

Front Porch

COLORADO

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

JUNE 2017

NORTHEAST DENVER



“The American Dream Is Still Alive”

Juan Molinar immigrated to the U.S. from Mexico at the age of 17 with only a 6th grade education. Since then, the father of five learned English and how to read blueprints and became a U.S. citizen. After a career as a construction superintendent, he and his brother-in-law Marco Aguilar (standing on the front end loader) founded T.J.'s Excavating, which has numerous projects in Stapleton.

By Melinda Pearson

For hundreds of years, industrious and courageous people have emigrated from countries with limited freedom and opportunity, overcoming tremendous odds, to make a better life in the United States. The

fire in their bellies that drove them to work hard and succeed has greatly contributed to what this country is today. But the country hasn't always welcomed immigrants upon their arrival. Irish, Italian and Japanese are among immigrant groups now broadly accepted as part

of the country's melting pot that faced discrimination upon their arrival.

Now immigrants face more than individual prejudice as the country's national policy moves in a direction that makes it more difficult for them to come here and create a

better life. Though many citizens have risen to the defense of refugees and immigrants, others support the president's views: that immigrants take jobs that should go to Americans, that they are criminals, or that they are a burden on our social services (continued on page 12)



Flights that Save Young Lives

Lifeguard 6, a new Flight For Life Colorado (FFLC) helicopter dedicated to specialized pediatric care, lands on the Children's Hospital Colorado helipad. Carrying lifesaving pediatric medical equipment,

Lifeguard 6 is the only aircraft in the FFLC fleet designated for specialized transport and care of infants and young children. Story on page 42.

Eastbridge King Soopers to Open June 21



A new King Soopers at MLK Blvd. and Havana is expected to open June 21. Take a look at photos taken one month before opening to see the store's interior starting to take shape. Story on page 8.

Xanadu will NOT be performed on June 1-3 as previously announced.
See pages 2 and 6 for June events.

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

New Climbing "Crag"

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Mountains of Waste

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Films: Churchill, Patriot

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2017 Legislature Outcomes

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



Fresh local produce is back—the Stapleton Farmers Market starts on Father's Day, June 18.



Most of the events listed below are FREE or support nonprofits.
Additional events are listed on pages 35–37.
Also visit FrontPorchNE.com to view additional events and to submit events.

JUNE

June 1-17

Ephemeral - Inspired by Movement
Tuesday - Saturday, 9am - 6pm.
Live performances, kinetic sculptures, and still images.
Art Gym Gallery, 1460 Leyden St. Denver, CO 80220.
Free and open to the public. www.ArtGymDenver.com

Saturdays, June–August

Kids Free Saturdays at the History Colorado Center.
Two free kids (age 18 & under) per paid adult/senior.
HistoryColoradoCenter.org

Saturday, June 3

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

Saturday, June 3

Movie on The Green- *La La Land*, starts at dark. Founders Green*

Sunday, June 4, 11, 18 & 25

City Park Jazz in Denver's City Park. Live music and food. Free and open to the public. 6–8pm.
June 4 – “The Other Black” (featuring Wesley Watkins)
June 11 – “Pete Wernick” & “FLEXIGRASS”
June 18 – “Linda Styles”
June 25 – “Dotsero”

Sundays, June 4–October 1

Ekar Farms in Lowry, 9am–1pm. Future Farmers' Program from 10–10:30am for children ages 4–10. 181 S. Oneida St. No cost to attend. For info, call 303-520-7581
See page 37.

Thursday, June 8

Active Minds Seminar “Muhammad Ali”, 6:45-7:45pm.
Sam Gary Library* activeminds.org

Saturday, June 10

Concert on The Green– “Big Sam's Funky Nation” & “Rico Jones,” 6–9pm. Founders Green*

Thursday, June 15

MoJaBlu Concert Series- “Hazel Miller”, 6:30–8:30pm.
Conservatory Green*

Friday, June 16

Movie on The Green- *The Secret Life of Pets*, starts at dark. Founders Green*

Saturday, June 17

Concert at The Cube– “Colorado Wind Ensemble,” 7pm. The Cube*

Every Sunday starting June 18

Farmers Market, 8:30am–12:30pm. Founders Green*

Thursday, June 22

MoJaBlu Concert Series- “Davina & Vagabonds,” 6:30–8:30pm. Conservatory Green*

Thursday, June 22

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

JUNE

Saturday, June 24

Concert on The Green– “Freddie Jones,” 6–9pm.
Founders Green*

Saturday, June 24

Teen Night, 7–10pm. Pool party for teens ages 12–15.
DJ, water games and more. Runway 35 pool*

Wednesday, June 28

Bike to Work Day – Over 100 breakfast stations open from 6:30 – 9am and afternoon stations open from 3:30–6 pm including a bike party at Übergrippen Climbing Crag (see story on page 10).

Thursday, June 29

MoJaBlu Concert Series- “Hot Lunch,” 6:30–8:30pm.
Conservatory Green*

Friday, June 30

Movie on The Green- *Big*, starts at dark. Founders Green*

JULY

Sunday, July 2

City Park Jazz in Denver's City Park. Live music and food. Free and open to the public. 6–8pm.
July 2 – “Purnell Steen and LeJazz Machine”

Tuesday, July 4

Pancake breakfast, 9–10:30am. Parade, 10:30–11am.
Central Park*

Tuesday, July 4

DJs @ The Pools, Noon–4pm. All 6 Pools*

Locations

*More info. at www.stapletoncommunity.com

Sam Gary Library: 2961 Roslyn St.

Founders Green: South Stapleton at E. 29th Ave. and Roslyn St.

Conservatory Green: North Stapleton at Valentia Ct. and 49th Pl.

The Cube: 8371 E. Northfield Blvd.

Central Park: MLK Blvd. & Central Park Blvd.

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



Family Night at the Pools

Family Night will begin on Monday, June 5. Each pool will have a designated night of the week where they extend their closing times. Jet Stream's night will be held on Mondays, PJ on Tuesdays, F15 & Maverick on Wednesdays and Aviator on Thursdays.

Movie on The Green—La La Land

Saturday, June 3, Dark

Due to staff changes at Aurora Fox Theatre, there will not be a June Theatre on The Green. Instead we will be showing a movie, *La La Land*, on The South Green (29th & Roslyn). The movie is free and open to the public. We look forward to working with Aurora Fox Theatre on future events.

Sweet William Market

Saturday, June 3, 9am–2pm

The first Sweet William Market of the season at The South Green. For more information, visit sweetwilliammarket.com.

MoJaBlu Concert Series

Join the Stapleton MCA and Live@Jack's Thursday nights for musical evenings of Motown, Jazz and Blues on The Green located in Conservatory Green at 49th Pl. and Valentia St. These are free concerts open to the public!

Thursday June 15, 6:30–8:30pm–Hazel Miller

Thursday, June 22, 6:30–8:30pm–Davina & Vagabonds

Thursday, June 29, 6:30–8:30pm–Hot Lunch

Concert on The Green—Big Sam's Funky Nation & Rico Jones

Saturday, June 10, 6–9pm

Join the MCA for the first Concert on The Green of the summer that will feature *Big Sam's Funky Nation & Rico Jones* on The South Green. Unfortunately, John Weeks was to perform from 6–7pm but was in a serious accident and is unable to perform then. We wish him a fast and speedy recovery! Our replacement band is Rico Jones. Concerts are free to attend and open to the public.

Movie on The Green—The Secret Life of Pets

Friday, June 16, At Dark

Join us on The South Green for the first Movie on The Green of the summer—*The Secret Life of Pets*. Each movie benefits a local nonprofit and features a concessions stand selling freshly popped popcorn, candy, sodas and water. All movies are free and open to the public.

Concert at The Cube—Colorado Wind Ensemble

Saturday, June 17, 7pm

Join us for our first concert at The Cube (8371 Northfield Blvd.), featuring the Colorado Wind Ensemble. Event is free and open to the public.

Farmers Market

The first Farmers Market of the season is scheduled for Sun., June 18 from 8:30am–12:30pm on The South Green. The market will run every Sunday through Oct. 15.

Concert on The Green—Freddie Jones

Saturday, June 24, 7–9pm

Join us on The South Green for a concert featuring Freddie Jones! Concerts are free and open to the public.

Teen Night at Runway 35

Saturday, June 24, 7–10pm

The Stapleton MCA is hosting the best pool party of the season for teens ages 12–15 at Runway 35! A DJ will get the party going with music while the pool will be set up with the diving board and water games. To register, call 303.388.0724 or visit stapletoncommunity.com.

Movie on The Green—Big

Friday, June 30, At Dark

Join us on The South Green for *Big*. Each movie benefits a local nonprofit organization and features a concession stand selling freshly popped popcorn, candy, sodas and water. All movies are free and open to the public.

Friday Night Flights—Wine Tastings

Friday, June 30, 6–8pm

The MCA and the Grape Leaf are excited to present the first wine tasting of the summer at the West Crescent. Tickets: \$15 residents, \$20 nonresidents. Visit stapletoncommunity.com to purchase your tickets today!

Stapleton Beer Festival

Saturday, July 15, 4–8pm

The Stapleton Beer Festival will be held Sat., July 15 on The South Green! The event will begin with an exclusive VIP tasting from 4–5pm followed by a three-hour tasting and free concert. General admission and concert-goers will be allowed to enter The South Green starting at 5pm. Tickets are limited and sell out fast! Purchase your tickets at stapletoncommunity.com.

Active Minds Seminar

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

Thursday, June 8, 6:45–7:45pm

Muhammad Ali: Born Cassius Clay, the professional boxer known as Muhammad Ali was widely regarded as one of the 20th century's most accomplished and controversial sports figures known for his outspoken approach. Join Active Minds at the one-year anniversary of his death as we review the life and legacy of the man often referred to simply as “The Greatest.”

Thursday, June 22nd, 6:45-7:45pm

Iran: An in-depth look at the country of Iran. We will discuss the thorny issue of Iran's nuclear program, the relationship between Iran's religious and political leadership, and challenges presented by regional turmoil. In particular, we will discuss how the rest of the world is responding to the various challenges presented by Iran.

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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	Infinity Home Collection	11		Rocky Mountain Shutters	29
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A directory with links to these businesses can be found at www.FrontPorchStapleton.com > Business Directory

SUMMER EVENTS

at Northfield Stapleton



JUNE 17

DENVER CENTURY RIDE
& STREET PARTY



JULY 8

MILE HIGH WINE FESTIVAL



JULY 22

BASS PRO CAR SHOW



JULY 28

DENVER7 CELEBRATE COLORADO



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Free and Open to the Public

Music and Movies in June & Early July

South Stapleton — Movies & Concerts at Founders Green

Movie June 3 – *La La Land*

Mia, an aspiring actress, serves lattes to movie stars in between auditions and Sebastian, a jazz musician, scrapes by playing cocktail party gigs in dingy bars, but as success mounts they are faced with decisions that begin to fray the fragile fabric of their love affair, and the dreams they worked so hard to maintain in each other threaten to rip them apart.

Concert June 10 – “Big Sam’s Funky Nation” and “Rico Jones”

Big Sam, a trombonist, and his Funky Nation play funk and rock music influenced by traditional and classic jazz, rock and punk. Jazz saxophonist Rico Jones is a Colorado native who attended Denver School of the Arts (DSA). Jones is recognized as one of the top 30 jazz musicians under age 30 by KUVO Jazz Radio.

Movie June 16 – *Secret Life of Pets*

A computer animated comedy about the adventures of Max, a spoiled and pampered Jack Russell terrier, who is surprised when his family adopts a stray named Duke. Max tries to abandon Duke in an alley and the plot thickens as other animals try to rescue him.

Concert June 24 – “Freddie Jones”

The Freddy Jones Band is a rock band originally from Chicago, IL. Their music is a fusion of Southern rock and Chicago blues. The band has a unique two guitar sound complemented by a Hammond organ creating a sound reminiscent of the Allman Brothers Band.

Movie June 30 – *BIG*

A wish by 12-year-old Josh Baskin (Tom Hanks) turns him into a 30-year-old man. He heads to New York City and stumbles upon his “dream job” working at a toy company. The pressure of living as an adult makes him long to return to his former boyhood.

Concert July 8 – “Denver Municipal Band”

The Denver Municipal Band was founded in the 1860’s making it the oldest professional concert band in the United States. For over a century, summer performances in accessible parks settings have featured some of the area’s leading professional musicians. Their performances encourage gatherings of music lovers of all ages.

North Stapleton—MoJaBlu Concerts

MoJaBlu—Motown-Jazz-Blues—is a word coined by Diane Deeter of Stapleton MCA and Sandra Watts of Live at Jack’s (formerly Jazz at Jack’s). The two women put their heads together to come up with summer programming that would enhance rather than duplicate the events at Founders Green in South Stapleton. They came up with the Thursday night MoJaBlu concert series, held this year from June 15 through August 3. Bands will vary from year to year, but it’s likely that Dotsero, the house band at Live at Jack’s, and Hazel Miller will be regulars.

June 15 – “Hazel Miller”

Hazel Miller’s sound is a mixture of soul, R&B, blues, and Motown. Influenced by Aretha Franklin, Nancy Davis and Ella Fitzgerald, Miller has a voice that has been called “stunning.” Ms. Miller has been a well-known area performer for over 24 years. She appears regularly on the NPR ETown Radio Show.



Music and movie events are great place to meet your neighbors.

June 22 – “Davina & Vagabonds”

Davina and The Vagabonds formed in 2006 in Minneapolis. A jazz blues band, their high-energy performances combine a vaudevillesque, old time, Chicago blues sound. With a big band style, the band brings a fresh edge to new music.

June 29 – “Hot Lunch”

Hot Lunch is a “punk & roll” band hailing from the San Francisco/Oakland Bay area. Committed to a hell-bent, party sound, the quartet performs a loud blast of acid rock reminiscent of the 1960’s and 70’s perfect for heavy metal music fans.

July 6 – “Mary Louise Lee”

A native of Denver, Mary Louise Lee’s top 40 blues band performs R&B and dance party classics. A contestant on the television show America’s Got Talent, Lee is well-known throughout the Denver music and performing arts scene. She has performed nationally and internationally for over 20 years.

Founders Green is located in South Stapleton at E. 29th Ave. and Roslyn St. Conservatory Green is located in North Stapleton at Valentia Ct. and 49th Pl.



Perennial favorite Hazel Miller will perform again this year.

June 10 Beer Festival Will Honor Aurora Theater Victims

The MCA will host its annual beer festival and concert on July 15 at Founders Green. This year, however, a second beer festival will be held on June 10 in the West Crescent at Roslyn St. and East 29th Ave. “A Night to Remember” BeerFest was started in 2012 to honor one of the Aurora Theater victims, Alex Teves, who was a customer of the Copper Kettle Brewing Company. Copper Kettle owner Kristen Kozik says all proceeds from the BeerFest go to the ACT Foundation, established in memory of Alex C. Teves. The funds benefit Humanex Academy, an alternative school for students with unique academic, emotional and behavioral needs where Alex worked.



Alex Teves

This year, “A Night to Remember” Beer Fest lists almost 30 participating Colorado breweries. Kozik says the families of all 12 victims are invited, and the names of the victims will be read to honor all who died at the theater. The June 10 concert on Founders Green (listed at left) will be free, but the West Crescent will be roped off for the BeerFest. Kozik says the event raised \$28,000 last year for Humanex Academy. It also includes an auction, and, for a donation, a 30-minute dog training session. Food trucks will be on-site.

General admission is \$35, or \$25 for designated drivers. Purchase tickets at <https://eventgrid.com/Events/33065/6th-annual-a-night-to-remember>. To read about the remarkable life of Alex Teves, visit <https://act-foundation.org/who-is-alex-teves/>.

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"One of the things I'm most proud of about King Soopers is King Soopers was local before local was cool," says spokesperson Kelli McGannon. "We've been committed to sourcing Colorado-grown products since we started in 1947."



Every King Soopers is customized based on its local shoppers, says McGannon. The East-bridge store has an expanded "Bistro" that will offer "fast affordable grab-and-go meals for family dinners made with fresh local ingredients." Items will include Mexican street food, a salad bar, sushi, sandwiches, Murray's Cheese and artisan bread.

A Place to Meet for Coffee

Expanded Starbucks seating was requested by the community. King Soopers responded with both indoor and outdoor seating areas—and an exterior door that opens directly to Starbucks.






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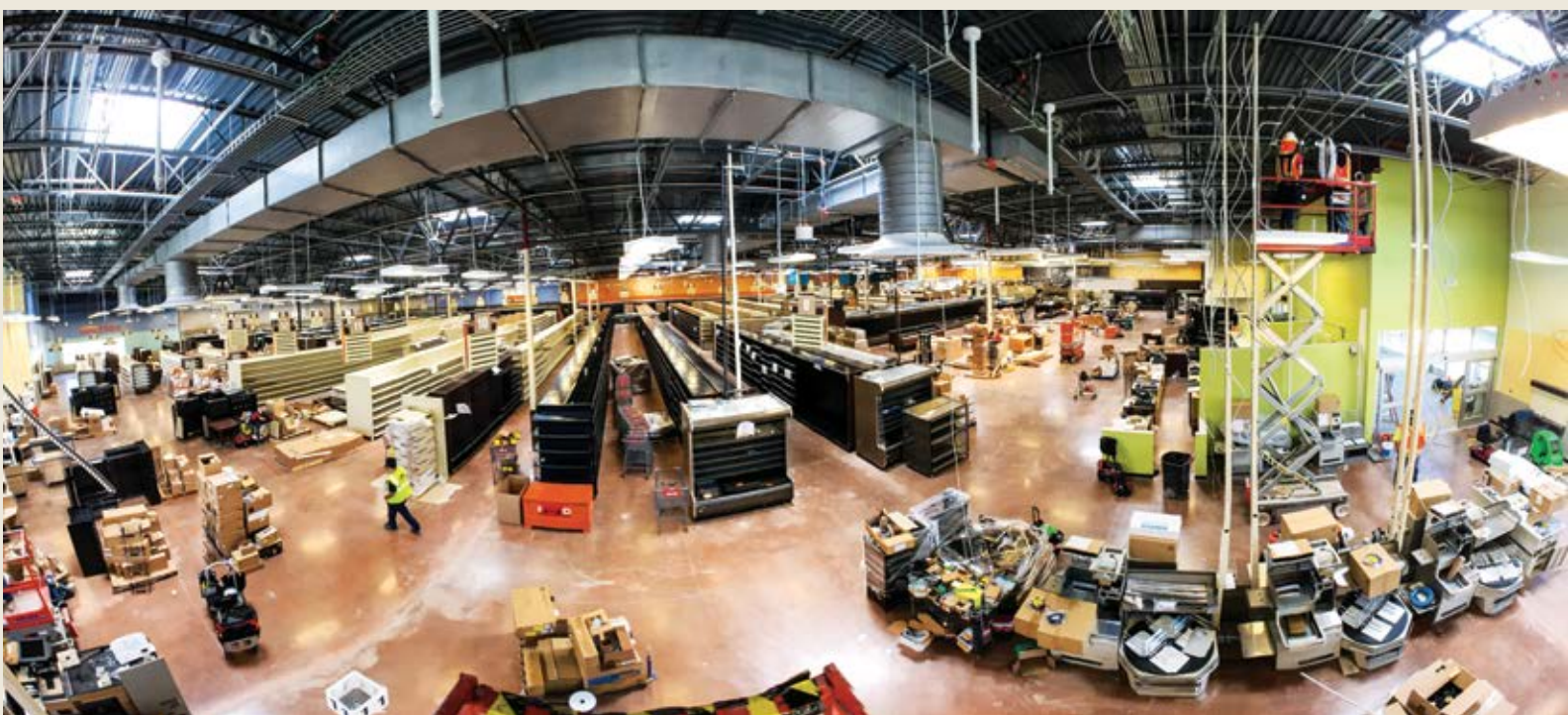
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King Soopers spokesperson Kelli McGannon stands in the bakery department, which will offer freshly made artisan breads. At left is a birds-eye view of the store through a fish-eye camera lens.



