

# Front Porch

COLORADO

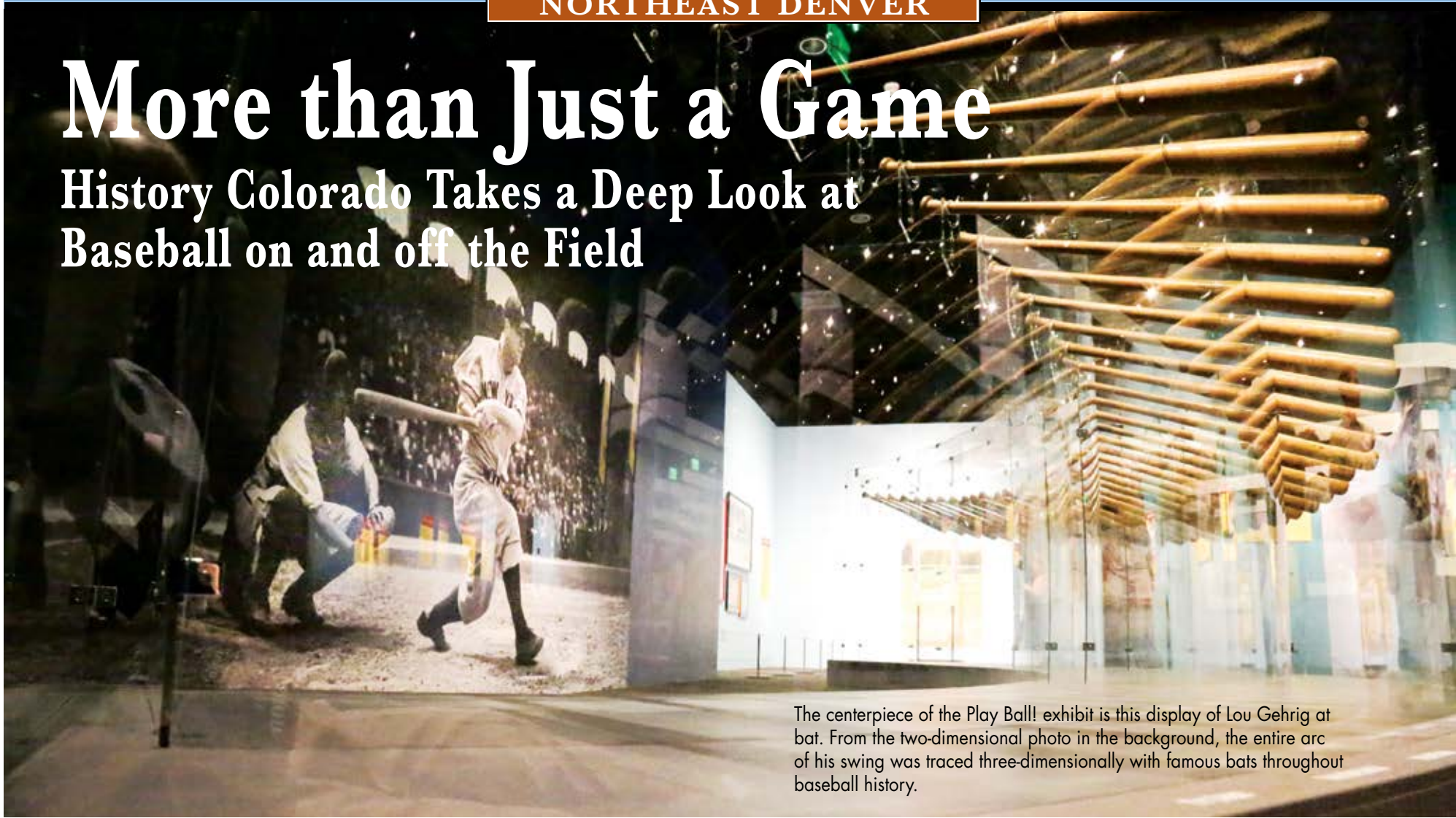
Stapleton, Park Hill, Lowry, Montclair, Mayfair, NW Aurora

NORTHEAST DENVER

JULY 2018

## More than Just a Game

### History Colorado Takes a Deep Look at Baseball on and off the Field



The centerpiece of the Play Ball! exhibit is this display of Lou Gehrig at bat. From the two-dimensional photo in the background, the entire arc of his swing was traced three-dimensionally with famous bats throughout baseball history.

By Charles Borsos

The History Colorado Center in downtown Denver was presented with an interesting proposition: Collector Marshall Fogel would allow the museum to use his substantial baseball collection, but only during the 2018 Rockies' season.

Ordinarily, museum staff have time on their side. "Usually we like around three years," says Jason Hanson, chief creative officer at History Colorado. However, "the opportunity was now with Marshall's collection." Story on page 30.

## DSST Chosen as Best Public Charter School Network in U.S.



Denver School of Science and Technology's head of school Bill Kurtz stands with the 79 students that comprise DSST:Stapleton's first class of graduating seniors. The poster behind Kurtz illustrates that the class achieved their goal of 100% acceptance into four year colleges. Fifty percent of the class are the first generation in their family to attend college. (This Front Porch file photo ran in the May 2008 issue.)

By Melinda Pearson

Denver School of Science and Technology (DSST) was awarded the Broad Prize for Public Charter Schools last month. The homegrown Denver charter school network bested two larger, renowned East Coast finalists for the prestigious award. Read the story on page 9.

## Primary Election Winners



Walker Stapleton, Gov. (R)



Jared Polis, Gov. (D)

### REPUBLICAN

### DEMOCRAT

Casper Stockham	U.S. House	Diana DeGette
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Wayne Williams	Secretary of State	Jena Griswald
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Fourth of July parade in Stapleton's Central Park

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

Visit [FrontPorchNE.com](http://FrontPorchNE.com) to comment and find articles from past issues.

### CORRECTIONS:

The article entitled "Shared Workspace in Aurora" in the June issue incorrectly referred to the business as Progress Now CoWorking. The correct name is Progress CoWorking. Our apologies for the error.

### Letters to the Editor

We welcome your letters. Send to [Carol@FrontPorchNE.com](mailto:Carol@FrontPorchNE.com)

### Where to Find a Copy of the Front Porch

We now have papers in both King Soopers in Stapleton and in the Mayfair King Soopers. We also have papers at the Safeways in Lowry and Mayfair.

## Events & Announcements at Stapleton



### Stapleton Farmers Market

Sunday, July 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29, 8:30am–12:30pm, The Green  
The Stapleton Farmers Market is held every Sunday thru mid-October on The Green at Stapleton. Local vendors offer Colorado-grown produce, tasty baked goods, specialty meats, gourmet food items and more. Support your local growers and meet your neighbors. To become a vendor or for more info., visit [coloradofreshmarkets.com](http://coloradofreshmarkets.com).

### Pancake Breakfast

Wed., July 4th, 9–10:30am, Central Park  
Breakfast begins at 9am and may be purchased at the event. The menu includes pancakes, sausage and juice. Suggested donations are \$5/adult, \$3/child or a family four-pack (2 adults/2 children) is \$12. All donations benefit the Stapleton Stingrays Swim Team.

### Fourth of July Parade

Wednesday, July 4th, 10:30–11am, Fountain Pavilion in Central Park  
Bring your decorated bikes, tricycles, wagons or scooters for the parade starting at 10:30am. Participants should line up along the promenade at the fountain and head east toward the lake, looping around back to the fountain area. There will be parade leaders to guide participants thru the course. After the parade, all pools will feature DJs playing music and will open at noon and close at 6pm on July 4th.

### MoJaBlu Concert Series – The Hot Lunch Band

Thursday, July 5th, 6:30–8:30pm, Conservatory Green  
Stapleton MCA and Live@Jack's invite you to enjoy an evening of Motown, Jazz and Blues on Conservatory Green at 49th Pl. and Valentia St. Our MoJaBlu concert features The Hot Lunch Band. This is a free concert, open to the public. Food trucks available.

### Concert on The Green – Funkiphino

Saturday, July 7th, 6–8pm, The Green  
Join us on The Green (29th and Roslyn) for a concert with Funkiphino! This is a free concert, open to the public. Food trucks available.

### MoJaBlu Concert Series – The Erica Brown Band

Thursday, July 12th, 6:30–8:30pm, Conservatory Green  
Stapleton MCA and Live@Jack's invite you to enjoy an evening of Motown, Jazz and Blues. Our MoJaBlu concert features The Erica Brown Band. This is a free concert, open to the public, and food trucks will be available.

### Active Minds Seminar – The Future of Bees

Thur., July 12th, 6:45pm, Sam Gary Library  
Found on every continent except Antarctica, bees are vital pollinators, making possible much of the food humans eat. In recent years, however, crucial bee species have experienced significant loss. Since the 1990s, the bumblebee population has plunged almost 90%. Join Active Minds as we dive into the world of bees and examine the factors that are affecting these important species.

### Movie on The Green – "Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle"

Friday, July 13th, At Dark, The Green

It's a great time of year to be on The Green (29th & Roslyn) for a movie under the stars. We will show "Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle." Concessions include candy, popcorn, drinks—all proceeds benefit a local nonprofit. There will also be food trucks.

### Summer Wine Series

Fri., July 13th, 6–8pm, The West Crescent  
The MCA hosts a series of outdoor wine tastings and each month boasts a unique theme with a variety of wines, provided by The Grape Leaf. Tickets are \$15/residents, \$20/non-residents. Space is limited. Your registration includes an evening of wine tastings and cheese samples. Tastings will be held from 5–7pm at the West Crescent (29th Ave & Roslyn St). Tickets can be purchased day of (with space available) for \$30/person. No refunds or exchanges, please. You must be 21 years old to attend.

### MoJaBlu Concert Series – Dotsero

Thursday, July 19th, 6:30–8:30pm, Conservatory Green  
Stapleton MCA and Live@Jack's invite you to enjoy an evening of Motown, Jazz and Blues on Conservatory Green at 49th Place and Valentia Street. Our MoJaBlu concert features Dotsero. This is a free concert, open to the public. Food trucks available.

### Stapleton Beer Festival & Concert

Saturday, July 21st, 4–8pm, The Green  
Chris Daniels, The Kings, and Pandas and People will be our featured bands for the free concert!

### MoJaBlu Concert Series – Thumpin' Band

Thursday, July 26th, 6:30–8:30pm, Conservatory Green  
Stapleton MCA and Live@Jack's invite you to enjoy an evening of Motown, Jazz and Blues on Conservatory Green at 49th Place and Valentia Street. Our MoJaBlu concert features the Thumpin' Band. This is a free concert and open to the public. We will have food trucks available.

### Active Minds Seminar – The Year 1968: Chaos, Conflict & Change

Thursday, July 26th, 6:45pm, Sam Gary Library  
The year 1968 was a year of chaos, conflict and change—all brought into America's living rooms by TV. It began in January with the Tet Offensive in Vietnam and ended with the successful completion of the Apollo 8 moon orbit mission. In between we saw civil rights struggles, student protests, political upheaval, and the assassination of both Martin Luther King, Jr. and Robert F. Kennedy. Join Active Minds as we travel back in time to this key year in history to explore this time.

### Concert on The Green – PG6IX Band

Saturday, July 28th, 6–8pm, The Green  
Join us for a concert with the PG6IX Band. This is a free concert, open to the public. Food trucks available.

