Victory Crossing project. The test amounts to an environmental risk assessment to determine whether the site is safe for human habitation. Commerce City spokesperson Julia Emko said the developer, Kroenke Sports Enterprises, will be responsible for undertaking the risk assessment. She said no timeline has been established for that study.

Victory Crossing is a 917-acre parcel transferred to Commerce City from the federal government in the early 1990s. It was formerly part of the Rocky Mountain Arsenal, a chemical weapons manufacturing site. Most of the site has become the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge. Existing development in Victory Crossing includes municipal facilities as well as the Dick’s Sporting Goods athletic complex. Commerce City believes the success of the Victory Crossing development “could be strengthened with multifamily housing (owner occupied and rental) and ground floor retail, particularly along the site’s Central Park Blvd. and 56th Ave. frontages,” just west of the Beeler Park neighborhood in Stapleton.

The arsenal became a Superfund site in the 1980’s, with the Victory Crossing parcel made subject to the restrictive covenant before any detailed assessment of environmental hazards. Prior environmental studies did not contemplate unrestricted uses, hence the need to complete the risk assessment.

The legislation was proposed by Colorado Sens. Michael Bennet and Cory Gardner and Rep. Ed Perlmutter.

If the land use restriction is lifted, the site would need to be zoned for residential uses. Emko said the rezoning, plan amendment and re-platting to allow residential uses will require approximately 12 months.

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While Lawsuits Continue

The \$1.2 billion project would reconstruct 10 miles of the 53-year-old highway, adding one new tolled express lane in each direction and sinking a portion of the highway, between Brighton and Colorado boulevards, up to 40 feet below ground level. CDOT would build a four-acre park over the lowered interstate as it runs past Swansea Elementary School to mitigate project impacts and rejoin neighborhoods sundered by the highway via-duct when it opened in 1964.

Impacts in the Stapleton area will be focused on re-construction of the Quebec interchange that will include new pedestrian sidewalks. Until a contractor is selected, the timing of that interchange reconstruction won't be known.

CDOT refers to the selected contractor as the project "developer" in recognition of the larger role played by the selected team in designing, building and maintaining this stretch of highway. The selected developer will be expected to assist with project financing because not all of the state's \$1 billion contribution will be available during the construction phase.

White said two community meetings have been sched-uled for February in keeping with the additional "trans-parency" required for a P3 (public-private partnership) project. A virtual town hall will be held Feb. 15 from 7 to 8 pm. Participants can call in by using this phone num-ber: 1-877-229-8493, Pin 112034. An in-person town hall will take place the following day (Thursday, February 16) from 5 to 7:30 pm at Swansea Recreation Center, 2650 E. 49th Avenue.

Pedestrian Signs to Come at CPB/I-70 Interchange

A dvocacy by Northeast Transportation Con-nections (NETC) has resulted in a city of Denver decision to install pedestrian and bicycle yield signs at the I-70 off-ramps' intersection with Central Park Blvd. The signs will read "Right Turning Vehicles Yield to Peds & Bikes" and are intended to raise driver awareness of those walking and riding north and south-bound across the CPB bridge over I-70.

Lacey Champion, NETC program assistant, said, "We heard many people saying that drivers coming off of I-70 would not be looking when they turned right on red, causing many people to feel unsafe and some to almost get hit." NETC reached out to Denver Public Works and early last month received word that the work order is being finalized and that the installa-tion should be complete within a few weeks, weather permitting.

NETC is the transportation management association for northeast Denver including Stapleton.

New RTD Route 62: CPB Station to 56th and Beyond

R TD began a new bus route January 15 that is notable for providing the first bus service to Northfield High School. Route 62 is L-shaped, with a north leg running from Central Park station north on Central Park Boulevard, and a west leg extending to Vasquez Blvd. in the Prairie Parkway/60th Avenue corridors. On weekdays, the bus service runs every 30 minutes between 6 am and 6 pm, and on Saturdays hourly between 7 am and 6 pm. RTD will also add service on certain dates to coincide with events at Dick's Sporting Goods Park.

The route will be using a detour on 56th Avenue until Central Park Boulevard north of 56th opens in late February or March.