Early Look at New King Soopers

By Carol Roberts

The high industrial ceiling and skylights give the new Eastbridge King Soopers a bright spacious feel, though at 60,000 square feet, it's actually about the same size as the Quebec store. The polished concrete floor adds to the modern industrial look—and it can be cleaned easily without chemicals, says spokesperson Kelli McGannon.

Product selection will reflect the feedback King Soopers has received from the neighborhood—including grass fed beef and other natural and organic foods. McGannon points out that the store is designed with a focus on the perimeter, where the fresh products are located.

The natural vitamins and body care section has waist-height windows that bring

The large modern display at right is the Murray's cheese counter.

The far right photo shows the view as shoppers approach one of the 19 checkout counters—two-story west-facing windows with a mountain view.

in natural light and offer a view of the neighborhood, an unusual design feature in a grocery store. Refrigerated items in that section will include natural beverages and probiotic products.

As customers arrive in the store they enter the large produce section. On the other side at the front of the store is a

large seasonal section—a stack of boxed wicker outdoor couches will likely be displayed there with the summer items.

King Soopers is optimistic that this new store, located at MLK Blvd. and Havana, will open on June 21.

Hiring is ongoing. For information visit KingSoopers.com/careers.



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bration event will be held July 7-8.

The idea to build a climbing facility first dawned on the Crines a few years ago when, after seeing only very young children in the neighborhood, they saw a group of high school kids in Central Park. They realized a new demographic cohort would soon be looking for things to do. From a business perspective, they knew indoor climbing has seen tremen-



John Fernandez

Taking advantage of an industry “on fire,” local residents Jake and Kim Crine are opening Übergrippen to

climbing enthusiasts and novices in June. The indoor facility opens to members in early June and will welcome the general public on June 17. A grand opening cele-

dous growth since its start in the 1980s—and Colorado has a high per capita ratio of climbers. With the closest full-service gyms eight and 12 miles away (Movement in central Denver and Rock’n & Jam’n in Thornton), the Crines felt confident in the depth of the northeast Denver market.

Enriching the community

But first, an explanation about that term—“crag.” Crine says he resists calling Übergrippen a gym because climbing is an activity that is as much about spending time with friends and family as it is a form of fitness and exercise. Besides, he says, climbers go to crags in the outdoors so why not indoors as well? As to the business name, Crine chose a climbing term that signifies the “intense feeling of relief” when finding a good handhold after the most difficult or “crux” move on a climb.

The location of the 21,000-square-foot climbing crag, just northwest of the Montview and Central Park boulevards, is symbolic to the Crines who want to avoid a “stigma” of being perceived as a Stapleton-only facility. “We want

to be accessible to greater northeast Denver. Our whole focus is to serve the community,” said Jake Crine. He pointed to the Stanley Marketplace as a model and said, “We want to enrich the neighborhood just as Stanley developer Mark Shaker is doing at his development.”

To that end, Übergrippen will offer a number of ancillary services augmenting the core activity of roped climbing and boulder-

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Climbing “Crag” Opens in NE Denver

Far left: Program Director Sarah Richardson tackles a challenging route on one of two towers in the main climbing hall.

Left: The facility’s main entrance is off 21st Avenue.

Below: Mitchell Crine (green shirt) and Brian Sundermann (Asst. Crag Manager) scale routes defined by colored plastic holds.

cal systems lead for Sierra Nevada Corporation’s Dream Chaser project. He left Sierra Nevada in February although he still does consulting work. Kim is a pharmacist and spent 10 years at the Stapleton Walgreens. The Crines have three children, all boys, ranging in age from 6 to 15.

For the Crines, Übergrippen is obviously a labor of love. Growing up in Albuquerque, Jake was not big into team sports but found climbing a great way to build friendships while experiencing the great outdoors. He and Kim developed their relationship on a climbing trip to Hueco Tanks in Texas while they were both students at CSU. While they both loved to climb, the responsibilities of their jobs and parenting

The business plan

Planning for the project began two and a half years ago and groundbreaking took place last August. It’s a major undertaking at around \$5 million to complete, with an additional \$500,000 for operating capital. The startup is financing the project with an SBA loan and \$1.3 million from private investment. They have hired nine staff so far and anticipate 20–25 employees by opening day. They are excited with the talent they’ve hired, especially the coaches and route setters who are coming in from across the country.

They have maintained a local focus on the project team, citing Stapleton residents including the architect (Brian Beckler of Ohlson Lavoie Collaborative) and attorney (Chris Jensen), and even their graphic designer (Nancy Maysmith) as examples. Even their HVAC designer (Kim’s sister) and “IT guy” are also local area residents.

They did choose a Utah firm, Vertical Solutions, for the wall construction, preferring their use of natural wood (birch) and color schemes that create a dramatic setting for the ground-level, open climbing

hall. Crine says the building aesthetics are “ridiculously” good. He points to other features such as large windows, mountain views, and an overhead door that will make Übergrippen a comfortable place to climb or just work out. The evaporative cooling system will ensure good air quality by avoiding the recirculation of chalk dust that climbers use to improve the grip on the plastic holds.

Visiting Übergrippen

Übergrippen is located at 8610 E. 21st Ave. The site has 75 vehicle parking spaces as well as bicycle (and skateboard) parking. The “crag” hours will be 6am–10pm Mon. through Fri., 8am–8pm on Sat. and 8am–6pm on Sun.

Guests will be able to purchase day passes for \$20 (\$16 for children) or buy reduced-price punch passes. Monthly memberships are also available and include unlimited climbing, yoga and use of fitness facilities as well as member discounts on all programs. Guests can rent all the required equipment or bring their own. For more information, email info@ugclimbing.com.



ing: yoga and fitness classes, a youth “climbing academy,” cardio and free weight areas, summer camps, climbing instruction, a retail shop, multi-purpose room, and an outdoor area featuring a patio, lawn and 10-foot-high synthetic boulder. A café and taproom are planned. The space and utilities are complete but the Crines are still deciding whether to operate that space themselves or to lease it out. They view climbing as a social activity and look forward to friends and new acquaintances hanging out at the café after workouts.

The people behind the business

The Crines are 10-year Stapleton residents who have recently quit their fulltime jobs to take on this new venture. Jake is a mechanical engineer with 15 years’ experience in the aerospace industry, most recently as mechani-

made climbing inaccessible to them for a prolonged period. Now, with Übergrippen, they get to marry their personal and business interests.

What Übergrippen offers climbers

At its core, Übergrippen is all about climbing. The walls exceed 40 feet in height and allow up to 75 “lanes” or rope stations providing access to routes of varying degrees of difficulty. Climbers without partners will be able to take advantage of 10 “auto belays,” self-regulating magnetic braking devices that gently lower climbers to the floor after completing a route. Climbers can also work out on a 17-foot-tall bouldering wall. A separate family-friendly area provides 30-foot-tall walls for top rope climbing and a kids’ boulder with a slide.



Übergrippen co-owner Jake Crine tests a route in the bouldering area located on the mezzanine level. The upstairs provides mountain views from Longs Peak to Mt. Evans.

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Mohamed Mouaddine arrived in the U.S. from Morocco just three months after 9/11 with empty pockets and is now the owner of Amina Auto Repair. "I immigrated based on...a philosophy that the United States is a strong country," says Mouaddine. "It's a country of immigrants. And it's the most welcoming country, and the easiest country to integrate into and become part of."

(continued from page 1) safety net without returning economic gain to our society.

The *Front Porch* met and talked with some local immigrant business owners about their journeys. Two of them were refugees, and all fled lives of poverty, hardship, and limited economic opportunity. Over the years since they immigrated, each has worked hard to master English, attain citizenship, and integrate into the economic and social fabric of the United States.

"Tough Situations"

For those who grow up in a first-world country – even those who grow up in rela-

tive poverty – it can be hard to fathom the deprivations that people around the globe experience as a daily fact of life.

Difficult circumstances mark the early years of many future immigrants and propel their desire to escape. Mohamed Mouaddine grew up in Beni Mellal, Morocco, a city about 150 miles inland from Casablanca. "I was born into poverty. There were eight siblings," recalls Mouaddine. They lived in the back half of the family's tiny market, behind a commercial refrigerator. There was no running water, and "the first time I had tennis shoes was when I went to middle school," said Mouaddine. "It was a tough situation."

Juan Molinar is originally from Gomez-Farias, Chihuahua, a small

town in northern Mexico. Although he said his early life in Mexico was "fine," he also said, "I only went to school until the 6th grade, and then I started working. I was helping my father in construction." So, at an age when typical kids in Denver are in school, playing sports, or goofing off, Molinar entered the workforce and never returned to school.

Other immigrants have experienced not just poverty but persecution. Tal Man Rai was born in Bhutan, a small Himalayan country nestled between India and China, not far from Nepal. Although known as relatively peaceful country, it expelled most of its ethnic Lhotshampa people in the 1990's. Nearly one-fifth of its population – approximately 108,000 people -- were arrested, expelled, and their property seized.

Rai, like many Lhotshampa people, was sent to a refugee camp in Nepal as a toddler. The youngest of five, Rai spent the next 18 years growing up in the camps. Bhutanese refugees were denied the rights of citizenship or the right to work for pay equal to Nepalis, and the conditions were miserable. "There was a plastic tent for shelter, but it

From Immigrant

was really small," said Rai. "Many people got sick and some died."

Like Rai, Semion Kikirov was persecuted for his ethnicity. His family members are Bukharan Jews, a Central Asian ethno-religious group that dates back centuries. After the fall of the Soviet Union, when Kikirov was 19, "there were two civil wars, and my father decided it was time to move after he was forced out of his business." Kikirov cited religious persecution as one of the main reasons the family immigrated to New York City in 1999 as refugees.

Escaping and Starting Anew

One of the most striking features of the stories told by these immigrants and refugees is



Tal Man Rai, pictured with his sister-in-law and business partner, was born in a Nepalese refugee camp when he immigrated in 2008. In the market, Rai says, "If you don't like something, you have to

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to Entrepreneur

their descriptions of their early days working in the United States.

Molinar moved to Dacono, Colorado in 1992 at the age of 17 with his first wife, who was a U.S. Citizen, and began working two jobs. “I started working on a farm, baling hay, driving tractors,” said Molinar. “I had two jobs and was working like 16 to 18 hours a day. I’d work on the farm and then work in a dairy for 8 – 10 hours at night, milking cows.” He was able to buy a house in Denver and began a career in the construction industry, working for the same company for 23 years. Learning English and how to read blueprints on the job, Molinar worked his way up to being a superintendent for the company.



partner, Devi Rai, left his entire Bhutanese family behind in at the age of 23. Now the owner of a Northwest Aurora o do something better.”

Upon land- ing in New York with no money, Kikirov similarly worked multi- ple, low-paying jobs, delivering bread at 3am for \$3.50 an hour. Never on welfare, he abandoned the study of law that he had been pursuing in Ta- jikistan, instead following a family tradition of barbering. His first job in America cutting hair was at Astor Place, New York’s largest barber- shop and salon, where he joined dozens of other immigrants from around the world. “I was learning all the time,” said Kikirov, “...not just how to cut hair, but how to connect to the customers...how to make a relationship.” Upon moving to Denver, Kikirov became one of the top barbers at Floyd’s Barbershop.

The opportunity for Rai to come to the United States arose through the United Nations’ High Commission for Refugees. He was tired of being a refugee in Nepal, tired of being a second-class citizen, and when they told him he could go to Denver in 2008, he accepted the offer. It meant leaving behind his entire family, none of whom wanted to risk the trip. Rai took classes in English and job training through the Emily Griffith



Fleeing violence and political instability in Tajikistan, Semion Kikirov and his family began anew in the U.S. in 1999 as refu- gees. He and his brother, Roman, continued a family tradition of cutting hair, opening the second Semion Barbershop for All at the Stanley Marketplace, which features floor to ceiling photos of his barber ancestors. “The American dream is still alive,” says Kikirov. “Trust me.”

Opportunity School, and landed a job making sandwiches at DIA yogurt shop, earning minimum wage and saving money over four years. Rai then went into car sales, commuting daily to Loveland from his home in Aurora for a year before getting a position nearer home at Stevinson Toyota.

In Morocco, Mouaddine had received a good education, thanks to the persistence of his mother, and also had learned how to fix cars, which got him a stable job working for the King of Morocco. When he arrived in Al- buquerque three months after 9/11, virtually penniless, he had to start from scratch again. He put it in perspective. “When you start reading about the Founding Fathers, they just gave up everything they had, and they decided

‘maybe there’s a better life out there’ and just took the risk,” said Mouaddine. It is an incredible risk, he said, “to go somewhere where there’s no family, no back-up, no finances, no idea about the culture.”

Mouaddine credits the help of good people with smoothing his way. His first boss in the U.S. called General Motors on his behalf to get the repair manuals for him in French and bought him \$6,000 worth of tools so he could work. Other people helped him network so he could relocate to Denver where he landed a steady job fixing cars at a dealership.

All of these immigrants took great risks, leaving behind family and friends to make a better life for (continued on page 16)

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Image: Denver Recycles

Just the Facts Mountains of Waste

by James Hagadorn



Single-stream recycling bin being emptied by Denver Public Works.

What's the fastest-growing mountain in Colorado? It's near DIA. And it's not a volcano.

It's a mountain of trash, dozed into a 250-foot-tall pyramid that towers above the nearest prairie dog. Mantled with frosting-like layers of dirt, this amazing pile of rubbish reminds me of Vegas' Luxor hotel.

Yet this landfill is only one of 60 such facilities around Colorado, all of which are aimed at taking care of our waste.

And boy do we generate some waste.

At home, each of us generates about two to four pounds per day. Depending on the mix of dense to fluffy stuff in our trash, our waste could be small enough to fit in a shoebox, or might be as big as a yoga ball.

Even more mind-blowing, though—we generate between two to four times this amount outside of our homes.

We produce some of it at our workplaces, schools and at restaurants. The rest of it is somewhat hidden because it's generated from construction and maintenance of our "built environment" and products we consume. For example, construction and

demolition materials like concrete, asphalt, drywall and roofing are major contributors to landfills. Our energy also generates a colossal amount of solid waste, whether it be the fly ash generated from coal-burning power plants, or waste lime from gas-fired power plants, or drilling muds and byproducts from production and refining of gasoline. Ditto for non-compostable ag-

ricultural waste, not to mention the sludge that comes from wastewater treatment facilities.

Coloradans are "middle of the pack" waste generators, compared to the rest of the nation. After adding up all our direct and indirect waste, we generate about 10–15 percent more waste on average per capita than people in other states.



Image: Waste Management

The post-consumer lifecycle of paper: Loading, separating, sorting, and baling paper for recycling.

Where does all this go? Most of it is deposited on the surface, often not too far from where we live. As our cities and towns spread, sometimes we've even grown right over our waste piles. Telltale signs let us know where this has happened. For example, few hikers passing by the white pipes sticking up from the ground in Red Rock Canyon Open Space know that the pipes vent decomposition gases from the former Gypsum Canyon Landfill. In Denver's red-hot Belcaro neighborhood, visitors wonder why the asphalt roads have so many bumps and dips. Underneath lies a lurching landfill.

Every year, Coloradans get better at minimizing the impact of this waste, in part by recycling or repurposing some of it. New technology is helping too. Household waste, for example, is increasingly sorted both by people and by robots. Such as the plastic-zapping robotic blowguns that ricochet plastics from our recycling conveyor belts. Or the spider-like carton-grabber that pulls old juice and milk boxes out of the waste stream.

Some of our waste even helps fuel our infrastructure, like the tires burned to fuel formation of cement near Pueblo. Elsewhere, our old trash powers homes, like in Aurora where fermenting gases from buried trash are harnessed to generate electricity.

Solid waste management is big business here—as big as the marijuana industry. This billion-dollar enterprise employs thousands, and handles our most visible environmental footprint. Not to mention that its personnel are often the eyes and ears for our communities. Like the trash hauler who helped save a house in Aspen when he reported a gas smell in the driveway. The owners were gone and a falling icicle had severed the home's gas line.

Despite all our progress, Coloradans have a long way to go to get up to national standards for recycling waste. For example, Americans living in cities recycle about 35 percent of their household waste, but with the exception of outliers like Fort Collins, in Colorado's cities we only recycle upwards to 20 percent of our waste. In part, our recycling rates are low because we've never had a landfill crisis like some tightly packed coastal

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cities, and because waste management in Colorado is largely privatized, with recycling often only available as an optional service with an added fee. Also contributing to this perfect storm are Colorado's extremely low landfill usage costs, mediocre commodity prices that make recycling less attractive, and extra shipping costs to export some of our recyclables to coastal distribution centers.