Diane Deeter | Community Director  
[ddeeter@stapletoncommunity.com](mailto:ddeeter@stapletoncommunity.com)

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The Front Porch – NE Denver distributes almost 30,000 free papers during the first week of each month. Papers are delivered to doorsteps and/or racks in Stapleton, Park Hill, Lowry, Montclair, Mayfair and NW Aurora.

The Front Porch is printed with soy-based ink and the paper contains 30% post-consumer waste. We contribute monthly to replant trees equivalent to the amount of paper used in each issue.





Congresswoman Diana DeGette at a meeting with Denver community newspapers on May 3.

At Congresswoman Diana DeGette's recent meeting with community newspapers, the *Front Porch* asked her if Congress can work in a bipartisan way.

Congress needs legislation that's bipartisan from the start.

The Republican party now has 237 members in Congress, but they don't have a functioning majority because 30 or 40 members, the Freedom Caucus (mostly former Tea Party members), won't vote for anything (though the GOP did unify around the tax cuts passed in December).

With the omnibus appropriations bill, House Speaker Paul Ryan kept trying to put together Republican votes to pass it—but he had to keep doing short-term continuing resolutions. He should have come to the Democrats from day one and negotiated a compromise, which is what we ended up doing.

The reason why they don't come to us is because of the Hastert Rule, which is a Republican practice that says the Speaker of the House is not going to bring a bill to the floor unless it has a Republican majority. But in the end, they have to bring bills to the floor without a majority because they have so many Tea Party people.

Like 21st Century Cures Act\*, there were a couple of other bills that we did this year that were really good bills for public health that were bipartisan. We passed a reauthorization of The Toxic Substances Control Act, which we've been trying to do for 30 years, with a bipartisan coalition. We've done some renewable energy legislation that's been completely

bipartisan. I think we should be able to do this opioid bill in a bipartisan way.

No more partisan redistricting.

I think we need to have congressional districting that really reflects the population. A coalition of folks have been working on a proposal to create a non-partisan commission in Colorado. I think that's a really good step at removing partisan redistricting. I also think, in the future, we're going to see very close numbers between the two parties in Congress. The parties have to find a way to work together and to compromise.

People are campaigning at the extremes.

In both parties' campaigning, the Democrats and Republicans, there's a tendency for candidates to go to the extremes. And from my experience, the constituents really wish they could have it both ways. So it's like, "Yes, I want you to fight for a single payer system, Diana, and I want you to go back to Congress and compromise for the issues that we all care about." That's the issue that we're dealing with.

But there's a value in the extremes.

I do think it's really important to have a wide diversity of opinions within the parties because that's what helps you to have the robust conversation about issues and solutions. I think that people need to realize that part of politics

is the art of the compromise. When we did 21st Century Cures, there were a number of things that I would have liked to have seen in there. There were a number of things that Fred Upton (Republican co-sponsor) would have liked to have seen there. We were able to compromise by either finding the middle or leaving those things out. That's part of our political process.

Public financing could restore faith in the electoral process.

I think it would be really helpful if we had public financing of campaigns because that would restore the public faith in the process, and it would also remove some of the money that makes people question the system. I also think we need to deal in some way with Citizens United and the whole concept of independent third-party ads out there, many of them inaccurate. They also distort the political process.

The state of the Constitution and our institutions.

The Constitution is alive and well because of the genius of our framers. The framers put forth three equal branches of government. Article I is the Legislative Branch. If the president tried to fire Mueller or to dismantle the courts, I think we'd see more Republicans stand up against this, particularly in the Senate. There's already bipartisan legislation in the Senate saying, don't fire Mueller.

The other branch of government that has been so important is the judicial branch. The courts have struck down policies that were poorly thought out. The courts have been an enormously important check and balance. They have shown the strength of our system.

You have to compromise—you're never going to get 100% of what you want.

In the House, there are a lot of people in my generation who understand that their constituents are desperate to get something done. Congress, especially the House, is the people's House. It represents 435 congressional districts all throughout the country. It has the most rural areas in Tennessee, and the most urban areas in Los Angeles, and everything in between. You're never going to get 100% of what you want.

But there will be people on both sides of the aisle who absolutely refuse to compromise. I've never seen anybody who absolutely refused to compromise who ever got their bill passed. But it's helpful to have people in both of the parties who are purists because they're a good check on the rest of us.

\*The 21st Century Cures Act, written by Reps. DeGette and Upton (R-MI) and merged with a Senate version by Sens. Alexander (R-KY) and Murray (D-WA), was designed to help accelerate medical advances and bring them to patients faster and more efficiently while preserving patient safety. It was signed into law on December 13, 2016 with one of the largest majorities of any bill in recent years (392 to 26 in the House and 94 to 5 in the Senate).

Transcript edited for length and clarity by Carol Roberts.

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By Melinda Pearson  
In June, A+ Colorado, an educational advocacy organization, released “Start with the Facts: Denver Public Schools at a Crossroads,” a report that examines the current state of affairs in Denver Public Schools (DPS) and recommends future directions.

A+ finds DPS lagging behind its goals, like having 80% of its third-graders reading at grade level by 2020. The report concludes that reaching the 2020 goals will take ten or more years past 2020, depending on the measure.

A concerning—and related—finding is that the “achievement gap,” the gap between low-income students and their more affluent peers or between White and non-White students, has persisted and, in some cases, grown.

For example, on a national test of 4th grade math, Denver is ranked third worst in the country among similar urban districts for academic gaps, with a 45% proficiency difference between impoverished students and their peers who don’t receive free and reduced lunch (FRL).

In a district that is 67% low-income and 77% non-white, such achievement gaps can prevent DPS from achieving 2020 goals for proficiency and graduation rates. What should DPS do to address these gaps and improve its performance?

Should DPS stick with the education reforms that have marked its last decade of progress? Is it time to return to a neighborhood schools model? Or are opportunity gaps simply impossible to repair?

As anyone who follows education knows, there are no easy answers to such questions.

DPS Shows Big Improvements in Achievement, Graduation Rates and College Enrollment

The District’s reform measures over the last decade have been largely successful, bringing what was once one of the lowest-performing urban school districts up to the middle of the pack, a considerable achievement.

- Since 2005, DPS enrollment has grown 27% across all grades, to 92,000 students, outpacing the growth of metro Denver as a whole.
- On the 2017 Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS), DPS students of all backgrounds outperformed the state in both language arts and math and has shown higher year-over-year growth compared to the state as a whole.
- Over the last several years, the trendline for DPS achievement on state exams has shown steady upward progress, while the state as a whole has remained relatively flat.
- Four-year graduation rates have risen to 67% in 2016-2017, compared to just 39% in 2006-2007, with a decrease in drop-out rates from 11% in 2005-06 to only 4.1% in 2016.
- DPS student college enrollment reached a record high in 2017, with 2,297 graduates – 51% - enrolling in the fall immediately following graduation, compared to just 1,324 students matriculating to college in 2007.

But do these impressive statistics tell the whole story?

Despite Successes, Criticism

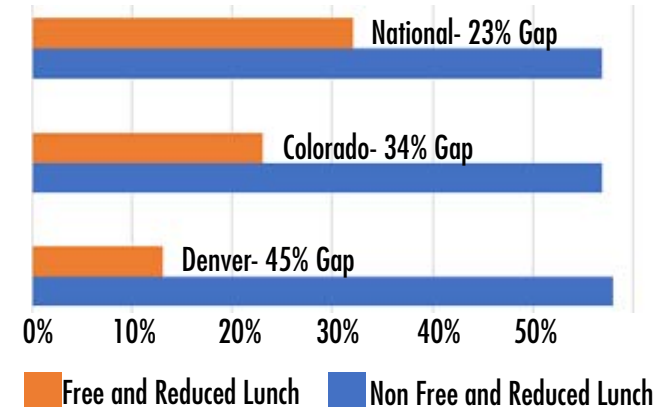
Panelists at a recent A+ Colorado meeting debated the district’s progress, with some expressing deep skepticism at whether reform efforts have helped poor children in particular. Although all students at DPS have made strides, achievement gaps persist. Former school board member Theresa Peña repeated criticisms she’s expressed elsewhere, “We’ve changed every aspect, but the outcome for poor students hasn’t changed.”

Meanwhile, the influence of the teachers’ union is rising, with two union-supported candidates elected to the board last fall. In addition, some community organizations and parent groups seek to dismantle the reform system of charter schools, standardized testing and test-based teacher account-

ability, suggesting that school choice has not equitably benefited all students.

In particular, the outcry over school closures has been fierce. Critics contend a neighborhood school serves a function in a community that

Achievement Gaps for Low Income Students  
Percentage of Students Proficient on the Fourth Grade NAEP Math Test



goes beyond performance on standardized tests. Recently, the school board responded by putting a “pause” on future school closures, though some question if that simply means kids will languish longer in low-performing schools.

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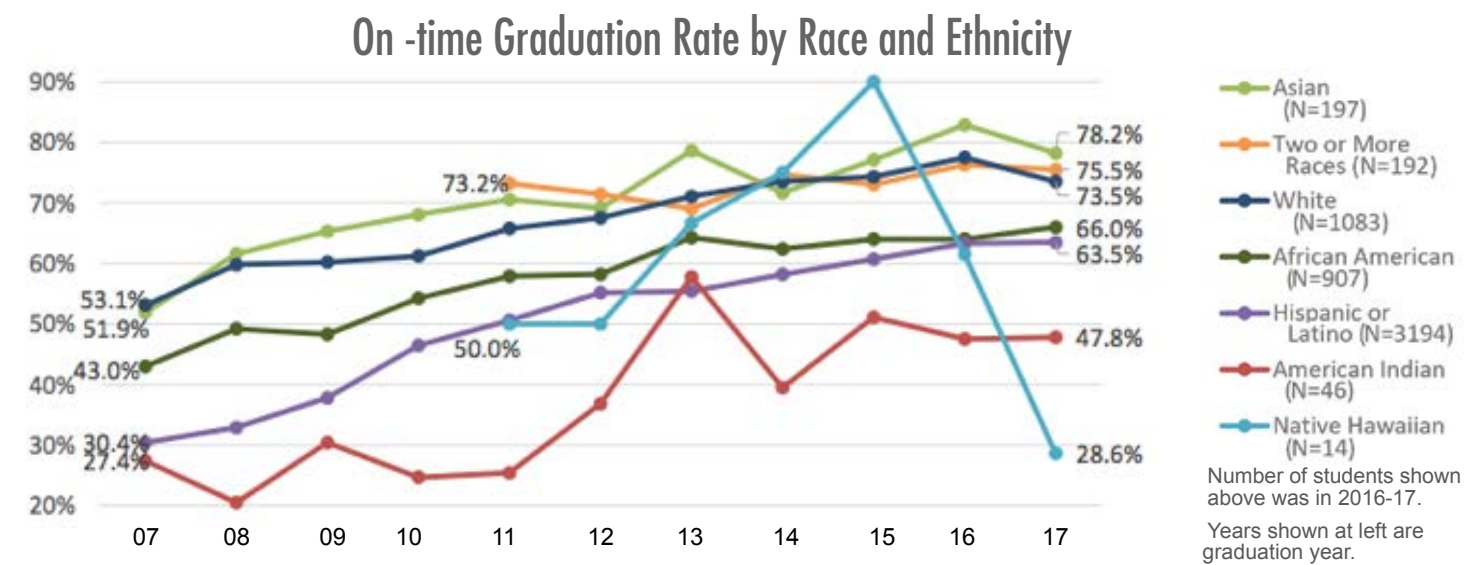
Denver's recent performance on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (the NAEP) exam was disappointing, showing that DPS students are only average, nationally. Current DPS Board member, Barbara O'Brien, while noting the significant improvement in outcomes at DPS, nonetheless emphasized that it isn't good enough. "What needs to be done to take us from average to the top 25% of all districts?" she asked.

