

Front Porch

COLORADO

Stapleton, Park Hill, Lowry, Montclair, Mayfair, East Colfax

NORTHEAST DENVER

MAY 2017



History Colorado *What's Old Is New Again*

History Colorado Executive Director Steve Turner, next to Alexander Phimister Proctor's 1914 statue, *Buckaroo*, took the reins of the History Colorado Center last year and is bringing back a focus on Colorado history.

By Melinda Pearson

The March opening of *Backstory: Western American Art in Context* at History Colorado Center stamps the imprimatur of a new era on the institution, but one that returns the museum to its heri-

tage, rooted in local and material culture.

Backstory pairs artifacts from the History Colorado Center's considerable archives with Western Art from the Denver Art Museum's collection to tell the story of how the West evolved from its ancient roots to modern

times. In a testament to the collaborative attitude of the city's cultural institutions, the Denver Public Library and the Denver Museum of Nature & Science also contributed to the exhibit, which is sponsored by the Sturm Family Foundation.

Steve Turner, the executive director of History Colorado described how a dinner party conversation with DMNS's president, George Sparks, led to the inclusion of a particularly important artifact in the exhibit. "We were talking about the (continued on page 12)

Our Masthead Changed Our Goal is the Same...

The *Front Porch* started in 2000 to keep neighbors informed of progress and plans as the old Stapleton airport was redeveloped into a new neighborhood. We hope you enjoy getting the *Front Porch* delivered to your door and will thank the businesses who make it possible.

One of the goals for the new Stapleton community was that it would fit in seamlessly with surrounding neighborhoods. We hope the paper can be a vehicle to help unite the neighborhoods of Northeast Denver while sharing an appreciation of what's unique about them.

The *Front Porch* is planning to host periodic focus groups to bring together NE neighbors who would like to share ideas for possible future articles. If you'd like to participate, email FrontPorch@FrontPorchStapleton.com. Include your contact info, broad subject areas you're interested in, and some information about yourself. We hope to put together diverse groups with a shared goal of lively conversations that will lead to interesting articles.

May 27-28, Denver Arts Festival in Conservatory Green



Stapleton Arts Festival returns for its second year in Stapleton. It is being held in the Conservatory Green neighborhood, located just north of the Shops at Northfield. See story on page 47.

Xanadu Theater on the Green, June 1-3



Don't miss this free and open to the public event. See story on page 8.

Photo courtesy of Aurora Fox Theater

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.



The full moon dominated the western sky at 6:30am on a mid-April morning.



Most of the events listed below are FREE or support nonprofits.
Additional events are listed on pages 39–41.
Also visit FrontPorchStapleton.com to view additional events and to submit events.

MAY

Saturday, May 6

Paper Shredding Event to Benefit Community HUB, 10 am–noon. In the Shops at Northfield parking lot behind the HUB (and former Cowboy's Saloon). Donations appreciated. Sponsored by the Stapleton Foundation

Saturday, May 6

Annual Mulch Giveaway & Compost Sale, 8am–2pm. Havana Nursery, 10450 Smith Rd. DenverGov.org/DenverRecycles or call 311 (720-913-1311).

Thursday, May 11

Active Minds Seminar "Spices"
6:45-7:45pm, Sam Gary Library* activeminds.org

Friday, May 12

Friends of Manual Alumni Breakfast, 7:30–9am. Supporters, alumni and parents are welcome at this free event at the Manual HS Thunderdome, 1700 E 28th Ave., 80205. For more information or to register, visit www.friendsofmanual.org/10th-annual-breakfast.html or call 720-336-9387

Tuesday, May 16

SUN Elections & Community Forum*

Sat & Sun, May 20 & 21

Annual Stapleton Community Garage Sale 8am–12pm. Register at www.buildingstapleton.com/Community-Info/Stapleton-Community-Garage-Sale

Thursday, May 25

Active Minds Seminar "Philippines"
6:45-7:45pm, Sam Gary Library* activeminds.org

MAY

Saturday, May 27

Pools open at noon. All Stapleton Pools*

Sat & Sun, May 27–28

The 19th annual Denver Arts Festival. Sat 10am–6pm, Sun 10am–5pm. DenverArtsFestival.com. Conservatory Green*

JUNE

Thurs–Sat, June 1–3

Theater on The Green - "Xanadu" 7–9pm. The Green*

Thurs–Sat, June 1–3

Windsor Gardens Spring Art Club Show and Sale. Meet the artists June 1, 6–8pm. Family-friendly live music and refreshments June 2, 10am–6pm and June 3, 10am–3pm. Free admission and parking. 597 S. Clinton St. (Center Point). Call 720-949-0872 for more information.

Saturday, June 3

Sweet William Market, 9am–2pm. The Green*

Locations

*More info. at www.stapletoncommunity.com
Sam Gary Library: 2961 Roslyn St.
The Green: E. 29th Ave. and Roslyn St.
Conservatory Green: Valentia & E. 49th Place
Aviator pool: 8054 E. 28th Ave.
Puddle Jumper pool: 2401 Xenia St.
F15 pool: 2831 Hanover St.
Jet Stream pool: 3574 Alton St.
Runway 35 pool: 8863 E. 47th Ave.
Maverick pool: 8822 Beekman Pl.

Events & Announcements at Stapleton



Blues & Brews on the Bluff

Friday, May 26, 6–9pm

Join Bluff Lake for an evening of bluegrass music and beer from local breweries for Blues & Brews on the Bluff! This event will be held at Bluff Lake Nature Center on Friday, May 26 from 5–8pm.

Community Garage Sale

Saturday & Sunday, May 20–21, 8am to Noon

The Annual Stapleton Community Garage Sale will be held on Saturday and Sunday, May 20 and 21. Participants can choose whether to have their sale on Saturday, Sunday or both days. A list of homes participating and a map will be posted on buildingstapleton.com a few days prior to the sale.

Pools Open for the Season

Saturday, May 27

All six Stapleton pools are scheduled to open for the season on Sat., May 27 at noon! On Memorial Day (Mon., May 29), DJs will be featured at each of the pools from noon until 4pm.

Denver Arts Festival

Saturday & Sunday, May 27–28, 10am–6pm

The Denver Arts Festival is a fine arts and fine crafts festival that continues to be dedicated to supporting Colorado artists while also showcasing a select group of national artists. The annual event will be held at Conservatory Green Plaza.

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, May 11, 6:45–7:45pm

Spices

From the bland diets of Europeans in the early 16th century to the

myriad of culinary flavors available today, spices have had a huge impact in the world. Join Active Minds as we trace the rise of spices from colonialism and the spice trade to the hundreds of varieties commonly stocked in nearby supermarkets.

Thursday, May 25, 6:45–7:45pm
Philippines

The Philippines is fighting a brutal war on drugs that some have termed "out of control." Recently elected President Rodrigo Duterte campaigned on a promise to fight drugs in the country and is leading a bloody crackdown that many say is encouraging vigilante execution of drug dealers and addicts. Join Active Minds as we review the history of the Philippines in an attempt to understand the context for the current situation and gain insight into where this important U.S. ally in the region may be heading in the future.

The MCA Is Going Green!

Did you know that out of all the plastic water bottles used in the United States only less than a third are collected for recycling? Most of the plastic water bottles will end up in landfills or, more unfortunately, into our waterways. In an effort to help alleviate this problem, the MCA will no longer sell plastic water bottles. Instead, we will sell boxed water! The boxed water will come in three different sizes and be available at our events and pools.

If you have any 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
Communications Manager
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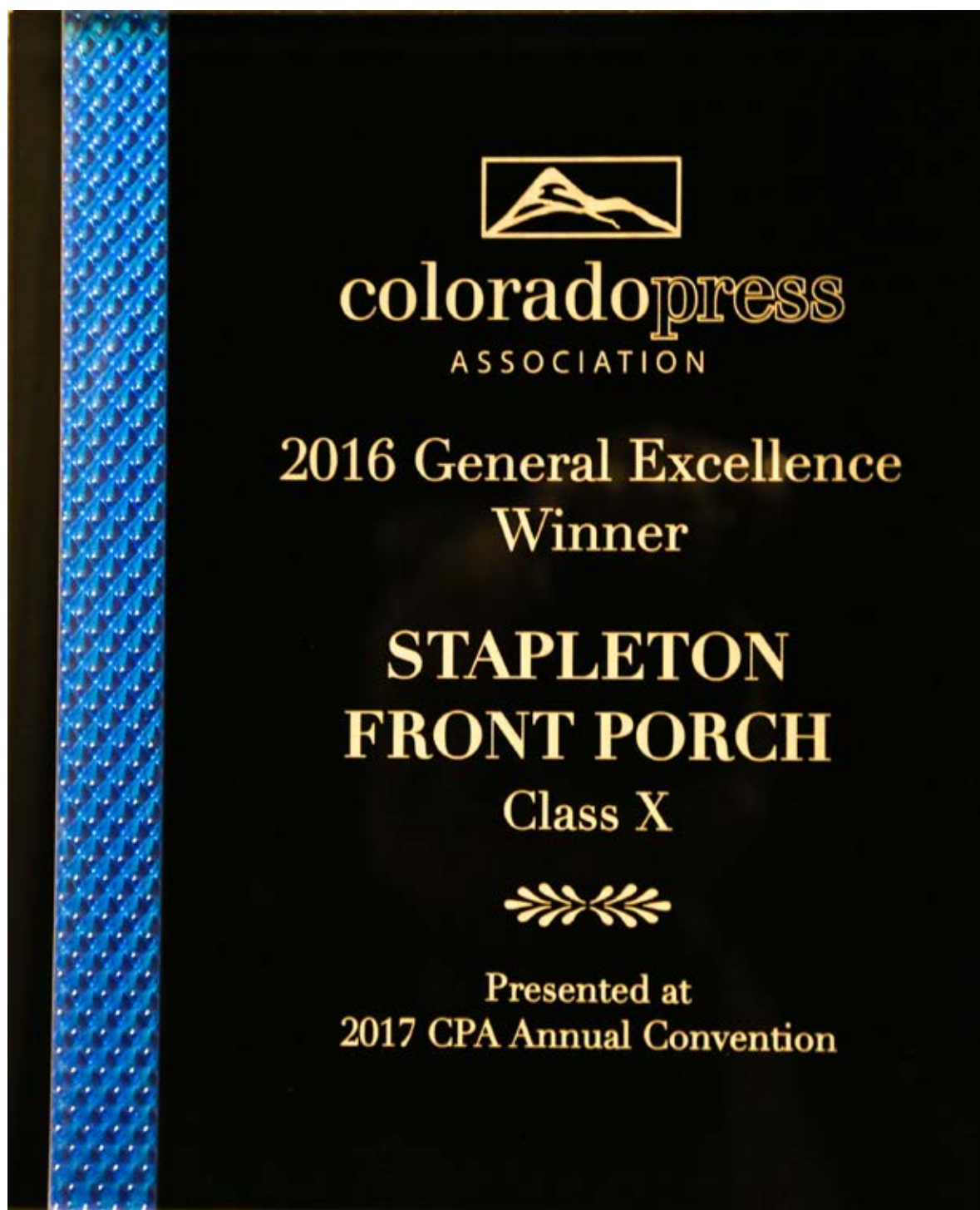
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We are proud to announce *The Front Porch* won all categories of judging for monthly newspapers in the annual Colorado Press Association contest. Areas judged were General Excellence, Editorial Content, Photo & Design, Online and Advertising.

Special thanks to our advertisers who make it possible to produce and deliver a high quality community paper to the front porches of NE Denver households.

These awards reflect the skill and dedication of everyone who helps produce the *Front Porch*:

STAFF WRITERS

John Fernandez, Anne Hebert and Melinda Pearson

FREELANCE WRITERS

Courtney Drake-McDonough and Laurie Dunklee

COLUMNISTS

James Hagadorn and Vincent Piturro

AD SALES STAFF

Karissa McGlynn and Holly Morgan

GRAPHIC ARTIST

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Xanadu starts at 7pm. It will be performed in the 29th Ave. Town Center at E. 29th and Roslyn St. in Stapleton.

Photos are courtesy of Fox Theater and were taken at a prior Fox performance of Xanadu.

Free and open to the public June 1-3 Xanadu—Theater on the Green

By Laurie Dunklee

“Set squarely in 1980, *Xanadu* is cheesy and campy, with a fabulous love story and a passion for art,” says Charlie Packard, executive producer at the

Aurora Fox Arts Center. *Xanadu*, June 1-3 at 7pm, is the eighth annual free Theatre on The Green production brought by the Aurora Fox.

The 1980 film *Xanadu*, starring Olivia Newton-John and Gene Kelly, was a box office flop that was panned by critics. But over time it became a cult classic that drew Broadway producers to re-envision it for the stage. “Broadway shows often are inspired by movies,” said Packard. “Producers were aware that *Xanadu* appealed to audiences, so in 2007 they created a hit that ran for more than a year. It won awards for best musical and best book [script], and was nominated for several Tony Awards. Maybe it belongs on the stage.”

The plot of *Xanadu* concerns the intersection of humans with Greek demigods. In Venice Beach, Calif., artist Sonny Malone is dissatisfied with his sidewalk mural of the seven Greek muses and decides to kill himself. The youngest muse, Clio, determined to help him, rises out of the mural disguised as the roller-skating “Kira.” Inspired by Kira, Sonny decides that he can combine all the arts and “something athletic” into one spectacular entertainment: a roller disco. The pair finds a long-abandoned theater in Los Angeles and they overcome many obstacles to turn it into a successful roller disco, *Xanadu*.

The musical is a humorous parody of the 1980 movie. “Doing *Xanadu* now in that style is vastly more interesting than it was in 1980,” said Packard. “Then, pop culture was cheesy because it was struggling out of the ’70s and hadn’t made the shift into the ’80s. Telling the story now is very differ-



ent because we know where the country and art have been for the last 35 years. There are lots of inside jokes, like when Kira disguises herself by wearing leg warmers and skates and adopting an Australian accent. These jokes will go straight over the kids’ heads and land on their parents. While the fifth-graders are dancing by the stage, the 40-year-olds will belly laugh and have a hard time explaining it to their kids.”

Packard says he looks for shows that appeal to new theater-goers. “At Stapleton, very young people are getting their first live theater experience. We make it visually exciting, with great music and dance that make it a magical experience.”

12th Annual Stapleton Community Garage Sale

May 20-21, 2017

for more info or to register
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Strong Feelings on the Subject

By Melinda Pearson

Despite a relatively low—and declining—crime rate, some Stapleton residents are concerned about petty theft. Porch piracy. Thefts from vehicles. Stolen bikes. “First-world problems” to some, the ongoing incidence of these non-violent crimes troubles others, who feel that installing cameras, locking doors, and being vigilant isn’t effective enough.

Hiring security patrols to monitor and report crime has been suggested by some residents, perhaps by having the Stapleton Master Community Association (MCA) collect an additional fee. Or it could be paid for through crowd-funding, possibly even in select neighborhoods. But while these folks are focused on the benefits of security patrols in addition to the District 5 police, others stand in stark opposition. Private security would give Stapleton the appearance of an elite gated community, something these residents did not want or expect when they chose the neighborhood.

Responding to community concerns and Lt. Ian Culverhouse’s acknowledgement of the potential benefits of private security, the MCA obtained an estimate of \$12/month to fund patrols, if implemented through MCA dues. Other communities have used crowd-funding and monthly subscriptions for unarmed security patrols (see sidebar).

Stapleton United Neighbors (SUN) currently has a survey asking residents about their willingness to pay \$15/month for round-the-clock private patrols (and their views on numerous other subjects). The survey results would be the basis for any recommendation SUN might make to the MCA board. Any increase in assessments would need to be supported by a majority

of elected MCA Community Delegates and the MCA Board of Directors.

Neighborhood Perspectives

Questions about hiring private security concern the necessity, feasibility, and cost. But beyond practical matters remains the concern that Stapleton “would start to feel

additional MCA dues or lose existing MCA services to hire patrols, though he did express interest in learning what it would cost.

But with forced entry incidents being shared in social media and package thefts and other petty crime occurring repeatedly, some residents are now feeling like Stapleton has become a target. District 5 police caught

ably serve as a deterrent, and a supplement to existing police services. “I don’t expect police to stop package theft,” he said. “Not to downplay it, but there are just much more important things for them to be doing.” As a child psychiatrist, he is less concerned about small items being poached than potential confrontations between children and thieves.

More than anything, Lipman feels it is worth having a reasoned, community discussion, not merely heated exchanges on social media. “It would be nice to know some of the data, some of the cost, some of the statistics, and it might be worth trying.”

Northeast Denver Neighbors for Racial Justice

Among those opposed to the idea of security patrols are members of Northeast Denver Neighbors for Racial Justice, an alliance of local people who are concerned about issues of race, diversity and social justice, with 331 people listed in their Facebook group. In an impassioned conversation on Facebook, some members of the group discussed their opposition to private patrols.

A big concern is that racial profiling will disproportionately target people of color in the community. Erin Parkins articulated numerous other reasons for the group’s opposition, including that private security perpetuates socioeconomic inequality where only those who can afford it deserve to be safe, fosters an image of Stapleton as being exclusive, will not be cost-effective, is not affordable, is unlikely to be effective, and funds could be better spent on crime prevention or in other neighborhoods that are truly at risk.