Solid waste's costs and impacts aren't always direct—most of them come from the

infrastructure of our lives. Whether we recycle, compost, buy less, or just raise our awareness, each of us can help a little bit. Maybe it starts with a wink or a wave to our friendly trash truck driver. Whatever steps we take, collectively, let's avoid making any more mountains out of molehills.

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



Post-consumer lifecycle of paper: Loading, separating, sorting, and baling paper for recycling.
Images: Waste Management

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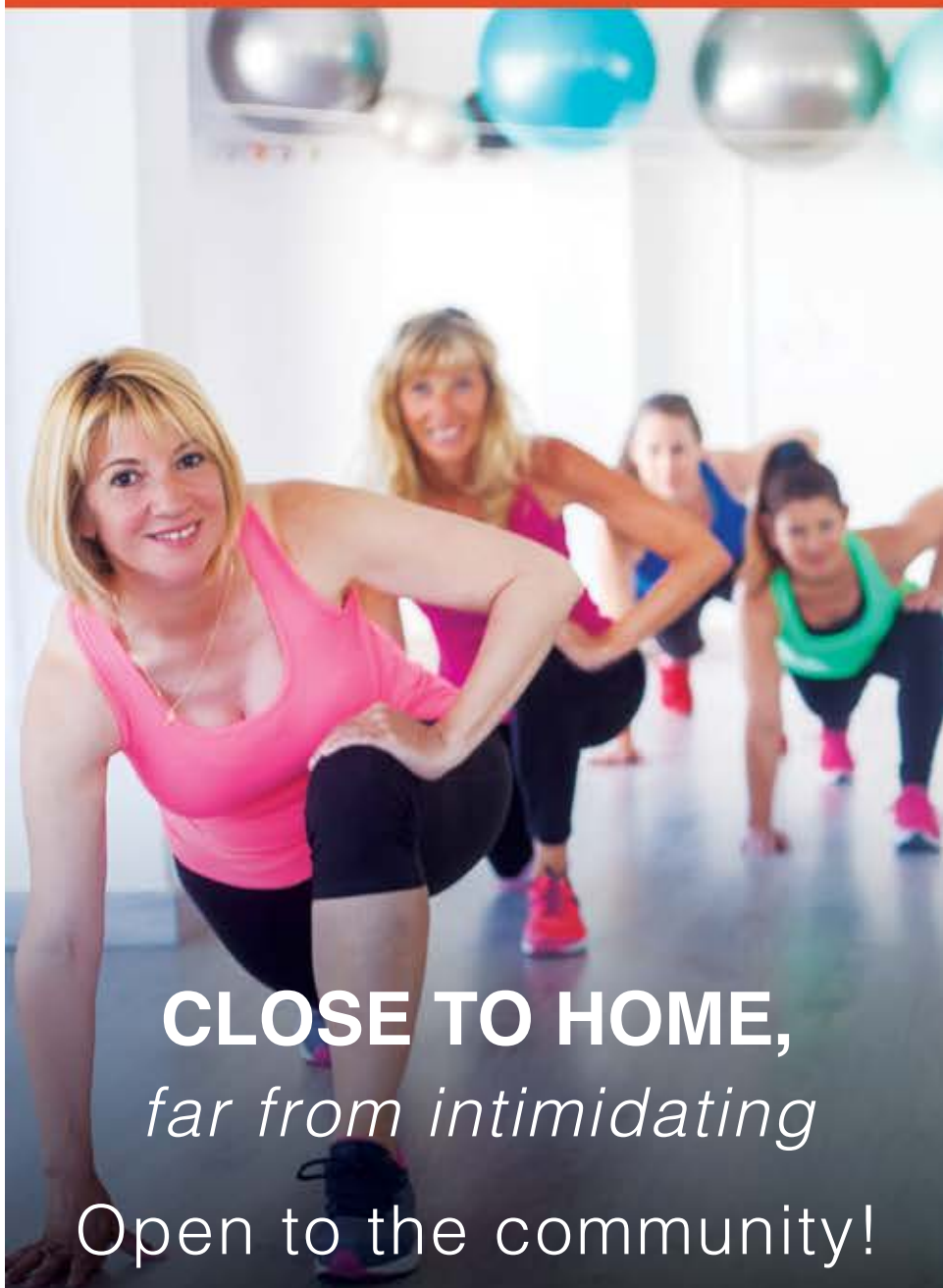
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The Manakama Grocery owned by Tal Man Rai and Devi Rai offers an extensive collection of imported clothing, jewelry, and household goods from Nepal, India and other countries, as well as typical convenience store offerings.



Immigrants

(continued from page 13) themselves, and they began at the very bottom in America. With hard work, the persistence to learn English, and faith in the kindness of others, they each succeeded.

Entrepreneurship

The other element that the men share is what Mouaddine calls "the fire" – the desire to stop working for others, and the willingness to risk again to make that happen. Despite these immigrants having "made it" – attaining positions of relative security and financial success within a larger corporation – each of them felt a strong pull to strike out on his own.

Mouaddine had begun "flipping" cars and was looking for his own shop in 2011. When a lease deal fell through at the last minute, he was frustrated and decided to buy instead. After driving the streets of Stapleton, he recognized the potential a retail mechanic shop located at 25th and Dayton could have. "If those houses are right there, and I'm right here, I'm



Mouaddine has shared his success in the U.S. with his family. Brother Zach Mouaddine helps out in the shop while building his own auto sales business.

going to draw business from there," he realized. Today, Amina Auto hums with activity, and the location near the new Stanley Marketplace and new Stapleton homes offers great potential for growth. He has brought family members, including brother Zach Mouaddine, to help at the shop and pursue their own American dreams.

Although Rai was making a good living selling cars, he realized, "I don't want to work for other people." He opened a downtown Denver convenience store in 2013 and then sold it to start another in Aurora. He opened the Nepali & Indian Bazaar in its current location on Dayton near Colfax in December 2016 with his

sister-in-law, Devi Rai, and business is brisk at their well-stocked store. Not only does it sell the typical lottery tickets, sodas, and cigarettes, but there are hundreds of Indian and Nepali goods available, including food, household goods, and clothing.

Mouaddine had been feeling a lot (continued on page 40)

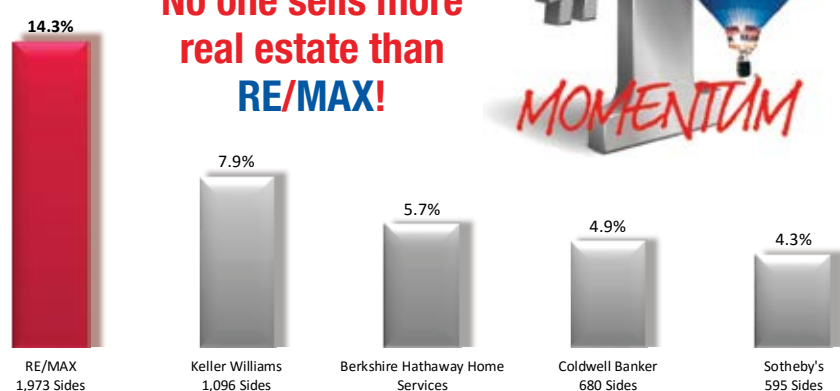
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Each month, the Indie Prof reviews a current film in the theater and second film or series available on DVD or instant-streaming service.

Follow "Indie Prof" on Facebook for updates about film events and more reviews.

Churchill (2016)

In a time of troubled leadership, it is natural to look back in history and pine for strong leaders. Winston Churchill was one of those leaders. In this new film from director Jonathan Teplitzky, we get a peek into a slice of his life at a time that definitively shaped our modern world. Teplitzky mined similar territory in his 2013 *The Railway Man*, a wonderful film that told the story of a British Army officer who was a Japanese POW during WWII. Much like that film, *Churchill* succeeds as both an intense character study and a visual pleasure that is professionally done on all levels.

The story begins on the eve of the D-Day invasion in early June of 1944. As the largest amphibious mission in history, there was much consternation and bickering amongst the important players: Churchill, British General Bernard

Montgomery, and Supreme Allied Commander Dwight Eisenhower. Churchill had his doubts about the plans, and he wished to change them at the last minute. Then he demanded that he go into battle himself and lead the

men (at the age of 70!). He was rebuffed, by Montgomery and Eisenhower, and finally by King George VI. Churchill listened to his King.

The close character study of Churchill is juxtaposed with the military planning and decision-making concerning the invasion. The film's most thrilling moments come here—when we are in the room as Eisenhower decides to delay the invasion due to the weather, or when he decides to go as the weather clears. Bryan Cox as Churchill is very good, even if his frequent outbursts can get stilted. Still, the film is well-plotted, well-paced, well-acted, and well-directed.

Some of these events are not exactly historically accurate, and the film veers into fiction at points. But this is a film and not a piece of journalism; if you are learning your history from movies, well, that's another issue entirely. Finally, watching these great leaders decide the fate of millions, it is hard to imagine such cooperation, nerves of steel, or competence in today's world.



Thank goodness for them.

You will like this film if you enjoyed *Lincoln*, *Saving Private Ryan*, and/or *The King's Speech*.

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Patriot (Amazon)

I have frequently noted that in this Golden Age of TV, Amazon series continually best the other networks in terms of writing, production values, and in most cases, acting. Another in their line of offerings is *Patriot*, a dark, funny, quirky, and unsettling spy thriller that seems to be the love child of Wes Anderson and the Coen Brothers. Quentin Tarantino would be its uncle.

The story concerns a covert intelligence operation to stop Iran from getting nuclear weapons. The sole agent in the operation, John, is played with wonderful insouciance by New Zealand actor Michael Dorman in a star-turn performance. His father is the intelligence boss who rescues John from a pot-soaked sabbatical in Amsterdam following a failed mission. John's brother, a U.S. congressman, also helps rescue John from his smoke-filled, folk-singing stupor and subsequently nudges him through-out the mission. The three characters could be straight out of an Anderson, Tarantino, or Coen Brothers film, plopped into the serious world of U.S. espionage. Oh, and there is the matter of the Midwestern pipe company that serves as John's cover job and allows him to travel to Europe, a job for which he is ill-suited and which provides a great deal of the (dark) humor and oddity.

The tone is wonderfully sustained over the course of the 10-episode first season, and

it is not an easy tone to pull off. The juxtaposition of humor, violence, and outlandishness mixed with a close family dynamic sometimes gets in the way of itself, but for the most part it is extremely engaging, endearing, and

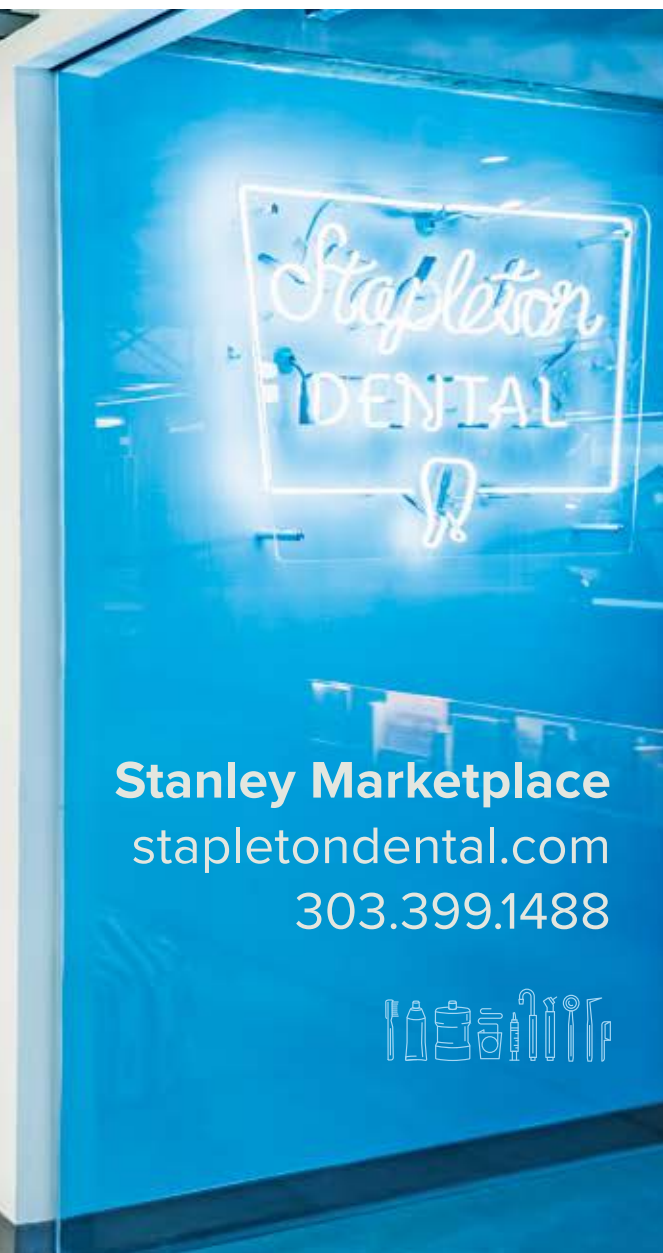
biting. The cinematography is particularly compelling here: sustained long takes that focus on the psychology of a character; odd angles that mirror the oblique nature of the players and the action; and deep focus shots that keep the background and foreground in focus—the net effect of which highlights the strangeness of the reality.

The mission quickly goes awry and the characters are thrown into a spiral that has them chasing their tails throughout most of the season. This is where the acting really takes hold: the aforementioned Dorman carries the show and inhabits his character; the excellent Terry O'Quinn (*Lost*) as his father manages to be tender, funny, and ruthless; and Michael Chernus (*Orange is the New Black*) as brother Edward is the most hilarious of the bunch. Their combined travails include a run-in with Brazilian wrestlers, questioning by the Luxembourg police, a hunting trip to backwoods Wisconsin, and a mechanical bull riding competition in Amsterdam. Really.

You will like this if you enjoyed *Fargo* (film or series), *The Grand Budapest Hotel*, and/or *Six Feet Under*.

Season One is available on Amazon.

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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Bennet's Town Hall Packs Montview Church



By Melinda Pearson

It was standing-room-only on Friday, May 19, as hundreds of people squeezed into the pews of Montview Blvd. Presbyterian Church to attend a town hall with U.S. Senator Michael Bennet. It was his third of

the day, following town halls in Ft. Collins and Boulder.

Unlike some town halls, where questions and their askers are carefully screened, moderator Nate Easley drew names from a bin of attendees, and Sen. Bennet took the questions as they came. The audience – including many vocal Bernie Sanders supporters—was by and large a friendly one to the Democratic Senator, a Park Hill resident during his days as former Denver mayor John Hickenlooper’s chief of staff and as DPS Superintendent.

Bennet’s approach to his constituents was conversational and casual. Dressed down in a Patagonia jacket and khaki pants, he walked up the center aisle of the church towards the speakers, never once sitting on stool in front of the stage. His tone and demeanor were calm, congenial, and frank.

Wide Range of Issues Addressed

The questions from the audience were

varied, with little repetition of issues over the course of the hour-plus long meeting. A retired nurse practitioner opened with a question on the minds of many these days: “I’m really scared about the [U.S. House bill to repeal and replace ACA], because it’s a wolf in sheep’s clothing,” she began. “I’d like to ask how you plan to preserve Medicaid, especially the expansion. It’s been a life and death matter for a lot of people that I see.”

As he did for most questions that night, Bennet offered a long and detailed response, the heart of which was this statement: “What I can tell you about this bill in the House of Representatives is, if you set out to design a piece of legislation less responsive to the needs of Coloradans, you couldn’t do

it.” This answer, like many that followed, was greeted with enthusiastic applause



Senator Michael Bennet answers unscreened questions from constituents at a Town Hall meeting held at Montview Boulevard Presbyterian Church on May 19th. The former Park Hill resident engaged the largely friendly audience in an informal, conversational manner as he addressed the wide range of thoughtful issues they raised. It was his third in-person town hall of the day.

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ligence agency in America that believes that. The intelligence agencies in America believe it was the Russians.”

Tough Questions

The toughest question of the night came from Debbie James, “When you voted against poor and lower middle class Americans being able to purchase reduced cost drugs from Canada, you hurt, harmed, and also possibly signed a death sentence for those who suffer

from the Denver audience.

Bennet acknowledged that there are flaws with the existing Affordable Care Act, particularly in rural areas of Colorado, where little competition in the insurance industry results in high premiums. But Bennet views the House bill as a means of shifting responsibility to the states, and, ultimately, the loss of health care for children and seniors in nursing homes. “We have to stop this bill in the U.S. Senate.”

The evening continued in a similar vein, with questions, for example, about his relationship with Cory Gardner (“good”), the state of the Democratic Party (needs a “fundamental identity rebuilding”), and the regulatory accountability act (“you can count on a no vote from me”).

It took more than 45 minutes for someone to ask about Russian connections to the Trump administration, and Bennet pulled no punches in his response. “We know now...that the Russians meddled mightily in this election. Mightily!” Bennet asserted. “Donald Trump still says maybe it was the Chinese. There is not an intel-

from Big Pharma’s stranglehold over their healthcare and wellbeing,” said James, her voice breaking with emotion. “I wonder where is the empathy and compassion for the elderly and poor children and their parents who cannot afford essential medication? Will you vote for this when it comes up again?”

In response, Bennet defended his earlier vote by citing the lack of safety measures in the bill, which, if in place in a similar future bill, would allow him to vote for it. In the meantime, Bennet suggested, the next step is to “have Medicare negotiate drug prices, which I think would make a vast difference for the poor.”

Later, Bennet also defended his vote against the Democrats’ filibuster of Neil Gorsuch’s nomination. “Filibustering a qualified nominee to the Supreme Court played right into Mitch McConnell’s hands and allowed him to invoke the nuclear option and blow up the Senate,” he said. “You don’t like the ring of ‘Justice Gorsuch’? Well, how do you like the ring of ‘Justice Pruitt’... How do you like the

ring of ‘Justice Sessions’? How do you like the ring of ‘Justice Betsy DeVos’?” asked Bennet. “He can appoint any of those people and get them approved with 51 votes.” Bennet fears that the nuclear option will mean that “we will have infected our Court” with the same damaging partisanship that has infected our country.