The answer to that question seems to lie in addressing opportunity gaps that appear worse in Denver than elsewhere. "The incredible acceleration of performance by white and affluent students at breakaway speed from peers of color should alarm every policymaker who cares about opportunity gaps," states the A+ Colorado report, which suggests DPS is at "an inflection point."

In a district where the vast majority of students are low-income and non-White, only policies that provide resources to those students will make a measurable difference in raising the district's overall performance.

## What Next?

Addressing the achievement gaps that drive many performance deficits at the district is not easy. Dr. Pedro Noguera, a national education expert, notes that "those gaps in achievement are common throughout America, so it's not as



though Denver is by any means an isolated example. A lot of it is about the way inequality outside of school shapes what's happening to kids inside of schools."

But, says Noguera, "Where the district has to be responsible is, what are they doing to ensure that schools that are serving disadvantaged kids have the resources they need?"

The A+ report makes a number of recommendations to help Denver improve its schools, including strategic planning to establish new goals for 2025, prioritizing diverse school model options, and urgently addressing the opportunity gap.

But how will DPS, renowned for its progressive education reform, proceed in overcoming the sharp divide between impoverished students and their better-off peers?

"I think the thing that we have to worry about is that [education reformers] could very quickly become the new status quo," said Dr. Howard Fuller, one of the most

prominent education advocates in the country. "For me, yesterday's best practices can be today's barrier to change. I think the problem is that when you're trying to be a reformer...you have to be committed to the purpose and not to the method to get that purpose."

Commenting on to future directions for the DPS board, Angela Cobián, the newly elected school board representative for southwest Denver proposed a "third way." "I've had a lifetime of people putting me into boxes that I didn't decide. So the idea...is that you create a third way, com-

binning your experience as a person of color in public education with reform ideas," said Cobián. "It's a lot more ground up than what we do now and what we have done and also doesn't totally reject the things that people who are not reformers say."

DPS board members have expressed an intention to embark on a "listening tour" of Denver to understand more deeply the concerns of their constituents. But it remains to be seen whether they will continue with the reform process that has brought them this far or turn in a different direction in the quest to create equal opportunities for all students.



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# Update on

By Carol Roberts

On the evening of June 21, about 40 sleep-deprived people gathered in the Park Hill Village Club House for an update from RTD on the status of the train horns that had been keeping them awake for two years.

RTD's agenda was to review the information on the charts shown at the bottom of the adjoining page so the attendees would understand the requirements to reach the goal of no horns. But a frustrated speaker in the back of the room called out, "We just want to hear about the horns."

The short answer to that question: Early August is the soonest quiet zones could begin.

The Public Utilities Commission (PUC) had announced days before the Park Hill meeting that they were inspecting each of the A Line crossings, and as the visual inspections were completed and approved, the flaggers were being removed. Based on the PUC's planned schedule of approvals, RTD said the last of the 11 crossings, Quebec, is expected to be approved at the July 11 PUC meeting. Henry Stoppocamp, assistant general manager for RTD's capital programs said they are addressing each requirement in a thorough and careful manner to have the highest likelihood of approval.

Good-bye flaggers.  
Hopefully, good bye horns  
in early August.



The applications for quiet zones have been prepared and will be submitted by the cities of Denver and Aurora after the July 11 crossing approval so quiet zones for the entire line can be addressed at once. With a 21-day period allowed for the decision from the FRA, that would make early August the soonest quiet zones could be established.



Anne Herzenberg,  
Denver Transit Operators  
general manager

Denver Transit Operators General Manager explained why, after all the prior approvals, yet another one is required before the establishment of a quiet zone. "The FRA is allowing us to operate now and they are allowing us to take the attendants off because they believe that the design of the crossings is safe and the system is functioning as designed. We have

passed that standard with the FRA. But they are still requiring us to sound horns—part of the safety system is the horns. The next question that they have to answer, that everybody in this room is so anxious about—they now want to take the horns away. That's going to fundamentally change the crossings. So now the city will file the notice of establishment



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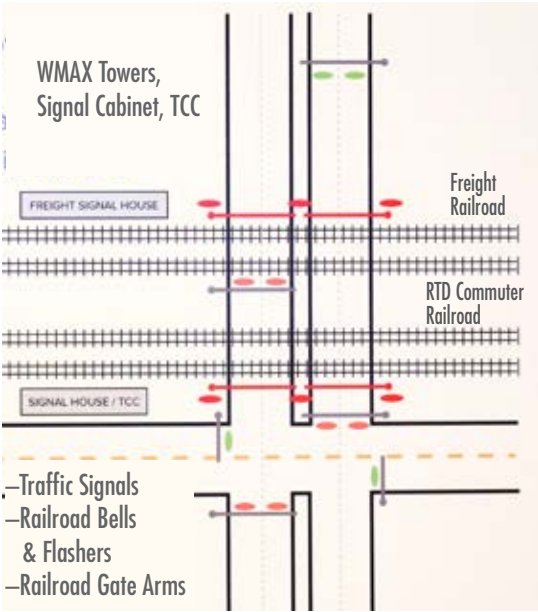
# A Line Train Horns

of quiet zones, and the FRA gets 21 days after that to object. And they can say, ‘No, we don’t think that the crossings are safe enough if you stop sounding the horns. They have approved the crossings once. But now they have to do it again because they are looking at a different question. They are looking at the question of, ‘Can the railroad not sound the horns?’

“‘I think they will,’ is my personal and professional opinion, but there’s not guarantee,” said Herzenberg.

Scott Reed, assistant general manager for RTD communications said when the cities request the quiet zone, they are accepting a risk and he reiterated the importance of obeying the flashing lights and gates. The quiet zone is established in perpetuity, but he added, “If we start seeing issues, the FRA could say, ‘No more quiet zones.’”

## Required Safety Equipment



The PUC made visual inspections of the 11 crossings on the A Line, observing the operation of the safety equipment shown in the above drawing.

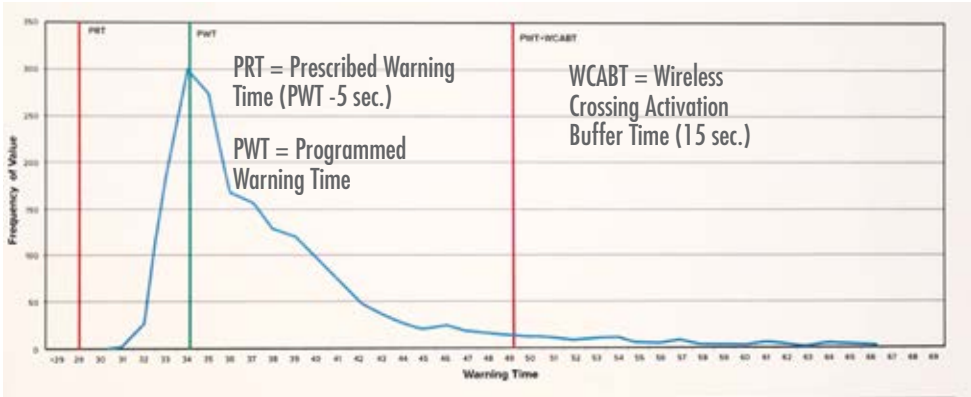


Above: Henry Stopplecamp, assistant general manager for capital programs explains the steps required before sending the request for a quiet zone.

Right: Kevin Doyle asked about communication between the traffic lights and the gates, commenting that he had sat in a long line of traffic during a very long wait at a crossing. RTD informed attendees that they can report such issues but they need to include very specific date, time and location information about the problem.



## Tracking Crossing Gate Timing



Sensors to signal crossing gates to come down have traditionally been embedded in the tracks, but they were set at a fixed time and could not track the speed of the train. With new wireless sensors, the signal for the gates to come down is

based on the actual speed of the train. But since such a system had never been tested, initial guidelines were set, actual gate closures were studied, and timing modifications then had to be approved to ensure safety and reliability.



Above: Park Hill Village resident Carol Lloyd called for attendees to calm down and listen to the RTD information that their homeowners association had requested.



Attendee Mike Lovette cited 49CFR222.7 saying the PUC has no authority under federal law to say anything about blowing the horn at crossings. RTD responded that the FRA won’t approve quiet zones until the PUC is satisfied that the crossings are working as designed.

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By Charles Borsos  
**“D**o you know how many shovels I have?” Mayor Hancock joked after the June 6 ceremony breaking ground on a new fire station in Stapleton. For Mayor Hancock and the rest of the officials in attendance, Fire Station #39 is just the latest construction project in the rapidly expanding northeast corridor of Denver.

However, with every ceremonial shovelful of soil and the construction that follows, the growing community puts ever greater strain on the area’s municipal resources—some-



# Newest Fire Station Breaks Ground



Far Left: Denver Mayor Michael Hancock speaks before the groundbreaking of Station #39

Above: A rendering of Station #39, slated to open Summer 2019

Left: Councilman Herndon (center right) and Denver Fire personnel in front of the type of fire truck planned for the new station.

15 firefighters and a single fire engine sometime next summer.



DFD shows reporters, at a press day last year, how they train their fire fighters .

The station will have room for additional apparatus, either a second engine or a ladder truck, depending on future needs. As well, there are facilities to house a fire chief in the station to augment command-and-control in the area. These two elements are part of the flexible design chosen to operate in the growing community around Stapleton.

While Station #39 only just broke ground, Pixley said in an email that other tentative expansions are being considered for northeast Denver. Redevelopment of Truck #35 at the Denver International Airport in early 2020 and another new station planned for 2021 at a location near 72nd and Tower Rd. could add positions for another 30 additional firefighters in the region in the next few years.

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# DSST Wins Prestigious National Award

By Melinda Pearson

On June 18, Denver School of Science and Technology Public Schools (DSST) was named the top public charter school network in the country when it won the Broad Prize for Public Charter schools. The prestigious award comes with a \$250,000 grant to support college-readiness efforts at the Denver-based network. DSST includes two middle schools in the Greater Park Hill-Stapleton enrollment zone and two high schools located in Stapleton.

“It’s a tremendous honor and one we’re very proud of,” said DSST CEO, Bill Kurtz. “I think it ultimately speaks to the incredible students, families, teachers and leaders and their hard work over the last 14 years at DSST. This award is really about honoring their hard work and their academic excellence, and it’s really an honor to work with them every day.”

DSST has eight middle schools and six high schools in Denver located on eight campuses. Their newest school just opened in Montbello. In the 2017-18 school year the network served 5,300 students, including 71% who qualify for free and reduced-price lunch and 84% who are students of color. The DPS school board has approved eight additional DSST schools to open in the coming years. DSST is also expanding into Aurora, with plans to open a middle school in the 2019-20 school year near the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Center campus, followed by another middle school and two high schools in future years.