Police Perspective

Lt. Culverhouse of District 5, which covers the Stapleton area, says he’s officially neutral but he can see the potential benefit of additional “eyes and ears”—though it is unclear



These photos were taken at a NE Denver Neighbors for Racial Justice meeting where they discussed microaggressions in August 2016; all say they oppose private security in Stapleton. Clockwise from left: Gregory Diggs, Juanita Metoyer, Rebecca Roberts Berman, Amy Calabrese, and Liz Hogan Stalnaker.

like a gated community,” said Paul Nath, a Westerly Creek resident. In a community based on a vision of diversity and inclusiveness, a number of residents believe the appropriate approach to safety and security is through vigilance and prevention.

Troy Bishop, a Conservatory Green resident since 2013, thinks security patrols are a “misguided idea.” “The majority of the crimes in Stapleton are crimes of opportunity, not violent crimes,” he noted. If residents take simple measures, like locking doors and closing garages, Bishop believes the problem will be better prevented than it would be by hiring security. He also wouldn’t want to pay

a woman who was staying at the Staybridge Suites, apparently for the sole purpose of stealing packages from porches in the surrounding neighborhood. These incidents have led some residents to believe private security patrols could act as an extension of the eyes and ears of the neighborhood, a means of outsourcing neighborhood watch activities. At the least, they believe it should be investigated.

Ben Lipman, who has lived in Stapleton since 2005 and currently resides in Conservatory Green, believes patrols would prob-

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of Private Security

if it could reduce crime or by how much. He doesn't believe private security would be a hindrance, but he also believes, "we are appropriately and adequately policing and keeping the community safe. [Security patrols are] just one extra layer, like getting an alarm system." District 5 has recently added six new recruit officers and is one of only two districts in DPD to have shown a decrease in overall crime in 2016.

District 5 police frequently repeat the prevention mantra, reminding residents that many of the neighborhood's crimes are preventable—and Culverhouse promotes other security measures. A properly placed, high-resolution security camera—that is, one that catches a good frontal view of a suspect—can help deter criminals, as can adequate lighting, which also helps emergency services find addresses. And, of course, neighborhood watches: "It really does help when neighbors are watching out for each other," says Culverhouse.

Feasibility

Security companies interviewed for this article offered differing perspectives.

Stapleton resident Galen Morrow owns Advanced Professional Security, located in the Northeast Park Hill area. He believes Stapleton presents an "immense challenge" due to its vast area, which might require multiple patrol cars depending on the desired frequency. Typically, he says, security patrols take place in more confined areas, or for businesses with set hours. Furthermore, residential patrol requires specialized training to ensure there is no harassment, undue use of force, or unnecessary notification of the police. With sufficient community support—including financial—Morrow thinks it could be done, but other measures might be more effective, like strategically placed, hi-resolution cameras that could be centrally monitored via the internet ("IP

Cameras")—either by volunteer residents or professional security personnel.

In contrast, Andy Coleman, vice-president for the southwest region of Allied Universal Security, says his company regularly provides large-scale security patrols for residential communities the size of Stapleton, and many of the communities

directions—an approach that has the effect of deterrence without conflict.

With miles of alleys, multiple entrance points, and a geographic distribution that spans seven square miles across a freeway, the feasibility and cost of the private security in Stapleton may prove daunting.



Security professional Matthew Clark patrols the LoDo section of Downtown Denver. His employer Allied Universal Security works closely with law enforcement.

are indeed gated. Allied Universal, which currently provides ancillary security for the 16th Street Mall in Denver, works closely with local law enforcement officials, who are often too strapped to handle the types of petty crime that can plague residential neighborhoods.

None of Allied Universal's security patrols are armed and Coleman says racial profiling "doesn't come into play—our patrols are just observing, not interceding." Their guards are trained to approach and interact in ways designed to gain information. For example, a person that appears to be casing a neighborhood might be asked by the security officer if they need help or

Should simple preventative measures like those taken in most urban communities—locking doors, turning on lights, closing garages—be the default neighborhood policy? Would "outsourcing a neighborhood watch program" help deter people from taking advantage of the opportunities that Stapleton seems to be presenting? Or would it put Stapleton on a path toward elitism and exclusion, widening the divide among neighbors and neighborhoods?

See article on page 28, "Nabbed, Serial Burglar Caught."

The Case of Lower Rockridge

Lower Rockridge, a neighborhood in Oakland, Calif., that is smaller in size and population than Stapleton, has experimented with hiring private security patrols for public streets. Many Bay Area professionals are drawn to Rockridge, a neighborhood both more diverse and more affluent than Stapleton.

In 2013, the crime concerns of Rockridge weren't a priority for the Oakland P.D., which was stretched thin dealing with gang activity and homicides in other parts of the city. After a mugging occurred in the neighborhood, on top of a 24 percent increase in robberies, residents in Lower Rockridge pulled together a crowdfunding campaign to provide security patrols for their neighborhood.

The concept was not without its critics, many of whom feared racial profiling or overzealous vigilante justice, recalls Dakin Ferris, a Rockridge resident and attorney.

Rockridge's patrol officers are unarmed, friendly, and instructed not to intervene. "They are there to take pictures, to monitor the situation and call the police," said Ferris. "We look at the patrols as an outsourced version of neighborhood watch programs," said Ferris. They knock on doors if they find garages or car trunks left open. And since security patrols do not detain anyone or directly intervene, race-based targeting has not been a problem.

Google economist and Rockridge resident Paul Liu, through mathematical modeling, found that robberies and burglaries in the patrol area decreased a statistically significant 30 percent over the first year of patrols. After three years, the patrols continue to be supported via voluntary monthly subscriptions supplemented with corporate sponsorships. A recent survey in the area reported 94 percent satisfaction with the patrols. Seventy-five percent of respondents felt safer with the patrols and 87 percent wanted the patrols to continue for another year. Most subscribers contribute \$30 monthly.

The patrols cover the entire neighborhood, however, not just the homes of those who subscribe. Subscribers get additional benefits, such as security escorts from the train station at night and additional security passes when on vacation, said Ferris.

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When Meriwether Lewis looked through his telescope (above), he might have seen a view something like that depicted in Alfred Jacob Miller's painting (right) of Lake Fremont and the Wind River Mountains in Wyoming.



Back Story

Western American Art in Context



Above: C. Paul Jennewein's 1932 statue *Indian and Eagle* presents an artistic view of its subject, while (right) the artifacts from History Colorado's collection, including a photograph of a Ute encampment in 1874, an Arapaho cradleboard and a Sioux dress from the late 19th Century show the reality of the time.



(continued from page 1) exhibit and he just said to me, "We have Lewis and Clark's telescope. You should put this in the exhibit." And lo and behold, that iconic item is on display as an introduction to the European exploration of the American West.

The exhibit is already popular, with Colorado historian and UC Denver professor Dr. Tom Noel counted among its fans. "It is a great example of partnering with other organizations like the Denver Art Museum," said Noel, "To my knowledge, it's an original idea, where they combine art from the museum and artifacts from

History Colorado and do an interpretation of it."

The Backstory of History Colorado Center

Backstory represents an important turning point in the evolution of the flagship museum of Colorado's State Historical Society, a path that has seen more than a few ruts in its road in recent years. [The State Historical Society of Colorado was founded in 1879 and maintains museums across the state. Officially named History Colorado, the society is a state agency, its

board and executive director appointed by the governor, and its budget likewise tied to the state.]

For many years, the Colorado History Museum occupied a building not far from



Left: Part of the West's Hispanic heritage, bear roping was a popular sport and way to manage predators, as depicted in James Walker's dramatic 1877 painting, *Cowboys Roping a Bear*. Above: The late 19th Century vaquero saddle from Antonio Cipriano Gutierrez is similar to those in the painting, with distinctive protective foot coverings.

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Left: Harvey Dunn's 1915 painting of a chuck wagon from the Denver Art Museum is paired with an actual chuck wagon of the same era from the Zapata Ranch, part of the center's significant collection of Colorado artifacts.



Above: Frederic Remington's statue, *Bronco Buster* (Wooly Chaps) is displayed next to a collection of



actual cowboy equipment (right) from John M. Kuykendall, a Confederate Civil War veteran and cattle rancher who settled in Wyoming.

the Capitol, where it displayed its collection of historical artifacts. But much changed in 2012, when the re-named History Colorado Center opened its doors in a flashy new, architect-designed building and began to change the types of

exhibits it offered in a bid to broaden its appeal and increase attendance. David Halaas, former chief historian of the Colorado Historical Society, has watched the story unfold. "The purpose of a museum is to show real stuff, a place where things of the past, artifacts, are preserved and interpreted," he says. But after the opening of the new building, the

"inexperienced" new administration "stopped showing stuff. They made it basically into a kids' museum. They were trying to attract families, but they stopped putting out stuff," said Halaas. Another focus that the museum took

after its move was bringing in expensive exhibitions from outside vendors. Although exhibits like *Race*, 1968, and *Toys* were successful in terms of audience reception and increasing attendance, "they cost more to rent than (continued on page 14)



Left and above: Former Civil War soldiers were recruited to the West as "Indian fighters," for the Colorado Cavalry, with promises of plunder and horses announced on recruiting posters. The artifacts – including uniforms and Civil War drums – represent the people who came West, such as Lorenzo Taylor (pictured).



Above: In the 20th Century, color photography began to gain currency. Artifacts of a photographer and a 1917 photograph by Coloradoan Fred Payne Chatworthy showing Theodore Wores painting in Taos demonstrate this development.



Below: In Taos painter E. Martin Hennings' 1925 painting, *Rabbit Hunt*, the overly romanticized view of American Indians has been replaced by a more realistic depiction, including the blend of modern and traditional clothing worn by the male figures.

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In front of a reproduction of a 1928 Stetson Hats advertising poster, artifacts from History Colorado's collection of cowboy gear are displayed, including coffee tins, a western shirt, and vintage Stetson cowboy hats.

(continued from page 13) they brought in revenue," said Turner. "Everybody wants the next *King Tut*, and the problem is those kinds of exhibits are very few and far between." Limited to second-tier exhibits, the museum faltered in its new home.

During this period, the museum also came under fire for its exhibit on the Sand Creek Massacre, in which more than 160 American Indians—most women and children—were slaughtered by Colorado Territory militia. The museum put up the exhibit "without consulting with the tribes. It was a travesty," said Halaas. "Even though they were told by the tribes and by historians that what they had going was awful and shouldn't even open, they went ahead with it." After a year of controversy, the exhibit closed in August 2013.

Halaas believes the failure of the Sand Creek Massacre exhibit was the catalyst that spurred Gov. Hickenlooper to re-examine the entire institution. In addition, the museum, which receives no money from the state general fund and depends on gaming revenue, was struggling with significant budget shortfalls. The governor whittled down the unwieldy board from 30-plus to nine members, and in turn the board whittled down the

staff. Cuts included its former director, Ed Nichols, the state historian, several other top executives, and more than 22 percent of its employees.

The New Era

Left standing after the shedding was Steve Turner, an architect who had served as the director of the State Historical Fund. Appointed as interim co-director in the wake of the layoffs, Turner became the new executive director in June 2016, tasked with rebalancing the institution's finances and exhibitions.

Turner is well aware of the challenges of trying to attract a wider, younger audience but still serve as a historical museum. He wants it to continue to be "very family-focused, family-friendly, but we want to expand our audience also and have something for folks that might be coming for a little bit deeper content or more serious exhibits. We want to have something for everyone." He also recognizes the value of the museum's extensive collection, which does not come with the hefty price tag of rented exhibits.

Turner and his staff have instituted a five-year plan for exhibitions, and as they ponder what to include, they consider these

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Frank Mechau's ca. 1930 "Rodeo-Pickup Man" depicts outfitted cowboys in action. The painting is borrowed from the Denver Art Museum, part of the collaborative, homegrown, Colorado-centric effort that executive director Steve Turner (below) is leading.

criteria: Is there a Colorado connection? Is this topic relatively well-represented in our collection? Are there subject matter experts available? Do we think there's an audience for this?

In addition to *Backstory*, which fits those criteria, the museum has a number of interesting exhibits in the future lineup, including a history of Colorado told through 100 objects; an exhibit on Caribou Ranch, the iconic recording studio; "Cash Crop" on marijuana; a history of beer in Colorado; and one on "Horse Power," which should appeal to ranchers and horse-obsessed little girls alike. They also plan to work closely with tribal officials on a new Sand Creek exhibit, one that is "truthful, balanced, and that reflects their perspective too, because it is their story," said Turner.

Reception

Fortunately, the old guard is in approval of the new era, which brings back some of what makes a historical museum so unique and important. "There's been a big change in management and the new management is much more interested




in showing the treasures the museum has rather than buying canned exhibits from other places," said Noel, who is glad to see a renewed focus on real artifacts and not facsimiles.

Halaas agreed. "The present administration is working very hard to be a historical museum where you have artifacts. It's now going in the right direction. I'm very impressed with Steve Turner ... he's very sensitive to what a museum should be."

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TWEEN AND TEEN SCHEDULE COMING SOON!

By Carol Roberts

Meeting new neighbors has been a recurring fact of life in Stapleton as homes spring up at a rate of about 600 a year. Two of those new neighbors, Taylor and Garrett

Norwell, moved into the recently completed Spruce Townhomes on Montview Blvd. Knowing everyone has a story, we asked these 29-year-old first time homeowners to let us introduce them with a story about their lives.

The beginnings of this young family go back to when they were 10 years old. Taylor and Garrett went to the same church and became good friends despite going to different schools—such good friends that when young Garrett found a lucky penny, he drilled a hole in it and put it on a chain for his pal Taylor. Years later the lucky penny would loom large in his marriage proposal to her.

They drifted apart in their high school years, but reconnected when they both found themselves in Greeley where Taylor was getting a degree in education. Garrett had tried studying criminal justice but it wasn't a

Taylor and Garrett Norwell with children Faith 2, and Jackson, 1, happily say their new home is bigger and \$50/month less than their apartment was.

good fit. He dropped out and went to Greeley because some buddies lived there and he could get by doing odd jobs. He describes it as his rebellious time. But as he was trying to figure out what to do with his life he discovered there was someone in Greeley he could talk to—Taylor. They didn't date—but they were best friends. And they talked a lot.

Garrett ended that uncertain stage of his life in 2009 by joining the Army. He drove tanks in Ft. Bliss, Texas, and says not much of what he learned driving tanks has carried over into his current life—except that he learned the importance of attention to detail.

When he wasn't attending to his M1A2 tank for three years in Texas, he was in touch with Taylor. The best friends just kept talking and texting. "The distance grew, but the relationship grew closer," says Garrett. "I was having feelings for her for quite a while, but I didn't have the courage to tell her because I didn't

want to ruin what we had as a friendship."

By Jan. 2012 their long distance friendship had gone on for a year and a half. They spent Garrett's two-week holiday break hanging out together.

Garrett had just seen the movie *We Bought a Zoo* based on the book by Benjamin Mee—and he kept replaying in his mind a quote



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from it, "All you need is 20 seconds of insane courage and I promise something good will come of it." On the last night before going back to Ft. Bliss, Garrett said to himself, "Damn the friendship. I have to be courageous and wear my feelings on my sleeve."

It turned out Taylor was feeling the same way, and she also worried about losing him as a friend if their relationship changed. Their friends shrugged and said, "We all knew. Why didn't you do this sooner?"

Fast forward almost a year to December 2012. Taylor knew Garrett was coming home, but not his exact arrival time. A note written with a finger in the dust on her car told her he was home. The message was a clue that took her to her parents' house, where she found another clue in the mailbox. That one was about their first date. Off she went, her friend Tracey photographing her, to the downtown Westin, where ice skating had been their first date. The receptionist at the Westin gave her the next clue. The answer, she knew, was the lucky penny. When she texted that to Garrett, she got, in return, a link to a You-Tube he had made. It led her to the bridge at Confluence Park, one of her favorite places.

When she arrived, he was there—on his knee.

For Taylor and Garrett, Denver's affordable housing program and getting one of the newly-built homes in Stapleton means this chapter in their lives offers what's important to them. Taylor is happy she can be a stay-at-home mom while her kids are young, then she'll work as a holistic health coach (a field in which she obtained certification after college). Garrett is in the Army Reserves and studying exercise science—a field that helps people move, whether to improve fitness or recover from injuries. Maybe someday the two will work together helping people be more healthy and fit. But that's another chapter.

Stapleton Affordable Homes

NE Denver Housing, which built Spruce Townhomes, is currently building 40 units along Central Park Blvd. just east of the Central Park rail station. All are under contract with occupancy expected to start in the last quarter of this year. Executive Director Gete Mekonnen says 63 more units in south Stapleton are in the pipeline and they have about 100 names on their "interest" list for those units. Potential buyers can contact NE Denver housing at 303-377-3334 for more information.