Closing Thoughts

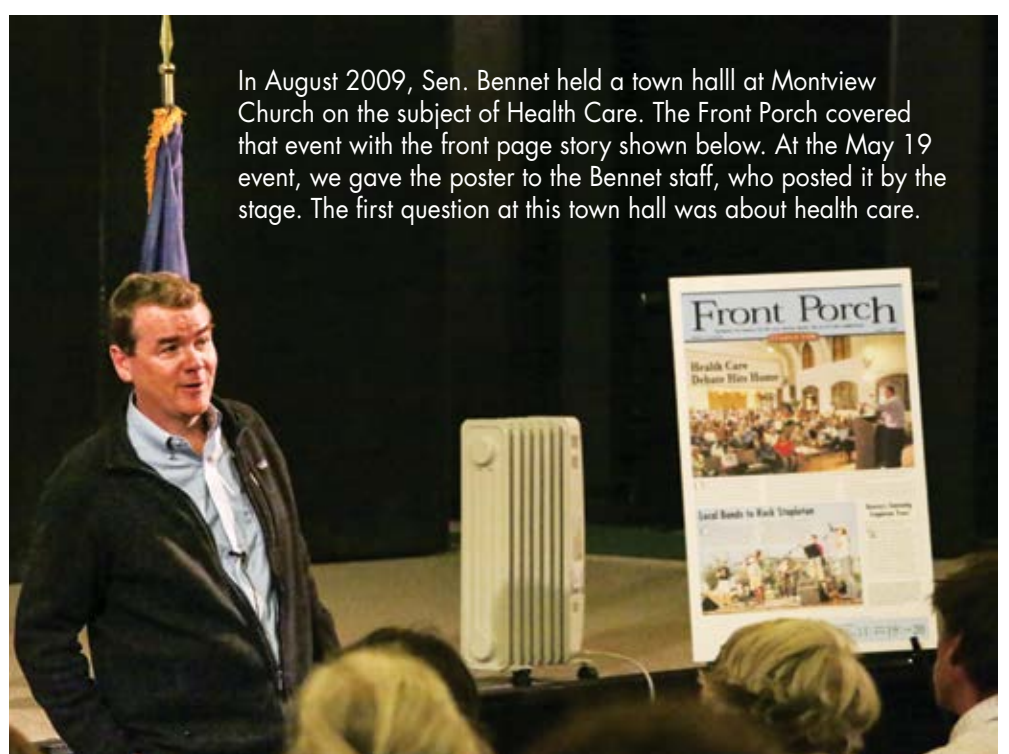
As the meeting wore on, Bennet grew more comfortable with his receptive audience and began to elaborate in his responses to questions, getting to material he wanted to express even when somewhat tangential to the original question being asked.

For example, he referred at least twice to his bipartisan work as part of the “Gang of Eight” – four Republican and four Democratic senators who crafted a comprehensive immigration reform bill in 2013 that included increased border security AND a pathway to citizenship. And near the end of the evening, in response to a question about affordable housing, Bennet made a point of mentioning “the significant problem we have to educate the next generation...if

you’re born poor in the United States, you’re chances of graduating with a college degree or its equivalent are 9 in 100.” Bennet then detailed the successes of DPS in addressing educational inequities before returning to the issue of affordable housing. Earlier, in response to a question about NASA, he had said, “We’ve done a terrible job by making math and science as boring as we possibly can in school,” said Bennet. “When they apply it, it becomes exciting, and there’s nothing more exciting than space.”

The evening closed with Bennet reading a letter written by Barbara Rank, a Dubuque, Iowa resident who responded to a question from her Congressman, Rod Blum, “Why should a 62-year-old man have to pay for maternity care?” In Rank’s response, she asked, “Why should I pay for a bridge I don’t cross, a sidewalk I don’t walk on, a library book I don’t read?” Bennet closed with Bank’s answer to her own question, “It’s called democracy, a civil society, the greater good. That’s what we pay for.”

After the meeting wrapped up, slightly later than expected, Bennet posed for dozens of photos with attendees.



In August 2009, Sen. Bennet held a town hall at Montview Church on the subject of Health Care. The Front Porch covered that event with the front page story shown below. At the May 19 event, we gave the poster to the Bennet staff, who posted it by the stage. The first question at this town hall was about health care.



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Park Hill Garden Walk June 17



Saturday, June 17, 9am-3pm

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\$12/\$10 for seniors

Advance tickets are also available at the Park Hill Branch Library, Spinelli's and Cake Crumbs. Tickets at the event are \$15.

"As every gardener knows, putting together a beautiful outdoor arrangement takes lots of planning and hard work," says Helen Quinn, co-chair of the event for the last five years. "We begin recruiting volunteers about nine months before each year's walk takes place." For information about participating in next year's walk, email helenpatq@yahoo.com.



Tom Wordinger finds garden work inspiring and relaxing and says he learned about gardening from his grandfather. This year, Wordinger replaced a struggling sod lawn with artificial turf. The maintenance free lawn allows him to spend additional time doing what he really loves—tending his garden. And even close up, the artificial grass looks real.

The natural elements create a serene, contemplative space—tall plants are interspersed with rocks, and a winding pathway connects the garden features. Wildlife sculptures and fountains accent the pond, and a covered garden gate and garden house add to the feel that this backyard is a respite from the world. Wordinger says, "Gardening inspires and renews my faith in this world, in light of all that is going on these days—and in spite of the recent hail."



Proceeds from the garden walk ticket sales go to Greater Park Hill Community, Inc. (GPHC). The GPHC donates fresh food and produce to Denver Food Rescue's Free Farmstand and the weekend food pack program for Park Hill school children. Last year, GPHC partnered with the Colfax Business Improvement District to provide a safer crossing at Colfax and Fairfax. GPHC also hosts the Park Hill Home Tour. The Garden Walk is staffed by volunteers and sponsored by area businesses and individuals.

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Nancy Brauer participated in the first annual walk 17 years ago and decided she wanted to do it again this year. Through sustainable practices, her garden is wildlife habitat certified. The certification is for yards or gardens that provide food, water, cover, and places for wildlife to raise their young. The garden appeals to people and wildlife with an herb garden and a water feature containing fish.



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By John Fernandez

The tentative optimism conveyed by area legislators in January regarding the upcoming session of the Colorado General Assembly appears to have been justified. By all accounts, this was the most successful legislative session in a decade, culminating in an omnibus bill (SB-267) that will generate new money for transportation projects (\$1.9 billion) and prevent major cuts to hospital budgets through reclassification of the hospital provider fee. Other major accomplishments cited by northeast Denver legislators include staving off further cuts to public schools and approving a partial reform to the way that construction defects in condominium projects are handled.

In January, all state legislators in the Front Porch distribution area were either new to the General Assembly or were moving from the House to the Senate. The optimism natural to newcomers was reinforced, they said, by a sense that the public has wearied of ideological debates and wants politicians to solve real-world problems. In contrast to the federal government, they also viewed Colorado's split legislature (Democrat-dominated House, Republican majority of one in the Senate) as an advantage: any bill would need support from both parties, thus mandating the ability to compromise if anything was to be accomplished.

In the end, Democratic Gov. John Hickenlooper pronounced 2017 as the most productive of his tenure, which dates to 2011.

Area legislators uniformly cited some increased funding for transportation and avoided cuts for schools and hospitals as major accomplishments this session. They also uniformly decried the failure of another bill, HB-1242, as the major disappointment. That bill would have presented an opportunity for voters to weigh in this November on a state sales tax increase to support \$3.5 billion in transportation projects. Despite support in both chambers, the bill was killed in committee by three conservative Republicans. Sen. Lois Court, representing District 31, said, "It was absurd that these Republican senators were unwilling to ask the voters if they want to approve this tax increase for transportation, which is exactly what TABOR allows for." (TABOR is the Taxpayer Bill of Rights,



Left: Speaker of the House Crisanta Duran (D) and Senate president Kevin Grantham (R) struck a conciliatory tone early in the session but were unable to win passage of the major transportation funding bill (HB17-1242).



Right: Senate Chamber

a 1992 constitutional amendment that prohibits tax increases without public votes in a jurisdiction.)

Perhaps the leading example of compromise this session involved the hospital provider fee (HPF). At the beginning of the session, Republican leadership made it clear that reclassification of the HPF was a nonstarter. Democrats had been pressing the past three years to classify that fee as an enterprise fund to create some \$700 million of spending capacity under the state's revenue cap before it is required, by TABOR, to give tax refunds. Enough Republicans eventually broke ranks under pressure to avoid massive cuts to public schools and rural hospitals. Trade-offs included higher Medicaid copays and a lowered future cap on state revenues.

The *Front Porch* polled area legislators and below we present their responses (edited for length) to our questions about the best and worst outcomes of the session that concluded May 10. We also asked them to cite the successful legislative initiatives in which they were personally involved. The legislators measure success not only as approved bills but two categories of bills that did not pass: those that they opposed and those presenting new ideas for the first time and which, over time may earn broader acceptance. Find comments from your own legislator below:



Sen. Lois Court

Sen. Lois Court, District 31. Best accomplishments: Reclassifying the HPF, addressing construction defects and passing a budget that allowed for a slight increase in per pupil funding. **Worst outcome:** Defeat of HB-1242. **Personal accomplishments:** Approved bills to increase fines for texting while driving (SB17-027), and

to make it legal for people to break car windows after exhausting all other options to save dogs, cats and people who are endangered in a closed vehicle (HB17-1179); "voicing my opposition to various bills that I thought would be harmful to our state including bills to require doctors to give dubious information and non-medically necessary procedures to women seeking an abortion, a bill that

would have had a far-reaching negative impact on our LGBTQ community, and an effort to repeal our Colorado Healthcare Exchange."

Sen. Angela Williams, District 33.

Best: HPF reclassification, the omnibus budget bill, avoiding public school budget cuts, funding new programs for affordable housing and services for the chronically homeless, and additional veteran services. **Worst:** Defeat in committee of HB-1242.

Personal: To address the construction defects problem, "we were able to pass HB17-1279, a bill that preserves homeowners' rights while promoting building of attainable housing." A notable provision requires a vote by a majority of condo owners, rather than just of an HOA board, to approve litigation against a builder/developer. Williams co-sponsored SB17-142, a bill that will require facilities providing mammograms to notify women if they have dense breast tissue, a condition that is a risk factor for cancer and lowers the ability of mammograms to detect cancer. Other successful bills



Sen. Angela Williams



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Legislative Session

she co-sponsored: HB17-1375, a bill that ensures equity in funding and accountability in our public schools. The bill requires equitable distribution of mill levy override dollars among all public schools in a district and adds transparency requirements for charter schools; HB17-1138, which will require the Department of Safety to record and report data on hate crimes; and, SB17-088, which requires transparency in healthcare provider selection for a network. This will make navigation of the healthcare system easier for patients and physicians.

House District 7 somewhat mirrors Senate District 33, beginning at DIA and sweeping west to include Stapleton and east Park Hill. District 8 extends west from House District 7 to York Street and Five Points. District 6 is centered on Lowry, bounded roughly by the Colfax corridor, Downing Street to the west and south to Louisiana Street.

Rep. James Coleman, District 7.

Best: “Among the strong accomplishments by the General Assembly was the increase of K-12 funding by \$242 per child, and the passage of solutions to construction defects that will encourage builders to develop more affordable housing options for the people

of Colorado.”
Worst: “If there was one thing we would hope to have better next session, it would be the improvement of bipartisan efforts regarding bill passage.”



Rep. James Coleman

Personal: Successful introduction of these bills: HB17-1201, authorizing a high school diploma endorsement in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) to students who demonstrate mastery in STEM; HB17-1211, creating a pilot program (gifts, grants and donations only) for schools to develop professional development strategies to encourage culturally responsive methods of student discipline; HB17-1215, creating the peace officers mental health support grant program and encouraging police and sheriff’s departments to provide on-scene response services to support officers’ handling of persons with mental health disorders; and, HB17-1214, requiring the Colorado Office of Economic Development to promote employee ownership as part of its small business assistance center.

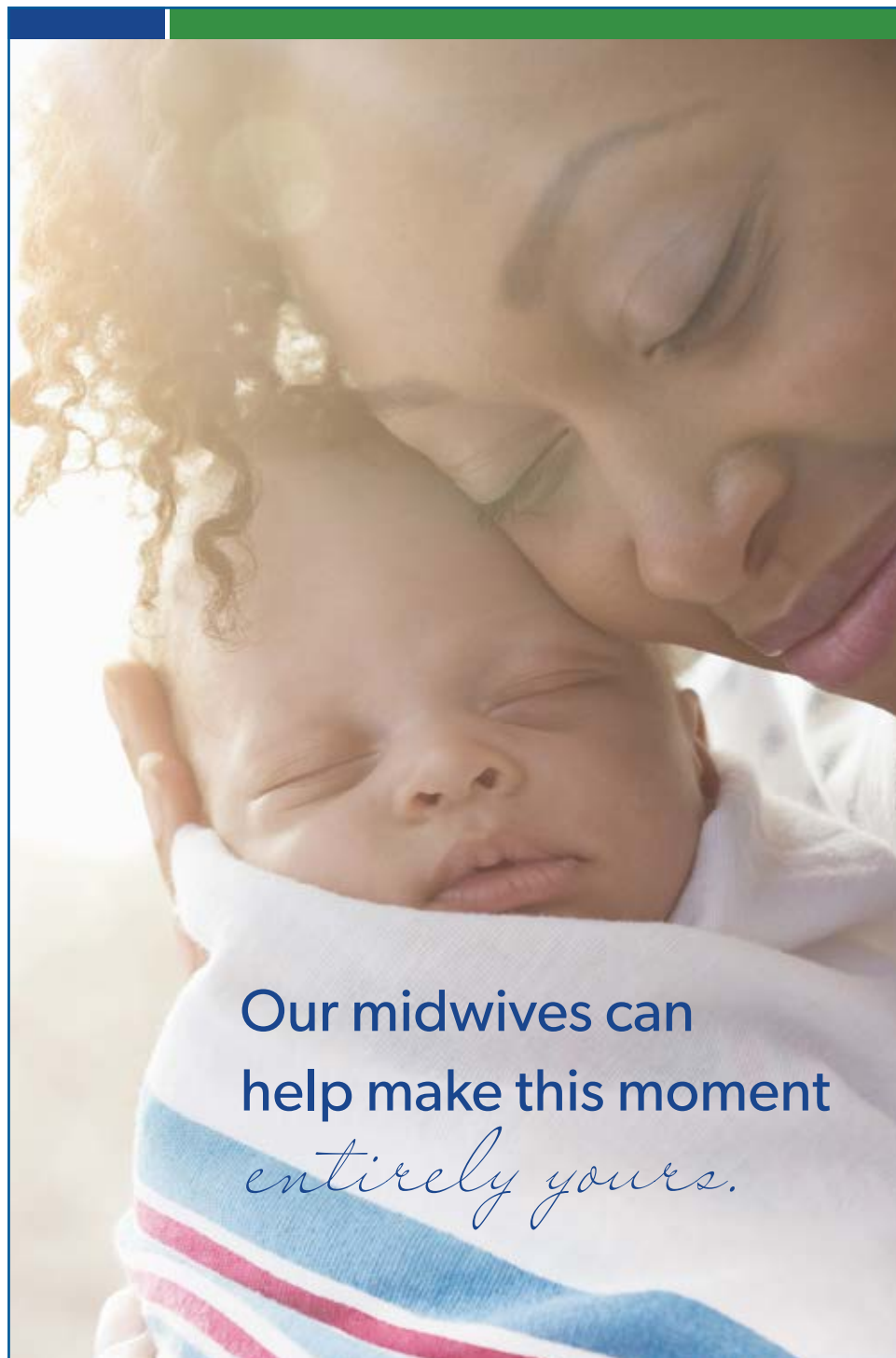


Rep. Chris Hansen, District 6.

Best: “Conversion of the HPF into an enterprise which saves many hospitals from closure and preserves more than \$500

Rep. Chris Hansen

million in funding for healthcare, but most importantly, it will save lives.” **Worst:** Defeat of the transportation funding bill (HB-1242). “The citizens of Colorado deserve high-quality roads and public transit options. It was disheartening to get so close to passing a balanced proposal and to come up short.” **Personal:** 14 bills and resolutions that he sponsored including six signed into law: HB17-1173, which protects (continued on page 41)



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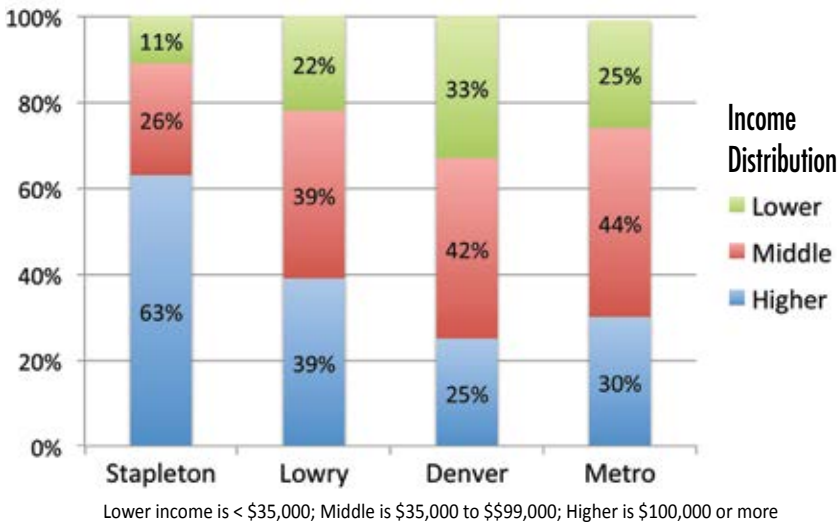
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How Do New Neighborhoods

Socioeconomic Diversity

Socioeconomic diversity was one of the goals for the Stapleton community as it was envisioned in the 90s. Many affluent families had moved to the suburbs during busing in the 70s, 80s and early 90s—and one of the goals was to bring those families back into the neighborhood mix. The affluent families did come, but in greater numbers than expected, creating an

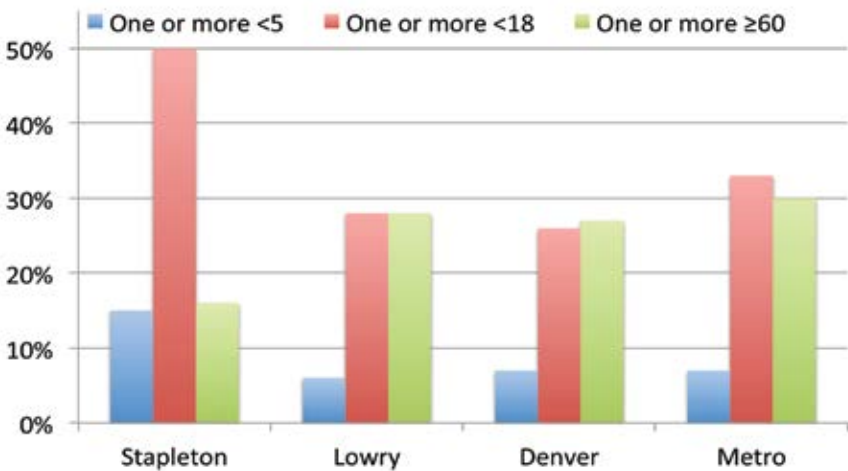
imbalance toward higher income. The chart below highlights that Stapleton has ended up with far less socioeconomic diversity than Lowry or the city as a whole.