Although the selection process is confidential, there were a number of factors that likely contributed to DSST’s selection for the prestigious award. Students of all backgrounds at the homegrown charter network post impressive SAT scores—they considerably outpaced their peers in Colorado on that measure in 2017. Its schools are highly ranked in DPS’s School Performance Framework system, and recently DSST: Stapleton was named the 97th best high school in the country by *U.S. News and World Report*. The network as a whole boasted 100% college acceptance for its senior class once again this spring, for the tenth consecutive year.



DSST: Stapleton was the first ever DSST. This May 2007 *Front Porch* file photo shows eleventh graders Tera Jones (left) and Daniel Helfrich adjusting equipment they constructed to measure the pressure being exerted on structural elements.

“I think we have amazing high school students and amazing teachers who work very hard,” said Kurtz. “As you know, they have produced some of the best college readiness and SAT scores in the state of Colorado year after year, and I think that spoke to the committee from what I understand.”

The Broad Prize is awarded only to public charter school networks that have five or more schools in operation serving 2,500 or more students. At least 40% of students must be eligible for free or reduced-price lunch and at least one-third must be students of color. Charter networks cannot self-nominate and are chosen by an independent board that reviews prize criteria.

DSST faced stiff competition this year from fellow finalists, Achievement First and Uncommon Schools, which had won the award in the past. Both organizations are considerably larger, serving tens of thousands of students across a number of East Coast cities. “Those are two incredible organizations that have been national leaders in public education, and it was absolutely an honor to be included with them as finalists,” said Kurtz.

“Being recognized as the top public charter network in the nation feels like validation of a lot of hard work that our teachers, staff, students and families have put in

in creating the DSST network of schools. We felt excited, humbled and honored by this award,” says Rebecca Bloch, a Stapleton resident, and campus director of DSST Cole Middle and High Schools. Cole’s first class has just graduated and, in the DSST tradition, 100% of students were accepted to four-year universities. “We have done this work on the shoulders of DSST: Stapleton High School and Green Valley Ranch who have really paved the way for us . . .” says Bloch.

Asked how DSST would spend its prize money, Kurtz said that he hadn’t expected to win the prize so it hadn’t been decided yet, but they are focused on not only getting their students to college but graduating from college. “I would imagine we would use the prize money to help further those efforts,” he said. “But we have no plans other than to sit down and figure out how we can use the money to make the biggest impact.”








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.

July is Science Fiction month, and this year marks the start of the 8th annual Science Fiction Film Series. I host the series, in conjunction with the Museum of Nature and Science and the Denver Film Society. The goal is to join art and science, explore the intersections therein, separate fact from fiction, and to discuss the relevance of Science Fiction in contemporary society. Science Fiction is not all about aliens and outer space—much of the best recent Sci-Fi is set in



The Handmaid's Tale



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the near future and tells us more about the current world rather than the future world. This month's column looks at two different iterations of near-Sci-Fi, one a TV series and one a film

featured in the Series. Find more information about the Series on the DMNS website or the Film Society website.

### The Handmaid's Tale (Hulu)

In my review of season one last year, I called this the best show on TV. It still is the best show on TV. I will accept arguments from the *Game of Thrones* camp and even from (the very underrated) *Better Call Saul* fans. But when you put together everything, including the writing, acting, cinematography, editing, and sound, you have a package of professional and artistic production that is unparalleled on TV. Season two is outstanding.

The show has now outlived the book by Margaret Atwood, and the scripts are original. Atwood herself has endorsed the

project, and she is very enthusiastic about the direction. In a recent interview, she called season two a “call to action,” and has spoken out about the current political condition. At age 78, the wonderful author has remained hopeful about the future, and she believes the mere act of writing “is optimistic.” We should all have such a wonderful attitude.

As I noted last year, “the production values, acting, cinematography, editing, and sound rival the best of any cinematic venture. At times the camera is static and the frame is composed in a deep-focus that allows life to pass as we witness it realistically. The effect is chilling.” Again, the same holds for season two, and the show is now even better with sharper production values. The set design and detail in the frame is more intricate, and as the universe of the show expands, the artistic integrity of the story and the style are up to the task.

One of the biggest wins of season two is the character development; Elizabeth Moss is once again tone-perfect as June/Offred in the lead role (my prediction last year that she would have a busy awards season came true; she won both an Emmy and a Golden Globe last year) and Yvonne Strahovski as Serena Joy is still fantastic—this time in an expanded role. We come to know Serena in a different light, and we may (or may not) change our opinion of her. Either way, the show succeeds in making us rethink our alliances. It is a really a triumph on every level.

Seasons one and two are available on Hulu.

You will enjoy this series if you liked *American Gods*, *Westworld*, and/or *1984*.

### Annihilation (2018)

Writer/Director Alex Garland follows up his 2015 directorial debut *Ex Machina* with another sci-fi epic based on the book series



of the same name by Jeff VanderMeer. The story is about a group of five women who enter something called “The Shimmer,” an environmental disaster/bubble that encompasses an ever-expanding, swampy area in the southeast U.S.—the source of which was an extraterrestrial meteor that landed in a lighthouse. The main character Lena (Natalie Portman), a biologist, is motivated to investigate The Shimmer after her husband was the only one to escape from the last expedition. She joins an eclectic group that includes a

psychologist (the cold and calculating Jennifer Jason Leigh), a paramedic (Gina Rodriguez), and two other scientists (Tessa Thompson and Tuva Novotny). Each has their own motivation for the journey, and once they enter the shimmer, their lives (and the film) gets weird.

Once there, they experience time shifts, bizarre flora that seems to defy Earthly laws, attacks by mutated bears and alligators, and topiary in the forms of humans. And those aren't even the weird parts. This is one of those films that defies simple explanations at points, focuses on the journey more than the destination, and is structurally complex, with a multitude of flashbacks that break continuous temporality and even include flashbacks-within-flashbacks.

If you've seen *Ex Machina*, you know that Garland's style can be oblique and even a bit distant. It is reminiscent of Kubrick (*2001: A Space Odyssey*) and Tarkovsky (*Solaris* and *Stalker*), great directors who have defied simple analysis. That style is tempered here by the excellent characterizations and some of the dialogue that focuses on the thematic core of the film. This is a film that can benefit from discussion, so please join us at DMNS on Wednesday, August 1 for a screening and that discussion.

Available on all Video on Demand (VOD) outlets.

You will like this film if you enjoyed *Ex Machina*, *2001: A Space Odyssey*, and/or *Solaris*.

Vincent Piturro, Ph.D., is an associate professor of Cinema Studies at Metropolitan State University of Denver. He can be reached at [vpiturro@msudenver.edu](mailto:vpiturro@msudenver.edu).

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# Sci-Fi Summer Series

By Charles Borsos

Usually the summer Sci-Fi Film Series shows five movies. “This year we decided to go with six,” says Vincent Piturro. As a professor of cinema studies at Metro State University of Denver, Piturro plays an important role in the selection process and moderates at the presentation of each film.

Presented by the Denver Museum of Nature and Science and the Denver Film Society, the series leaves the museum’s scientists, film society experts, and Piturro to make the movie selections. This year the three parties chose *Ex Machina*, 2010: *The Year we Make Contact*, *Dark City*, *Annihilation*, *The Shape of Water*, and *Blade Runner 2049*, with *Blade Runner 2049* added as the new sixth slot.

Piturro says the addition was made for two main reasons. The first was the growing popularity of the series. Even with the IMAX theater and its large capacity showings often filled.

The second reason was the sheer length of *Blade Runner 2049*. “A lot of people won’t go see a three and half hour long movie,” Piturro said. Because this movie is lengthy and therefore potentially less approachable, *Blade Runner 2049* became what Piturro describes as a “value add-on.”

And the series is designed to have a lot of value for people.

It all begins with the scientific value. Piturro says the science fiction they chose, “has to be grounded in some sort of science.” The scientists are asked simply, “What do you want to talk about?” And that way the initial list has strong scientific topics to discuss right off the bat.

That largely discounts things like time travel. They tried a time traveling film once, but their

astrophysicist didn’t have much more to say beyond its impossibility. Piturro said they try to avoid such “one trick” movies and “science babble.”

The list then gets kicked to the Denver Film Society and Piturro, who discuss the choices based on artistic merit and value. Coming from that perspective, Piturro says, “My job is to talk about the film itself. About the themes, the background and the cinematography.” Based on these criteria, “I say this film will be more interesting than that film, and we take it from there and come to an agreement,” Piturro said

All the films are accompanied by in-depth discussion. “A colleague of mine described it as writing a

journal article a week for six weeks,” Piturro says, commenting on the preparation he puts in.

While some attendees might be less familiar with science fiction, Piturro points to some of the very

topical themes the genre is able to tackle—like *Dark City* and its themes on finding place in a fictional society, just as the, “the millennial generation is trying to find their place in the world.”

Looking at *Blade Runner 2049* and its length as the value add-on for those who can’t get enough science fiction, Piturro points to *The Shape of the Water* as the perfect choice for those looking to test the waters of the genre.

“*The Shape of Water* is about a sort of dark part of our history that was racist, sexist, xenophobic,” Piturro says, “but it also has elements that have crept into our society today, and that’s very much why I wanted to include that.”

The film, which takes place at the height of the Cold War, stands in contrast to what people might imagine science fiction is like. Piturro says, “It’s an interesting film because science fiction is usually set

in the future and talking about today. This one is set in the past and talking about today. So it’s more than just a yearning for progressing, it’s also a warning for this regression that we may be in.”

The Sci-Fi Film Series at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science IMAX theater begins with *Ex Machina* on Wednesday, July 11 and continues each week until the final showing of *Blade Runner 2049* on Wednesday, August 15. All the showings are to be hosted by Vincent Piturro and a guest speaker to discuss the film and the science behind it.

For more info check out [www.denverfilm.org/sci-fi-series/](http://www.denverfilm.org/sci-fi-series/)

*Piturro says the Sci-Fi Series is a forum to discuss the issues of our lives through the lens of another world.*

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# Women's Self Defense Class

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Register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/womens-self-defense-class-tickets-46820091153>  
Space is limited.

By Martina Will de Chaparro

Close to 100 women file into the Rude Recreation Center early on a Saturday morning. Some appear in pairs but many arrive unaccompanied. A few cluster on the bleachers and engage in small talk while others wait silently, guarded. My reticent 14-year old daughter and I sit among women of all ages, ethnicities, shapes and sizes for a self-defense seminar sponsored by the Denver Police Department (DPD). Inspired by personal experiences, a desire to empower our daughters, or the #MeToo Movement, all have committed to spending the better part of their Saturday in the confines of the gymnasium to learn self-defense skills.

Sgt. Noel Ikeda has led these classes since 2010. A 7th-degree black belt, he later confides to me his own interest in self-defense as a child: “I was small and didn’t have much self-confidence but I wanted to learn how to defend myself, and there was an Enshin [Karate] I could bike to.” The child of Japanese immigrants with limited English, he was happy to find a place to learn where the Japanese instructor could communicate with his parents in their native language. As he progressed, both his confidence and his school work improved. Karate was transformative. When he speaks of the self-defense seminar he regularly teaches, Ikeda notes that this class, too, can be life-changing for many.