Route 62 is one of 11 RTD bus routes flowing through the Central Park station. Routes 65, 73 and 89 provide regular ser-

vice to the south along Monaco Parkway and Quebec Street and to the Anschutz Fitzsimons campus. Other routes are noted on the map.

The new route is being funded by a \$1.35 million federal transportation grant awarded to Commerce City, augmented by a 20% local match. It will operate as a "trial service" for three years after which it will have to meet RTD metrics for usage in order to continue. The one-way cash fare is \$2.60 (\$1.30 for eligible students/seniors/riders with disabilities). Full details can be found on the Route #62 timetable at www.rtd-denver.com

A map of the route is posted with this article at FrontPorchStapleton.com.

Pedestrian Bridge in Prairie Meadows Lifted into Place



Photo courtesy of Tammi Bachli, Mortenson

Forest City's construction manager, Mortenson, recently placed this pedestrian bridge at the Prairie Meadows Park located west of Central Park Blvd. between Prairie Meadow Dr. and 51st Ave. Forest City says the park is planned to open with limited access by the end of the year. Forest City Senior Vice President Charlie Nicola cautions people to stay out of these park areas that are construction zones.

WCMD Request to PCMD: Pay Our Attorney

Editors Note: This is an update to the January Front Porch ar-ticle "Special District Dispute Nearly Derails Stapleton Bond Issue" (posted at FrontPorchStapleton.com).

On Jan. 26, members of the Westerly Creek Metro District (WCMD) requested that Park Creek Metro District authorize payment to their newly-engaged attorney. Park Creek took no action but requested a copy of the engagement letter with attorney Jennifer Tanaka. Park Creek Board Chair King Harris appointed board member John Moyer to evaluate the letter. No timeline was established for making a decision about the request.

The two districts were created in 2000 to fund and construct infrastructure for the redevelopment of the abandoned Staple-ton Airport. Westerly Creek is a resident-dominated board that imposes property taxes to generate revenue to pay for the infra-structure. Park Creek is solely responsible for the financing and construction of the infrastructure. Of its five board members, two are selected by the developer (Forest City) and three by the

Stapleton Development Corporation (SDC), an arm of the city of Denver.

Westerly Creek asserts that being forced by Park Creek to hire Park Creek's attorney (Paul Cockrel) is an inherent conflict of interest. Park Creek has maintained that Wester-ly Creek cannot hire its own attorney. Tanaka says a recent district court decision makes clear that prohibiting a board such as Westerly Creek from hiring independent counsel is against public policy. She says that principle applies regard-less of the existing intergovernmental agreement that states WCMD will engage the same attorney who represents Park Creek.

The Westerly Creek budget contains \$15,000 for legal services but Park Creek controls the expenditures out of the Westerly Creek budget. Westerly Creek has also put Park Creek on notice that it wants to revisit the IGA between the two districts to clarify its prerogatives.



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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

Updates from the Jan. 2017 Stapleton United Neighbors (SUN) Meeting

Stapleton TOD at Central Park Station

Speaking about Transit Oriented Development (TOD) near the Central Park Station, Jim Chrisman from Forest City said the visioning for these 35 developable acres on five city blocks began just over a year ago. Build-out is planned to include 1–1.5 million square feet of office space, some ground floor retail centered on Uinta, and some residential units within five seven–eight-story mixed-use buildings. The TOD project will have around 80 units per acre versus traditional walk-up products like Botanica with 30–35 units per acre. Examples of building designs that allow for higher density are: a wrap, like The Mint at 29th Ave. Town Center where structures are built around a parking garage; and a podium building where parking is below ground with units on top. The TOD could possibly include a hotel. This region will be the highest density in Stapleton, but the buildings will have fewer stories than is allowed by zoning.