Household Composition

With the original expectation that Stapleton would reflect the demographics of the city as a whole, the unexpectedly large number of children in Stapleton meant DPS needed more schools than had been planned. Compared to the city overall, Stapleton has almost double

the number of households with one or more children under 18 years. And specifically the number of households with children under 5 years is double that of Denver. Not surprisingly that means Stapleton has fewer households with people over 60 than the city as a whole.



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Stapleton and Lowry Differ from Denver as a Whole?

By Carol Roberts

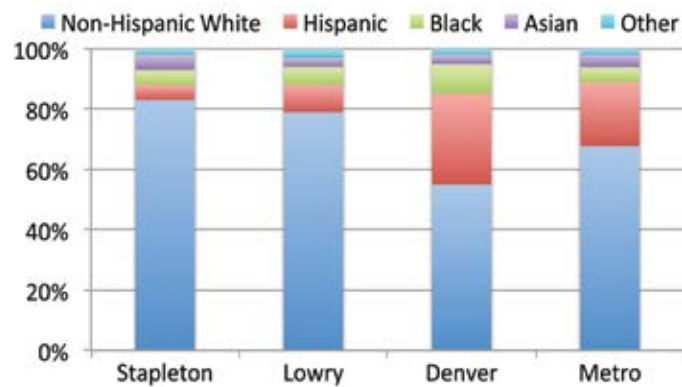
A recent study of “Housing Affordability in Stapleton” presents a demographic profile comparing Stapleton, Lowry, the city of Denver, and metro Denver. The city-owned Stapleton airport land was envisioned to become a neighborhood that would reflect the diversity of the city as a whole. How close did it come to that goal?

And how does Lowry, another new planned community, compare to the city as a whole? The charts below tell the story.

Charts were created by *Front Porch* using statistics compiled by BBC Research & Consulting for the housing affordability study referenced above. BBC's data was taken from the 2011 – 2015 American Community Survey.

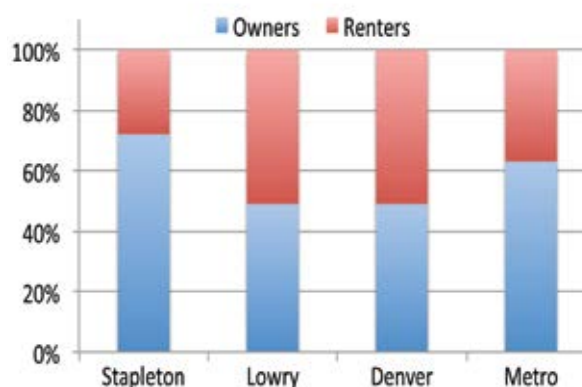
Racial and Ethnic Composition

Stapleton and Lowry share an overrepresentation of Non-Hispanic whites and their proportion of Blacks is about half that of the city overall. In both Stapleton and Lowry, the Hispanic population is dramatically underrepresented relative to that of the city.



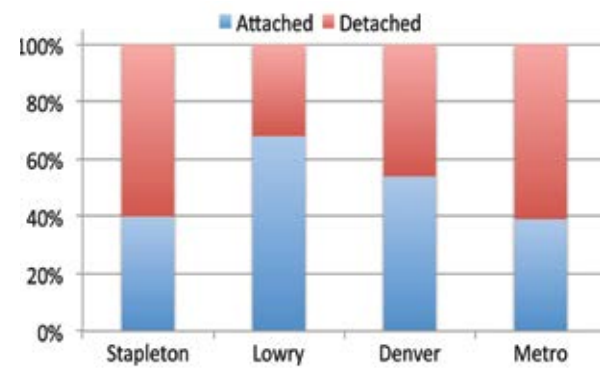
Owners and Renters

Lowry matches the city average of half owners and half renters. Stapleton has about three-quarters owners and one-quarter renters.



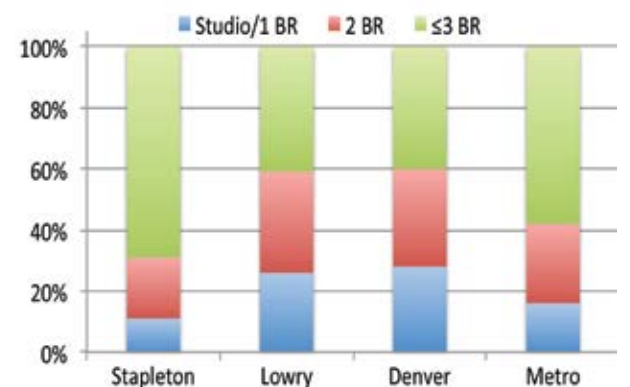
Housing Type

The city overall is split about evenly between attached and detached homes. Stapleton is weighted more heavily toward detached homes and Lowry is weighted more heavily toward attached homes.



Number of Bedrooms

Lowry matches the city's average number of bedrooms per home, with about 40% having three bedrooms. Stapleton stands out in this comparison, with 69% of homes having three or more bedrooms.



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Large Encampments Found Under Bridge



By Melinda Pearson

Complaints from local hotels about increased crime along the Quebec corridor unearthed large homeless encampments in labyrinthine spaces underneath the 40th St. and Smith Road bridges, according to District 5 Lt. Ian Culverhouse. Denver police, sheriffs and the Public Works department cleared out trash, furniture, human waste, and over 100 propane

tanks from the area. Numerous weapons and hypodermic needles were also found.

Homeless people had gained access through small portals that were behind unlocked gated areas and had squeezed in items as large as a queen-sized mattress. The access gates have since been locked. CDOT will be clearing out a similar encampment found inside the I-70 overpass.

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Erasmus (Ras) Casiano and Diego Coconati look forward to teaching students new skills while having fun and meeting new people.

By Anne Hebert

Business partners Erasmo (Ras) Casiano and Diego Coconati share a passion for preparing mouth-watering food. Both are graduates of the culinary program at Johnson & Wales University and have spent their careers working in the restaurant industry. The two will open Create Cooking School at the Stanley Marketplace in September 2017.

Coconati says opening a cooking school is a natural next step. “It allows us to do everything we love about cooking and restaurants without the stress.” “We knew the Stanley Marketplace would be a perfect spot for us right away,” says Casiano. “We

read the ‘Stanifesto’ when we first visited the building and were impressed with the sense of community, which is very important to us.”

Coconati came to Colorado by way of Argentina, Puerto Rico and Miami. He developed his skills cooking South American, Caribbean and Asian Fusion dishes. Casiano, raised in Texas, has always had a keen interest in cooking and started a culinary program at his high school. His specialties are Mexican, South American and traditional Italian delicacies. “We love the social aspect of cooking,” Coconati says. Casiano agrees. “Cooking can be intimidating. We want to remove

Socializing, Taste Testing and Fun Come Together in New Cooking School

that factor and emphasize food preparation as the foundation for gathering family and friends around the table.”

Create Cooking School will keep class sizes small to ensure one-on-one interaction between instructors and participants. With a maximum of 12 students per class, Casiano and Coconati envision a completely hands-on experience, teaching students new skills while having a great time meeting new people. An immersive class, participants will “taste as they go,” pairing the foods they cook with compatible beer, wine or cocktails. Some examples of class offerings are: Tacos & Tequila, Burgers & Brews, Steakhouse Favorites and Pasta From Scratch. As Casiano explains, “It’s an opportunity for us to do the shopping, students do the cooking, and we do the dishes.” Says Coconati, “The classes are

perfect for date nights, corporate team building and parties.”

The school will also offer classes for busy parents, teaching them how to put together family-friendly meals to take home and serve later. Kids’ classes and camps will introduce children to the kitchen where they’ll discover cooking healthy, delicious meals is fun. Camps will be offered for children in third grade through middle school.

Taught by experienced chefs, classes involving multiple courses will run three hours while less complicated menus will have 90-minute classes. “No matter what class people choose, it’s all about the experience,” says Casiano.

For email updates and upcoming class schedules, visit www.createcookingschool.com.

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Wedding, Family and Corporate Photos All in a Day's Work

By Anne Hebert
“We were really ready for a new space,” say owners Danny and Nina deZayas, who recently opened their business, From the Hip Photo, in the Stanley Marketplace. Having grown out of their home office, they chose the Stanley location because it suits their style and community-focused work ethic.

Danny and Nina met while students in New York in 2003. Danny has a cinematography and business background and Nina’s background is firmly rooted in the fine arts. Eventually tiring of living in New York, they decided to make relocating a true adventure. By creating a website and media campaign listing several cities to choose from, Danny and Nina let their family, friends



Danny and Nina deZayas have opened their From the Hip photography studio at Stanley Marketplace.



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and the public “cast their vote” and decide where they should live. Denver was the first city to receive one million votes and won overall so the deZayas made the move, blogging about living in Denver for a year afterward. “It was a great way to introduce ourselves through the media coverage we received,” says Danny. “We sort of got our 15 minutes of fame along with a great place to call home.”

Once established in Denver, their photography business began “organically.” Nina explains they often took photographs for friends. “People were so happy with our work,

they started referring us to their friends,” she says. “We realized that people seemed to like what we do so we started our business.”

Weddings represent about half of their bookings, but family photography and corporate headshots are also frequent requests. “We’re always glad when our wedding couples return to us for infant portraits as their families grow. We love helping people capture important milestones and memories.” Danny emphasizes, “We offer photography for businesses from Fortune 500 companies to mom-and-pop shops. From food and real estate photography to photos for music and bands, everything new we take on helps build our skills.”

From the Hip strongly believes in supporting charitable causes, donating 20 percent of their work to nonprofit organizations. “This community has been very supportive and we want to give back and build partnerships whenever we can,” both partners concur.

From the Hip’s goal is to “be better tomorrow than we are today,” says Danny. Nina adds, “Our referrals are what we’re most proud of.”

For more information about From the Hip Photo, visit their website at www.fromthehipphoto.com or call 720.390.5995.

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New Salon to Offer Educational Seminars and Event Space

By Anne Hebert

From childhood, Dani Everson, co-owner of Clementine's Salon, had a passion for styling hair. Six years ago, she and her husband John opened their first Clementine's Salon in the LoHi neighborhood. That location's success provided the impetus to open a second shop. "The Stanley Marketplace is a great location for us and has given us the opportunity to grow," says Everson.

With their new larger space, the salon has plans to provide educational seminars. Everson says the first seminar will likely be a class to educate teens about age-appropriate skincare and makeup. She says, as a teen, she "slapped on drugstore cosmetics" and didn't really know how to approach the concept of skincare. The class will give teens guidance about proper care for challenges like blemishes, suitable makeup application, and the importance of sun protection at Colorado's higher altitude. Class descriptions will be listed on the salon's website with dates, times, class costs and registration links.

With a 3,200-square-foot space three times the size of the LoHi salon, Clementine's at the Stanley has a private room with comfortable seating and two styling stations that can be used for bridal parties, girls' night out gatherings and private groups. Wine and food can be served at the events. The room is also used for stylist education and will be used for the educational seminars.

Services offered at Clementine's go well beyond haircuts and color. With nine stylists and two estheticians, the salon offers skin care treatments, facials, waxing, brow and lash tinting, and permanent makeup such as eyebrow micro blading in three dedicated esthetician rooms.

New customers can view stylist profiles and portfolios online. Those familiar with the LoHi location can expect the same quality service at the Stanley.

Salon hours are Monday through Sunday from 10am to 6pm. Booking can be done online or by phone. Visit Clementine's Salon online at www.clementinesdenver.com.

Building on the success of their first salon in LoHi, Dani and John Everson recently opened Clementine's Salon at Stanley Marketplace.



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Rocket I



Jim Hartman (left), Joe Vostreis and Harrison Phillips form the partnership that brought the rocket to Lowry. Vostreis says he dreamed of a rocket like the cartoon images he saw in childhood. The partners agree the Raygun Gothic Rocketship fits the bill.

By Anne Hebert

What do the Burning Man Festival, a Raygun Gothic Rocketship and Little Man Ice Cream have in common? The three combine to create Rocket Ice Cream at Hangar 2 next to the Lowry Beer Garden. "We wanted to bring a fun, iconic ice cream store to Lowry," says Joe Vostreis, Hangar 2 developer and partner at Larimer Associates.

"When I began considering ideas with a space and aircraft theme in mind, it occurred to me that I wanted a version of the rockets that fueled my childhood imagination," Vostreis explains. Googling cartoon images of 1930s and '40s rocket ships became a project for Vostreis until he discovered that what he was searching for actually existed—and was for sale. He and partner Jim Hartman, owner and manager of Hartman Ely Investments LLC, knew "it was perfect."



Workers assemble the rocketship in pieces before placing it atop an 11-foot-tall glass cone.

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Landing Brings Ice Cream to Lowry



Left: A Lowry landmark, the Raygun Gothic Rocketship and glass base stands 51 feet high.

Right: A crane moves pieces of the rocket into place for assembly.

Below: The rocketship was installed adjacent to the B52 Stratofortress aircraft that stands in front of Wings Over the Rockies Museum.



The Raygun Gothic Rocketship was originally created for the 2009 Burning Man Festival, an experiment in community and art in the Nevada desert attended annually by over 60,000 people. The sculpture, by artist David Schulman of the Five Ton Crane artist cooperative in San Francisco, subsequently toured the U.S. and Canada as a traveling art exhibit. It will now make its permanent home in Lowry.

A self-described childhood sci-fi junkie, Vostrejs says the rocket is a "dream come true." Standing atop an 11-foot-tall inverted cone-shaped glass kiosk, the entire structure stands 51 total vertical feet high with a "launch pad feel." A plaza with chairs and umbrellas surrounds the shop to create an outdoor dining area. "The rocket is so appropriate for the Hangar 2 location in Lowry," says Vostrejs. It ignites imagination

and illustrates the connections between air and space travel, exploration and adventure."

Of course, there will be lots of ice cream. Favorite flavors of Little Man Ice Cream will be served alongside a rotation of special flavors available only at Rocket Ice Cream. The shop will be open almost year-round, weather permitting.

It is Vostrejs' hope that the rocket will become an iconic Lowry landmark. "Neighborhoods become defined by what you see there," he says. "The rocket ship pays homage to the former Lowry Air Force Base and will attract attention to the area."

To learn more about Rocket Ice Cream, visit their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/RocketIceCream/.



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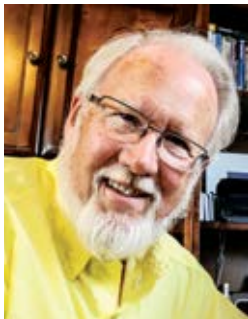
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Travel Photo Chosen by National Geographic



This photo of a giraffe in Kenya at Sunset by Mike Holtby was chosen as Best of the Week in National Geographic’s travel photography contest. Holtby’s African wildlife photos will be shown on the first Friday in July at the Wandering Gallery (on 9th between Santa Fe & Inca).

By Laurie Dunklee
Stapleton resident Mike Holtby was recognized by National Geographic magazine in May for this photo of a giraffe at sunset. Holtby took the photo at Meru National Park in Kenya in 2014. “We had been on a game drive for several hours and we were on our way back at sunset, on a dirt road,” said Holtby. “We scared up this giraffe and I shot the photo while the vehicle was in motion. I liked it right away; I love that the giraffe is running and its tail is moving. I also like the layers of color at sunset. I took it at a fast shutter speed, probably 1/2000th of a second, to capture the motion.” National Geographic picked the photo as Best of the Week in its travel photography contest. Holtby’s photo will be among the entries from which the magazine’s Travel Photographer of the Year will be chosen in



Mike Holtby

August. “This is really an honor—I mean it’s National Geographic,” Holtby said. Holtby has photographed in 40 countries, including four safaris in Africa. “Besides Kenya, the safaris have taken me to Tanzania, Botswana, Namibia, Ethiopia and South Africa,” he said. “I take about 8,000 photos on a typical trip, many in ‘bursts’—lots of shots at once to capture motion. I end up with 100 I like and 20 that I actually use.” He said he is fascinated by animals and feels compelled to photograph them while they are still here. “Many animals might not be around in another generation, particularly in Africa where most are threatened,” Holtby said. “I do it because my grandson might not have the opportunity to see what I’m seeing right now. I took video of a lion coming straight at me. It was breathtaking.”

New Swigert Principal Education

By Laurie Dunklee
“I’m passionate about education as a means to change the world for the better,” says Shelby Dennis, the new principal of Swigert International School starting this fall. Dennis, a Stapleton resident since 2003, has worked at Swigert as a literacy specialist, instructional coach and assistant principal. Swigert currently serves 695 students, from early childhood education to fifth-grade. Dennis’s goals for the school include supporting teachers and engaging students in more consistent social action in the community. “I’ll support teachers as they refine our curriculum to meet students’ needs, and I’ll help to pull in resources. I’ll engage students in more activities like making packets for the homeless, recycling days, and drives to save endangered species.” Another goal is to ensure that standards are met in the common core areas, including language and math. “With 30 kids in a classroom, meeting every student’s needs can be a challenge. But we meet every kid where they are.” Dennis brings both classroom and leadership experience to the job. She got her master’s degree in education policy and worked as a policy analyst for several years before entering the teaching profession. “I worked with legislatures across the country on funding and other issues. I realized that I didn’t know what teachers were facing on the ground, so I changed my course and taught language arts and social studies for several years.”





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Passionate about



Shelby Dennis talks to students in the hall at Swigert Elementary School.

Once I started working in schools, I decided I liked it better so I stayed. My background means that I understand what’s going on at both the teacher and systemic levels.”

She discovered her passion for elementary literacy. “I was trained as an elementary reading specialist and became a reading interventionist, supporting kids in a small group environment to raise their skills to their grade level. I’m passionate about it because when kids read at grade level they can access information that enables them to be part of a civic-minded society.”