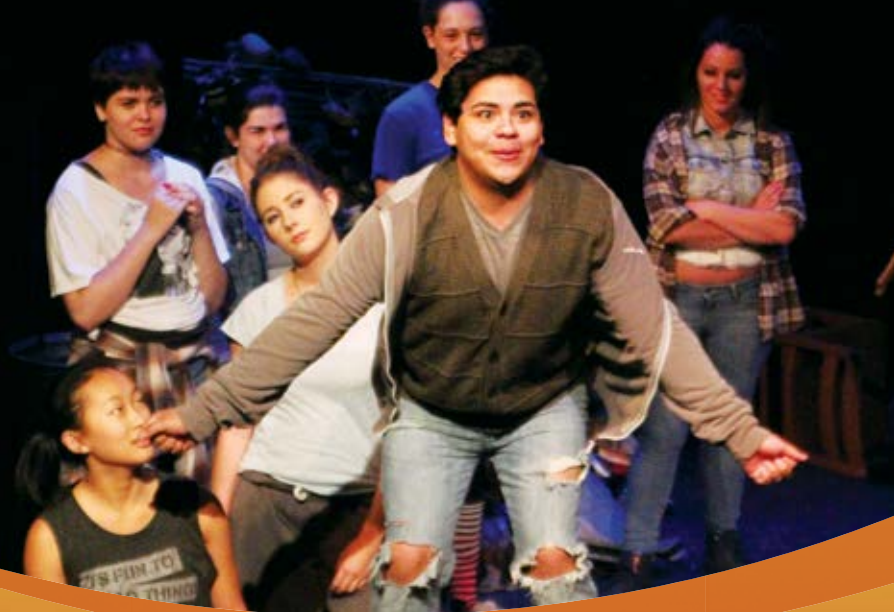
All buyers in Denver's affordable homes program must go through the income verification process with the city's Office of Economic Development, which takes about 10 days after all forms are turned in. Buyers must meet minimum and maximum income limits, take a homeownership education class, and get themselves qualified for a loan.

Thrive Home Builders has started construction on 165 north Stapleton homes in the affordable program. The first sale on these Thrive Elements homes closed in April, but Thrive sales representative Becca Mortenson says as of now they still have plenty of availability. To get on Thrive's reservation list, buyers must have completed the income verification process. Once on Thrive's reservation *(continued on page 38)*



Tom Gleason of Forest City announces the completion of Spruce Townhomes and construction of future affordable units. From left: Garrett and Taylor Norwell, City Councilman Chris Herndon, and Gete Mekonnen, executive director of NE Denver Housing.

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Stapleton Homes First in the Country to Offer Tesla Power Suite



Thrive CEO Gene Myers shows a photo of a mounted Tesla Powerwall, which will be a standard feature on the Zen model home in Beeler Park shown behind him.

By John Fernandez

Thrive Home Builders is the first residential builder in the country to offer the Tesla “power suite” comprised of the Powerwall 2.0, rooftop solar and pre-wiring for electric vehicles. This suite of renewable energy technologies will be included as a standard feature in 55 single-family homes being constructed in the Beeler Park neighborhood of Stapleton (north of 56th Ave. near Dick’s Sporting Goods Park). Construction on the homes has begun with the model home opening planned for late May.

The cost of the energy features will be wrapped into the overall home price. Tesla markets the Powerwall battery and inverter at \$5,500 plus \$1,500 for installation and supporting hardware.

Thrive CEO Gene Myers says this offering is made possible by a recent settlement between the Colorado Public Utilities Commission (PUC) and Xcel that for the first time allows a homeowner to opt into time-of-day electric rates. The pilot program began in January and will run for two years. Xcel will present the results of the pricing programs to the PUC in 2020 to determine whether the programs should be expanded to all residential customers.

Myers says that placing this “new tool in customers’ hands is a game changer.” The Tesla Powerwall has a usable capacity of 13.5 kWh. The 264-pound unit is 44 inches tall by 29 inches in width and can be floor- or wall-mounted indoors or outdoors. It carries a 10-year warranty. It is being offered in Thrive’s Panacea and ZEN model homes.

Myers also announced that Thrive has been selected by Panasonic to build a micro-apartment and demonstration house inside the Panasonic Technology & Business Solutions Center building at the Peña Station. The structures are intended to be long-lived and will host different, evolving energy-saving technologies over time. Myers said building these dwelling units inside a commercial building presents some “interesting logistics” but hopes to fulfill the ambitious goal of having them open by September when Panasonic’s “City Now” project will be unveiled. That event at the Peña Station site will be paired with the 2017 Solar Decathlon competition, an international contest sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy that focuses on the design and construction of solar-powered houses. The 16 teams chosen for this year’s competition will be competing, for the first time, for prize money (\$2 million).

The Powerwall system could be configured to allow purchase and storage of grid-generated electricity at night when retail rates are lower, then consumption of that electricity during the day when prices rise. This so-called “energy arbitrage,” in conjunction with the homes’ low energy usage, will enable the home-based system to virtually pay for itself, according to Myers. The system also allows the battery to feed critical load components in the home in the case of a grid outage (e.g., refrigerator, lighting, Wi-Fi).

—SUSTAINABILITY—

Solar Energy Storage Cutting Edge Technology Being Tested in Two Local Projects



Dennis Campbell stands where the Xcel battery will be installed this month in the side yard of his home in the Central Park neighborhood. “Anything that saves money, I’m all in,” says Campbell.

By John Fernandez

Local residents will have a front-row seat in a two-year Xcel Energy pilot program testing the role of energy storage batteries at their homes. Six homeowners in the North Central Park and Eastbridge neighborhoods have been selected to participate in the pilot project and will have the opportunity to take ownership of the batteries when the project is over. The batteries are being studied for their use as back-up power in homes and for the impact of more rooftop solar power going into the energy grid.

This residentially scaled project is getting underway at the same time a similar pilot project will test battery storage serving commercial uses: the DIA-owned parking lot at the 61st



Tyler McGrath, Xcel’s distribution project manager, explains the features of the Sunverge battery at a public open house in November.

and Peña Station and Panasonic’s new operations hub building located just east of that A Line station.

Each of these efforts reflects an exploration by Xcel Energy of ways to incorporate more renewable energy into their portfolio and at the same time protect the electric grid.

FOR KIDS (continued)

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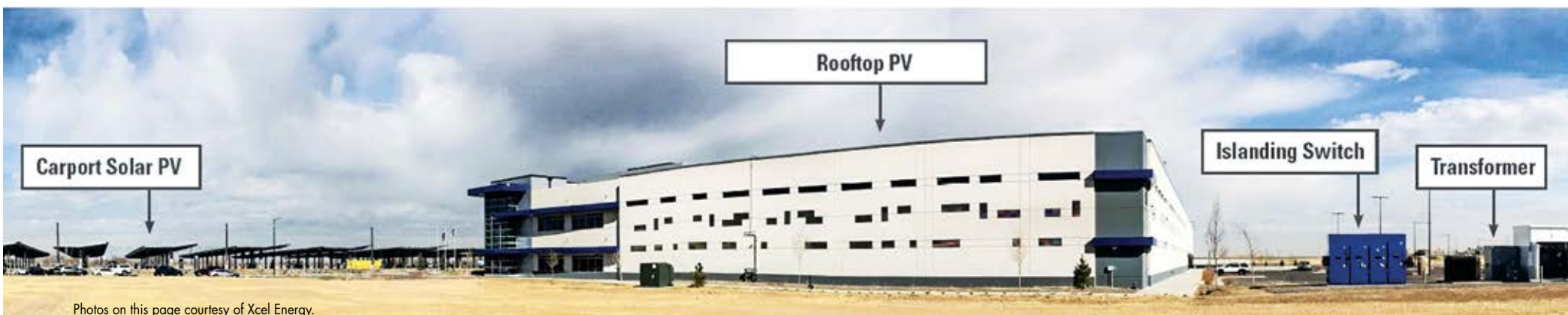
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Above: Overview of Peña Station site. The “Islanding Switch” manages the energy system, connecting or disconnecting the microgrid from the main grid. Below: The 1 MW/2 MWh lithium battery supplied by Younicos, owned by Xcel Energy and maintained by Panasonic.



The Peña Station project combines solar photovoltaic from carports in DIA's parking lot and rooftop solar from the Panasonic headquarters buildings.

Meanwhile, in an entirely private transaction, Thrive Home Builders will be providing 55 Beeler Park single-family homes with a Tesla Powerwall 2.0 battery as a standard option (see article at right).

The Stapleton and Peña Station installations will allow testing at two different scales (residential and commercial) and differing levels of complexity. In Stapleton, single batteries placed on residential lots are being tested. At



Photo-simulation of a “utility-scale” battery to be installed in street rights-of-way or easements in Stapleton’s North Central Park and Eastbridge neighborhoods. Final configuration and design may be subject to change due to engineering or other factors.

Peña Station, project partners include Xcel, Panasonic and Denver International Airport. A large carport solar PV system as well as a commercial rooftop solar PV system work together with a single, large battery energy storage system to form a microgrid that aids incorporating more solar energy in Colorado’s grid, provides resilience through backup power, and delivers multiple services that support Xcel’s grid. The Peña project is already operational while installation of the Stapleton residential batteries will begin in May. Tyler McGrath, project manager for Xcel, points out that almost all of the project team working on Stapleton also has some part in the Peña Station project. Stapleton was selected for participation in the project due to the high penetration of rooftop solar PV (approximately 20 percent), says Beth Chacon, Xcel’s director of grid storage and emerging technologies. She explains that solar PV penetration reaches a “tipping point” at 35 percent, leading to issues such as voltage spikes and system flickers that can not only be annoying but can damage electrical distribution system equipment.

Thumbnail descriptions of the two project sites are provided below:

Stapleton Neighborhoods— Central Park North, Eastbridge

- Valued at \$15,000–\$20,000, the 15.5 kW batteries will be provided free of charge to the participating residents. At the end of the two-year pilot, the homeowners can have the batteries removed or

take ownership of them throughout their expected 10-year life span.

- The batteries will be placed outdoors near garages and paired with the pre-existing rooftop solar systems.
- Batteries will be wired to a back-up electrical panel that supports customer-selected items for when the power goes down, such as lights, a refrigerator and select wall outlets.
- Six utility-scale batteries will be installed in the public street right-of-way near the residential installations. This enables the pilot to evaluate how residential batteries will interact with the utility meters.
- The pilot will test the security of the utility-scale batteries, which were constructed with robust materials and locking mechanisms but made as inconspicuous as possible.

Peña Station

- The parking lot at 61st and Peña Blvd. has a 1.3 megawatt (mWdc) carport solar installation owned and operated by Xcel Energy (under a lease with DIA, which owns the carports).
- Panasonic is installing a 259 kWdc rooftop solar PV array atop its corporate office building.
- The two solar installations will connect to a 1-megawatt lithium ion battery system, creating their own microgrid. An “intelligent energy management” system (the islanding station) will connect or disconnect the microgrid from the main



grid based on factors such as overall energy loads, power production from the PV arrays, energy prices and power outages.

- The micro-grid will serve what Panasonic calls Peña Station NEXT, a transit-oriented development district that is testing a wide range of new technologies including: smart street lighting, ultra-fast community Wi-Fi, smart parking, electric vehicle charging stations, autonomous electric vehicle shuttles, a smart bus shelter, environmental sensing and interactive digital signage.

Project Goals

Xcel has a state-mandated renewable energy goal of 30 percent by the year 2020 (it was 23 percent of Xcel Energy’s mix in Colorado in 2015). The two-year test period is intended to determine optimal settings for the batteries and to evaluate wider deployment of the batteries. Goals for both projects are:

- Integrating more solar power into the electric grid;
- Minimizing the impact of fluctuations in solar PV output; (continued on page 38)

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A trinomial cube is a cube composed of twenty-seven wooden blocks which fit together to form the cube of $(a + b + c)$. Each face that is “a²” is red, “b²” is blue, and “c²” is yellow and all other faces are black. This algebraic work is introduced as early as 4 years old!

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Lyndsey Manderson (far left) displays some of the products available at the market. Customers can purchase items that are natural, biodegradable and compostable, including custom blends of products ranging from skincare to tea. Empty containers can be refilled at the market's back counter.

Here's Help for Living a Zero Waste Life

By Anne Hebert

“A zero-waste life is a journey.” Using a general store/apothecary model, ZERO market carries out their mission by educating customers and offering a wide variety of vegan, organic, reusable and locally made products designed to promote a zero-waste lifestyle.

Customers will find both daily essentials and gift items in the herb-scented shop at Stanley Marketplace. “Our family decided to try a zero-waste lifestyle about four years ago,” says Lyndsey Manderson, co-owner of the shop with her husband, Jesse. “It quickly became a passion we wanted to share.”

Operating a pop-up shop at The Source in RiNo, the couple established a loyal customer base. “We were approached about opening a permanent space at the Stanley Marketplace when it was in the planning phase. Our customers really stuck with us as we waited to open and they’re as excited as we are to be here now.”

Both partners work full time in addition to raising their two children and running the

market. Lyndsey is a middle-school teacher and Jesse is an operations manager at a local company. “We divide our time to make sure we’re here to serve our customers,” explains Lyndsey. “Eventually, we will transition to working at the market full time, but our jobs have allowed us to finance our dream.”

Customers can purchase reusable containers—or they can bring in an empty container to fill. A refill station is located behind the

counter and customers can watch while the owners concoct and mix custom solutions. Each product is hand labeled and refillable. Kegs of kombucha, a fermented tea with probiotic benefits, can be purchased in any amount from a growler to a small cup. Samples of rotating flavors, like hibiscus lemon ginger and cranberry lavender are always available.



Providing customer education is a cornerstone at ZERO market. “We envisioned a one-stop shop to get people excited about healthier alternatives without the waste of plastic packaging.” With people looking for ways to cut costs and enjoy products that are toxin-free, the market reaches out to make the zero-waste lifestyle sustainable and affordable for everyone. Instructional workshops

teach customers how to make the things they use every day for a fraction of the cost they

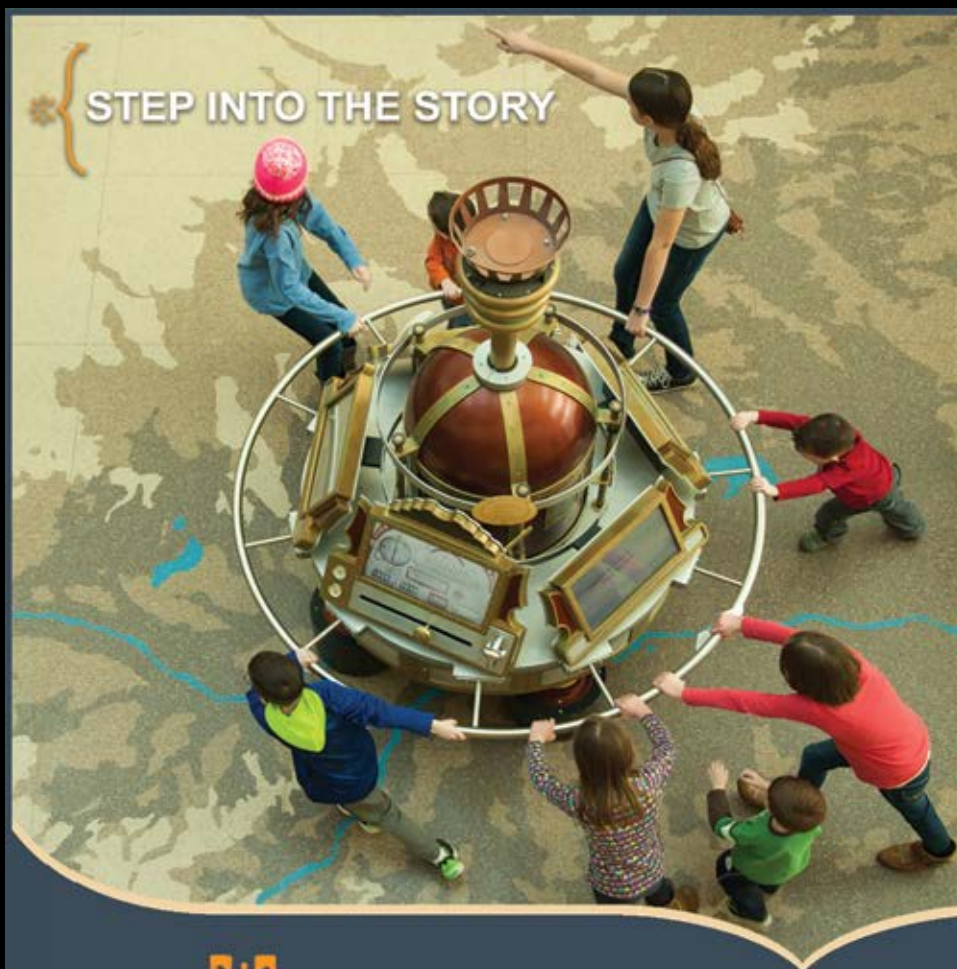


currently pay. “We carry the ingredients needed to make laundry detergent, lip balm and skin care products targeted to our customers’ specific needs and we can accommodate just about any request,” Lyndsey notes. With almost endless possibilities to what can be made at home, the market buys ingredients in bulk and passes the savings on.

A calendar of workshops is available in the store and online. For \$20 to \$40, depending on the workshop, customers receive a container and all of the ingredients they need to create a finished product. Lyndsey points out that workshop fees are charged on a sliding scale. “We want everyone to feel welcome to participate and pay what they can afford.”

To learn more about the ZERO market and for a listing of workshops and classes, visit www.thezeromarket.com.

FOR KIDS (continued)



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Right: Jason Stallings, co-owner of DJ's Café, stands in the newly renovated dining area.



Fresh Homemade Food Without the Pretense

By Anne Hebert
Brothers Devon and Jason Stallings have opened their third DJ's Café in the former Tante Louise/Cork House/Red Octave restaurant space at Colfax and Eudora. Explaining why the D comes first, Stapleton resident Jason Stallings says, "My brother Devon gets top billing because he supervises the kitchen. Also, DJ's had a much nicer ring to it than the alternative."