Sgt. Ikeda begins the seminar by communicating the importance of prevention; he stresses listening to one’s internal voice or gut. His years working with assault survivors adds a sensitivi-

ty and a personal dimension to the PowerPoint slides he shares. Ikeda exudes strength and wisdom, but is not intimidating, and his audience—which includes survivors—quickly warms to his message. Ikeda employs a pencil metaphor to drive home the importance of community in preventing crime, observing that a single pencil lacks the strength of a fistful of pencils: “We all have to work together. If we partner with police, community leaders and elected officials and continue to train and educate ourselves, we can prevent assault. It’s about knowing you are powerful and you have a voice.”

After arming attendees with knowledge, the hands-on instruction begins. Ikeda’s teenage daughter, Tristan, helps lead the demonstration of moves based on Krav Maga or “Contact Combat,” the system developed by the Israel Defense Forces. At 5’5” she is petite but fierce, confidently



## Women's Self-Defense



Martina Will de Chaparro and her daughter Isabella practice moves based on the Krav Maga, or “Contact Combat,” a system developed by the Israeli Defense Forces. The class instructs women on techniques including kicks blocks and grabs. Left: Martina has her daughter in a choke hold and her daughter practices how to break out of it. Above: Martina and Isabella, along with the rest of the class, practice the new techniques.

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Left: Sgt. Noel Ikeda teaches self defense to a class of women at the Rude Recreation Center. Ikeda uses his daughter, Tristan, as the would-be victim. Ikeda teaches self-defense techniques like these as well as how to identify and prevent conflict.

overcomes her ingrained politeness and increases her volume, and I smile, gratified that we are sharing this experience despite my sadness that this is necessary.

After five hours, the women exit Rude, welcoming the spring sunshine with a deeper awareness and confidence. “I will definitely be looking in the back seat of my car before getting in,” I overhear. When we later take stock, my daughter shares “I loved the sense of community I felt, realizing that we were all working towards the same goals.” Empowerment and community. We have a voice.

Currently, only District 1 DPD regularly offers this popular self-defense seminar, and all remaining 2018 spots are full. Demand for this program has skyrocketed, with approximately 650 women completing the seminar in 2017 and over 1,000 on track for 2018. “My dream is for every district to provide this course to their communities,” Sgt. Ikeda states. In response to community interest, District 5 is offering a class on July 28. See boxed announcement for details.

Readers who wish to support DPD’s efforts can not only participate in the class but can also voice their support for the program by reaching out to their city council members.

exhibiting how to evade, deter, and strike the would-be attacker played by her father. Tristan has volunteered with DPD to co-teach these classes since 2012, and her presence is testament to Sgt. Ikeda’s faith in the program he teaches. “I really believe in this program. I wouldn’t be teaching it to my family if I didn’t.”

Women line up in columns to practice the techniques Tristan and her father demonstrate, shouting with each escape or punch “Get Back!” The first exclamations are measured, suggesting both timidity and self-consciousness. Quickly, however, the shouts grow increasingly emphatic and gain authority. My own daughter

Photos courtesy of Denver Police Dept.

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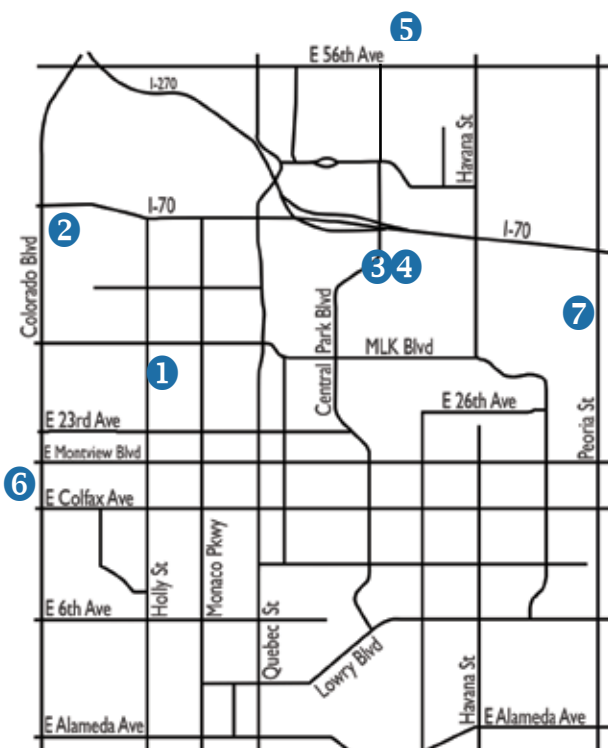
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# ...NE News Updates



By Front Porch Staff Writers

## 1 New innovation zone approved for NE Denver schools

In a unanimous vote at its June meeting, the Denver Board of Education approved a plan to allow four north-east Denver area schools to form an innovation zone. The innovation zone allows for considerably greater autonomy at the school level in terms of budget, curriculum and governance for the included schools, which are Swigert International School, McAuliffe International School, McAuliffe International at Manual and Northfield High School.

The newly formed innovation zone also has selected

an executive director, Tomi Amos, who will take the helm August 1 as she transitions from a position with the Colorado Department of Education. She will report to an independent board of directors, which is accountable to DPS.

All four schools share an International Baccalaureate curriculum, which was part of what drove the effort to create the zone, according to Kurt Dennis, the principal of McAuliffe International School. Dennis helped craft the proposal for the innovation zone. It was approved by a vote of teachers at all four schools, who collectively supported the proposal at a rate of approximately 70%.

The Innovation Zone will have no effect on enrollment patterns, with all four schools remaining in their respective enrollment zones or boundaries. Instead, it provides a vertical alignment of curriculum and increased flexibility in budget and staffing. More detail on this change will be reported next month in the *Front Porch*.

## 2 Meetings about Park Hill Golf Course

Arcis Equity Partners, LLC, the managers of the Park Hill Golf Course, announced in late June that they will exercise the five-year-renewal option on their golf course lease.

Clayton Early Learning, owners of the land, will finish the visioning process for the 155 acres, sharing a summary of all the input they have received, and giving community members one more opportunity to share their thoughts.

Meetings will be held on the following dates at Clayton Early Learning Campus, 3801 Martin Luther King Blvd:

**Tuesday, July 10**—"Future Use of Park Hill Golf Course Visioning Process Community Forum," 6pm-8pm Administration Building

**Thursday, July 19**—"Park Hill Golf Course Citizen's Advisory Committee (PCAC) Meeting #13," 6pm-8pm Training Center Building L-3975, Meera Mani Room



New Horizons Child Care

## 3 New business center with retail and child care coming to 40th and Central Park Blvd.

Plans for the Enterprise Business Center at Central Park Blvd. (CPB) and 40th Ave. were presented at the June Zoning and Planning committee meeting in Stapleton. The center will have a Starbucks drive-through, a Fuzzy's Taco Shop, a Cheba Hut serving toasted

sandwiches, and an F45 Training fitness center. The biggest business in the project, however, is the New Horizons daycare center. The center will serve 376 children ages six weeks to five years. Courtney Schneider, a representative from the developer United Properties, said the daycare center aims to serve those working at the large nearby operations such as Breakthru



Enterprise Business Center



Beverages and Frontier Fire, with opening expected in September. Construction is currently underway and the opening date for the remaining businesses is expected to be in the fourth quarter of this year.

## 4 Car rental coming to north Stapleton

Also presented at Zoning and Planning were plans for an Enterprise car rental branch. While the Enterprise retail center is located at 40th and CPB, the new 2,300-square-foot Enterprise Rent-A-Car branch will be built at 5059 Beeler St. in north Stapleton. Toni Lucio-Lyons a representative from Enterprise, said the facility could support up to 47 vehicles and would include a car wash that uses biodegradable soap. The car rental location will not, however, include repair facilities. The branch is almost out of the design phase and slated to open in the first quarter of 2019.

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Lake Mary, Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge

## 5 Wildlife Refuge gets funds for improvements

Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge received about \$750,000 from the Department of the Interior for improvements that will enhance visitors' experiences at the Refuge. The floating boardwalk at Lake Mary (visible above) will be replaced and the public restroom at Lake Ladora will be repaired or replaced. The bulk of the Dept. of Interior grant (\$3.6 million) went to the National Black-footed Ferret (BFF) Center near Carr, Colorado, which is also a Fish and Wildlife facility.

All the black-footed ferrets being released in the country (including the ones at the Refuge) came from the BFF center, according to Refuge Manager Dave Lucas. He says the ferrets at the Refuge are doing so well, some of the wild-born ones at the Refuge will be transferred to Arizona this year.

## 6 In Denver, scooters came, then went. What's next?

It is said to be easier to ask for forgiveness than permission. The leadership of electric scooter sharing companies Limebike and Bird seemed to ascribe to this philosophy when they released hundreds of scooters in Denver without getting permits to do so.

The city of Denver doesn't have a program in place for these dockless scooter-sharing

services, but it does have regulations prohibiting companies from storing goods in the public right of way. Denver Public

Works (DPW) said it collected over 260 scooters within two weeks of their surprise dispersal and began issuing citations to the operating companies.

On June 15, however, DPW Public Information Director, Nancy Kuhn, said in an email statement, "Denver Public Works notified Bird and LimeBike that we are intending to develop a pilot program that would allow for the operation of dockless mobility technology." While both companies still have to deal with the citations and confiscated scooters, they have the opportunity to work with the city to establish dockless transportation. In the meantime, DPW stated, "Limebike and Bird have again been asked to remove their scooters from the public right of way until the permit system is established."

## 7 Update on immigrant detention

U.S. Rep. Diana DeGette met with media at the



Rep. DeGette at detention facility in Aurora.

Denver Contract Detention Facility near 31st and Peoria on June 24 to talk about what she saw when she visited a "tender care" facility for young undocumented children in McAllen, TX.

DeGette serves on



Black-footed ferret photographed on the day ferrets were released at the Refuge.

the House Energy and Commerce Committee, which has jurisdiction over the Office of Refugee Resettlement that is providing care for the children who have been separated from parents. She said she met with a man at the Aurora facility who found his son after a month of separation and another who does not know where his child is. She pointed out the logistical and bureaucratic issues that stand in the way of efforts to reunite the 2,000 families that remain separated. ICE assigns a number to the adults being processed in the criminal

system and the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR—under the Department of Health and Human Services) assigns a number to the children, but the two systems don't communicate with each other. DeGette says ultimately all children will be reunited with their parents, even if genetic testing is needed. She says ankle monitoring devices that would cost just a few dollars a day would be preferable to building tent cities while immigrants are awaiting processing, as that method has been shown to be successful in the past.





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## New Birth Center:

By Carol Roberts

Moms who deliver at Birth Center of Denver have a totally natural labor and birth—they forgo pain relievers or epidurals, though they can opt for a small amount of nitrous oxide for relaxation (at a level lower than what's used at dentists' offices). "It doesn't necessarily take away the pain but it makes you care less about it," says Certified Nurse-Midwife Katy Kissler.

Moms do, however, have a variety of other options to ease the discomfort of labor. In the birthing suites, moms have an adjustable queen bed and an oversized tub where lying or squatting in warm water may help them relax. Or they can use a large exercise ball or a sling hanging from the ceiling to support their body (or belly) in whatever position they find most comfortable.