Shelby is married to Kurt Dennis, principal at McAuliffe International School. The couple has two daughters, ages 12 and 8. “We try to limit the education talk at home, but we are both super passionate about it,” she says.

DCPA Immersive Dance Performance Showcases Stapleton Teen



Macy Gosch, a sophomore at Northfield High School, plays the lead in *Sonder*, a dance performance that guides the audience interactively through scenes in the life of a young artist.

By Laurie Dunklee

For 16-year-old dancer Macy Gosch, art imitates life as she portrays a conflicted teenager in *Sonder*, an immersive theater production, July 7 to 15 at the Studio Loft in the Ellie Caulkins Opera House.

Sonder is an original production that engages all 48 audience members with the performers. Performers, who are all under 18, escort the audience members through a “labyrinth” of seven scenes, all revolving around the life of a young artist portrayed by Gosch. “My character plays a graduating high school senior who realizes she’s not sure of her path in life,” said Gosch, a sophomore at Northfield High School. “She’s a painter, but she’s also interested in pursuing a more traditional career. The show follows her journey as she figures it out. I really connect to the story because earlier this year I was there.”

Gosch has studied dance since age 7, including ballet, modern dance, jazz, tap and hip-hop, and competed in many dance competitions. “I had planned to major in dance in college, but I changed my mind,” she said. “I decided to focus more intensely on academics so I can go to medical school.



I’m still passionate about dance, but I’m not pursuing it as a career. So, the play reflects what’s been going on in my life.”

Sonder is a collaborative effort by 19-year-old artistic director Makena Sneed, producer/choreographer Elizabeth Goitia and playwright Caroline Fenty. “The immersive play *Sweet and Lucky* inspired them, so they mixed all their ideas together,” said Gosch.

Eleven dancers from all over Colorado will portray the characters in *Sonder*. “Besides my character, there’s my boyfriend and people from my past who influence my decision-making process. Among them are a younger version of me and a mean girl on the playground who disparages my

art. There are people at my dad’s office when I’m there for a ‘take your daughter to work day.’ And there’s my internal side, my inner artist. The dance elements represent what the characters are feeling.

“Everyone in the audience gets something from the experience, whether they are young, or older and looking back on what it was like to make important decisions. My character has no name so the audience will put themselves in her position.”

The Ellie Caulkins Opera House is at 1400 Curtis St. *Sonder* plays July 7–15 at 7:30pm, with additional matinees at 2pm Sat. and Sun., July 8 and 9. Tickets are \$20 at AXS.com.



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Swigert and Lowry Elementary Teams Going to Global Competition

Recognitions

Left photo: In preparation for Destination Imagination's international competition, the Swigert International School's S.U.P.E.R. Sloths rehearse their "Top Secret" performance.

Right photo: The Lowry Elementary team, We Can't Agree, shows off their handmade costumes for their "Ready, Willing and Fable" challenge.



Photo courtesy of Lowry DI team

By Melinda Pearson

An intrepid group of students from Swigert International School have been laboring since the fall on an unusual challenge: "to create a story about a disguised character who goes on a secret mission and communicates with secret codes and spy gadgets." Another group from Lowry Elementary designed a project that addressed a community need and created a live presentation about it in fable form that included an "impact prop and a character that changes appearance."

These might sound a little strange, but they are part of a competition organized by Destination Imagination (DI), "a volunteer-led, educational nonprofit whose purpose is to inspire and equip students in grades K-12 to become the next generation of innovators and leaders," according to the Destination Imagination website. DI organizes tournament-style competitions, and there are over 800 teams in Colorado alone that compete in different thematic areas, many of them aligned to state or national educational standards, all requiring imagination and collaboration. The challenges must be done with no "interference" (i.e., the grown-ups can't help!) and on a budget of \$150.

Swigert's team, "The S.U.P.E.R. Sloths," is a scientific team, comprised of seven kids in grades two-five. The team has been working together under the management of parents Alison Auster and Syndy Lee for the last three years, learning more and more about how to rise to the challenges of DI. For this year's challenge, the Sloths built a set, designed and created costumes, wrote a script, developed cryptography methods, and completed tasks using chemistry, engineering, music theory and computer science.

"The coolest thing has been watching them develop this amazing team dynamic over time," said Auster. "Because one of the things that they learn at DI is how to come to consensus." This is no easy skill, even for most adults, and Auster described how the kids on her team have learned to "sit and talk like little adults about the pros and cons of their project. They listen to each other, they respect each other's points of view, and they are able to move forward with solutions even if they don't get their own way," said Auster.

Lowry Elementary is sending a team to Globals for the second time. Lowry's Service Learning/Project Outreach team "We Can't Agree," managed by Laura Levin, took on water conservation as their community need. Partnering with Denver Water, the fourth-graders put together an effective community campaign to exchange inefficient faucets with water-wise aerators. Then they created a fable, "The Fox, the Vulture, and the Faucet," that told an allegorical tale and explained their project, mostly written in verse! It also featured an "impact prop"—a pig named "Bacon Rings"—made from a large, clear water dispenser bottle that was filled with exchanged aerators. Levin estimated the yearly water savings from the project will total 100,000 gallons.

"I think DI should be mandatory," said Levin. "When you get the kids, they have not thought for themselves. At the beginning of every year, they're looking to me for answers, and I'm not going to give them. They're learning to think outside the box, work outside the group, and it teaches life skills." Levin is also gratified by the sense of ownership that the kids-only approach engenders, "It's not very often a kid

can look at some amazing project and know that they are 100 percent responsible for every detail that went into that from start to finish."

After successes at the district level, Lowry and Swigert both placed in the top three in their divisions at the state level competitions. A middle school team from Denver School of the Arts (DSA), "Irrational Ideas," also placed in the Fine Arts category. These teams were invited to compete in the Global Finals in Knoxville, Tenn., an honor bestowed upon fewer than 10 percent of all DI teams in the world. The competition took place May 24-27, with over 8,000 students competing. As of press time, we did not have results, but without a doubt, our local teams were excited to participate. To finance the expensive trip, both elementary teams held fundraising events as well as receiving \$400 per student in support from DPS to go to the competition and, in the case of Lowry, generous support from their PTO.

Other school teams from High Tech, Denver Discovery School, DSA and Swigert also participated in the state competition. Area schools that have DI teams include Isabella Bird, Park Hill School, Ashley Elementary, McAuliffe International and Denver School of the Arts.

To find out more about how to get involved or start a team at your own school, contact the DI coordinator at your school or, to begin a program at your school, get in touch with Minda McGurk at DPS about starting one (dpsk12di@gmail.com) or go to the DI webpage at <https://www.dicolorado.com/start-a-team/>.

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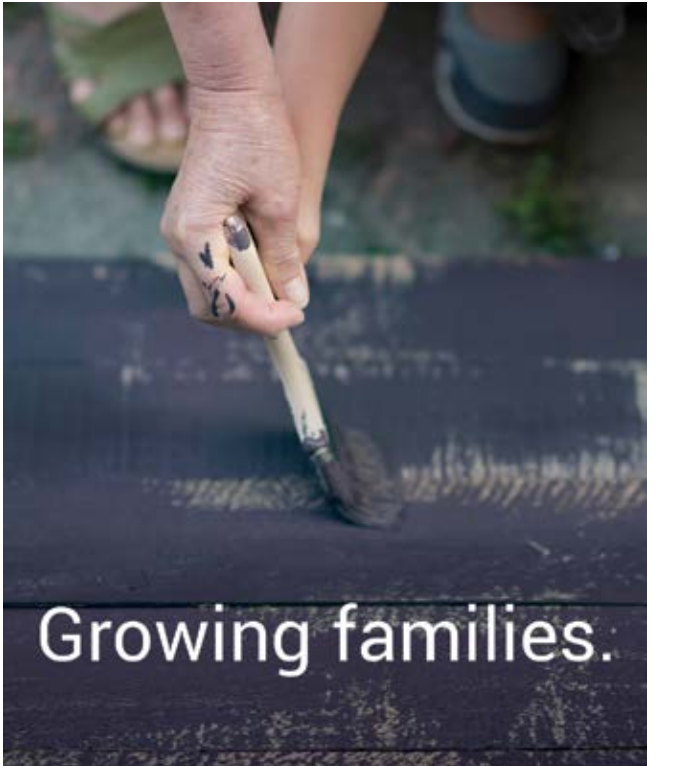
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SEASONAL/HOLIDAY EVENTS

7/1 Saturday—Old Fashioned July 4th Celebration. 5-10pm. A modern take on an old-fashioned 4th of July celebration. 715 S. Forest St. 720.865.0800. www.four-milepark.org

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

7/4 Tuesday—2016 Freedom Run 5K. 8am. Day of registration opens 6:45am. Evergreen Middle School, Evergreen. www.freedomrunrace.org, www.mtevans.org

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

7/4 Tuesday—Aurora 4th of July Spectacular. Aurora Municipal Center, 15151 E. Alameda Pkwy. live music, fireworks at dusk. www.auroragov.org

7/4 Tuesday—Colorado Rapids vs. Seattle. Fireworks after game. Family fun zone 5pm, game 7pm. www.coloradorapids.com

7/4 Tuesday—Denver Outlaws vs. Atlanta Blaze. 7pm. Sports Authority Field. Fireworks after game. www.denveroutlaws.com

7/4 Tuesday—Elitch Gardens. Fireworks at dusk.

7/4 Tuesday—Evergreen 4th of July Celebration. Evergreen Music Festival, art show, free kids' activities. 10am-7:30pm. Tickets \$10. 12 and under free. Evergreen Lakehouse. www.evergreenmusicfestival.org

7/4 Tuesday—Liberty 4 Mile and Firecracker Kids Run. 8:30am. Washington Park. www.liberty4mile.com

DENVER METRO EVENTS

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

6/2 Friday—First Friday Art Walks. Santa Fe Arts District, Tennyson Art Walk, River North (RiNo) Art District, Golden Triangle Museum, Navajo Street Art District. www.denver.org/things-to-do/denver-arts-culture/denver-art-districts

6/2 Friday—Four Mile Historic Park Hay Bales and Tall Tales. 12-1pm. 715 S. Forest St. 720.865.0800. Free together with Free First Friday. www.fourmilepark.org

6/3 Saturday—Highlands Street Fair. 10am-6pm, Highlands neighborhood, 32nd Ave., Julian St. to Perry St. Music, family activities, etc. FREE. www.highlands-square.com

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

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

6/10 Saturday—Denver Dumb Friends League Equine Center Open House. 10am-3pm. Harmony Equine Center, 5540 E. Highway 86, just west of Franktown. Guided tours, food truck vendors, kid activities; meet horses available for adoption. www.ddfl.org

6/10 to 7/30—Colorado Renaissance Festival. 8 weekends. Larkspur. www.coloradorennaissance.com

6/10 Saturday—Old South Pearl Brewgrass Festival. 1-10pm, \$8 advance, \$10 day of. 1200 block Old South Pearl St. www.southpearlstreet.com

6/10 to 6/11—Denver Berkeley Park Art and Music Festival. Denver Berkeley Park. Sat. 10am-7pm; Sun. 10am-4pm. www.denver.org

6/11 Sunday—A Taste of Puerto Rico. Civic Center Park, 11am-7pm. www.atopr.com

6/16 to 6/18—Denver Greek Festival. Greek food, music, boutique, cathedral tours, etc. 4610 E. Alameda. www.thegreekfestival.com

View more events or submit events

FrontPorchStapleton.com > Events

6/17 Saturday—Juneteenth Music Festival. Five Points Neighborhood, Welton St. betw. Park and 28th. www.juneteenthmusicfestival.com

6/17 to 6/18—Denver PrideFest. Civic Center Park, downtown Denver. Parade 9:30am, Cheesman Park. 11am-7pm Sat.; 10am-6pm Sun. www.glbtcolorado.org/pridefest

6/21 Wednesday—Denver Bike Night. 3rd Wed. thru Sept. Evening themed bike rides thru downtown Denver. Various start points. Meet 6-8pm, ride 8:15pm. Details: www.denvercruiserride.com

6/21 to 6/24—Denver Library Summer Used Book Sale. Central library, 10 West 14th Ave. 10am-4pm each day. www.dplfriends.org

6/23 to 6/24—Union Station Buskerfest. Free. Street theatre with fire performers, musicians, jugglers, hula hoopers, etc. Union Station, 6/23 5-8pm; 6/24 10am-8pm. www.denver.org/event/buskerfest

6/24 to 6/25—Sand in the City. Arvada beach party and sand sculpture contest. Ralston Park, 64th and Simms. Adults \$5, 12 and under free. Kids zone, live music, craft beer, local vendors. etc. www.sandinthecityarvada.org

6/24 Saturday—Westword Music Showcase. Golden Triangle. www.westword.com/musicshowcase

6/24 to 6/25—5th Annual Coors Light South Platte RiverFest. Outdoor activities, music art, etc. Confluence Park and Little Raven St. betw. 15th St. and Elitch Circle. Sat 10-8; Sun 10-5. www.thegreenwayfoundation.org

6/24 to 6/25—Cherry Blossom Festival. Sakura Square, Lawrence St. betw. 19th and 20th. www.cherryblossom-denver.org

6/26 Monday—528.0 Regional Juried Printmaking Exhibition, Opening Reception. 96 works by 58 artists living within 528.0-mile radius of Denver. Sponsor, The Invisible Museum, hosted by

(continued on page 36)



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(continued from page 35)

MSU Denver Center for Visual Arts. <http://msudenver.edu/cva/events/>

6/27 to 6/28—Denver Arts Festival. Stapleton Northfield. www.denverartsfestival.com

6/27 Tuesday—Overview of Printmaking with Mark Lunning. Open Press owner workshop on world of printmaking. (intaglio, lithography, silkscreen and relief), and monotypes as own medium. <http://msudenver.edu/cva/events/>

6/29 Thursday—The Planets and Mozart's Jupiter presented by Colorado Symphony. Red Rocks Amphitheatre, 7:30pm. www.coloradosymphony.org

6/30 to 7/2—Denver Comic Con 2017. Denver Convention Center, 700 14th St. \$35+. www.denvercomiccon.com

7/1 to 7/3—Cherry Creek Arts Festival. www.cherryarts.org

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

6/3 Saturday—Into the Wild Running Festival. Benefits Wild Animal Sanctuary in Keenesburg, Colo. 3 running and walking events at the sanctuary, begins 7am. www.wildanimalsanctuary.org

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

6/7 Wednesday—Medicare 101. Free educational seminar for Medicare beneficiaries or caregivers. 9-10am. Host: Chaundra Glenn 303.324.0951. Iora Primary Care, 4100 E. Mississippi Ave., Ste. 110, Glendale.

6/10 Saturday—8th Annual Jodi's Race for Awareness. Country's largest run/walk for ovarian cancer. City Park, 8:30am. www.jodisrace.org

6/11 Sunday—Strides for Epilepsy. City Park, 9:30-11:30am. www.epilepsycolorado.org

6/17 Saturday—Coldwell Banker Denver Century Ride and Street Party. Main Street, Northfield. www.denvercenturyride.com

6/18 Sunday—Father's Day 5K, 10K, Half Marathon and Kids Run. Stapleton Central Park, 8am. www.featonthetree.com

6/24 Saturday—Climb For Courage. 8:30am. Falcon Stadium, Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs. www.aafcu.com

6/24 Saturday—Undy 5000: A Brief Run to Fight Colon Cancer. 5K in your undies to fight colon cancer. Denver City Park 8:30am. www.undy5000.org

6/25 Sunday—Prego Expo. Pregnancy and Baby Expo. Colorado Convention Center. www.pregoexpo.com

6/28 Wednesday—Bike to Work Day. Register: www.biketoworkday.us

KIDS AND FAMILIES

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

cityparkalliance.org/icecreamsocial

6/1 to 8/12—Denver Public Libraries Summer of Reading. Free activities, suggestions for summer reading, incentives for Denver kids, 3 age groups. FREE. www.summerofreading.org

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

6/6 to 6/20—Little Wings Club. Tuesdays in June, story and craft for kids 11 and under with parent/caregiver. 11-11:45am. Wings Over the Rockies Museum, Lowry. www.wingsmuseum.org

6/6 to 6/27—Tuesdays in June—Four Mile Historic Park Small Settlers. Ages 2-5. \$5/child, adults free. Members free. 715 S. Forest St. Advance register: 720.865.0814 or education@fourmilepark.org. www.fourmilepark.org

6/10 Saturday—National Get Outdoors Day Denver. Sloan's Lake Park, north shore. Rock climbing, live music, outdoor arts, bicycling, fishing, junior ranger activities, etc. FREE. 10am-3pm. www.getoutdoorscolorado.org/ngod

6/10 to 6/24—Lowe's Build and Grow Kids Clinics. 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

6/11 Sunday—Junior Rangers. 1:30-3:30pm. Ages 6-12. Morrison Nature Center, 16002 E Smith Rd., Aurora. Reservations required. 303.739.9428, www.auroragov.org/nature

6/19 to 6/23—Play On! Make a Musical for Grades 3-8. Scene, song and choreography work, theatre games, terminology, character and dialogue creation. Combine with morning CodeSpire camp for full day of STEAM. <http://executiveartsonline.com>, <http://codespire.org>

6/26 to 6/30—Play On! Choose Your Own Adventure for Grades 3-8. Daily: acting and scene work, theatre games, terminology, character and dialogue creation. 12:30-5pm. Colorado Early College, 350 Blackhawk St. Aurora. Combine with morning CodeSpire camp for full day of STEAM. <http://executiveartsonline.com>, <http://codespire.org>

LECTURES AND CLASSES

6/8 Thursday—Active Minds Presents: Muhammad Ali. Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St. 6:45-7:45pm. Free. <http://activeminds.com>

6/22 Thursday—Active Minds Presents: Iran. Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St. 6:45-7:45pm. Free. <http://activeminds.com>

6/28 Wednesday—Tongue Fu! Never Be Bullied Again! 6:30-8:30pm. \$56/\$44 for members. What to say/do the next time a person tries to take advantage of you. Sam Horn, author: "Tongue Fu!, Take the Bully by the Horns" and "Never Be Bullied Again." Register: www.freeu.com or 303.399.0093.

MUSEUMS—DENVER ART MUSEUM

www.denverartmuseum.org

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

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 thru fine art, film, popular culture from mid-1800s to present. 320-page illustrated book 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.