Committed to sustainable and green business practices, DJ's uses locally grown and/or organic produce whenever possible and 100 percent recycled and recyclable to-go boxes. "We recycle 75–80 percent of all restaurant waste," says Stallings. "Even our frying oil is 100 percent recycled and used by locals as bio fuel." Bread is purchased from local bakeries and Polidori sausage, made in Park Hill, is served at the café. Coffee and tea are sourced from local vendors and most beers are produced in Colorado. This spring, a garden next to the outdoor patio will grow herbs for use in the kitchen.

An outdoor play area is under construction so diners can enjoy a meal on the patio while

their children are entertained. A family-friendly restaurant, toys are available for kids and special orders are possible if a customer asks their server. "Our mission is to serve fresh, homemade food without the pretense," Stallings says.

The East Colfax location has been open since January 2017, but the restaurant at 3838

Tennyson has been open for over 10 years and the downtown location at 865 Lincoln St. is five years old. "We really wanted to bring DJ's Café to an area of town that's convenient for residents of Park Hill, Mayfair, Lowry and Stapleton," Stallings says. "These neighborhoods are diverse



and we get a great mix of clientele representing all age groups." DJ's Café offers a full breakfast/brunch/lunch menu complemented by a selection of "adult beverages," and a full bar. "One of our most popular items is our Eggs Benedict," says Stallings. "Our sauce is amazing. You could put it on a shoe and it would be delicious." Another customer favorite is the restaurant's green chili. DJ's Café is open Mon. through Fri. from 7am–2pm. Weekend hours are 8am–3pm. With enough space to accommodate 100 guests, the café is available to rent for private gatherings and parties after hours. "We can prepare the food or customers can bring in their own," says Stallings. DJ's is located at 1490 Eudora St. For more information about all three DJ's Café locations, visit www.djscafe.biz.



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—SUSTAINABILITY—

Green Cleaning

By Anne Hebert

Stapleton Home Services, one of the earliest Stapleton businesses, operating since 2003, has recently purchased an entire fleet of electric vehicles for the residential and commercial cleaning company. “Our sustainable business practices have changed over time,” says owner Corby Felsher. “Five years ago, the idea of converting our fleet vehicles to electric cars seemed prohibitively expensive. Now the cost of a reliable electric car is comparable to a similar gas vehicle—so it was definitely a great time to switch.”

Felsher explains that when he began considering electric cars for his business, he did some research at a dealership before broaching the subject to his business partners and family. “My wife and kids were really excited,” he says. “My

Corby Felsher, owner of Stapleton Home Services, says a charge lasts two days so half the cars are charged each night.

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partners were completely supportive—even my mom thought it was a fantastic idea.” The decision was made to purchase an entire fleet of Nissan Leaf electric cars. In service for about seven months now, the cars have proven to be a cost-effective strategy.

“In addition to the savings on fuel and vehicle maintenance, we save employee time spent at the gas station,” Felsher says. “At the end of the day, our employees pull in and plug in.” Services were initially offered in Stapleton and adjacent neighborhoods, but the business model worked best when the service area was limited. By staying in Stapleton, “the number of miles in a single charge gets our teams everywhere they need to go in a workday.” The electric bill to power the entire fleet is less than a quarter of the fuel cost needed to keep his old fleet running. “Honestly, I’m upset I didn’t make the change sooner,” he says.

Other sustainable business practices

have continually evolved over the years, saving money and increasing efficiencies. “We don’t use toxic chemicals or bleach in any of the cleaning products we use,” Felsher says. “Our primary cleaning agents are vinegar and hydrogen peroxide. These are safe for customers and pets, but very importantly, safe for our employees to use on a daily basis.” Buying in bulk represents savings on supplies while limiting waste. Fewer plastic containers means less landfill waste.

To limit travel time, vehicle wear and tear, and to increase productivity, customer locations are grouped into “zones.” Cleaning teams regularly work the same zones and get to know the neighborhood. “Neighbors recognize our team members. It’s nice for people in the community to know the service providers working in their area.”



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13 Reasons Why (Netflix)



The story of a high school student who commits suicide is not the kind of material usually targeted for mass consumption; the topic is mostly relegated to the darker edges of the indie world. But *13 Reasons Why* is a self-described effort to reach mass audiences. Based on the 2007 young adult novel by Jay Asher, the show is a daring, explicit, well-produced, and polemical new series from Netflix that has become a hot-button discussion item amongst teens and parents alike. As the parent of a soon-to-be-high school girl, I am keenly aware of the debate here: some see it as required viewing, some see it as glamorizing teen suicide, some see it as distasteful for young audiences, some see it as sensationalistic, some see it as necessary to understanding high school life in the social media age, and still others see it as downright vile. I understand all perspectives, but my role here is to analyze the series on its merits. In that respect, this difficult show is a resounding success.

The premise: a high school sophomore commits suicide and leaves behind a series of cassette tapes detailing how she was bullied, cyberbullied, cast aside, and well, you have to watch for the rest. Suffice to say that she

endured more than her share of high school drama, and some of it was absolutely venal. Every cassette side contains a different story, giving her narrated version of what each person did to her (one person/story per cassette side). Each is

shocking, saddening, and horrific. A few even go beyond that.

The production values are first-rate: the direction is solid (six different directors collaborate on the 13 episodes); the writing is sharp and stinging (10 different writers are credited, including Asher and Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Bryan Yorkey); the cinematography and editing are professional and solid; the music is particularly good; and the acting is outstanding. Of these

aspects, the music and acting stand out: the mostly teen-aged cast is all very good, and while Katherine Langford as Hannah and Dylan Minnette as Clay shine throughout, the remainder of the ensemble is excellent. The grown-ups are also very good, but Kate Walsh as Olivia Baker, Hannah's grieving and feisty mother, is particularly stunning.

The music requires further investigation because it jumped off the screen from the first episode; it established a credible tone and announced itself (and by extension, the entire undertaking) as serious, knowledgeable, thoughtful, and meaningful. The relative newcomer Eskmo did the music for all episodes (his only other credit—the well-regarded and highly rated *Billions* on Showtime). It is the popular music on the soundtrack that really rises, however: some are old songs remade by current stars and some are just the old songs used in context. For example, in the first episode, early action plays out to the sound of Joy Division's *Love Will Tear Us Apart*. The title

and lyrics are self-explanatory, but it goes deeper than that. Founded in the late '70s, Joy Division became the founding influence on dark Alt bands such as The Smiths, The Cure, and Depeche Mode. The band lasted only a few years before lead singer Ian Curtis committed suicide in 1980. He had suffered from depression, a failed marriage, and epilepsy that caused him bouts of seizures and even some resultant derision because of the episodes. Unable

to deal with it all, he killed himself. The inclusion of the song therefore lends an *ethos* to the series that is usually lacking in most depthless teen stories. This story has depth, history, and a desire to connect to audiences outside teens: their parents.

If I have one complaint about the series, it is with the writing—it is sometimes overwritten. Oftentimes it is too obviously older people writing dialogue for younger people/teens, thereby rendering it overly mature and intellectual. I wish the wonderful actors had been given more latitude to improvise. I think it would have provided more realism and less *Juno*-type perfect answers and logic in every situation. But I



can forgive the series this one foible, since it is so affecting in every possible way.

The show is executive produced by Selena Gomez and her mother, Mandy Teefey. Gomez had the rights to the book for a while, and she was slated to star in the filmed adaptation. But she finally demurred, thinking her popularity would have overshadowed the material. In a *New York Times* interview, she described her decision: "I wanted it to be credible. If I'm a part of it, that's going to cause a whole other conversation." It was a wise choice and an admirable stance.

As a film reviewer, I can recommend this series on its merits. As a father, it was difficult, painful, upsetting, and even infuriating to watch. And I needed to watch. After screening the first episode, I decided to watch concurrently with my daughter. We had conversations about the issues as well as the series itself. I did this as a father and not a film professor, and I am glad I did. My daughter's take was that "parents are making a bigger deal out of it than the kids." Fair enough, but for me, it is better the high school I know than the high school I don't know.

Season One is now available on Netflix.

You will like this if you enjoyed *Stranger Things*, *Veronica Mars*, and/or *My So-Called Life*.

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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Just the Facts

The Oldest Thing in Colorado

by James Hagadorn



The oldest thing in Colorado is more ancient than Earth itself. It's a meteorite. Meteorites are hunks of rock that don't completely burn up as they hurtle through our atmosphere. Unlike most Earth rocks, they're composed of an odd mix of metals and minerals. They have a burnt appearance—like a well-seasoned cast iron pan. This so-called “fusion crust” forms as they're scorched on their descent.

All of us have seen meteors fall ... or at least microscopic ones. That's because shooting stars are mostly dust- to sand-size meteors that burn up as they enter our atmosphere. Millions of these meteors as well as larger ones bombard Earth every day. Scant few are big enough to survive entry and make it down to the surface as a meteorite.

Most meteorites originate as bits of debris that were bounced out of the asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter. Most of them are older than any Earth rocks, because most ancient Earth rocks have long been worn down or recycled by mother nature. Formed four and a half billion years ago during the accretion of our sun and its planets, most meteorites spend an eternity in the sterile vacuum of outer space. There, they're protected from the unforgiving elements that break rocks down on our planet's surface.

But the rarest meteorites originated as debris that was ejected off the surface of the moon or Mars when huge meteors collided with them. Before these lunar and Martian castaways fell to Earth, they journeyed through space like drunken billiard balls. Sometimes they drifted for tens of millions of years before they became trapped by our gravitational field. All told, there are about a hundred known meteorites from the moon and even fewer from Mars.

With all this space junk raining down, should we worry for our safety? After all, the di-



DMNS curators Jack Murphy (left) and Don Lindsey in 1973 examine the hole where a meteorite entered a Cañon City garage. The meteorite was traveling 200 mph when it hit (as compared to hail at 20 mph).

sive meteorite collection at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science. Four books and over 150 scientific papers later, he became revered as the father of modern meteoritics.

Even larger collections of meteorites are being assembled today, because meteorites provide clues from deep time about how our planets formed, and even life itself. For example, Martian meteorites come from all over Mars' surface, in contrast to the mere half-dozen places where spacecraft have landed. Thus, they extend our knowledge of the planet's geology, providing clues about both ancient Mars and present-day conditions there. Ditto for lunar meteorites and our Moon.

And the very oldest meteorites? These ones contain microscopic blebs that trapped the gases and dust that later congealed into our sun and its planets. Others contain primitive compounds, amino acids, and carbon that subsequently became the building blocks of life as we know it. Now that's primordial!

Meteorites are also cost-effective. It costs a lot less to find and study a meteorite than to send a rover to Mars or the Moon. So meteorites, including those from Colorado, are an efficient way to explore space and time without getting too far away from Starbucks. Not to mention that when you cut 'em open, they're often beautiful. Today, meteorites are prized by collectors, both for their rarity and their beauty.

Think you've found a meteorite? Most meteorites have more nickel and iron in them than do common earth rocks, making them able to attract a magnet. But unlike most earth rocks, meteorites lack visible quartz—the common silica-based mineral that makes up most beach sands and glass. Plus, they have a fusion crust.

Don't worry if you've found a piece of slag, the waste from smelting steel. It's a close cousin of a meteorite, known as a “meteorwrong.”

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



This is the famous Cañon City meteorite that measures about 3" across. Some of the black fusion crust broke off when it hit the floor. All images courtesy of Denver Museum of Nature and Science (DMNS).

nosaurs bit the dust due to a Greeley-sized meteorite. Fortunately, the chances of being struck by a meteorite are lower than winning Powerball. But meteorites occasionally do hit buildings, roads and the like. In 1973, one plunged right through someone's garage in Cañon City. Hitting at over 200 mph, it made our hailstones (at up to 20 mph) seem insignificant.

Colorado's got plenty of meteorites. In part that's because people have been picking them up for millennia. Native Americans traded meteorites long before Spaniards ever set foot here. Puebloans, Pawnee and other tribes used, worshipped, and in some cases feared these metallic stones that fell from the sky. During Colorado's Gold Rush, one prospector dug up a rusty meteorite thinking it might lead to riches. Talk about fool's gold.

Colorado was the first place meteorites were seriously studied in the United States. In the 1930s, ex-biologist and meteorite-hunter Harvey Nininger built the world's most comprehen-

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Why is Bluff Lake empty when they just repaired the dam?

By John Fernandez

Just as Bluff Lake was being improved to prevent leaks, the Bluff Lake Nature Center (BLNC) was informed by the state that they would have to drain the lake because the organization has no adjudicated rights to the water that flows into the pond from two storm drainage outfalls. Without such rights, these “waters of the state” must be pumped out and released to Sand Creek for consumption by downstream water rights holders.

Former BLNC Executive Director Jeff Lamontagne said neither he nor his board was aware of these facts when they informed the state last year of their plans to stabilize the dam face and seal the pond bottom. He said it appears 130-year-old Bluff Lake “flew under the radar” all these years, not drawing the attention of state regulators. The metaphor is apt because Bluff Lake was originally purchased by Stapleton Airport to serve as the crash zone for the east end of the airport’s runways.

The question now is how BLNC will be able to find enough water to maintain lake levels. One option currently under negotiation is for Bluff Lake to buy recycled water from Denver Water (a distribution line runs nearby). An engineer working for Bluff Lake, Joe Tom Wood, of Martin and Wood Water Consultants, has estimated they need to buy 30 acre-feet annually just to compensate for evaporation losses. (Maximum lake capacity is 45 acre-feet. One acre-foot equals approxi-



Apart from precipitation, all the water held by Bluff Lake arrives at two stormwater drainage “outfalls.” This is the original, eastern outfall. Photo by John Fernandez

mately 326,000 gallons.)

Denver Water charges about \$323 for one acre-foot. Bluff Lake says it has set aside a balance from its state grant to buy this water. However, other expenses and regulatory requirements stand in the way. In addition to a monthly service charge of \$39.95, Denver Water will assess a one-time “system development charge” of \$66,930 to tap into its system. And then there are questions such as who will apply for and pay for a discharge permit to allow the recycled water to flow into the lake, and whether the state will require additional treatment of the recycled water such as chlorine removal.

It is unknown how often the state will require BLNC to drain the water in the lake. BLNC would be entitled to retain what-

ever recycled water it purchases from Denver Water. It would also be able to keep “excess water” available when there has been no call by water rights holders. The problem, according to David Nettles, division engineer in the State Engineer’s office, is that the South Platte drainage in the metro area has been on continuous call since last summer. And with a dry winter on the plains, that call can be expected to continue indefinitely.

Historically, Bluff Lake has dried out each year by July or August. It has long been the Nature Center’s goal to stabilize lake levels not only to protect the natural resources there but also to enable it to conduct its outdoor education programs year-round.

Despite the challenges, BLNC board member Jeff Edson says he is “hopeful that the quality and quantity of Bluff Lake water will be a vast improvement even if there are calls for our water. It’s a really good thing that we have done. My hope is that we will still have a fairly large quantity

of water in Bluff Lake year-round.”

In the meantime, the BLNC is being forced to join the ranks of water storers throughout Colorado who have to track the origins and amounts of water coming into their storage facility. Lake depth measurements and flow rates will be entered into a spreadsheet to document the amount of water they can keep and will need to release when made subject to a call on the river. And weekly or monthly, these records will be shared with the State Engineer’s office to demonstrate that Bluff Lake is playing by the rules necessary to ensure it is abiding by the state’s doctrine of prior appropriation (referred to colloquially as “first in time, first in right”).

The engineer who designed the recent lake improvements, Gene MacDonald of Ayres Associates, says he is evaluating an additional design feature—an open channel to capture the storm drainage before it enters the lake. That channel would be activated when the call on the river is made and would eliminate the pumping expense incurred under the existing conditions. Unresolved is whether that storm water drainage would have to be treated before being released directly to Sand Creek.

The \$1.1 million grant to Bluff Lake came from the state’s settlement with the U.S. Army

and Shell over damages to the state’s natural resources—and the grant money is earmarked for projects that restore natural resources. The irony is inescapable—the very state money being used to maintain year-round water levels at Bluff Lake has resulted in the state taking away the water intended to accomplish that goal.



Storm drainage from Stapleton empties from this outfall into Bluff Lake, seen in its drained condition at upper right. Photo by John Fernandez



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New Director Takes Over At Bluff Lake



Bluff Lake’s new director, David Mallery, is excited to be doing the kind of work he loves.

By John Fernandez

Bluff Lake’s new director David Mallery grew up hiking around the Florida Everglades. “Wetlands are something I’ve always known about. And when I saw how important wetlands are to this area, that was just another enticement to take this job.” Mallery, 57, is not unfamiliar with the Rocky Mountain west having visited here often with his wife who hails from Utah. Mallery is starting his new job three months after the departure of the prior director, Jeff Lamontagne.

Mallery’s entire career has been in the southeast and mid-west. His most recent position was executive director of the Mississippi Commission for Volunteer Service, a state agency responsible for short term response and long term recovery for disasters such as Hurricane Katrina and Deepwater Horizon, coordinating volunteers and voluntary organizations.