Forest City is one to two months from having renderings available. The first phase is expected to break ground in about a year, including: a seven-story, 175,000-square-foot office building on the northeast parcel; and on the south side of that same block a podium rental product with six stories including ground floor retail. The first phase will

also include place-making elements lined with retail at 37th Place and Uinta. The southern block on the southeast corner of Uinta and 36th is under contract with a local developer, David Freedman Properties, for a six-story condominium project at the \$250,000–\$400,000 price point (in design review 1/18/2017). Freestanding retail services will be included as part of the project. If the first phase is successful, Freedman would then develop a second phase on the same block. Several phases of the TOD are expected to be under construction within a year. (A preliminary rendering and map showing development of the TOD is posted at <https://frontporchstapleton.com/article/line-train-stimulates-central-park-tod/>.)

Punch Bowl Social

For Punch Bowl Social, team members announced an updated tentative grand opening date of June 24, 2017. Current development milestones include completion of foundation for expansion and demolition is nearly complete. The next phase will include steel construction to support expansion. To prevent further instances of theft and graffiti, Punchbowl has plans to install security cameras. There is no timeline for developing the office space above punchbowl, and no plans to develop the tower. The tower will be preserved as-is with no plans for signage on the tower.

Rezoning Proposal for North of 56th Ave.

Rezoning has been proposed for the eastern region of Section 10, the last square mile of Stapleton's development north of 56th Ave., adjoining Dick's Sporting Goods Park on the west and the Rocky Mountain Arsenal on the north. The proposed zoning would bring the remaining developable land in Section 10 current with all other zoning in the area (M-RX-5). Residents present at the meeting confirmed the planned location for Inspire Elementary on 56th Ave., a large swimming pool in the land proposed for rezoning, and that Forest City still plans to have 10 percent of homes available as income-qualified. Denver Public Schools plans to have one more school north of 56th Ave., however, it is currently unknown whether it will be K-5 or K-8, and where it will be located.

Rezoning Proposal for SE Corner of CPB and MLK

Rezoning has also been proposed for the three-acre vacant parcel on the southeastern corner of Central Park Blvd. and Martin Luther King Blvd. (Filing 51) from C-MU-20 to M-RX-5a. While no specific plans were revealed, structure

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Co-founder of Gainfully Employed Mothers (GEM), a Stapleton networking group
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NE Denver Sends Five New Legislators to the Capitol

(continued from page 1) locally to grapple with the reality of budget limits and major policy shifts. For legislative veterans like Sen. Angela Williams, the focus is on what the General Assembly can do to craft “common sense solutions we face in this state because we just don’t know what is going to occur in Washington.”

In Colorado, some measure of the newfound optimism can be attributed to the refresh caused by turnover. In the 100-seat General Assembly, a total of 8 senators and 17 representatives are new—one-quarter of the total.

All five state legislators in the Front Porch distribution area are new to their seats. Former state representatives Lois Court and Angela Williams have moved over to the Senate in districts 31 and 33, respectively. All three area representatives are new to the legislature: James Coleman in District 7, Leslie Herod in District 8 and Chris Hansen in District 6. The representatives are also distinguished by their youth at an average age of 34. Coleman, at 29, is the youngest state legislator while Herod, 33, is the first “African-American, female LGBT person to take an elected seat in Colorado.”

Coleman and Herod are especially proud to be part of the largest-ever class of African-American state legislators: eight total including Rhonda Fields (Senate District 29), and state representatives Thomas “Tony” Exum Sr. (District 17), Janet Buckner (District 40), Jovan Melton (District 41) and Dominique Jackson (District 42).

Despite all these changes, the partisan makeup of the state legislature is little changed from last year. Control of state government remains split with the Republicans maintaining a one-vote Senate majority (18-17) and the Democrats increasing their House majority by three seats (37-28).

Democrat John Hickenlooper remains governor but with this being his penultimate year in that office, he seems to have drawn a firmer line with the Republicans. In his Jan. 12 state of the state address, he challenged the Republicans to specify the cuts they would make in existing programs if they joined in his commitment to increase spending for infrastructure, especially for transportation. Hickenlooper’s budget includes \$500 million in cuts to ensure that the state remains within the budgetary caps imposed by the 1992 Taxpayer Bill of Rights (TABOR) amendment to the state constitution. The governor requested for the third session in a row that legislators free up some funding for transportation by classifying the state-imposed hospital provider fee as an enterprise fund (sometimes referred to as the HPF conversion). That would create some \$700 million of spending capacity under the state’s revenue cap before it is required to give tax refunds.