And they can give birth in the water. Kissler explains, "A lot of moms like to squat in the tub because the pelvis is really open when you squat and it allows a lot of space for the baby to come out." The nurse-midwife reaches in and guides the baby to the surface. "They're in water inside so it's not a problem to be born into water. They're not stimulated to start breathing until they come to the surface. It's a really beautiful, gentle entry."

Birth Center of Denver is owned by Saint Joseph Hospital and the midwives are Saint Joe's employees. If a critical situation arises, an ambulance can come directly to the birth center to quickly transfer a mom or baby who needs hospital care. The nurse-midwives even run drills with the NICU (neo-natal intensive care unit) staff and the obstetricians at Saint



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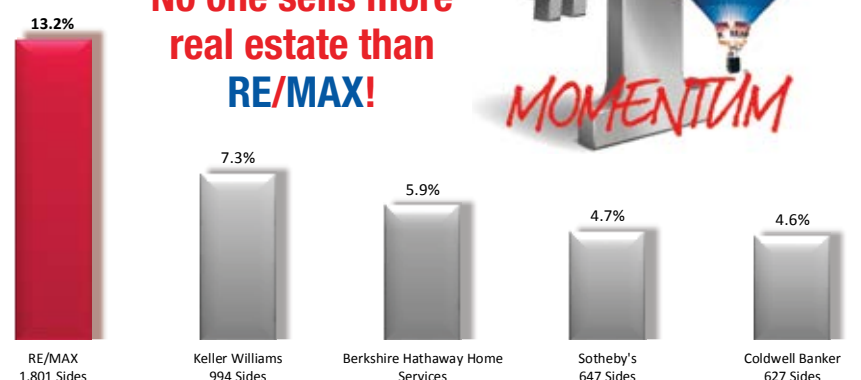
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Joseph to ensure a quick and smooth transfer, which includes transfer of electronic medical records. Kissler says most problems with labor and birth give warning signs early, so the nurse-midwives pay attention to those warning signs and take them seriously—and they get those moms to a higher level of care in the hospital.

Birth Center of Denver will open this summer and is serving moms with due dates in September or later, so no deliveries have happened yet. But Kissler believes hospital transfers would happen only rarely. The center will take only the most-low risk moms—those with no complications in pregnancy and no birth complications expected.

“We won’t take women who’ve had a caesarean section because there are too many risk factors—or women with hypertension, diabetes, twins. Women who have had long labors, painful labors, they can still come here and we can work with them.”



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The Birth Center has five birthing suites that are 500-600 square feet each, all of them similar to the one shown above. The family and friends area has a refrigerator with a freezer, coffee and TV. The rooms have big bright windows with blackout drapes and dimmable lights, adjustable beds and an oversized tub.

Education about a healthy pregnancy, natural labor and childbirth is a big component of the birth center’s services. Instead of the typical prenatal visits, women have prenatal groups where they get to know the other women in their group and the midwife and nurses that are facilitating the groups.

“The model of care is called ‘Centering Pregnancy™,’” says Kissler. Women take their own blood pressure and weight and they go individually to a bed in the corner to get their belly measured and to listen to the baby’s heartbeat. They have private appointments closer to birth or if any issues arise.

Moms only stay at the birth center for 4–12 hours after birth. Nurse-midwives or registered nurses make a home visit one or two days after the birth to do normal newborn screening, support moms and check on breast feeding. Birth center staff stay in touch by phone for the first few weeks and are available 24/7 for calls.

And the birth center will have groups for moms to build long-term relationships with other moms from their prenatal groups.

Birth Center of Denver partners with most major insurance companies including Kaiser and Medicaid. Natural birth at the birth center “is, in general, more cost effective since we’re very low tech and hands on,” says Kissler.

Birth Center of Denver is located at 18th Ave. and Franklin St. For more information, call 303-812-2363 or visit [schcolorado.org/birth-center](http://schcolorado.org/birth-center).

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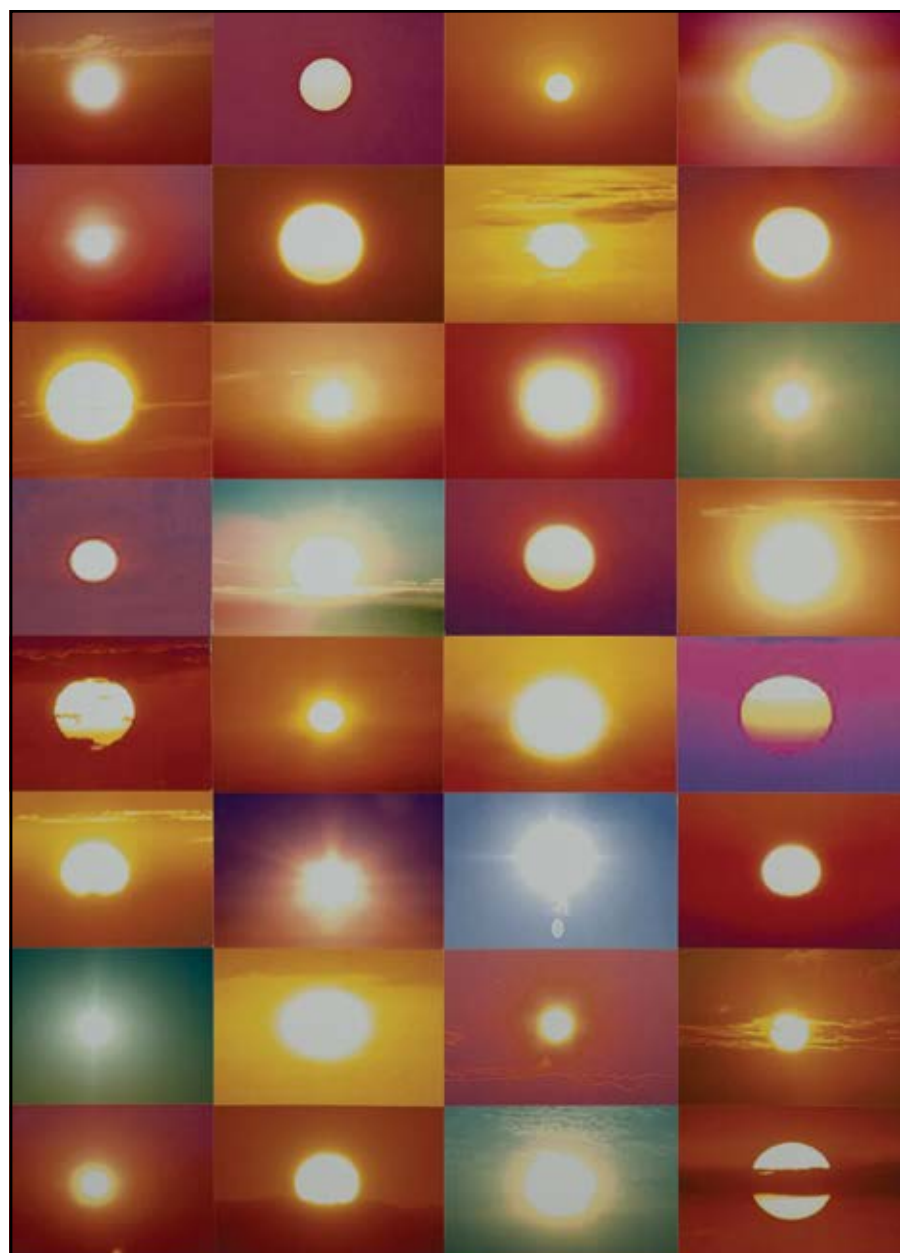
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# Remembering July 4, 2000 in Kiribati

By Charles Borsos

Minnie Simonette fondly recalls her most memorable 4th of July. While many of her days as a Peace Corps volunteer in a small village in Kiribati were filled with work, “Early one morning, and my door was not yet opened, I heard someone call my name.” It was the village elder saying he knew how hard she worked and to take the day, July 4, off to spend with the other Peace Corps volunteers.

Simonette and her friend Mindy rode their bikes to the hut of a third volunteer, Chris, in Butaritari Village. “We get over to the hut . . . and think that we can’t be smelling coffee.” There was generally no coffee on the island, but her friend had saved a small package mailed by his mother.

When she returned to her village that evening, she saw an image that truly surprised her. The village people flew the American flag from a coconut tree in their honor. “We saw hanging from the coconut tree our flag and we, all three, were weeping. We hadn’t seen our flag since being there. No hot dogs, no beer, but we had coffee and there was our flag,” Simonette recalls. The flag raised to honor the Peace Corps volunteers on July 4, 2000 was the same one that flew over the island in 1943 during the World War II Battle of Butaritari.

Although largely unknown to Americans today, news from the Republic of Kiribati was front-page material 75 years ago. Back then, Kiribati’s 33 coral islands and 1.35 million square miles of South Pacific weren’t yet unified. But on those small islands, the United States faced the Japanese in some of the most brutal fighting in the early years of the Pacific War.

In 1942, the island of Butaritari was the target of one of the earliest American raids against the Japanese, providing a much-needed moral boost early in the war. Later, in November of 1943, the Marines



Lowry resident Minnie Simonette holds a baby in Kiribati.

landed on the second largest island and what is Kiribati’s current capital, Tarawa. Coverage of the invasion resulted in a Pulitzer Prize winning photo in 1944 and the short film *With the Marines at Tarawa*, which won the 1945 Academy Award for best documentary short.

“During low tide you could see the [shot-down] Japanese planes in the water,” says Lowry resident, Simonette. “They loved you straight away because you were American.”

Kiribati, however, was known to be a hard Peace Corps posting and things were far from easy. Simonette, with over 30 years experience as an

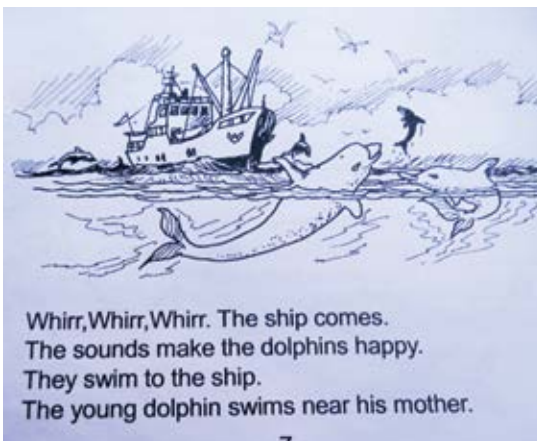
educator before joining up at the age of 61 was given her pick of assignments. “I’ll go wherever,” she said.

In Butaritari, Simonette got to work teaching English and teaching local teachers how to teach English. What she noticed right away was that the students were trying to learn from hand-me-down Australian workbooks—only the kids had never seen a lot of the things used as examples—big cars, supermarkets, etc. So Simonette had the teachers make their own books, illustrated with pictures that the kids understood: dolphins, fishing boats, sports and local foods. The program took off, and soon Simonette was traveling to Tarawa and instructing national administrators how to put together the little books.