In Mississippi, he worked at the state as well as national level, co-chairing policy groups advocating for national service. While gratifying, he said he always missed being in touch with the tangible natural resources. “I was very eager to get back to some of the

things I love doing the most. I had been a federal park ranger early in my career, built a youth camp, done environmental education working with youth. Those are the things that when you do them make you feel like you’re not doing work. I ran across the opportunity and the more I learned about this site, this facility and the work that this community has done to create this very unique opportunity – I thought, wow, it felt like this is what my entire career has been building towards.”

In considering the new position, Mallery said he was impressed with the “very, very active and engaged board. I realized this is a nonprofit organization that is really poised to do as much as they want and as much as we can within the limits of the natural resources we have without overtaxing them. The one thing I can say that I have never experienced as I have here in the last week is the number of people calling me, wanting to share information, as opposed to me having to chase people down, it just really amazed me. The community ownership – that shows you have much people value this resource. I’m finding that to be really refreshing.”

Compared to the cultural values of the southeast, (continued on page 28)



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Nabbed! Serial Burglar Caught

By Melinda Pearson

Good news for south Stapleton: a garage burglar who has been prowling the alleys since last August has been caught. Joshua Baxter, age 40, the man seen creeping into a garage in this photo, was apprehended by District 5 police on April 21.

According to Lt. Ian Culverhouse, a graveyard shift police officer routinely patrolling the neighborhood noticed Baxter out at night, stopped him, and checked his identification. When he gave the information to

District 5 detectives the next morning, they were able to match Baxter through comparing a previous mug shot to the video images recorded by a resident's security camera.

Baxter has now confessed to numerous garage burglaries, primarily in the Stapleton

area. According to Lt. Culverhouse, Baxter had originally just scavenged for abandoned bikes, but tempted by the number of open garage doors in the area, he began entering garages and stealing items late last summer.

Charges will be filed with the D.A.'s office, but due to his prolific activity, police are still piecing together the cases. So far, police have recovered

16 complete bikes, six bike frames, 12 rims, five bike racks, and three fenders from his East Montclair apartment. Some have been matched to owners, but police believe that there may be unre-



Photo from video released by police

ported thefts in the area and are urging the public to come forward.

If you've had a bike stolen within the last nine months and can describe it, please get in touch with Det. Bryan Gordon at 720.913.1439 or bryan.gordon@denvergov.org.

New Bluff Lake Director

(continued from page 27) he said, "Here in Colorado the love of nature is almost a religion and it aligns with my belief system. Nature is a unifier. Nature doesn't care whether you're a Republican or a Democrat or the color of your skin."

He said his immediate agenda is to get to know the Bluff Lake stakeholders. "I do hope to develop innovative solutions to issues such as lake draining but over time we will find a collective, slow waving of a wand to resolve these challenges." He is optimistic about the future of the 123-acre natural site. Despite the prospect of big budget cuts in Washington, he believes that "even in the worst of times, some people and organizations do well. It's how you position yourself."

New Graffiti Mars First Field Trip

In between fielding questions from reporters and giving high fives to public school students on a field trip, Mallery was greeted on his first day in the field with spray-painted graffiti on a Bluff Lake gazebo, interpretive signage and seating. He contacted the Denver Police Department for help. DPD Lieutenant Ian Culverhouse said Bluff Lake is not known as a hot spot for such vandalism. He said he would ask the city's graffiti removal unit to help with the clean-up. Culverhouse said



Bluff Lake was hit with graffiti on signs, walls and benches in late March.

the graffiti would be photographed and the pictures placed in a dossier. With many of the markings containing various gang markings, he is confident that the perpetrators will eventually be caught.

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RTD Says A Line Crossing Problems Solved

By John Fernandez

In an April 20 letter to the Federal Railroad Administration, RTD “now asserts that the A-Line highway grade crossings are operating in accordance with the design.” The letter to FRA Chief Safety Officer Robert C. Lauby requests an extension of a waiver from certain FRA requirements “until the Colorado Public Utilities Commission certification process has been concluded.” The prior waiver had been set to expire April 30.

The PUC regulates all at-grade (surface street) railroad crossings in Colorado. The FRA has its own certification requirements including a nation-wide mandate for the next generation safety measure known as positive train control. Approvals from both agencies are required before the FRA can act on a pending “quiet zone” request from Denver and Aurora that would allow the A Line trains and freight trains in the same corridor to run quietly through the street crossings (horns would sound only in emergencies).

RTD has previously estimated quiet zone enactment within 60 days of final agency approval of the 12 at-grade crossings on the A Line as it travels between Denver Union Station and DIA. The PUC has not provided an estimate of when its final approval might be granted.

The waivers essentially have allowed RTD to operate the A Line despite gates closing sooner and opening later than the FRA requires. A condition of the waivers has been deployment of flaggers at each crossing, an expense incurred by RTD’s concessionaire, Denver Transit Partners.

RTD’s confidence that it has solved the timing glitches affecting A Line crossings is reflected in a separate, April 12 request to the FRA to allow it to “recommence integration testing and operator training for the G Line” that runs from DUS to Arvada. That testing was suspended in the fall of 2016 until “performance improvements were implemented for the A and B Lines which we believe has now been achieved.”

DSST Submits Charter Application for Stapleton Aurora Site

By John Fernandez

The Denver School of Science and Technology (DSST) has submitted a charter school application to Aurora Public Schools, the only application received this year by APS. The application proposes two 6th-12th-grade campuses, one of which is at the border of Stapleton and NW Aurora where the new Stapleton-Aurora homes are being built. The proposed nine-acre campus is located on the north side of 25th Avenue between Fulton and Iola Streets. Location of the other campus has not been determined. Two district advisory committees will consider the application on May 3 followed by school board action on June 20.

DSST is Denver’s largest and fastest growing charter school network with approximately 5,000 students. The 25th Avenue campus would be DSST’s

first school located outside Denver.

DSST proposes to begin operations of the open enrollment charter school of choice at 25th Avenue with 150 students in 6th grade for the 2019-2020 school year.

A voter approved bond issue in November sets aside \$12 million as the district’s share of the facility, with DSST expected to fund raise an equal amount. The DSST application describes a 110,000 square foot school but a site plan has not yet been developed.

Key to making the campus work is district acquisition of a 1.7 acre parcel located between Geneva and Galena Streets. The site is currently occupied by the South Stapleton Office Warehouse Park building. APS has begun condemnation proceedings and the matter is expected to go to court in the coming weeks.

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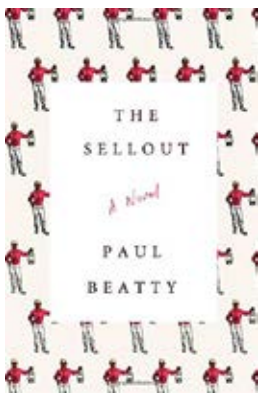
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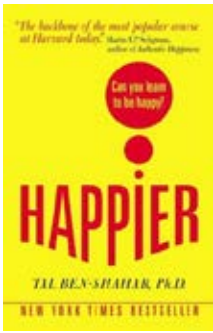


ADULT FICTION

The Sellout

By Paul Beatty

Punctuated by blistering satire, Paul Beatty's novel *The Sellout* is the story of an unnamed, pot-smoking urban farmer in Los Angeles who, by a tragic series of events, becomes the owner of a willing slave. The ensuing court case ends up going all the way to the Supreme Court. With this very prescient social commentary, Beatty became the first American to win the Man Booker Prize since its inception in 1969. *The Sellout* is hilarious and at times feels like the best stand-up from Dave Chappelle,

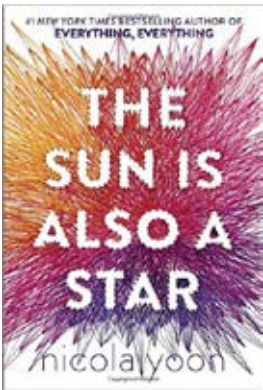


ADULT NON- FICTION

Happier: Learn the Secrets to Daily Joy and Lasting Fulfillment

By Tal Ben-Shahar

Everyone can be happier. Happiness is focusing on enjoying the journey of life, setting meaningful challenges for yourself and treasuring your loved ones. Tal Ben-Shahar offers "Time-In" sections for deeper reflection as well as more in-depth exercises to explore your thoughts as they arise during the reading. Ben-Shahar's examples have charming names like the hamburger principle, the lasagna principle, the drowning model and the lovemaking model. This book is recommended for anyone who is interested in the meaning of happiness, the role of happiness in our lives and ways to increase it.



YOUNG ADULT FICTION

The Sun Is Also a Star

By Nicola Yoon

You never know what your day will hold. With scant hours to prevent her family's deportation to Jamaica, Natasha unexpectedly meets and falls in love with Daniel, a young man striving not to let his own immigrant parents down. Alternating perspectives from each of them give the novel a wide appeal and you will fall in love with the characters as they fall in love with each other. Both bittersweet and hopeful, the lyrical writing style weaves a romantic and moving tale that will especially appeal to fans of *Eleanor & Park* by Rainbow Rowell.

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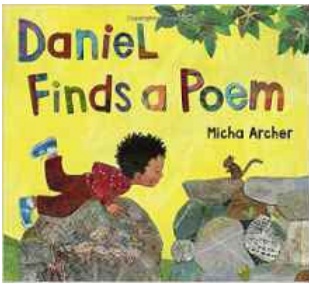
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CHILDREN'S FICTION

Daniel Finds a Poem

By Micha Archer

This story begins with Daniel noticing a sign in the park announcing a Poetry in the Park event on Sunday. Daniel wonders, "What is poetry?" Each day of the week he asks a different animal what poetry is and receives a descriptive reply. Each animal's idea of poetry is different than the others, but all are beautiful. Spider says that poetry is "morning dew when it glistens." Squirrel, says it is "when crisp leaves crunch." By Sunday Daniel combines his animal friends' interpretations of poetry and creates a lovely poem. A beautiful book that shows that poetry is all around you. Recommended for preschool through second grade.

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Holistic Family Wellness Practice Moves to Eastbridge



Jessica Young, DC, owner of Natural Balance Integrative Health, anticipates a May opening of their new Eastbridge office.

By Anne Hebert

Natural Balance Integrative Health, located in Stapleton for 10 years, is moving to their new location in Eastbridge at the end of May. “We have been a part of the Stapleton community for a long time,” says owner and chiropractor Jessica Young, DC. “We absolutely wanted to establish a permanent family wellness environment in the neighborhood.” Embracing holistic, nontraditional medicine, Natural Balance offers chiroprac-

tic, massage and acupuncture as methods patients may choose separately or in therapeutic combinations. “We frequently work with a patient’s physician to offer the best combination of traditional and nontraditional therapies,” Young says. Practitioners at Natural Balance are independent contractors working collectively to provide comprehensive care. Natural Balance will work directly with insurance companies when care received is a covered benefit.

Riverpath Counseling Colorado will rent and occupy space in the new building. A husband and wife counseling team, Alex Michaud specializes in marriage and couples counseling and Melissa Michaud works with women and teens. Both work with children. Young says she had to make a decision when the lease for her current location ended. “I originally thought I would move to the Stanley Marketplace,” she says. But the construction delays at the Stanley pushed her to look at other options. “I decided building a new office in Eastbridge was a better choice for my business. I could actually expand to 2,800 feet and grow the practice.”

Increasing its staff to three chiropractors, six massage therapists and three acupuncturists, Young says it just made sense to “go big—or go home.” Building a new space also gave Young the opportunity to design it with her patients in mind. Incorporating a natural feel throughout, the office will combine high ceilings, an abundance of natural light and a modern style. The building was also constructed to mitigate noise and offer a peaceful, tranquil place integral to patient comfort. To learn more about Natural Balance Integrative Health, visit www.nbstapleton.com or call 303.355.0363. For information about Riverpath Counseling Colorado, see www.riverpathcolorado.com.

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Proposed NIH Cuts “Risk Losing a Generation of Scientists”

By Melinda Pearson

The budget proposal put forth by the current administration seeks a 19 percent cut in funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), a federal agency that is responsible for conducting medical research and funding it at centers across the country. The NIH budget in 2016 was \$30.1 billion; President Trump’s budget proposal includes a \$5.8 billion cut.

The University of Colorado Denver’s Anschutz Campus receives more than \$200 million in funding from the NIH, and a cut of nearly 20 percent—\$50 million—would be devastating, according to Dr. Peter Buttrick, senior associate dean for academic affairs at University of Colorado School of Medicine (UCSOM). “What’s been proposed is so draconian, it’s hard to even imagine,” said Buttrick. “The NIH has historically allowed the United States to be the envy of the world ... We risk losing a generation of scientists.”



Dr. Kevin Deane’s research to prevent rheumatoid arthritis could be stopped mid-stream and years of work lost if proposed NIH funding cuts are carried out.



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The proposed cuts would have impacts across our community, on the many researchers, students, health care workers, and other staff members at the campus. According to data provided by UCSOM, almost 2,400 people in zip codes 80238, 80220, 80230 and 80207 work or study at the university and its clinical arm, UCHHealth, at the Anschutz Campus (figures that do not include staff or students at other sites like UC Denver’s downtown campus).

Buttrick is concerned not only about the considerable effect NIH cuts to biomedical research could have on local employment but also to the “ancillary advantages” such research provides. “It allows us to develop public-private partnerships that advance knowledge. It does so many things that enhance the life of the larger community,” he said. “If the proposed cuts go through, I think construction on the campus would end. There would be no way to support the development of new infrastructure. Many people would lose their jobs.” And the trajectory of scientific discovery—like personalized genetic medicine to treat cancer—will be blunted, he added.

Case Study: Park Hill Resident and His Research

Park Hill resident Dr. Kevin Deane is a rheumatologist who studies rheumatoid arthritis (RA), a chronic, sometimes debilitating condition that affects about 1 percent of the population. Its onset is usually in mid-life, in peak working years, and if not caught and treated early, it can lead to disability and consequent loss of capacity to work and enjoy an active life.

Dr. Deane’s research, which is funded by an NIH grant, involves screening people at risk of developing RA and then treating those who have certain markers with a generic drug that promises to prevent the onset of RA. Because the disease would be caught in an early, “stuttering” phase, the drug “could potentially be used for a limited time and the disease will never get into that chronic phase where you have to treat it forever,” said Deane.

Deane said treating chronic RA costs about \$30,000 annually over 20 or more years, while the cost of the preventative intervention he is researching is only a few thousand dollars. “The NIH has a particular interest in these types of numbers

because they’re related to the other side of government that is paying for those kinds of things,” said Deane. “A drug company is maybe not so interested in most prevention because it is not a model of sustained drug delivery.”

The work it takes to develop research like Deane’s is painstaking, and not all efforts pan out. According to Deane, out of 100 projects, perhaps five will be successful. And within each of those projects are thousands of hours—years—of work. Deane himself plans to test 5,000 subjects, if he is able to finish the five-year grant that funds him (the proposed NIH cuts could curtail his existing grant). This is not the kind of research typically funded by large pharmaceutical companies, and replacing the NIH support would be difficult if not impossible.

“As researchers, it will be much harder to pursue our dreams of curing or preventing diseases without the NIH funding and will also affect our ability to function here at the university,” said Deane. “Eighty percent of my funding is research, and 80 percent of that is NIH funding. Without that, I would have to change my existence substantially.”

Both Deane and Buttrick have considered alternative funding routes, such as venture capital, philanthropy, or partnerships with pharmaceutical companies, but none are likely to fully replace the sustained support for public interest research that the NIH does.

“We’re very fortunate in Colorado, Aurora—even Stapleton. This campus is one of the premier research campuses in the world. It is a source of enormous community pride,” says Buttrick. “It is probably one of maybe 25 such campuses in the country, and those are ... the bright, shining lights that are in jeopardy.”



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How Proposed Federal Budget Cuts Could Impact Denver

By Carol Roberts

With the news of possible big federal budget cuts, particularly to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the *Front Porch* contacted U.S. Congresswoman Diana DeGette to get additional information and background. Her district, where *Front Porch* readers live, would be doubly affected by NIH cuts—ending research at the Anschutz Medical Campus would impact lives everywhere, but many in this community would lose their jobs.

DeGette calls the proposed cut to NIH, at 18 percent, “massive.” She reminds constituents that Congress, just last fall with strong bipartisan support, passed the 21st Century Cures Act that *increased* the NIH budget. Rep. DeGette and Rep. Upton (R-Michigan), co-sponsors of the bill, recently sent a letter to the Appropriations Committee and wrote an op-ed together saying they won’t accept cuts like this. She says many Republican colleagues in the House are also expressing opposition to these cuts.

“In the biomedical realm at the NIH, they’re five- or ten-year projects. What you do is you lose all the money you’ve already invested in that research, and you lose the research itself. You have to start all over again. This affects cures for all kinds of diseases; cancer, Alzheimer’s, diabetes, and others.”

DeGette also has serious concerns about the proposed 31 percent cut to the EPA. And she believes it is a problem for a lot of Republicans, adding, “Parents of America do not want to see cuts to the EPA enforcement budget that helps keep our kids safe from tainted water and tainted air.”

DeGette points out another proposed cut—13 percent to the Department of Housing and Urban Development. “We’re particularly concerned about this in Denver because of the population growth that we’ve had here and the high price of housing. If we had a 13 percent cut to HUD, then that’s federal funding for affordable housing, and that’s going to trickle down to places like Denver where we’ll have substantially less affordable housing for folks.”