“We’ve had this debate for too long. If talk could fill potholes, we’d have the best roads in the country,” Hicken-

looper said. “But the general fund cannot adequately support the demands of core government services *and* capacity improvements in transportation.”

The partisan divide was most clearly reflected when Hickenlooper said he would fight for a replacement plan to the Affordable Care Act. While Democrats stood and applauded his defense of the ACA, Republican legislators sat quietly, many with folded arms and stern expressions.

NE Legislators in Consensus on These Issues

For its part, the legislative delegation for Northeast Denver stands united in its support of the governor’s stance on health care. Interviews with the legislators in the first week of the new session revealed a consensus on other issues as well:

Construction Defects.

After years of wrangling and state inaction, there appears to be bipartisan support for legislation that would increase the supply of condominiums.

Transportation Funding. The consensus pertains to perceived need—that increased funding through a statewide bond issue is needed to address

existing maintenance and capital construction needs and to accommodate Colorado’s continued population growth. Democrats point to the hospital provider fee as one way to free up more funding. Republicans want to squeeze dollars for highways out of existing revenue sources.

Education Funding.

The terms of this debate are similar to those addressing transportation with Democrats supporting the HPF conversion as one way to generate more funds for schools.

Priorities for individual Legislators

Rep. Coleman. He says he will introduce a bill to provide additional resources for the law enforcement community including mental health support through embedding co-responders during interactions between law enforcement and community. A separate bill would provide teachers with “cultural development training to address the preschool through 3rd grade suspension epidemic.” He will also be developing a proposal supporting “worker cooperatives” in which employees as a group could purchase a business from a willing employer to save jobs and sustain small businesses. The bill will include financial incentives to promote such business ownership models.

Rep. Hansen. Befitting his background in energy economics, the first three bills Hansen plans to introduce would accelerate integration of renewables in the grid, pro-



Rep James Coleman, House District 7



Rep. Chris Hansen, House District 6



Speaker of the House Crisanta Duran (D) and Senate President Kevin Grantham (R) applaud after the governor’s speech.

mote electrical grid transmission line interconnection, and address the impacts of plant closures on the host community. Despite that personal focus, Hansen says education financing will be the hot topic in the current session. Regarding TABOR, he is encouraged that a pair of Republicans has indicated openness to addressing

that amendment’s formula for tying state budget growth to the consumer price index of inflation. He is wary of linking the formula to growth in personal income, as two Republican legislators have suggested, since inflation factors for the state, such as labor and asphalt, track more closely with state expenditures than personal income. Hansen notes that he, along with Rep. Herod, have become plaintiffs in a long-running suit to declare TABOR unconstitutional.

Rep. Herod. On her campaign website, Herod organizes the issues she cares about on the theme of “community” (safe, shared, engaged, etc.). In that vein, she says she is excited to offer as her first bill a “checkoff for homeless youth-serving agencies.” This would be a checkoff box on state income tax forms allowing voluntary contributions to selected charities. She hopes it raises several hundred thousand dollars, resulting in shelters and “wrap-around” services for homeless youth. She joins in the Democrats’ support of the HPF conversion. Much of her agenda is, she acknowledges, defensive in the face of a new administration that she fears might weaken protections for certain classes of people such as immigrants, people of color and from the LGBT community.

Sen. Court. Hansen’s House District 6 predecessor moves to

Rocky Mountain Arsenal Five-Year Review Report Final and Available to Public

The U.S. Army recently completed its latest Five-Year Review (FYR) report, which covers the period of 2011-2015, for the Rocky Mountain Arsenal (RMA). The FYR process includes a statutory and policy review of the RMA’s 1995 and 1996 On-Post and Off-Post Records of Decision (RODs). The RODs provide detailed descriptions of the environmental cleanup approach selected for the site.

The U.S. Army established the RMA in 1942 to produce chemical weapons as a deterrent in World War II. Shell Oil Co. later leased some of those facilities to manufacture agricultural products. Common disposal practices of the time resulted in contamination of the site’s soils, structures and groundwater. Contaminants included pesticides, solvents, metals and miscellaneous industrial chemicals.