6/1 to 6/30—Planetarium. Cosmic Journey: A Solar System Adventure; Black Holes: The Other Side of Infinity; Destination Solar System; One World, One Sky; Big Birds Adventure; Space Tours Live.

6/1 to 10/12—IMAX current films. Extreme Weather 3D (ends 6/15); Wild Africa 3D (ends 6/15); Dream Big 3D: Engineering Our World; Incredible Predators 3D (opens 6/16); Mysteries of China (opens 6/16)

6/14 Wednesday—Indigenous Film. 6:30pm. Free. "Youth Showcase." Partners with International Institute for Indigenous Resource Management and Denver American Indian Commission to present monthly film series of documentaries, features and youth film showcases, followed by discussion.

6/15 Thursday—Science Lounge. Cocktails/entertainment 3rd Thurs. monthly. 6:30-9:30pm. \$8/members; \$10/nonmembers.

6/16 to 1/1—Nature's Amazing Machines. Opens 6/16, Free with admission.

MUSEUMS—SCFD FREE DAYS

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

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

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

6/6 Tuesday—Children's Museum Free Target Tuesday. 4-8pm. www.cmdenver.org

6/9 Friday—Four Mile Free Day. Free Second Friday. Tour Four Mile House Museum, historic demonstrations, explore 12-acre grounds, sample summer kitchen info@fourmilepark.org or 720.865.0800. www.fourmilepark.org/

6/14 Wednesday—Denver Botanic Gardens Free Day. www.botanicgardens.org

6/30 Friday—Clyfford Still Museum. Free admission last Friday of every month all day. Free admission every Friday 5-8pm. 1250 Bannock St. www.clyffordstillmuseum.org

7/1 Saturday—Denver Art Museum Free Day. www.denverartmuseum.org

7/2 Sunday—Denver Museum of Miniatures, Dolls and Toys Free Day. www.dmmtdt.org

NORTHEAST DENVER/AURORA EVENTS

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

To 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

6/3 Saturday—2017 Free Community Baby Fair. 10:30am-1pm. Aviator Park (8054 E. 28th Ave.). Children's Immunization Coalition (CCIC) offers new/expecting parents to connect with 25 local exhibitors of health/safety organizations, baby-focused businesses, community groups. Attendees get swag bag. Enter to win prizes. Kids: giant lawn games, balloon animals, face painting, arts/crafts, and Elbert, Children's Hospital Colorado mascot. Complimentary food truck tickets for hand-picked lunch/snack options. Jordan Savold: jordan.savold@childrenscolorado.org. www.childrensimmunization.org/news-and-events/2017-community-baby-fair

6/3 to 6/4—Lowry Yard Sale. Lowry Neighborhood. 8am-2pm both days. www.lowrydenver.com

6/6 to 6/9—Star K Nature Camp. 6/6-9, 6/20-23, 7/11-14. Morrison Nature Center, 16002 E. Smith Rd., Aurora. Register: 303.326.8650, www.auroragov.org/nature

6/8 Thursday—5th Annual Lowry Foundation Fundraiser at Lowry Beer Garden. Family-friendly evening. Portion of proceeds for Lowry Foundation's commu-



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nity programs. 5-9pm. 7577 E. Academy Blvd. No ticket sales or cover charges required. Drawings for prizes. 303.344.0481, LowryFoundation@gmail.com. <http://lowryfoundation.org>

6/10 Saturday—A Night to Remember. Honors 12 Aurora Theater victims and benefits ACT-Foundation.org scholarships. 30 breweries, food trucks, live music, silent auction, prize giveaways. 5-9pm. Sponsor: Copper Kettle Brewing Co. Tickets: www.act-foundation.org.

6/16 Friday—Lowry Concert in Sunset Park. Free. 5:30-9:30pm. Sunset Park, Pontiac and 2nd. Music by That 80's Band. Free ice cream from Glacier Ice Cream, magician, face painting and balloon artist. www.lowrydenver.org

6/17 Saturday—Dignity Festival. Project Worthmore and Denver Presbyterian Church day of fitness and community celebrating World Refugee Day. 170 S. Chambers Rd., Aurora. 5K race, 1-mile fun run, yoga, rice haul relay, kids' activities, community potluck, beer tent, etc. 7am-1pm.

6/17 Saturday—Family Nature Adventure Day. Bluff Lake Nature Center. 10am-1pm. \$5/person, free for families in zip codes: 80022, 80640, 80010, 800216, 80205, 80207, 80239. Nature exploration, crafts, naturalist activities, etc. www.blufflake.org

6/17 Saturday—Park Hill Garden Walk. 9am-3pm. Xeriscapes to formal gardens; artists show at each garden. Tickets: www.parkhillgardenwalk.org

6/24 to 6/25—Aurora Arts Festival. 12-8pm, Fletcher Plaza, 9898 E. Colfax, Aurora Arts and Cultural District. 100 artists, makers and creative businesses. www.auroraculture.org

ROCKY MOUNTAIN ARSENAL NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky_mountain_arsenal

6/3 and 6/10—Wildlife Viewing Tours. 9:30-11:30am. Naturalist-led bus tour thru Refuge to view bald eagles, bison, coyotes, deer, raptors, etc. RSVP required.

6/4 Sunday—The Masked Bandit. 10am-10:45am. Learn about Refuge's black-footed ferrets and observe feeding time. RSVP required. Repeats **6/25 Sunday**

6/10 Saturday—Planting for Pollinators. 9:30-11:30am. Assist Refuge staff by planting native wildflowers that provide nectar source for pollinators. Be prepared to work outside for 1-1.5 hours, wear closed-toe shoes, bring water and sunscreen. RSVP required.

6/17 Saturday—Kids Fishing Clinic. 10am-12pm. Ages 6-12. Poles available for loan.

6/22 Thursday—Nature Tots- Magnificent Monarchs. Toddlers ages 3-5 with adults. 10-11am. RSVP required.

THEATRE

To 6/20—Sleeping Beauty. Vintage Theatre, 1468 Dayton St., Aurora. www.vintage theatre.com

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.vintage theatre.org

6/9 to 6/25—Sisyphus the Musical. Original work by April Alsup. Aurora Fox Arts Center, 9900 E. Colfax Ave. www.aurorafoxartscenter.org

6/9 to 7/23—It's Only a Play. Co-production with Spotlight Theatre. Vintage Theatre, 1468 Dayton St., Aurora. www.vintage theatre.com

6/11 to 8/13—Colorado Shakespeare Festival. University of Colorado Boulder. www.coloradoshakes.org

6/17 to 7/15—Rock of Aging. Presented by Firehouse Theater Company at John Hand Theater, 7653 E. 1st Place, Lowry. www.firehousetheatercompany.com

6/23 to 8/6—Ring of Fire: The Music of Johnny Cash. Vintage Theatre, 1468 Dayton St., Aurora. www.vintage theatre.com

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

May 25 – June 17 at the Art Gym: Ephemeral — Inspired by Movement

Ephemeral – Inspired by Movement is a month-long celebration of movement. Through weekly live performances, kinetic sculptures, and still images that evoke movement, viewers will be invited to explore the ephemeral nature of movement and life. The exhibit is free and open to the public. The Art Gym, a 17,000 sq ft creative workspace for artists and arts professionals, is located at 1460 Leyden St. The Art Gym Gallery and Café are open Tuesday – Saturday from 9am – 6pm. Visit www.ArtGymDenver.com for more information.

Sundays, June 4 - Oct. 1 at Ekar Farms: Gardening Get-Togethers, 9am to 1pm

Drop-in, mingle and enjoy planting, tending and harvesting at Lowry's Ekar Farms. Children, ages 4-10 can attend the Future Farmers' Program from 10-10:30am with the on-site educator. Pint-sized tools will be provided. All harvested produce is donated to feed the hungry with a goal to donate over 15,000 lbs. this season.

Future Farmers Program from 10-10:30am for children ages 4 – 10.

Ekar Farms is located at 181 South Oneida St. Gardening Get-Togethers and the Future Farmers Program are free and open to the public. For more information, call 303.520.7581.

Denver Parks and Recreation Summer Activity Guide Online Now

The Denver Parks and Recreation (DPR) Summer 2017 Recreation Activity Guide is available online now and offers activi-

ties for adults and children of all ages and abilities. With 27 recreation centers, 16 outdoor pools and 13 indoor pools, many arts and culture, outdoor recreation, aquatics, sports and fitness activities are available.

After School Programs and Summer Camps include Summer Theme Camps, Art and Culture Camps, Summer Day Camps, Cheerleading Camps, and Tennis Camps. Financial assistance is available for those who qualify for most activities.

To view the guide, register, or for additional information, please visit www.denvergov.org/recreation.

Summer Job Assistance for Denver Youth

Denver Workforce Services and the 2017 Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) works with a variety of local employers to help 250 low-income and disadvantaged youth find paid summer jobs. Participating youth receive pre-employment training and an hourly wage of \$9.30. Youth are placed in positions according to their aptitudes and interests.

To learn more about the program or to fill out an application, please visit <http://www.denvergov.org/content/denvergov/en/denver-office-of-economic-development/jobs-employers/for-youth.html>.

Outdoor Watering Rules for 2017

To ensure that Denver has enough water now and in the future, summer watering rules are implemented from May 1 to Oct. 1.

Mandatory rules exclude watering between 10am – 6pm and require that residents' water no more than three times per week. There are no assigned watering days.

For more information about residential watering, please visit <http://denverwater.org/Conservation/WaterUseRulesRegulations/SummerWateringRules/>

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NHS Takes Wing with New IB Authorization

By Melinda Pearson

Last month, superintendent Tom Boasberg and the entire Northfield High School community celebrated the announcement that NHS has been officially authorized as an International Baccalaureate (IB) World School. This important designation represents a significant achievement for the fledgling school—it is finally taking flight after what has been generally acknowledged as a rocky start.

Principal Amy Bringedahl said, “We are unbelievably excited about receiving this authorization,” noting that the authorization is good for the next five years, which will allow the school to focus on further developing its programs. Bringedahl said approximately 92 rising juniors will take advantage of the rigorous IB Diploma track offered at NHS, and 80–85 students



Principal Amy Bringedahl and DPS Superintendent Tom Boasberg celebrate Northfield High School's approval as an IB World School, with Midnight, the Nighthawk mascot, students, and staff.



will instead take at least two required IB courses while pursuing a more traditional course of study at the high school. “We’re not restricting kids,” said Bringedahl. “We talk with the kids very intently about their path and what IB looks like and if it’s a pas-

sion of theirs, we make sure we can fill it.”

Other hoped-for aspects of the school also are coming along, with plans for the library to open in the 2018-19 school year, the construction of additional art rooms, and some added storage solutions necessitated by the campus sharing with Inspire Elementary in the 2017-18 school year. The cafeteria-auditorium (“cafetorium”) will remain as it is, but the administration is working with DPS to provide a full-service kitchen by the 2018-19 academic year in lieu of the warming kitchen currently in place at the cafeteria.

Bringedahl feels very optimistic about the upcoming campus sharing with Inspire and its principal, Marisol Enriquez. “We work very well together,” said Bringedahl. “We have a memorandum of understanding in place, and we have ironed out all of the timing to make sure that our kids are completely separate within the cafeteria

and the gym.” The principal of DSST: Conservatory Green high school has also reached out to Bringedahl to discuss their 2018-19 campus sharing, which Bringedahl will begin to address after the students leave the campus for the summer break, she said.

NHS has also been busy meeting with local seventh-grade families recently. “We take almost two hours at these meetings to really talk about what’s happening,” said Bringedahl, “We’re really getting the message out there that we’ve created a strong four-year program for every student within our building, that we’re deeply committed to being the neighborhood school for Stapleton boundary students, and deeply committed to listening to the community.” In response to community desires for a robust art program, NHS has budgeted carefully in order to hire a drama teacher and a second arts teacher for the 2017-2018 school year to improve their arts offerings.

Local education officials congratulate 9th grader Alan Gallegos-Ramos for exemplifying the IB Learner Profile Trait “Open-Minded.”



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Fee on Stapleton Home Sales May Go Toward Affordable Housing

By John Fernandez

Every residential and commercial sale in Stapleton pays the “community investment fee”—one-quarter of 1 percent of the property’s sale price (after the first \$100,000). In 2016, proceeds from this fee totaled just over a million dollars. The fee is collected by the Master Community Association (MCA), which retains 5 percent. The rest of the money goes to the nonprofit Stapleton Foundation, an organization created to address community needs and quality of life issues for both Stapleton and surrounding communities. The foundation is now making affordable housing in Stapleton their primary focus.

The Stapleton Foundation recently commissioned BBC, a Denver research and consulting firm, to study “Housing Affordability in Stapleton.” The preliminary results of that study were presented to the foundation board on April 11; demographic information collected by BBC is graphically shown in the article on pages 24-25. The report states that households earning the area median income (AMI) will be priced out of Stapleton by 2031. Even at 150 percent AMI, BBC projects that if current trends continue, no more than 4 percent of Stapleton market-rate homes would be affordable to those households in 15 years. (The federal government calculates the AMI for a four-person household in Denver at \$80,100.) Households with an income at 80 percent of AMI qualify



Mollie Fitzpatrick presents information from BBC Research’s study on home affordability in Stapleton to the Stapleton Foundation board.

for Denver’s affordable program. These units are subject to a deed restriction that limits their resale price for 15 years (longer for some homes). Those deed restrictions begin phasing out in 2019 and could all expire by the year 2031. “We need to plug the hole in the dike that starts in 2019,” says Stapleton Foundation CEO Landri Taylor.

The BBC report says only aggressive “market interventions” can overcome this projected loss of affordable housing in Stapleton. A subcommittee of the foundation’s board is studying the best approach for preserving the existing supply of income-qualified, for-sale housing units. And Taylor has directed BBC to study models that exist elsewhere for preservation of such units. The full foundation board will take up the committee’s recommendation in September.

At the end of 2016, Stapleton had a total of 6,961 for-sale homes. Of those homes, 391 had been built as part of Denver’s affordable program. *The 391 affordable homes that existed in December 2016 can all drop out of the affordable program by 2031 if they are not purchased and again placed in affordable program status.*

The big challenge in such a preservation program is, of course, capital to acquire a meaningful number of such housing units. The community investment fee, combined with funds from other sources, could be used for that purpose.

Socioeconomic diversity has long been viewed as necessary for Stapleton to fulfill its vision of looking like the larger Denver community. Demographic data from the BBC report, shown on pages 24-25, highlight the ways Stapleton’s population *differs from* (rather than reflects) Denver as a whole—Stapleton is whiter, has higher incomes, has more children, lives in larger homes, and has a higher percentage of home ownership. Home prices, as shown below, also differ from Denver’s median price.

When Can Affordable For-Sale Homes in Stapleton Fall Out of the Program?*

	Number	Percent
2019	106	27%
2021	52	13%
2025	72	18%
2027	4	1%
2028	9	2%
2029	50	13%
2031	98	25%
	391	100%

*Charts were created by Front Porch using statistics compiled by BBC Research & Consulting for the housing affordability study referenced above.

Based on 562 sales, the median price for market rate for-sale housing in Stapleton is \$508,000. For Denver as a whole, the median sale price for homes is about \$327,000. Fifty-four affordable (income-qualified) homes were sold in Stapleton in 2016, with a median price of \$182,546.

The breakdown of 2016 Stapleton sales by price range is contained in the BBC report, which is linked to this story on the *Front Porch* website at www.FrontPorchNE.com.

Median Sale Price of Stapleton Market-rate and Affordable Homes in 2016*

	Number Sold	Median Price
All Market-rate homes	938	\$507,512
Attached	334	\$415,000
Detached	604	\$567,519
Affordable (all are detached)	54	\$182,546

To some extent, the issue of affordable housing in Stapleton merely reflects a problem prevalent throughout Denver and indeed along the entire northern Front Range—housing prices are rising much faster than incomes. In fact, a recent report by ATTOM Data Solutions finds that of the 12 counties in the U.S. that have the least home affordability, seven are in northern Colorado.

However, what sets Stapleton apart is the fact that the city of Denver was the landowner that sold Stapleton for development with the goal of creating a neighborhood that reflects the city as a whole. The BBC report comes full circle, recommending that at least the 10 percent of affordable for-sale units be bought back before the deed restrictions on prices expire.

In a presentation to the Citizens Advisory Board on May 18, Taylor asserted that Forest City is ahead of schedule in meeting the 10 percent affordable for-sale goal. He also said, “In terms of affordability, we look better than Denver.” CAB co-chairs Gary Gordon and Jim Wagenlander challenged Taylor on those statements. Wagenlander said, “Sadly, Stapleton falls far short” of the diversity goals expressed in the Green Book, the master plan for redeveloping Stapleton Airport.

Taylor did say he shares BBC’s sense of alarm at decreasing affordability over time. He observes that today’s more healthy economy does contain one silver lining of potential benefit to affordable housing—“cash in the system looking for opportunities, looking for vehicles of investment.” He hopes the final BBC report can identify a link between such investment pools and the need to acquire affordable units in Stapleton and keep them affordable in perpetuity.

PCMD Agrees To Pay WCMD Expenses for Legal Counsel

By John Fernandez

The Park Creek Metropolitan District (PCMD) has agreed to pay the Westerly Creek Metro District’s (WCMD) costs for independent legal counsel. To that end, PCMD in April approved an amended WCMD budget setting aside \$40,000 for legal counsel. In January, WCMD dismissed Paul Cockrel as its attorney and hired Jennifer Tanaka of the law firm White Bear Ankele Tanaka & Waldron. Cockrel, of Collins Cockrel & Cole, will continue to serve as PCMD attorney.

PCMD, however, took no action on WCMD’s budget request for funds to pay an independent financial advisor. WCMD chair Tom Downey said at the district’s May 17 meeting that the district would pursue pro bono financial advice from underwriters as the board weighs various financial matters such as additional debt issued to finance Stapleton infrastructure. Denver recently requested a financial model from PCMD showing payment of debt over the next 10 years. That model projects issuance of nearly \$400 million in additional debt, in part to pay off loans provided by Stapleton developer Forest City.

The two districts were created in 2000 to fund and construct infrastructure for the redevelopment of the abandoned Stapleton Airport. Westerly Creek is a resident-dominated board that imposes property taxes to generate revenue to pay for the infrastructure. Park Creek is solely responsible for the financing and construction of the infrastructure. The relationship between the districts appears to be changing as Stapleton approaches build-out.