Just as the *Front Porch* was going to press, Congress was approaching the April 30 deadline to pass the remainder of the 2017 budget that takes the country through the rest of the year. DeGette says Democrats and Republicans had an agreed-upon budget last fall but decided to pass it only through April 30 so the new president “would be able to have a say.” She favors approval of the 2017 budget agreed-upon last fall, then moving on to the 2018 budget, but says there is an effort to interject elements from President Trump’s 2018 budget into the rest of the 2017 budget.



Diana DeGette, District 1 Representative to the U.S. Congress.

Constituent Input

How can constituents best make their views known about the budget? “The single most important thing constituents can do is communicate their opinions to their own senators, and they should talk to their friends who live in other congressional districts and tell them to communicate with their member of Congress. Constituent communications give us negotiating leverage,” says DeGette.

DeGette summarizes some of the more and less effective methods of communication. The least effective, she says, is signing onto some mass email that organizations send out. Saying I oppose the President’s budget; just vote no. That’s slightly more effective but not much.

Knowing your information, making specific statements and citing facts is the most effective.

What methods of communication are best?

Polite informative phone calls, personalized emails and letters are effective (but letters to Washington are still being irradiated for anthrax, so those can take weeks). Preferences for how to communicate with different legislators may vary. DeGette says her office checks comments people post comments on her Facebook page. She doesn’t know if tweeting is effective with other legislators, but says it’s not a good way to reach her.

Get the Facts about the Federal Budget

DeGette suggests constituents go to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities web page, *Where Do Our Federal Tax Dollars Go?*

Medicare, Medicaid and subsidies for health insurance are 25% of the budget. Social Security is 24%. Defense is 16%. Compared to those numbers, DeGette points out that nonmilitary discretionary spending is actually relatively small. For example, education is 3%, science and medical research is 2%. “But,” she says, “it’s money that really makes a difference.”

<http://www.cbpp.org/research/federal-budget/policy-basics-where-do-our-federal-tax-dollars-go>

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State Representative James Coleman responds to a constituent at a joint town-hall held with State Senator Angela Williams (left) and Rep. Leslie Herod.

By Melinda Pearson

In a sign of the times, a town hall meeting held by State Reps. James Coleman and Leslie Herod and State Sen. Angela Williams had to be relocated from the Whittier Café to a larger space at Manual High School.

Close to 100 people from diverse backgrounds attended the meeting to learn about the state budget process, proposed bills, and to have an open conversation with the elected representatives, whose districts include Park Hill, Stapleton, Montclair and Mayfair, among other areas.

Also participating was State Sen. Dominick Moreno, who represents District 21 (north Metro Denver) and sits on the State Senate Budget Committee. Sen. Moreno gave an overview of the Senate's proposed 2017-18 budget of \$26.8 billion. The bill, which seeks to fill a shortfall of \$400 million, includes cuts of \$50 million in education and deep cuts to hospitals, with the

precise amount still in debate. If passed, this budget will bring the underfunding of Colorado schools to almost \$880 million, an accrual that has built up over the last decade or so.

The proposed budget eliminates TABOR refunds for 2018, but there will be modest salary increases to state employees, judges and elected officials, and some additional money for youth jails and child welfare under the budget bill.

Moreno answered questions from the audience, noting that tapping marijuana tax revenue to fund programs like schools or roads would not be effective, as it is just a "drop in the bucket" compared to other revenue sources. Restrictions by TABOR and the Gallagher amendments are largely responsible for the tight budget that Colorado faces, even in boom times.

Andy Karsian of CDOT presented information about HB 1242, which seeks an increase of less than a penny on the dollar in



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Panacea at Beeler Park	Join Our Interest List	303.665.6100

This Is What Democracy Looks Like



Above: State Sen. Dominick Moreno, who represents District 21 (north Metro Denver), is a member of the State Senate Budget Committee. He explained issues about the Colorado budget at the town hall.



Left: Jeff Neuman-Lee asks the representatives, “Why would we want to fund the rich?”



Andy Karsian of CDOT presented information about a bill to increase the state sales tax to fund road and traffic improvements. Current gas tax funding has not been increased since 1992.



State Senator Williams (left) and Representatives Coleman and Herod thank the crowd for attending.

state sales tax to fund road and traffic improvements. Garcia, noting that the gas tax in Colorado has not been raised since 1992, told the audience that they currently only have funding to do minimal maintenance on the roads. “How would it feel if you hadn’t had a raise in 25 years?” he asked. Many in attendance were concerned about the I-70 viaduct project that is slated to begin in early 2018. Rep. Herod and her colleagues made it clear that, while there is little that can be done about projects that are currently funded, concerned citizens should weigh in on current and future bills. “It’s coming to you. You can vote it up or down.” As a means for people to get more involved, the representatives offered many different avenues. Sen. Williams described a community advisory cabinet that people can join on her website, while Rep. Herod described how she uses Twitter as well as Facebook Live to keep in touch with constituents. Rep. Coleman invited attendees to join a task force he is creating. All of them urged people to continue to make their voices heard. “Tell us what to do ... We know people want more direct democracy,” said Rep. Coleman.



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By Laurie Dunklee
The Art Gym, a do-it-yourself creative workspace and gallery in Mayfair, presents *Alone + Together*, a free exhibition featuring the work of three Denver artist couples, through May 20.

The three couples will show both their own work and collaborative work created with their partner. The artwork includes painting, calligraphy, video installation, photography, printmaking, collage, pastel, mixed media and musical performances.

The 17,000-square-foot Art Gym, which was previously a Safeway, opened in 2015. Members pay \$100 per month for access to studio space and specialty tools. Art Gym is at 1460 Leyden St. The gallery and coffee shop/café are open to visitors Tues. through Sat., 9am–6pm. For more information, see artgymdenver.com or call 303.320.8347.

Alone + Together artist couples talked with the *Front Porch* about their lives and their art.

Mamiko and Homare Ikeda

The Ikedas will show their collaborative video work that joins his painting and drawing with her calligraphy, animation and music. The three videos will include an animated cartoon in which they are characters.

Homare, from a small island near Okinawa, and Mamiko, from Tokyo, met in Denver and married in 2000. Homare is a respected abstract painter whose work is in the permanent collection of the Denver Art Museum. Mamiko is a poet, calligrapher and musician who became inspired to ramp up her creative work when she was exposed to Homare’s paintings.

Most of Homare’s work is inspired by the sea. “The sea is a metaphor for the primordial beginning of the universe,” he said. “Being in

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Artist Couples



Left: Mamiko Ikeda is a poet, calligrapher and musician. Her husband Homare Ikeda is an abstract painter who has paintings in the permanent collection at the Denver Art Museum.

Right: Tony Ortega is an associate professor at Regis University. Over his shoulder is a painting by his wife Sylvia Montero. A piece of Ortega's couples art is shown below.



Denver brings out my longing for the sea—a nostalgia that incorporates not just my memories but mankind's."

He said hiking in the mountains also inspires his work because he considers himself an explorer. "The mountains reach higher than the sky, to the unknown," he said. "I hope people who see my work will see something they haven't seen before. The task of visual art is to reveal things you haven't seen."

Mamiko earned a master's degree from the University of Denver in liberal arts, specializing in American Indian Studies. "The Indians and the Japanese are connected in a way; they are relatives from long ago, when they traveled across the sea. My art is influenced by the American Indian stories and beliefs."

Homare's paintings inspire their collaboration, she said. "I am surrounded by his art and my stories and poems come out of it."

Mamiko will perform the original songs featured in the videos on May 13 from 2–4pm, accompanied by Harry Tulchin on mandolin. They will also perform Japanese and Okinawan songs featuring the sanshin, a traditional three-stringed Okinawan instrument.

Tony Ortega and Sylvia Montero

Tony Ortega and Sylvia Montero will show three pieces all about couples. "One is a couple on a bicycle; another is a couple holding hands. They are all about relationships between males and females," says Ortega.

Montero and Ortega, married since 1992, have a son, 26. Their studio is a 600-foot addition to their home. Ortega is an associate professor at Regis University and Montero teaches at Whittier Elementary and CMS Community School.

The couple's art centers around the culture

and experiences of Chicanos and Latinos in the U.S. "We met when Sylvia was working at the Chicano Humanities and Arts Council [a gallery and arts center] and I was renting studio space there," said Ortega. "Our artistic tendencies attracted us to each other. She was a dancer who got into fine art."

The couple shares a background in the Chicano/Chicana movement of the 1970s in Denver. Their art reflects their bicultural roots. Ortega's colorful acrylic-with-collage paintings incorporate various cultural images, including the Statue of Liberty and Our Lady of Guadalupe. "The images are pulled from both cultures, overlapped and juxtaposed to make social statements," he said.

Montero favors other symbols in her paint-on-paper/mixed media/collage pieces. "Where I use pop iconography like Mickey Mouse and Che Guevara, Sylvia uses flowers, hearts and indigenous markets to reflect her upbringing in Northwest Denver and our universal Native American roots," said Ortega.

Sharing their studio space gives them

an opportunity to share ideas, said Ortega. "Sharing space has made our relationship stronger. We talk about teaching and about our art ideas. We critique each other's art too. We don't always agree, but that's all right."

As part of the exhibition, Ortega will demonstrate mono printing on May 6, from 2–4pm. A mono print is a single impression of an image made from a re-printable block. The paper and plate are pressed together on a printmaking press with the pigment sandwiched in-between. As the paper is peeled off the still-wet plate, the final result may look quite different than the image on the plate.

During his sabbatical next year, Ortega will be an artist-in-residence at Art Gym, where he will work with master printer Greg Santos. The artwork, to be exhibited in April 2018, will be a series combining the use of hybrid acrylic/collage paintings with prints using iPad technology and Adobe Photoshop. Art Gym will provide access to specialty tools and workspaces. "The artworks will express a correlation and contrast between Chicano (Mexican American) culture and popular culture. This research/ (continued on page 38)



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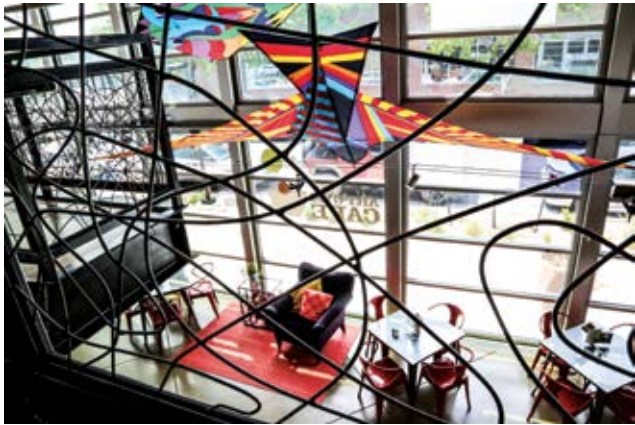
Artist Couples

(continued from page 37) creative project will allow me to create and develop new ideas and new methods of artistic expression,” said Ortega.

Mark Sink and Kristen Hatgi Sink

“We are each other’s muses,” says Kristen Hatgi Sink of her work alongside her husband, Mark Sink. The photographer couple will exhibit portraits of each other at the Art Gym show. “The show is about our mutual admiration and collaboration. I hope people see our love for image-making and for each other.”

Mark Sink has made a living from fine art photography since 1978. His photography is shown and collected worldwide. He is a co-founder of The Museum of Contemporary Art Denver, and founder of the Month of



The Art Gym Café/coffee shop is open Tuesday through Saturday 9am until 6pm.

Photography Denver and The Big Picture street art projects. Kristen Hatgi Sink is a visual artist and photographer with exhibit credits worldwide. The couple has been together 12 years and has a daughter, Poppy, 14 months old. “We met when Kristen came to work at my photography gallery and never left,” says Mark. Mark and Kristen collaborate on photos made with the collodion wet plate process, invented in the mid-19th century. “Images from the time of the Civil War were made that way,” said Kristen. “Photographers developed the photos in a wagon on-site, because the plates are wet with silver nitrate and have to be developed within about five minutes, one at a time.” Exposure time is much longer than with modern photography. “It slows us down and makes us look more carefully,” said Mark. “It’s interesting that

when a model sits still for a long exposure, the portrait has more presence. It’s a study in beauty.” The staged photos are based in portrait theory, Mark said. “The power of a simple portrait speaks to the heart rather than the head.” The Sinks’ collaboration includes critiquing each other’s work and celebrating their successes. “We know when something works,” Mark said. “We call it ‘dancing in the darkroom.’”

Affordable Homes

(continued from page 17) list, Mortensen says it will be about 4-5 months before the house will go under contract, at which time an earnest deposit will be required. Then it will likely be another nine months before closing and occupancy. Two- and three-bedroom homes are sized at 1,213 and 1,330 square feet. The starting price is \$189,900 and the maximum price, depending on options chosen, is \$246,000. Call 303-707-4410 for more information. Another future affordable option is expected to be in the upcoming development around the Central Park rail station. It is our understanding that approximately ten percent of a 200-unit development there will be affordable.

Solar Energy Storage

(continued from page 19)

- Having batteries store excess energy when solar generation is high and to dispatch energy later in the day;
- Reducing peak demand for the grid; and
- Charging batteries at times prices are low and discharging them when prices are high.

A white paper co-authored by Panasonic, Xcel and Yunicos, describes the 61st and Peña project as a “multi-use battery energy storage system (that) provides grid and customer services through a public-private partnership.” The paper asserts that the existing electric grid, “built to provide a one-way flow of power from centralized, predominately fossil-fueled power stations to distant customers – is giving way to a rapidly emerging new system...that enables a two-way flow of information, services and value.”

Key to this potential are the batteries which Panasonic’s Peter Bronski refers to as the “Swiss army knife” of the power grid, capable of doing many things for many stakeholders. Chacon of Xcel describes these batteries as an “emerging technology that is becoming more affordable to use in the utility industry. We want to better understand how the technology can play a role in supporting our distribution grid.” Bronski said the “successful operation of the grid comes down to the balance of supply and demand. So now as we add more solar to the equation, the question becomes how do we best balance that with the demand side. And energy storage systems are a nimble and very capable way of doing that.”

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DENVER METRO EVENTS

To 9/24—Alexander Calder Sculpture Exhibit at Denver Botanic Gardens. Included with admission. www.botanicgardens.org

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

5/5 Friday—First Friday- Cinco de Mayo Celebration. 5-9pm. Museo de las Americas. www.museo.org

5/5 to 5/7—The Big Wonderful Launch Weekend. Fri. evening, Sat. (Derby Party) and Sun., music, food, 20 breweries/distilleries, etc. 4400 Fox St. www.thebigwonderful.com

5/5 to 5/8—Spread The Word Music Festival 2017. 100 of Colorado's best up-and-coming bands/DJs at 10 stages, downtown Denver. Complimentary party shuttle travel to next venue. Silent disco, live painters, meet-and-greets, food trucks/vendors. www.spreadthewordfest.com

5/6 to 5/7—30th Anniversary Cinco de Mayo Festival. Civic Center Park. www.cincodemayodenver.com

5/6 to 5/7—2nd Annual HAHO Market and Great Western Alpaca Show. Presented by Denver Handmade. Homemade, grassroots craft and food market of artisan businesses. National Western Complex 4655 Humboldt. 10am-5pm. FREE. www.denverhaho.org

5/9 Tuesday—Ignite! Nite History of Colorado Center After Hours. 5-8pm. After-hours demonstrations, tours, performances, DIY crafts, live music. Cash bar. Members free, adults \$12, seniors \$10. History Colorado Center, 1200 Broadway www.historycoloradocenter.org

5/12 to 5/13—Botanic Gardens Plant Sale. 8am-5pm. Horticulture experts help choose plants. FREE admission to sale and gardens. Denver Botanic Gardens, 1007 York St. www.botanicgardens.org

5/12 to 5/13—Colorado Chocolate Festival. Denver Merchandise Mart, I-25 and 58th Ave. Music, kids' activities, wine tastings, cooking demos. Tickets \$5; under 5

free. Tasting tickets 12 for \$10. www.chocolate-festival.org

5/13 Saturday—The Great Colfax Cleanup. Sponsored by Keep Denver Beautiful. 9-11:30am. Help clean up Colfax for Colfax Marathon from Colorado Blvd. to Federal Blvd. Call 311 for info. www.denvergov.org/KDB

5/13 Saturday—Denver Bacon and Beer Classic. Sports Authority Field. 1-4pm and 7-10pm. Games, contests, tastings, etc. Tickets: www.baconandbeerclassic.com

5/13 Saturday—Wash Park Home Tour. 5 Wash Park homes. 10am-4pm. Tickets: washparkhometour.org or www.facebook.com/WashParkHomeTour

5/14 Sunday—Mother's Day Tea. Molly Brown House. Sittings 11am, 1pm and 3pm, \$22-\$26. Reservations required. www.mollybrown.org

5/17 to 5/20—Fair Trade Oriental Rug Event. Augustana Lutheran Church, 5000 E. Alameda Ave. 300+ heirloom-quality hand-knotted rugs, all sizes from fairly paid Pakistani adults. 303.316.8773, www.rugs.tenthousandvillages.com

5/20 Saturday—Five Points Jazz Festival. Five Points neighborhood. www.artsandvenuesdenver.com

5/20 Saturday—The Great Denver Cleanup. Sponsored by Keep Denver Beautiful. One day FREE drop-off sites, 9am-2pm. Call 311 for details/locations/list of acceptable items. www.denvergov.org/KDB

5/25 Thursday—Colorado Corks and Cuisine. Fruits of local breweries, distilleries, wineries and culinary artists while supporting Colorado history education. Proceeds give low-cost/free field trips for Denver-area underprivileged students. Tickets: fourmilehistoricpark.eventbrite.com for member/nonmember prices. 5:30-8:30pm. Four Mile Historic Park, 715 S. Forest St. 720.865.0815

5/26 Friday—Untitled Final Fridays. 6-10 pm. Adult evening out. Final Fridays thru Oct. www.denverartmuseum.org

5/27 Saturday—Colorado Remembers. Colorado Freedom Memorial and city of Aurora free annual commemoration of Colorado military personnel/families who have paid ultimate sacrifice. Blends Colorado

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Freedom Memorial site with activities, stories of lives of fallen heroes. https://www.auroragov.org/things_to_do/events/colorado_remembers, <http://www.cfmf.net>

5/27 Saturday—Denver Day of Rock. 16th St. Mall. www.denverdayofrock.com

5/27 to 5/28—Denver Arts Festival. Stapleton Northfield. www.denverartsfestival.com

5/27 to 5/29—Boulder Creek Festival. FREE. www.bceproductions.com

5/27-529-- 38th Annual Old South Gaylord Memorial Day Festival. FREE. www.oldsouthgaylord.com

5/28 Sunday—Runway of Honor Bricks Dedication and Memorial Day Ceremony. 1pm. Wings Over the Rockies Museum, Lowry. 1:30-3:30pm. FREE. www.wingsmuseum.org

5/29 Monday—53rd Annual Commerce City Memorial Day Parade. Largest Memorial Day Parade in Colorado; 64th and Newport, Commerce City, 10am. www.c3gov.com/parade

6/3 to 6/4—Capitol Hill Peoples Fair. Civic Center Park. Sat., 10am-8pm, Sun., 10am-

7pm. FREE. www.peoplesfair.com

6/3 to 6/4—Denver Chalk Art Festival. Larimer Square. Sat., 10am-10pm, Sun., 10am-7pm. FREE. www.denverchalkart.com

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

5/3 Wednesday—Medicare 101. Medicare 101 free educational seminar for Medicare beneficiaries/caregivers. 9-10am. Host: Chaundra Glenn. 303.324.0951. Iora Primary Care, 4100 E. Mississippi Ave., Ste. 110.