The purpose of the FYR is to determine whether the RMA’s cleanup remedy remains protective of human health and the environment. A critical part of the FYR is to update any changes to environmental standards and to determine if the remedy outlined in the RODs and subsequent Decision Documents remains protective in light of those new standards.

Based on a review of documentation, site inspections and interviews for this FYR cycle, the U.S. Army has determined that the remedy remains protective of human health and the environment. The EPA concurs with the U.S. Army’s findings for the off-post remedy and agrees that the on-post remedy is currently protective of human health. The EPA has issued a deferred protectiveness determination for the on-post remedy pending completion of the RMA biomonitoring program.

FYRs at the RMA will be required for the foreseeable future, since the cleanup approach included landfills and consolidation areas to hold contaminated waste from the RMA’s cleanup. The next FYR is scheduled to begin in 2020 and be finalized in 2021.

The 2015 FYR final report, along with the protectiveness determinations of the U.S. Army and EPA, is now posted on the RMA’s website at www.rma.army.mil. The document is also available for public review at: RMA Joint Administrative Records and Document Facility, Rocky Mountain Arsenal, 6550 Gateway Road, Commerce City, CO 80022.

For more information, please contact Ms. Patty Lee, Rocky Mountain Arsenal,
at 303.289.0300, or Patty.Lee6.civ@mail.mil.

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Governor John Hickenlooper leaves the podium after making his State of the State address to the combined house and senate in the house chamber.

the Senate District 31 formerly held by Pat Steadman who was term-limited. She acknowledges the challenge of working in a chamber controlled by the other party but asserts it's not a big change "because 85 percent of what we do is bipartisan." She wants to push a bill increasing fines for texting while driving. She also wants to explore ways to protect citizen-initiated statutes approved through voter petitions on the ballot. She is considering creating a time-out period or



Rep. Leslie Herod, House District 8

a super-majority vote requirement before the General Assembly can alter the citizen-approved statutory legislation. Two other factors appear to be limiting the range of legislation she will be proposing: first, she would prefer not to "tweak" TABOR but instead seek something longer-lasting such as a 10-year timeout if not permanent relief from the requirement to give back funds exceeding the artificial limit that

TABOR creates; second, voter approval of cherished measures such as the medical-aid-in-dying legislation (Proposition 106) means some of her attention will focus on ensuring that administrative regulations carry out the intent of the proposition. She will provide similar oversight to implementation legislation related to last fall's Amendment 71 that "raised the bar" on efforts to amend the constitution so the Secretary of State will have the statutory authority to review signatures gathered in the way the constitution now requires.

Sen. Williams. She has co-sponsored Senate Bill 45, legislation she hopes will help insurance companies accurately underwrite policies for multifamily condominium projects by allocating among subcontractors and the general contractor the cost of defending a construction defects claim. The goal is to lower insurance costs and bring down the cost of condominiums to provide would-be homeowners another option for entering the housing market. A second high-priority bill would require that women be given a breast tissue density notification in conjunction with mammography results. Dense



Sen. Lois Court, Senate District 31

breast tissue can mask the presence of cancer. This bill could help a doctor and patient make more informed decisions about the necessity of additional screenings. As with Sen. Court, Williams will introduce a bill to help implement prior legislation, last year's SB-197 that changed the system for regulating the retail sales of alcoholic beverages. She also plans on submitting a bill to "re-build trust between community and police version 3.0."

Williams supports the replacement of the I-70 viaduct in the Elyria-Swansea neighborhood but is "very concerned that community voices are not being heard." She said the Central 70 project will "disrupt the community, impacting low-income people of color." Finally, to improve communication between her office and the larger senatorial district she now represents, Williams is forming a community advisory cabinet—interested residents of her district should contact her at Sen.Williams.SD33@gmail.com, or 303-866-4864. A map of the three house and two senate districts within the *Front Porch* distribution area is posted with this article at FrontPorchStapleton.com



Sen. Angela Williams, Senate District 33



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