Also at the May 17 meeting, Downey said he wants to rectify what he considers an improper payment of approximately \$2,600 to Cockrel for services allegedly rendered to WCMD after his dismissal in January. The check was issued by SDC Services Corporation, a nonprofit that provides management services to both WCMD and PCMD and the Stapleton Development Corporation. The January 31 and February 28 invoices show approximately 14 hours of work for WCMD after he was dismissed. Downey believes that should not have been billed or paid and it is taxpayer money that should be returned.

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Annual Community Forum Overview and Next Steps

By Amanda Allhouse, President, SUN Board of Directors

Planned agenda items during the annual community forum were covered quickly and were generally well received by the audience. It was during the final 30 minutes of Q/A where the focus of the meeting and tone changed direction. The annual forum began with an overview from this author of SUN's existing committees, elections, and by-law update. The latter two passed unanimously, bringing the total number of board members to 13, and operating principles to Article II of SUN's bylaws.

Police Update: Lt. Culverhouse from Denver Police Department (DPD) followed, reporting crime at a low level for Denver communities when measured year-to-date and versus the previous 30 days. Two exciting announcements: a new program called swift



Rebecca White talked about the I-70 Construction Project.

911, which could potentially connect 911 systems across the country, and plans for a DPD-staffed dunk tank for June 2-3 during the Northfield Mall Carnival. Chief

White, Commander Ron Thomas, and Lt. Culverhouse will each take a turn in the tank, with funds raised to cover utility bills for the Community HUB at Northfield Mall.

MCA Update: Keven Burnett, executive director of the Stapleton MCA, began with a differentiation between the operational, maintenance, event-planning role of the MCA versus the volunteer community advocacy role of SUN. Burnett announced over 4,000 swim lessons are planned for the summer (pools open Memorial Day weekend), with space still available for daytime classes and later-summer classes. Marking an end to the porta-potty era in Stapleton, restrooms for summer events at Founders Green will be available at the new Mint apartment building in the 29th Ave. Town Center (when open) and at The Cube for events on the North Green.

Denver Parks: Scott Gilmore, speaking for Denver Parks and Recreation, announced a new designation of parkland in Stapleton near The Urban Farm to be part of Sand Creek Greenway, and a detention pond in



Tom Gleason, Forest City VP for public relations, summarized current development at Stapleton.

Northfield that functions as a wildlife habitat. Many parks north of I-70 will be opening late this summer. As indicated by signage, please stay off and keep pets off green spaces when grasses and other plantings are taking root.

I-70 Construction Project: Rebecca White from CDOT and Eric Herbst from Northeast Transportation Connections discussed upcoming impacts from the I-70 project, including promises of limiting lane closures to evenings and weekends, containing the construction to within five years, waivers to focus hires on the local workforce, and efforts to ease the trouble of displacement for residents of 56 homes that will be eliminated as part of the expansion.

Fire Station, CPB Bridge & MLK Extension: Bar Chadwick, City of Denver, discussed three funded projects in the community: 1) a fire station at 50th and Central Park Blvd. (CPB) serving the community north of I-70 (opening approximately June 2019); 2) Expansion of CPB Bridge across Sand Creek, approximately a one-year project starting November 2017; and 3) the MLK Blvd, connection to Peoria St.—delayed while the need for a sound mitigation wall is assessed and an official vote will be taken of resident preferences who live in the area by the end of May.

Forest City Update: Tom Gleason from Forest City summarized areas still in development including commercial development at Peoria and MLK, and 810 homes springing up in Beeler Park.

Councilman Chris Herndon was present to answer questions and remind us to look out for the \$900 million bonds focused on infrastructure and mobility projects to be voted on this fall.

Dr. Rachele Espiritu, school board member, introduced herself to the room as a resource for answering questions during Q/A.

Q/A at the Forum

Two main topics were the focus of the Q/A section: Co-location of DSST at Northfield, and rezoning of Filing 5, the three-acre parcel, southeast corner of CPB and Martin Luther King (MLK) Blvd.

Directing heated feedback to Dr. Espiritu, residents vocalized displeasure with the announced plans for co-location of DSST high school on the Sandoval Campus Northfield High School (NHS) that is taking root and climbing in enrollment. Espiritu attempted to assuage concerns about overcrowding by stating if enough boundary students want to attend, the campus might eventually house only NHS.

Residents adjacent to Filing 51 voiced concerns with rezoning, to R-Mx-5, which would allow for a five-story development. Forest City proposed the rezoning at the January SUN meetings. They have not announced specific plans for development, but stated higher density is preferred along the major corridor. In June, SUN will vote whether to write in support of a lower height limit to City Council.

Block Captain Network and Block Party Day

After the forum, one resident asked SUN about the current status of the block captain network, how many blocks exist in Stapleton, have block captains, how many block captains are truly active, and how many participate with DPD in Neighborhood Watch. The list of block captains is around 260 residents; however, as the board reorganizes during the June meeting, we will be taking stock of where the network needs to be filled in and will be contacting block captains on neighboring blocks for help. Often as a block(s) gets together to plan Block Party

Day (this year: during Denver Days August 5-13) the preferred contact with SUN changes. Please help SUN keep our contact list current by emailing updates. If you are unsure who is, or whether there is, a SUN block captain on your block, or have an update for your block's contact information, email SUNoutreach@gmail.com.

SUN is also interested in help from the community for a map-based automation of the process of keeping the block captain contact list current and the connection of neighbors on a block with the appropriate block captain. If you have technological skills to donate for the completion of this effort, or simply suggestions on how to get started, email SUNoutreach@gmail.com.



Top: City Councilman Chris Herndon, left, speaks to neighbors concerned about rezoning of the parcel on the southeast corner of MLK and Central Park Blvd. Below: School board member Rachele Espiritu (left) listened as Gregory Diggs and other parents expressed concerns about Sandoval campus sharing and communications with DPS.

June 20 SUN meeting

The SUN board will meet at 6:30pm for reorganization after the May election. Please attend this meeting if you are interested in working on a committee with SUN. We will begin with a vote on a letter about the topic of rezoning Filing 51 and briefly discuss dissemination of survey results. Block Captain meetings will resume in August.

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2017 Legislature Outcomes

(continued from page 23) doctors and nurses against retaliation from insurance companies; HB17-1151, legally defines electrical assisted bicycles and their use in order to promote use and increase possible production of them in the state; HB17-1263, allows owners of self-storage facilities to offer small lines of insurance to occupants in order to protect their stored property; HB17-1289, creates a legislative study committee to examine a streamlined methodology for calculating historic consumptive use (HCU) of a water right, alleviating the high cost frequently associated with Water Court and improving water use efficiency in Colorado. He regretted the demise of HB17-1339 that addressed the “impact of power plant closures on the host community while reducing ratepayer costs and carbon pollution.”



Rep. Leslie Herod

Rep. Leslie Herod, District 8. Best: Adoption of the budget, or “Long Bill” (SB-254) increasing K-12 funding by \$242 per child. Other top accomplishments included needed reform to the Division of Youth Corrections (HB17-1329) and boosting funding for substance abuse treatment (SB17-193). **Worst:** Inability to find compromise in tackling the state’s struggles with transportation funding including the defeat of HB17-

1242. “This is a huge loss to the state and I worry that we may have missed our window to implement a statewide transportation solution. It is still my hope that we will see a transportation funding initiative on the ballot.” She also regrets the failure to continue funding the Clean Energy Office. **Personal:** “I am proud to say that this was a very productive session! In my freshman legislative year, I was able to pass eleven pieces of legislation and authored two amendments to the budget. The wins far exceeded the losses for Coloradans.” HB17-1055 Urban Peak Tax Check Off: allows an optional tax check off box to be added to redirect Coloradans’ refund to Urban Peak, the leading organization in the state that tackles youth homelessness. SB17-179 Solar Permit Fees: limits on the amount of fees that can be assessed on solar energy device installations. HB17-254 Tampon Amendment: Provides tampons to women in the Department of Correction, which they currently have to pay for personally - to defend a woman’s health and dignity. HB17-254 TGYS Amendment: Utilized marijuana cash fund dollars to increased funding for the Tony Grampas Youth Services program by \$1 million. TGYS supports programs to help prevent child abuse and neglect, and reduce youth crime and violence. HB17-1313 Civil Asset Forfeiture: still awaiting signature by the Governor, the bill will boost transparency in the practice of civil asset forfeiture protecting the property and due process rights of Coloradans and limiting federal overreach.

Immigrants

(continued from page 16) of stress in his position at a large construction company, so last year he and his brother-in-law, Marco Aguilar, founded TJ Excavating, which digs foundations, water lines and sewer lines for new home construction. They have projects throughout Stapleton, including work for Thrive Builders. Reflecting on his journey and what it means to be an immigrant in the United States, Molinar said, “We are here to make a decent living, not to take anybody’s job away...and we’re doing some of the hardest work.” Opening their first barber shop—named Semion—south of downtown in 2011 was a labor of love for Semion and brother Roman Kikirov, a CPA and full partner in the business. A tribute to their family and its long line of barbers, as well as to their deceased sister, Bella, the shop promises to be a “barbershop for all.” Their newest location at the Stanley Market-place just opened, “We are here to grow and to help others grow. I always dreamed and knew it would happen one day,” said Kikirov.

As our country considers how to treat immigrants and refugees, it is important to listen to stories like these of our neighbors. By being offered a warm welcome and the opportunity to learn, these newcomers have worked hard; not only have they realized their own dreams, but they’ve made our community a better place.

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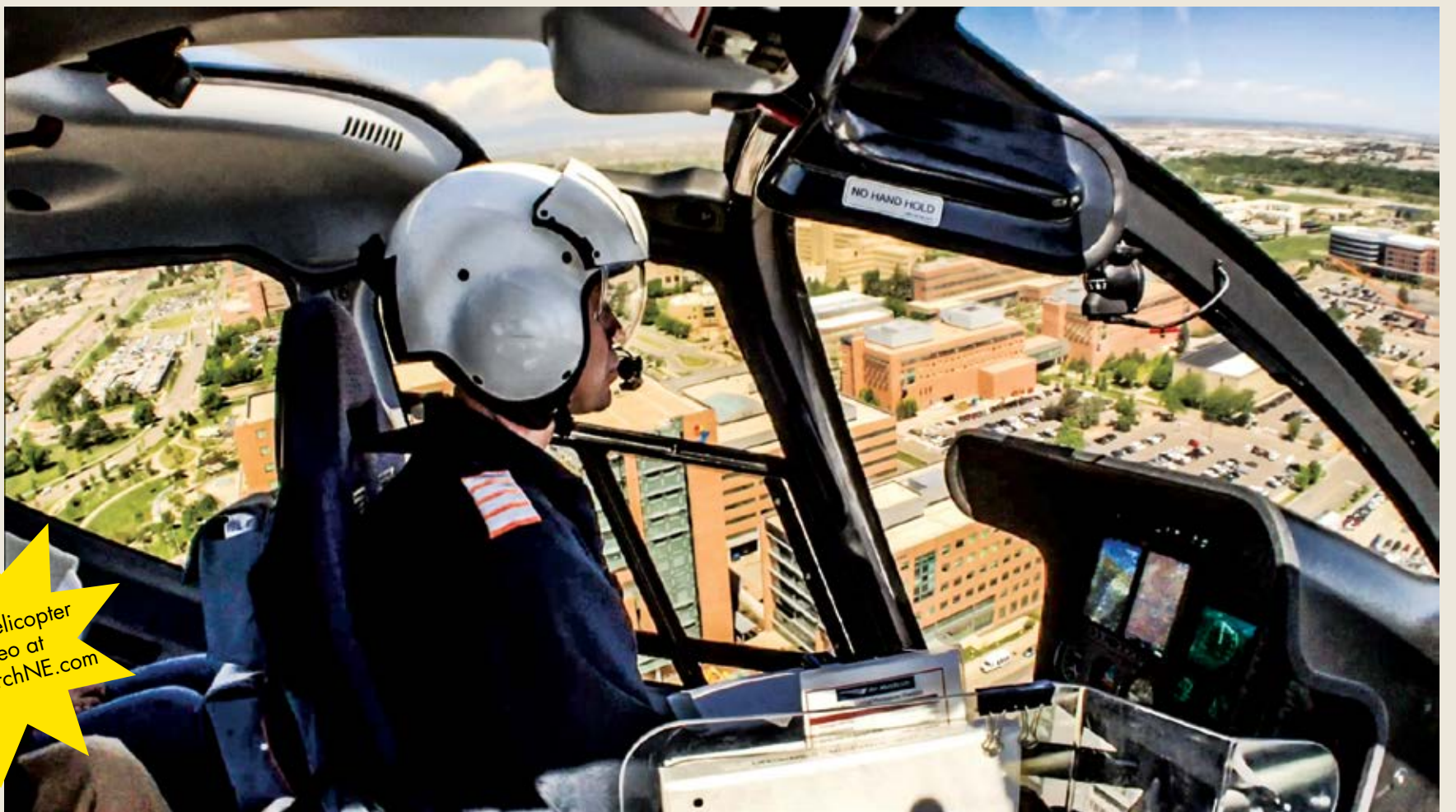
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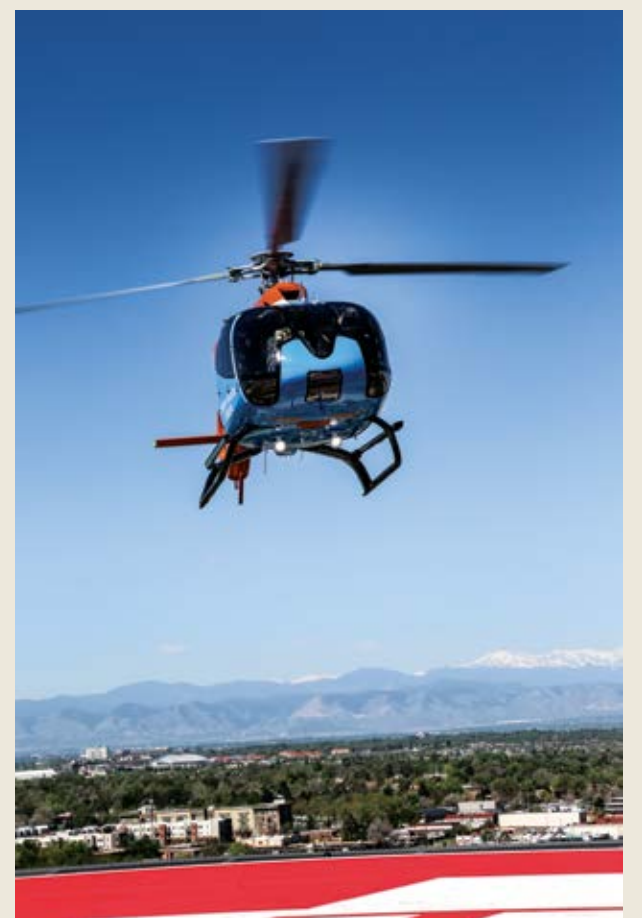


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Above: FFLC pilot Sam Creech approaches the Children's Hospital Colorado helipad in preparation for landing. Right: Lifeguard 6 carries state-of-the-art pediatric medical equipment. Safety features include an enclosed tail rotor that makes the helicopter quieter to operate and minimizes vibration during flight.



By Anne Hebert

Newborn Aiden Castillo got a potentially life-saving ride on May 7 as the first patient in a new helicopter designed specifically for the transport of infants and young children. Aiden suffered from severe brain swelling resulting from a lack of oxygen to the brain during birth. Head-cooling therapy during flight was initiated to help reduce the swelling and its harmful side effects.

The helicopter is a "flying Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU)" capable of stabilizing the tiniest patients in an incubator throughout transport to Children's Hospital Colorado or other health care facilities, says Joe Darmofal, director of Flight Team, EMS, and Outreach and Education at Children's Hospital Colorado. With its 50 percent larger cabin space and equipment for the specialized treatment of newborns, he says the helicopter is a tool that helps improve outcomes for pediatric patients.

Providing inter-facility health care transport for neonates and sick children, Lifeguard 6 is, quite literally, a lifesaver for rural families when children require highly specialized care unavailable in their communities. With a crew consisting of a pilot, nurse and respiratory therapist, the helicopter travels a 120-mile service area up and down the Front Range. It also serves communities in six neighboring states: Kansas, Nebraska, Wyoming, North and South Dakota, and Montana.

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Life Saving Equipment On Board in New Pediatric Helicopter



Above: Flight R.N. Christy Tennant slides the pediatric incubator from the helicopter. Equipped with three ventilators, the incubator is capable of delivering 400-600 small puffs of air per minute and is staffed by a nurse and respiratory therapist in flight.

Below and left: Pilot Sam Creech flies above NE Denver before landing and disembarking from the helicopter. Lifeguard 6 is the seventh addition to the Flight for Life Colorado (FFLC) fleet and the only aircraft designated and used specifically for pediatric inter-facility transport.



Based at Centennial Airport and capable of flying 140 mph, the helicopter is designed for optimal performance. “The enclosed tail rotor is a feature that makes this aircraft especially well-suited for pediatric transport,” says Darmofal. “Tiny premature infants can be prone to strokes and bleeding. Minimizing vibration in the aircraft during flight helps reduce this risk.” He also points out that the enclosure around the rotor prevents injury to the crew or health care providers who are near the helicopter on take-off and landing. The helicopter is also quieter than other models—an advantage in flight and for those on the ground.

Darmofal says if inclement weather conditions are not compatible with flight, they use alternatives including ground transport with escorts from the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), if needed. Emphasizing their commitment to safely transporting critically ill patients as quickly as possible, he adds, “We will find a way to get them where they’re going.”

The FFLC Airbus H130 T2 single-engine helicopter dedicated to transporting infants and young children took five years of planning and collaboration between Children’s Hospital Colorado, Flight For Life® Colorado (FFLC) and

Centura Health. The first mission for Lifeguard 6 and its team on May 7 transported newborn Aiden Castillo from McKee Medical Center in Loveland to Children’s Hospital Colorado.

The air ambulance program, which began in 1972 at St. Anthony Hospital, is now part of the Centura Health network. Children’s Hospital Colorado began partnering to provide FFLC services in 1997. Making 4,000 program-wide flights per year, the new orange and blue helicopter is the seventh in the FFLC fleet and the only one specifically designed for specialized pediatric care.



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