5/3 to 6/28—Jewish Aging Mastery Program at Robert E. Loup Jewish Community Center. Relevant courses to help baby boomers age well. 10-weeks; 1 course/week, Wednesdays 10:15-11:45 am. Goal setting, daily practices, peer support. Also for those helping aging parent. \$150. Debbie MacKillop: dmackillop@jccdenver.org, 303.316.6324. www.jccdenver.org/adults-and-seniors/adult-programs/jamp

5/6 Saturday—Dumb Friends League Furry Scurry. Walk to help homeless pets. Denver's Wash Park. 9am. www.ddfl.org

5/7 Sunday—Denver Promise Walk and 2 Mile Fun (continued on page 40)

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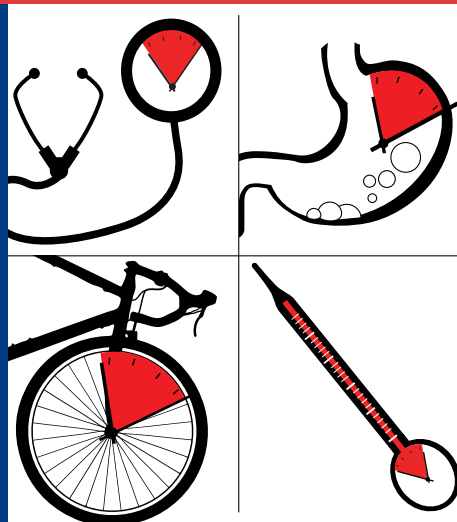


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(continued from page 39)

for Preeclampsia. Funds research, awareness of preeclampsia affecting pregnant women and unborn children. Registration: 7:45am, 1 mile walk 9am. No race fee but fundraising encouraged. Goody bag for all entrants. Denver City Park. www.promisewalk.org/denver

5/11 Thursday—FREE Women's Infertility Support Group Monthly support group. Acupuncture Denver, 899 Logan St., Ste. 109, 6-7pm. Register: 303.929.9582 or info@AcuDenver.com. www.acudenver.com.

5/13 Saturday—Girls on the Run 5K. Cherry Creek High School, 9am. Also 5/20 City Park, Colfax 5K 9am. www.girlsontherunrockies.org

5/20 to 5/21—Denver Colfax Marathon Weekend. 5K Sat.; urban 10-mile race, 1/2 marathon and marathon on Sun. www.runcolfax.org

5/29 Monday—Bolder Boulder. 10K road race. www.bolderboulder.com

6/4 Sunday—Home Run for the Homeless 5K. Coors Field. LoDo. www.coloradorockies.mlb.com

KIDS AND FAMILIES

May and June—Denver Puppet Theater. Thumbelina. www.denverpuppettheater.com

To 5/31—Unparalleled Excellence- Automobiles of Rolls Royce and Bentley. Forney Museum; free with admission. 4303 Brighton Blvd. www.forneymuseum.org

5/2 to 5/30—Little Wings Club. Tuesdays in May, 11am. Kids 11 and under with adult. Story and craft. Wings Over the Rockies Museum. www.wingsmuseum.org

5/2 to 5/30—Tuesdays in April 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

5/7 Saturday—Montview Community Preschool/Kindergarten Annual Carnival. 1980 Dahlia St., Park Hill. 11am-3pm. \$7 in advance at school office; \$9 at door. Wagon/train rides, magic shows, games, petting zoo, bouncy house, food trucks and live music. 303.322.7296. <http://montviewpreschool.org>

5/7 Sunday—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

5/13 and 5/27—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

5/14 Sunday—Cockpit Demo Day. Wings Over the Rockies Museum, Lowry. www.wingsmuseum.org

5/14 Sunday—Junior Rangers. Age 6-12, 1:30-3pm. Learn about plants/animals of Star K Ranch. RSVP required, 303.326.8650 www.aurora.gov/nature

5/19 Friday—Nature at Night. Explore nature after sun goes down. All ages. 8-9pm. RSVP required, 303.326.8650. www.aurora.gov/nature

5/20 Saturday—International School of Denver International Bash. Festive carnival-style. Games, activities,

face painting, a cultural village, international-themed food trucks, student performances, fun for whole family. One of largest international festivals in Denver metro area. 10am-4pm. <http://isdenver.org/bash2017>, www.isdenver.org

6/1 Thursday—City Park Alliance Ice Cream Social. City Park Alliance and City Council District 9's old-fashioned ice cream social at City Park Pavilion. 6-9pm. Free ice cream, face-painting, entertainers and Denver Municipal Band concert. <http://cityparkalliance.org/icecreamsocial>

6/3 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

LECTURES AND CLASSES

5/2 Tuesday—Active Minds (Free)—Iran. 10-11am. Jewish Community Center, 350 S. Dahlia St. 303.316.6359. www.ActiveMinds.com

5/6 Saturday—Four Mile Class Series: Composting. Basics to develop garden compost pile. 10am-12pm, Four Mile Historic Park, 715 S. Forest St. \$13/FMHP members, \$15 nonmembers. Register: www.fourmilehistoricpark.eventbrite.com, info@fourmilepark.org, 720.865.0800

5/7 Sunday—Building Your Financial Portfolio on \$50 a Month. Demystify stock market and why it's proven safest way to grow your money. 1-4pm. Colorado Free Univ., 7653 E. 1st Pl. \$51 or \$39/members. www.freeu.com <http://freeu.com>

5/10 Wednesday—The Nuts & Bolts of Starting a Business. Develop a business model and illustrate how it feeds directly into your business plan. 6-8:30pm. \$56 or \$44/members. www.freeu.com

5/11 Thursday—Active Minds Presents: Spices. Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St. 6:45-7:45pm. Free. <http://active-minds.com>

5/25 Thursday—Active Minds Presents: Philippines. Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St. 6:45-7:45pm. Free. <http://active-minds.com>

MUSEUMS—DENVER ART MUSEUM

www.denverartmuseum.org

To 5/28—Shock Wave: Japanese Fashion Design, 1980-90s. Works of Japanese designers who started Paris fashion revolution in 1980s-90s.

To 8/31—Then, Now, Next: Evolution of an Architectural Icon. North Building history. Free: 18 and under.

5/27 to 9/10—The Western: An Epic in Art and Film. Explore artistic/cinematic evolution of the Wild West. 160 works explore gender roles, race relations and gun violence through fine art, film, popular culture from mid-1800s to present. Also, 320-page illustrated book with essays/interviews by historians, artists, and directors in The Shops at DAM and online.

MUSEUMS—DENVER MUSEUM OF NATURE AND SCIENCE

www.dmns.org

To 8/13—Vikings: Beyond the Legend. Special exhibit,

Separate ticket required.

5/1 to 5/31—Planetarium current shows. One World One Sky; Big Bird's Adventure; Cosmic Journey: A Solar System Adventure; Black Holes: The Other Side of Infinity; Destination Solar System

5/1 to 6/17—IMAX current films. Dream Big 3D: Engineering our World, Extreme Weather 3D, Wild Africa 3D

MUSEUMS—FREE DAYS

5/2 Tuesday—Children's Museum Free Target Tuesday. 4-8pm. www.cmdenver.org

5/6 Saturday—Denver Art Museum Free Day. SCFD Free day. www.denverartmuseum.org

5/7 Sunday—Denver Museum of Miniatures, Dolls and Toys Free Day. SCFD Free day. www.dmmtdt.org

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

5/26 Friday—Clyfford Still Museum. SCFD Free day. Free admission last Friday of every month all day. Free admission every Friday 5-8pm. 1250 Bannock St www.clyffordstillmuseum.org

6/3 Saturday—Denver Art Museum Free Day. SCFD Free day. www.denverartmuseum.org

6/4 Sunday—Denver Museum of Miniatures, Dolls and Toys Free Day. SCFD Free day. www.dmmtdt.org

6/4 Sunday—Denver Museum of Nature & Science Free Day. SCFD Free day. www.dmns.org

NORTHEAST DENVER/AURORA EVENTS

Through 9/30—Da Vinci Machines Exhibit. Special interactive exhibit featuring 65 handcrafted inventions built from Leonardo da Vinci's 500-year-old designs. Separate ticket required. Wings Over the Rockies. www.wingsmuseum.org

5/4 to 5/25—Star K Kids. Thursdays, 9:30 and 11am; kids 5 and under. Morrison Nature Center, 16002 E. Smith Rd., Aurora. www.auroragov.org/nature

5/6 Saturday—Mono Print Demo with Tony Ortega. 2-4pm. Free event, 18+. 1460 Leyden St. 303.320.8347. <http://artgymdenver.com>

5/6 Saturday—Denver Kentucky Derby Mini Derby. 1pm. Viewing party and miniature derby with mini horses. Indoor/outdoor; projectors show Kentucky Derby live, DJ, Best Hat/Best Suit/Cutest Couple contests, corgi race/costume contest (only corgis), lawn games, mint juleps, themed cocktails, etc. Tickets only in advance. Options: GA tickets (\$69) include viewing party, miniature horse race, contests, 2 drink tickets. VIP tickets (\$139) has additional VIP-only dessert section, open bar, unlimited barbecue. Shop at Stanley Marketplace and stay for party. <http://www.denverminiderby.com>, <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/denver-mini-derby-tickets-32138036733>

5/13 Saturday—Denver's Daddy Daughter Dance. A formal/semi-formal ball for dads and daughters to celebrate father- and daughterhood. Park Hill Golf Club, 6-10pm <http://www.denverd3.org/>

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Stapleton Front Porch

5/13 Saturday—Inside the Orchestra Family Music Fest at Stanley. Presented by Neighborhood Music Stapleton at The Hangar at Stanley. 9:30am-2pm. Music and creativity for families. Register: www.insidetheorchestra.org/family-music-fest

5/13 Saturday—Musical Performance by Mamiko Ikeda and Harry Tulchin. 2-4pm. Mamiko's original songs featured in video installation at Alone+Together exhibition, plus Japanese and Okinawan folk songs. The Art Gym 1460 Leyden St. 303.320.8347. <http://artgymdenver.com>

5/19 to 5/21—Park Hill Arts Festival. 4819 E. Montview Blvd. (grounds of Park Hill Masonic Lodge). FREE. Paintings, jewelry, sculpture, pottery, glass, photography, more. www.parkhillartfestival.com

5/20 to 5/21—Stapleton Community Yard Sale. 8am-12pm.

5/21 Sunday—Aurora Symphony Orchestra—Arts for a Better Tomorrow Concert. Hear Copeland's Prairie Journal and Colorado composer Jonathan Peters' Rocky Mountain Suite, plus artistry of Samantha Tartamella, Young Artist Competition **5/26 Friday—Blues and Brews on the Bluff.** Bluegrass music, local breweries, food trucks. Bluff Lake, 3400 Havana Way. Tickets: www.blufflake.org

5/27 Saturday—Denver Brass Presents “Colorado Remembers at Colorado Freedom Memorial. FREE. Military ceremony 11am, concert 2pm. Springhill Community Park, 756 Telluride St., Aurora. www.denverbrass.org. Winner. 3pm. \$15-\$20. North Middle School Auditorium, 12085 E. Montview. www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2597020

6/3 to 6/4—Lowry Yard Sale. Lowry Neighborhood. 8am-2pm. www.lowry.org

NORTHFIELD EVENTS

5/5 Friday—Harkins Theatres 18 New Release. Guardians of the Galaxy Volume 2, The Dinner. www.harkinstheatres.com

5/12 Friday—Harkins Theatres 18 New Release. King Arthur: Legend of the Sword. www.harkinstheatres.com

5/19 Friday—Harkins Theatres 18 New Release. Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Long Haul. www.harkinsthewcom

5/25 to 6/4—5th Annual Family Festival. Rides, festival food, midway games, etc. www.northfieldstapleton.com

5/26 Friday—Harkins Theatres 18 New Release. Baywatch, Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Men Tell No Tales. www.harkinstheatres.com

ROCKY MOUNTAIN ARSENAL NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky_mountain_arsenal/

5/13 Saturday—Birding by Ear- International Migratory Bird Day. 9am-10:30am.

5/20 to 6/10—Wildlife Viewing Tours. 9:30-11:30am (Sat. 5/20, 6/3 and 6/10) Naturalist-led bus tour through refuge to view bald eagles, bison, coyotes, deer, raptors, etc. RSVP required.

5/27 Saturday—Kids Fishing Clinic. 10am-12pm. Kids ages 6-12. Poles available for loan.

6/4 Sunday—The Masked Bandit. 10am-10:45am. Learn about the Refuge's black-footed ferrets and observe feeding time. RSVP required.

THEATRE

To 5/13—Much Ado About Nothing. The Bug Theatre, 3654 Navajo St. www.lostandfoundproductions

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

To 5/20—Sleeping Beauty. Saturdays, Vintage Theatre. 1468 Dayton St., Aurora Cultural Arts District. www.vintagetheatre.org

To 5/21—The Drowning Girls. Arvada Center, 6901 Wadsworth Blvd. www.arvadacenter.org

To 5/21—The Intelligent Life of Jenny Chow. Vintage Theatre, 1468 Dayton St., Aurora Cultural Arts District. www.vintagetheatre.org

To 5/21—A Time to Kill. Vintage Theatre. 1468 Dayton St., Aurora Cultural Arts District. www.vintagetheatre.org

To 5/28—The Desert. Aurora Fox Arts Center, 9900 E. Colfax Ave. www.aurorafoxartscenter.org

To 5/28—The Secret Garden. Stage Theater, Denver Center for the Performing Arts. www.denvercenter.org

5/30 to 6/18—The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time. The Ellie, Denver Center for the Performing

Arts, 14th and Curtis. www.denvercenter.org

6/1 to 6/25—DragOn. Garner Galleria Theater, Denver Center for the Performing Arts, 14th and Curtis. www.vintagetheatre.org

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteers Needed at Ronald McDonald Family Rooms at Rocky Mountain Hospital for Children. At Presbyterian/St. Luke's Hospital. Seeks volunteers for once-a-week commitment, 6-month minimum. www.ronaldhouse.org under "How You Can Help" for info.

Single Volunteers of Greater Denver. Volunteer, not-for-profit singles group to meet others and assist nonprofit organizations for events/ activities. www.svgd.org

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Recognitions — Young People Creating a Better



At the S.A.M.E. (So All May Eat) Café, where diners pay what they can afford, students helped with cleaning the kitchen, pantry, and dining areas. A student helps co-founder Libby Birky refill supplies.



Students check out a sensory box that enables babies who can't see to explore the world around them in a safe space. Students made items to hang in the sensory boxes.

No Bad Days

By Melinda Pearson

There's no such thing as a bad day spent in service of somebody else, some other cause or something that you believe in," said Kyle Clark, 9News anchor and the keynote speaker at an assembly marking McAuliffe International School's annual day of service. Representatives from local nonprofit groups were on hand at the ceremony to accept cash donations from students at the school before the kids headed out to serve their community.