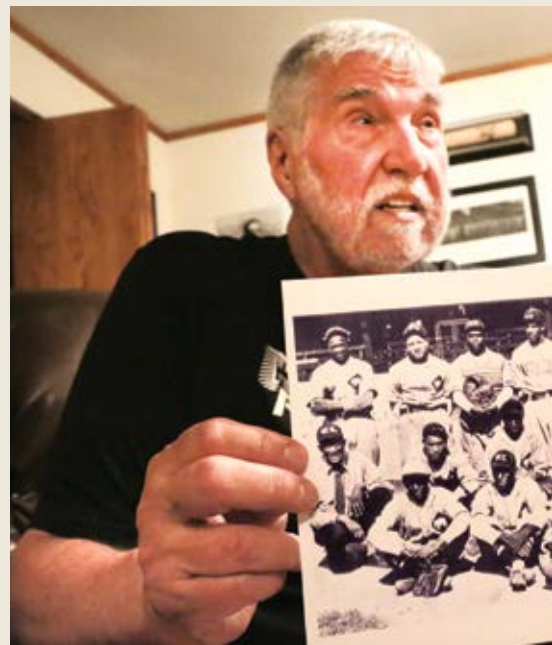
When Simonette returned to Denver, she taught English as a Second Language to students at the Community College of Aurora for seven years. And her work as an educator in Butaritari continued too. The government took an interest in the books and they printed and distrib-

uted them on the islands. Simonette proudly keeps a copy of one of these newer books, along with early examples from her time there.

On the Fourth of July, as Simonette remembers her time in Butaritari, the people and children there can see a part of Simonette—in the books and in the people who learned from them.



Simonette taught teachers in Kiribati to make books about subjects the children there understood as they learned to read.



By Charles Borsos

The Pueblo Blues, the Lipton Teas, The Colorado Black Diamonds, The ABCs and the Denver White Elephants are some of the many Black baseball teams that played in Colorado. Jay Sanford, a local baseball historian said at the turn of the century there were over 200 teams just in Denver. Most of those were White teams organized around factories or neighborhoods or churches.

But Denver also grew into a home for a robust Black baseball community—an environment somewhat unique in the United States. “I’m not saying we didn’t have our prejudice, we certainly did, but they weren’t as severe as you’d find in most metropolitan areas,” Sanford said.

While there were All-Black teams, a few Black players like Bud Fowler actually competed on White teams—in fact he was the first Black player ever to be paid to play



Bud Fowler was the first Black player ever to be paid to play baseball professionally, though others quickly followed.

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# Black Baseball in Denver



baseball professionally, although others quickly followed. Sanford said in Colorado, “We had our first Blacks playing baseball here professionally in the 1880s. And we had a few Black teams around—and then we had players on integrated teams. That far back.”

Sanford also pointed out that the 25th Infantry Regiment was one of the early all-Black units formed right after the Civil War. While stationed outside of Denver at Fort Logan in 1895, they formed the first integrated military baseball team—predating the 1948 integration of the actual United

States Armed Forces by over 50 years.

In Colorado, “Black teams always played against White teams,” said Sanford. Even with the growth of the Negro Leagues in the 1920s, the most popular and most successful Black team in Denver at the time, the White Elephants, was never part of one of the Negro leagues. Rather the White Elephants often played White teams in Colorado. While the games were competitive, “it was

Far left: Baseball historian Jay Sanford holds a photo of the White Elephants.

Left: The first integrated military baseball team, predating U.S. Armed Forces integration by over 50 years.

under the guise of exhibition.”

That is until the *Denver Post* put on a baseball tournament from 1915 to 1947. Sanford says it was “the biggest baseball event outside of major league baseball.” It was segregated until 1934—but when the tournament desegregated that year, things quickly changed. Sanford said the White teams “went home having played high level competition against Black teams and they immediately began to integrate. And that’s why the White Elephants broke up following the 1935 season—because their players, all of them, could play on White teams.”

“Had that not happened I’m convinced Jackie Robinson would not have broken through the color barrier in 1947,” said Sanford. In a relatively short time, professional baseball in the United States really began to change. “We were integral in integrating baseball.”

*Black Baseball is a part of the Play Ball! exhibit now at the History Colorado Center. See page 30.*

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# DPD Staffing Changes Bring New Lieutenant to Stapleton

*Editor's Note: In addition to the new Stapleton lieutenant introduced in the article below, District 5 (Stapleton, Green Valley Ranch and Montbello) will have a new commander, Jeff Martinez—and District 5's commander, Ron Thomas, is moving to District 2 (Park Hill, Montclair, Lowry and East Colfax), replacing Commander Michael Calo.*

By Melinda Pearson

Among the Denver Police Department staffing changes recently announced is the placement of Lieutenant Kevin Hines, who began serving the Stapleton portion of District 5 near the end of June. Hines replaces Lieutenant Ian Culverhouse, who moved to the investigative technology division at central headquarters, where he will work with HALO cameras, body cameras and other technical electronic services.

An Ohio native, Hines has served with the DPD since 2005. He had been a banker, but wanted to do something more meaningful, he said, and friends spoke highly of law enforcement.

Hines began his career as an officer in District 2, which included Stapleton at that time. "So much has changed, especially in the north end of Stapleton," he noted, but much remains the same. "It's a very active, very involved community," said Hines. "As a police department we always do our best work when we partner with the community and form those relationships with the folks we're serving."

When Hines was promoted to sergeant, he moved to District 3, serving parts of south Denver, and his recent

promotion to lieutenant came with a move to District 5. He hopes to build on the foundation of relationships built by Culverhouse and his predecessors.

"Ian definitely laid some foundations when he was here, and I want to take what he started and continue it," said Hines. "We need to know the community, and the community needs to know us." You can expect to find Hines at all of the community meetings that take place around Stapleton, including the Citizens' Advisory Board (CAB), Greater Stapleton Business Association (GSBA) and Stapleton United Neighbors (SUN).

Hines is a proponent of crime prevention, particularly in a safe neighborhood like Stapleton where property crime and crimes of opportunity are the biggest problems. He believes community awareness is key to that. "It's great when we catch bad guys. It's great when we find the burglar and get him in jail, but it's better if we can stop that burglary from occurring in



Lt. Kevin Hines shows a photo he took at the Stock Show Rodeo.

problems we're trained to recognize."

District 5 uses the Accurint® system to analyze crime data, and it allows police to identify and respond quickly to patterns of crime that may be occurring, said Hines, but it depends on citizens reporting crimes. "I always encourage people to report crimes because it allows us to recognize where we need to direct our resources," said Hines. "Being able to direct resources based on what's happening is part of that community partnership, and part of that relationship is that you need to tell me you have a problem so I can help deal with it."

In addition to being Stapleton's new lieutenant, Hines is an avid photographer, particularly of outdoors subjects. The *Front Porch* hopes to feature some of his work in an upcoming issue.

the first place," he said. "So much of that is built by working with the community and being able to know what the problems are, and helping the community recognize the

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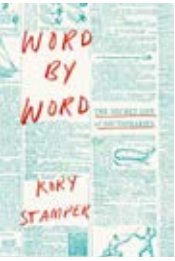
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# The Book Worm

**Word by Word: The Secret Life of Dictionaries** (adult nonfiction, 2017)



By Kory Stamper  
In this engaging, funny, and riveting memoir, Kory Stamper takes us behind the scenes of the Merriam-Webster Dictionary and describes both the life of a lexicographer (that is, a writer and editor of dictionaries) and the life of words. Did you ever wonder how new words are chosen? Or why the definitions of old standards change? Or how anyone can define a word as common and as uninteresting as the word “is”? Stamper reveals all. This book is a surprising page-turner, with Stamper telling the story of her rewriting the definition for the word “nude” with the same dramatic flair as one might tell a murder mystery. Stamper’s obsession with words and language is evident in her prose, which is a joy to read.

*Reviewed by librarian Amy DelPo*

**Young Jane Young** (adult fiction, 2017)



By Gabrielle Zevin  
Sex and politics are at the forefront of this humorous but also thought-provoking novel. Congressional intern Aviva Grossman makes the mistake of having an affair with her boss, a married congressman. When the affair is exposed, the boss apologizes and then moves on, but poor Aviva is not allowed to leave it in the past. She is forever branded -- slut shamed and turned into a late-night talk show punchline. With echoes of Monica Lewinsky and other “other women,” Zevin takes aim at a culture that blames young women for these scandals but lets the men off the hook.

*Reviewed by librarian Amy DelPo*

**Genuine Fraud** (young adult fiction, 2017)



By E. Lockhart  
If you like smart thrillers, look no further. This book starts in the present and then goes back in time to unravel the mystery of two girls, who might or might not be friends, and a missing person, who might or might not be dead, and an imposter, who might or might not be dangerous. Each chapter takes one step back in time to reveal one more clue about a girl named Imogen ... or is her name really Jule? The book is snappy and tightly written. The plot is well crafted and intriguing. Like the best YA novels, it will appeal to teens and adults alike.

*Reviewed by librarian Amy DelPo*

**Felix Yz** (children’s fiction, 2017)



By Lisa Bunker  
Lisa Bunker’s absolute dynamo of a middle grade debut is genre-bending, binary-busting and dimension-hopping, and that’s just the first 25 pages! Eighth-grader Felix Yz was 3 when a freak lab accident killed his father and fused his body and mind with a bizarre and wise fourth-dimensional alien named Zyx. The accidental merging has left Felix with ever-worsening disabilities and the time has come for a risky separation procedure. Simultaneously full of fear and hope, Felix (and Zyx) launch a secret blog documenting what could be the last month of their lives: Felix’s crush on classmate Hector and his run-ins with bullies, relationships with family including his gender-fluid grandparent (Vera or Vern on alternating days) and the terrifying, liberating possibility of freedom from Zyx. This utterly unique and absolutely captivating tale is full of humor as well as beautiful truths about life and love, being different and conquering fears.

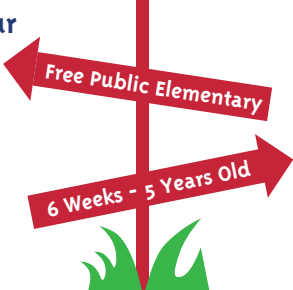
*Reviewed by librarian Gigi Pagliarulo*



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Above: Sterling Robinson leans over the piano at his new restaurant, Officers Club. Between the piano, the bar (bottom) and the patio (right), Officers Club aims to create a comfortable but upscale dining experience in Lowry.



# A New Spin on a Military Classic

By Courtney Drake-McDonough

Like most officers’ clubs around the country, the one on the former Lowry Air Force Base was where people gathered for a leisurely evening of camaraderie, elegant cocktails and good food at affordable prices. “It was the place you could get steak and lobster at a hamburger price. Making money wasn’t the goal. It was a way for people to recreate,” says Sterling Robinson, chef/proprietor of Officers Club, a new spin on an old concept in the Lowry neighborhood that opened in June. Just a few blocks away from the original military version, the new restaurant aims to capture that same slightly dressed up, grownup vibe.

Officers Club is the latest restaurant to join the Lowry Dining District, a project of Joe Vostrejs and City Street Investors. With a goal of connecting to the history and community

of the neighborhood, Robinson and Vostrejs conducted focus groups of residents to see what kind of eatery they felt was needed in the area. Officers Club is the response to the feedback, providing a place to have a more upscale dining experience.

The concept draws on the idea of an officers’ club but also on the supper clubs of the Midwest. “Farms were spread out and people didn’t see each other much so supper clubs started popping up as the Midwest developed,” explains Robinson. “The bartender was a central person in the concept – you’d relax, have a cocktail before dinner, enjoy live music and it would be a place for you to connect with your community.”