McAuliffe students handed out \$6,600 in grants of around \$400 apiece to a broad array of organizations. The money had been collected through the SparkChange club at McAuliffe, organized through the Young Americans Bank. Student leaders in SparkChange coordinated coin drives during the year

and then met with around 80 nonprofit groups to select where to direct the funds and the student-power to help them, according to Charlie Denlinger, a seventh-grader who formerly served in the club.

While animal welfare was a particularly popular category—the audience of 900 students audibly squealed at the mere mention of puppy rescue—other causes supported by the school included cancer, refugee support, suicide prevention, social injustice, bee extinction crisis support, rape awareness, world and community health, and child welfare.

After the ceremony, McAuliffe students fanned out across the community to volunteer their time. There were 24 project sites—nearly half dedicated to animal welfare—across the city.

"You have figured out that life doesn't just happen to you. There are so many people that just let life happen to them,"

Clark told the students. "You guys are about to go out there today and happen to life ... You're going to make things better as opposed to just accepting things as the way they are."

At the Denver Animal Shelter, the students got to meet an older dog named "Gramma" and learn about how the municipal shelter takes care of animals and works collaboratively with other agencies to provide for animal welfare in Denver.

Then the sixth-graders went to work, stuffing Kongs with dog food and peanut butter and making toys and treats for shelter dogs. "It's important to know what's going outside of Park Hill and fun to take action knowing you're making change and representing McAuliffe," said participant Hadley Hageseth.

Meanwhile, at the S.A.M.E. (So All May Eat) Café students helped with cleaning the kitchen, pantry, and dining areas and refilling supplies. They also

learned about the work of the S.A.M.E. Café, which serves fresh, mostly local and organic food at prices set by the customers. Those who have little pay what they can; those with nothing can spend an hour volunteering in exchange for a meal.

The group of seventh-graders who went to the Anchor Center for Blind Children learned about the center's program for low vision and blind children and their unique facility. The students had the opportunity to navigate the space with their eyes closed. "You really get to understand what their lives are like," said Denlinger. "There are grooves in the hallways and little bumps on everything to help them." The group of McAuliffe kids helped with cleaning and also assembled sensory boxes for babies to use. They learned that such boxes have really helped children who can't see learn how to explore the world around them in a safe space, leading to improvements in their development, said Denlinger.

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Stapleton Front Porch

Girl Scouts Earn Top Award



Girls from Troop #4527 work on one of three projects to earn the Jr. Bronze Award, the highest award given to Jr. Girl Scouts.

By Anne Hebert

Proud parents and relatives gathered at Swigert International School as Girl Scout Troop #4527 celebrated earning the Jr. Bronze Award, the highest honor awarded to Jr. Girl Scouts. Wearing vests adorned with colorful achievement badges, each girl spoke about what she learned and the positive community impact made by her work on one of the award projects.

The Troop selected three projects and individual scouts chose the one they were most passionate about. A pet care project had girls volunteering at the Denver Animal Shelter, mentoring younger Brownie Scouts and learning how best to care for a variety of animals. A Math & Science Carnival was a popular project with seven of the scouts participating alongside fellow Swigert students. A third project placed a “Buddy Bench” on the Swigert playground. The bench helps students make friends by sending a quiet signal that a student occupant would like an invitation to play. One of the girls noted that it is a “much nicer way to find a friend than having to ask.”

The girls said they learned the importance of teamwork and contribution. Many said they enjoyed the opportunity to help mentor younger girls and help them learn. Troop leaders emphasized that awards mean new responsibilities for the girls in their communities and at home.

DSA Student Wins Boettcher Scholarship

By Anne Hebert

Bridget Galaty, a Park Hill resident and senior at Denver School of the Arts has been selected to receive a Boettcher Foundation Scholarship. Galaty will attend Colorado College next fall. Scholarship funds will cover full tuition, student fees, a book allowance and an annual stipend for living expenses.

In addition to academic excellence, Galaty is immersed in community service and activism projects. A member of the Student Board of Education, Galaty has championed causes including a proposal to change the Denver Public School’s (DPS) sex education curriculum and a motion to lower the voting age to 16 on Denver Board of Education issues. “It makes sense that students should have a say while they attend the schools affected by voting decisions,” Galaty says.

An advocate for LGBTQ rights, Galaty has participated in making DPS school environments welcoming for all students. With a keen interest in documentary films, Galaty has produced projects highlighting LGBTQ awareness by taking a comedic approach to the subject matter.

Galaty will use the scholarship to explore the liberal arts, film, math, physics, and education.



Photo courtesy of Galaty family

Boettcher Scholar recipient, Bridget Galaty, will attend Colorado College in the fall. Galaty is currently a senior at Denver School of the Arts.

No Timetable for MLK Extension

By John Fernandez

Denver Public Works is unable to provide an updated timeline for the MLK extension project. The \$16.5 million project to extend the roadway from Havana St. to Peoria St. was supposed to have begun summer of 2016 but has been delayed by the need to update the original “environmental evaluation” (EA) to account for new federal environmental regulations and updated traffic modeling. That re-evaluation resulted in a February conclusion by the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) that noise walls are a “reasonable and feasible” means for mitigating noise impacts on adjacent residences in a three-block stretch of the roadway. Affected property owners will eventually be asked to vote on whether to have the noise walls constructed. The walls would add \$1 million–\$1.3 million to the project cost. Denver has not yet identified a source of funding to pay for the walls.

The draft EA re-evaluation document is currently in review by CDOT and then will require review and approval by FHWA. Unspecified issues associated with the draft final Environmental Assessment (EA) have not been resolved, according to Department of Public Works (DPW) spokesperson Nancy Kuhn: “From what I understand, CDOT parcels the EA document out to their folks for review and these subject matter experts

ask clarifying questions, to which we respond, or they might ask us to add a footnote that references where we got the information. There is not an impasse or specific problem—just back and forth on the document to finalize it.”

Despite repeated attempts by the Front Porch to obtain specifics, Kuhn would say only, “We are waiting for final approval of the Environmental Assessment Reevaluation document ... Following approval of the EA document by CDOT/FHWA, we can move forward with the noise wall voting process and ultimately the Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).”

In February, DPW estimated the noise wall voting process will add a couple of months to the project schedule. At this point, neither that process nor the adoption of the final EA has occurred. A CDOT spokesperson said the EA might be approved by her agency in May. Kuhn said the “current anticipated schedule, not including construction of noise walls, is for construction to begin in summer 2017. Should voters approve one or more sections of noise walls, that timeline could be delayed while funding is sought. A condition of the federal grant requires the project to begin in 2017, however the city could ask for an extension to be granted.” Denver has estimated a one-year construction period.

New HAWK Lights Bring Safe Pedestrian Access to Eastbridge Town Center



Jose Cornejo, Denver Public Works Manager, strides across westbound Martin Luther King Blvd. on April 19 in the first test of the pedestrian activated crossing light—the warning lights flashed as programmed and cars stopped.

A HAWK signal is a pedestrian activated light, designed specifically for mid-block pedestrian crossings, not traffic control at intersections. HAWK stands for High-Intensity Activated CrossWalk. The beacons are off until activated by a pedestrian. Once activated, they flash yellow, then become solid yellow before turning solid red, allowing pedestrians to cross while traffic is stopped. The solid red light then turns to a flashing red light, and drivers may proceed after the pedestrian has safely crossed. The beacons then return to the off mode. HAWKS cost about \$150,000 where a traditional traffic signal costs upwards of \$300,000.

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Stapleton Front Porch

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May 2017

The SUN Spot

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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

Kickball—Annual Forum—SUN Survey—Parks

By Amanda Allshouse, President, Board of Directors, Stapleton United Neighbors

Kickball Tournament

Stapleton United Neighbors' (SUN) 14th annual kickball tournament, Sat., Sept. 9, will have a different location from previous years: the fields at Stanley Marketplace. Stanley's fields, located near the banks of Westerly Creek south of 25th Ave. in Aurora, have previously hosted The Big Wonderful. This exciting new venue will allow participants to enjoy food/drinks from the Stanley Marketplace during the afternoon double-elimination tournament. Team signup and rules are available on the SUN website: www.StapletonUnitedNeighbors.com.

SUN designates a charity recipient each year for funds raised through the kickball tournament. Last year's recipient was the Community Hub at Northfield for assistance in paying utilities. This year's recipient will be The Urban Farm (TUF) at Stapleton. TUF's mission and purpose are

to provide experiential learning and practical work experience to young people in a farm setting and to inspire excitement for learning while fostering personal confidence, resilience, teamwork, and real-world problem-solving skills. TUF experienced a great loss of many animals in January 2017 from a wild animal attack overnight inside of their animal enclosures. SUN's donation will contribute to replenishing TUF's animal habitats, population and the associated programming. <http://theurbanfarm.org>

SUN's Annual Forum and Election, May 16, 6:30-8:15pm

The annual community forum, the third Tuesday in May at Central Park Recreation Center (9651 MLK Jr. Blvd) will feature speakers from Stapleton-specific organizations (SUN, MCA, Forest City), as well as city representatives from Denver Police, Denver Parks and Rec, and our liaison with the city of Denver, Bar Chadwick. CDOT and Northeast Transportation Connections will cover the I-70 project and multimodal transportation concerns. The agenda for the forum will begin with SUN elections and a vote to update our bylaws to include a statement of operating principles. Each subsequent speaker will have a quick 10 minutes for a presentation, ending with 30 minutes of question and answers. Any question that SUN receives in advance will be sent to the appropriate speaker in advance for consideration in his/her prepared comments. Contact: StapletonUnitedNeighbors@gmail.com

The evening of the forum would be an excellent opportunity to visit one of the newly opened restaurants in the East-bridge Town Center, located across the

street from the Central Park Rec Center. <http://www.eastbridgetowncenter.com/directory/>

The annual forum is the last monthly meeting SUN will hold with the community until August. Any resident interested in joining a committee with the SUN board should attend the board meeting on the third Tuesday in June, 6:30pm, Central Park Recreation Center.

SUN Survey: Open through Mid-May

The Spring SUN survey opened mid-month in April, and will remain open through mid-May. Topics on this eight-page survey include education, crime prevention, community activity, and stress. While we encourage all members of the Stapleton community to attend our monthly meetings and annual forum, we recognize that there are challenges in covering a range of issues during in-person meetings. Please take the opportunity to share experiences and preferences so that SUN's future efforts can better meet the community's needs in an evidence-based manner. This survey is anonymous, so please be sure to separately contact SUN directly if you would like a response for any questions or comments. The survey will take approximately 10 minutes to complete, but some answers will open additional questions. Aggregated survey results will be published in a future SUN Spot in the *Front Porch*, on SUN's Facebook page, and discussed at monthly meetings in the fall of 2017. The link to the survey: <https://redcap.ucdenver.edu/surveys/?s=T8CNAL3CH7>

Parks Advisory Group Transitions to SUN

By Lucia Correll

The Parks Advisory Group (PAG) was established in 2001 as a sub-committee to the Stapleton Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) to provide guidance to the SDC director of Parks and Environment—particularly regarding consistency with the spirit and vision of the Stapleton Development Plan (Green Book) and the provisions of the Stapleton Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

The Park Advisory Group met monthly until January of this year. As the years passed, the director position (mentioned above) was eliminated and approximately 1,000 acres of the mandated 1,116 acres of Truck Open Space was developed. In January of 2017, the PAG transitioned from having a monthly meeting to becoming part of Stapleton United Neighbors (SUN).

There is still open space to be developed and there are large parks north of I-70 still under construction. The hope is that the transition to SUN will make it easier for residents to voice concerns or comments about parks and to obtain information about parks at the monthly SUN outreach meeting. If you want to communicate about parks, you are welcome to come to the SUN outreach meetings on the third Tuesday of the month or to contact me with questions or issues. Lucia can be reached at Lcorrell@dotnet.net.

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Letter to the Editor

Colorado State Legislators: Please Support Solutions for Working Families

The two of us (Neha and Rachel) are lucky to have access to paid leave at our workplaces —allowing us to be both good employees and loving caregivers for our families. But 88% of Coloradans do not enjoy this right.

The fact is, everyone has to recover from a serious illness, care for a sick parent or bond with a new baby at some point. But the U.S. is the only developed nation that does not guarantee some form of paid leave. This is a real problem – for families, businesses and our economy.

At the capitol a couple weeks ago, Colorado workers shared stories of being forced to make choices no one should have to —attending chemotherapy or losing their job; caretaking for a dying father or missing rent; staying at the hospital with their premature infant or keeping the lights on. For many, missing even one paycheck can lead to a financial tailspin, which is why nearly one in four new mothers return to work two weeks after giving birth.

Small businesses, health professionals, and breastfeeding advocates also testified to the numerous benefits of paid leave including employee retention, economic cost-savings, and health outcomes for mothers/babies.

Many young families in our neighborhoods depend on others to

provide childcare. If these caregivers get sick, need to care for family or give birth to a child, we want them to take the time they need without the added stress of missing a paycheck. Currently, it's very difficult for families or childcare centers to afford paid leave for their employees on top of hiring replacements.

House Bill 1307 provides a solution by creating the Family And Medical Leave Insurance program. It's funded entirely by workers —without employer, government or taxpayer funds. Employees contribute a \$2-5 premium each week to access up to 12 weeks of paid leave per year.

As this bill continues to move through the state legislature, we are hoping that the paid leave benefits we both have access to will become a reality for all of our fellow workers. Please encourage your legislators to vote yes!

Neha Mahajan, 9to5 Colorado Director
Rachel Ellis, Stapleton resident and
Managing Partner of Ellis Employment Law

Look up your legislators and contact them today! <http://leg.colorado.gov/find-my-legislator>
And learn more about the CO FAMLI Act at: www.cofamli.org.

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A Horse with No Name



Officer Theresa Gessner introduces Izzi B students to the DPD Mounted Patrol Unit's (MPU) newest horse, temporarily known as "Blue." Izzi B students were given the opportunity to give Blue a permanent name, and out of their ten suggestions, the MPU chose three finalists: "Lucky," "Justice," and "Galaxy."



At the introduction ceremony, the students got the chance to meet "Blue" up close and personal. Ja'Vaun Holston (top) serenely scratches "Blue." Zoe Saxman (below left) and Pauline Clayman (below right) greet the steed with big smiles. The students will vote on the final name, to be announced on May 2nd.



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Stapleton Foundation to Fund Support Services for NHS

By Melinda Pearson

DPS recently announced a partnership between Northfield High School (NHS) and the Stapleton Foundation that will fund critical student needs, expeditionary and global education opportunities, and the implementation of the International Baccalaureate (IB) Programme for all students. Funding will also support athletics, activities and the arts.

The Stapleton Foundation supports schools across Stapleton and neighboring communities, according to Landri Taylor, its CEO. Their goal is to help schools "achieve excellence," and the collaboration with NHS is in line with their mission.

Students at IB schools are responsible for paying IB registration and testing fees. At a socioeconomically and ethnically diverse school, Taylor noted, "there is a need to support families that may not have the financial means to pay for the IB curriculum," and that is what the Stapleton Foundation will provide. These are not fees DPS pays but instead fees that are usually paid for by parents or guardians.

Principal Amy Bringedahl said, "We're very excited about it and just thrilled that the Stapleton Foundation is supporting the vision of the school." Bringedahl and her staff are currently working to provide the Stapleton Foundation with some figures, as 95 students have signed up to pursue the IB Diploma program, and some of those receive Free and Reduced Lunch (FRL). Registration fees and exam fees for the diploma program will average around \$900 per student, said Bringedahl, and even some students who choose not to pursue the diploma but instead take the two required IB courses will incur exam fees of approximately \$116 apiece.

This support will not diminish DPS's support for NHS and its IB program, emphasized Bringedahl, who said, "We are working with DPS right now to secure funding for IB materials ... It's a significant amount of money, anywhere from \$50,000 to \$70,000. DPS is deeply committed to helping us fund the materials for students."

The Stapleton Foundation is also exploring ways to support students in the arts and athletics at the high school "If kids want to participate in the types of programs offered at Northfield High ... we want to make sure that students are not disadvantaged simply because there is a fee attached to providing an excellent experience for them," said Taylor. The precise outlines of the collaboration are still being defined, but it promises to be an excellent source of support for the school and its diverse student body. "We welcome the partnership," said Bringedahl.

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Denver Arts Fest Returns to Stapleton May 27-28



By Anne Hebert
 For the second year, the Denver Arts Festival, formerly known as the Downtown Denver Arts Festival, is returning to Stapleton's Conservatory Green neighborhood. "Last year, we deviated from our standard practice and held the festival in June," says director Jim DeLutes. "We've found that Memorial Day weekend works better for attendees and artists, so this year's event will be held May 27-28."
 DeLutes says the feedback from last year's event in

Stapleton location was very positive. "The Stapleton community has been very supportive of the arts and the festival. This year, we hope to reach a two-day event goal of 25,000 to 30,000 attendees."
 By popular demand, this year will see some event enhancements. Food trucks will participate on-site both days with options from Little India, Rolling Italian, Pavy's, and Em's Ice Cream.
 A partnership with Gallery On the Go will encourage attendees to create their own original artwork in a tent locat-

ed in the center of the show space. This activity is free and all artwork can be taken home. "It's a fun way to encourage budding artists of all ages to try their hand at painting," explains DeLutes.
 Conservatory Green is located just north of The Shops at Northfield. The festival will be open from 10am to 6pm. Street parking is available or patrons may park at the Shops at Northfield. For more information about the Denver Arts Festival, visit www.denverartsfestival.com.

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