A sizable portion of the menu is devoted to cocktails with an emphasis on variations of the Old Fashioned, plus an extensive wine list. The food menu focuses on familiar, iconic food. “You’ll see New England

cheddar biscuits, a Hawaiian poke tower, St. Louis-style ribs, and our take on an Azar’s Big Boy hamburger,” says Robinson. “We really wanted to pay homage to the United States, the different regions and showcase the goodness of what is American cuisine.”

Officers Club will open with dinner service and will add lunch and brunch over the coming weeks. There will be live music on Friday and Saturday on the patio and a piano player inside the other days of the week.

“I’m big on value,” says Robinson. “We realize that although we want to be slightly elevated, we want you to feel good about coming in here.” Despite being on Colorado’s culinary scene for many years, Robinson knows his name isn’t as familiar as some other local chefs of note. “It’s probably good that nobody knows me because it makes me work harder. I’m in the people business. I’m not trying to retire tomorrow. I just want this restaurant to be around for the next 50 years.”

Officers Club is located at 84 Rampart Way, near Wings Over the Rockies Air & Space Museum.



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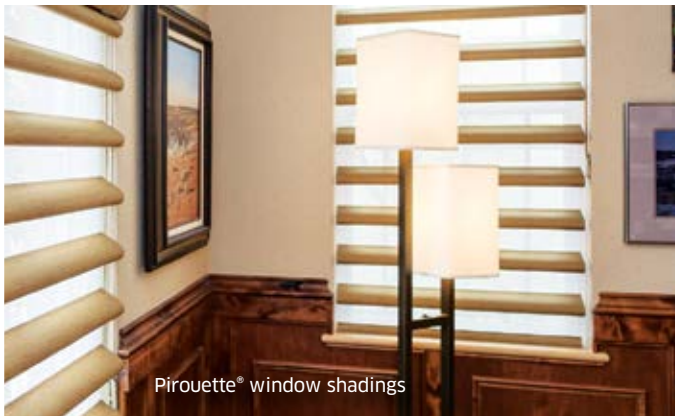
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# July & Early August Events

## NE DENVER/NW AURORA EVENTS

**To 7/1—Aurora Arts Festival.** 12-8pm, Fletcher Plaza, 9898 E. Colfax, Aurora Arts and Cultural District. 100 artists, makers and creative businesses. [www.auroraculture.org](http://www.auroraculture.org)

**To 8/25—Farmers' Market at Northfield.** Saturdays 8am-1pm. 47th Avenue and Main St. Spend \$50, get \$25 (including Farmers' Market receipts). [www.northfieldstapleton.com](http://www.northfieldstapleton.com)

**To 8/24—Stanley Farmers Market.** Fridays 9am-2pm. The Stanley Farmers Market takes place in The Field at Stanley every Friday this summer from 9AM to 2PM. <http://stanleymarketplace.com/events/>

**To 10/10—The DeLaney Mobile Farm Stand at Stanley.** The Plaza at Stanley Marketplace, Wednesdays, 1:30 to 3:30PM. <http://stanleymarketplace.com/events/>

**7/20 Friday—Aurora Summer in the City.** Aurora Municipal Center Great Lawn, 11:00am-2pm. Repeats 8/1, Mission Viejo Park. FREE. Healthy snacks, inflatables, board and field games, try golf and gymnastics and crafts <http://www.auroragov.org/events>

**7/4 Wednesday—Truck Stop: Food Truck Rally.** small-bite offerings, local craft beer, cocktail selections and a soundtrack of local music at Stanley Marketplace in Aurora with shade and seating. All day. <https://www.truckstoprally.com/>

**7/5 Thursday—Thursday Night Bazaar at Stanley Marketplace.** Shop and sip the 1st Thursday of the month, 5-10pm. [www.denverbazaar.com](http://www.denverbazaar.com)

**7/7 Saturday—Cockpit Demo Day.** Free with admission. Wings Over the Rockies Museum, Lowry. 10am-2pm. Repeats 8/4. [www.wingsmuseum.org](http://www.wingsmuseum.org)

**7/12 to 9/13—Career Program at Hope Communities, Inc.** 7 week career program series on Thursday evenings beginning 7/12, culminating in a hiring event. 4919 E. Thrill Place in Park Hill.

**7/11 Wednesday—Shelvis is in the Building!** Lori Muha "Shelvis" transforms into the rock and roll superstar Elvis. Park Hill Branch Library, 4705 Montview Blvd. July 11 at 6:30 p.m. <https://www.denverlibrary.org/event/shelvis-building>

**7/12 Thursday—Sam Gary Knitting Circle.** Bring your knitting or crochet project and join other at the Sam Gary fireplace. Repeats 7/24. Sam Gary Li-

Visit our online calendar  
to view more events or submit events  
[FrontPorchNE.com](http://FrontPorchNE.com) > Events

brary, 2961 Roslyn St. 720-865-0325, [asksamgarylibrary@denverlibrary.org](mailto:asksamgarylibrary@denverlibrary.org) [www.denverlibrary.org/event/knitting-circle-13](http://www.denverlibrary.org/event/knitting-circle-13)

**7/14 Saturday—Mile High Wine Festival.** 3-8pm. Unlimited wine tastings from 25+ Colo. wineries, live music, retail and food vendors, etc. At The Shops at Northfield. Tickets: King Soopers and milehighwinefest.com

**7/14 Saturday—How To Spot Fake News.** Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St., 80238 (720) 865-0325 2:00pm - 3:15pm. Learn the tricks and tools reference librarians use to evaluate the credibility of news stories. <https://www.denverlibrary.org>

**7/15 Sunday—2018 World Cup Finals Watch Party.** 8:45am. Dicks Sporting Goods Park, Free event limited to first 4500 people. 6000 Victory Way, Commerce City, CO 80022

**7/15 Sunday—Sam Gary Literary.** 2:00pm - 3:00pm 2961 Roslyn St. Book club meeting at Sam Gary once a month on Sundays; rotates between fiction, nonfiction, and reader's choice selections. <https://www.denverlibrary.org/event/sam-gary-literary-2>

**7/21 Saturday—The Urban Farm Ice Cream Social and 20th Anniversary Celebration.** 10am-12pm. Free ice cream with paid admission, \$5 ages 2 and up. [www.theurbanfarm.org](http://www.theurbanfarm.org)

**7/23 Monday—Pollinator Basics.** Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St. (720) 865-0325 2:00pm - 3:30pm Learn about different types of bees and wasps—honeybees, native bees, friendly wasps, useful wasps, defensive wasps—and how to help them out. Ages 10 and up. [www.denverlibrary.org](http://www.denverlibrary.org)

**8/5 Sunday—Ice Cream Social & Community Resource Fair.** Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St., 80238 (720) 865-0325 1:30pm - 3:00pm Meet neighbors and how to get involved in your community. Ice cream, a photo booth, and games. [www.denverlibrary.org](http://www.denverlibrary.org)

**To 8/5—City Park Jazz.** Sundays 6-8pm thru 8/5. City Park Pavilion. FREE. [www.cityparkjazz.org](http://www.cityparkjazz.org)

## SEASONAL/HOLIDAY EVENTS

**7/2 Monday—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.fourmilepark.org](http://www.fourmilepark.org)

**7/3 Tuesday—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](http://www.civiccenterconservancy.org)

**7/4 Wednesday—2016 Freedom Run 5K.** 8am. Day of registration opens 6:45am. Evergreen Middle School, Evergreen. [www.freedom-runrace.org](http://www.freedom-runrace.org), [www.mtevans.org](http://www.mtevans.org)

**7/4 Wednesday—9th Annual Park Hill 4th of July Parade and Street Fair.** 1:30pm Park Hill, 23rd Ave. from Dexter to Kearney. Street fair on Kearney after the parade between 22nd and 23rd. [www.parkhillparade.org](http://www.parkhillparade.org)

**7/4 Wednesday—Aurora 4th of July Spectacular.** Aurora Municipal Center, 15151 E. Alameda P'kway. live music, fireworks at dusk. [www.auroragov.org](http://www.auroragov.org)

**7/4 Wednesday—Colorado Rapids vs. Seattle.** Fireworks after game. Family fun zone 5pm, game 7pm. [www.coloradorapids.com](http://www.coloradorapids.com)

**7/4 Tuesday—Denver Outlaws vs. Boston Cannons.** 7pm. Sports Authority Field. Fireworks after game. [www.denveroutlaws.com](http://www.denveroutlaws.com)

**7/4 Wednesday—Elitch Gardens.** Fireworks at dusk.

**7/4 Wednesday—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](http://www.evergreenmusicfestival.org)

**7/4 Wednesday—Liberty 4 Mile and**

**Firecracker Kids Run.** 8:30am. Washington Park. [www.liberty4mile.com](http://www.liberty4mile.com)

**7/3 to 7/4—Fireworks at Hudson Gardens.** Concert featuring Neil Diamond tribute band "Super Diamond" and Firefall with fireworks following. Tickets [www.hudsongardens.org](http://www.hudsongardens.org)

**7/4 Wednesday—Olde Town Arvada Spirit of America 4th of July Festival.** Free family events. Fireworks at dusk. [www.arvada.org](http://www.arvada.org)

## CIVIC MEETINGS AND EVENTS

**7/14 Saturday—Moms Demand Action For Gun Sense In America.** 10am at the Be3 Church, 1195 Newport St. Discussion of Nov. election and what you can do to help get gun-sense candidates elected throughout the area. [momsdemandaction.org](http://momsdemandaction.org), [everytown.org](http://everytown.org)

## DENVER METRO EVENTS

**Arvada Center Summer Concert Series.** See website for lineup and dates. [www.arvadacenter.org](http://www.arvadacenter.org)

(continued on page 24)

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CHANGE, YOU ARE  
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NOT AN AMBULANCE RIDE  
AWAY — FROM ROSE L&D





(continued from page 23) **To 8/13—Film on the Rocks.** 7 pm. Red Rocks Amphitheater. Live music and movie select Monday evenings thru summer. Tickets from \$15. Schedule: [www.redrocksonline.com](http://www.redrocksonline.com)

**To 8/26—Shady Grove Concert Series.** Wednesdays through 8/26. Four Mile Historic Park. 6:30pm. [www.swallowhillmusic.org](http://www.swallowhillmusic.org), [www.fourmilepark.org](http://www.fourmilepark.org)

**To 8/5—Colorado Renaissance Festival.** 8 weekends. Larkspur. [www.coloradorennaissance.comvv](http://www.coloradorennaissance.comvv)

**To 8/6—Monday Movie Madness at Infinity Park.** Free Movies, Infinity Park, select Mondays, Glendale. Gates open 7pm, movies 8pm. [www.infinityparkatglendale.com](http://www.infinityparkatglendale.com)

**To 10/13—Free composting classes.** Wednesdays and Saturdays thru mid-Oct. Classes at Denver Compost Demonstration Site, Gove Community Garden, 13th Ave. and Colorado Blvd. Sign up: 303.292.9900 or [www.dug.org/compost](http://www.dug.org/compost).

**7/6 to 7/8—Cherry Creek Arts Festival.** [www.cherryarts.org](http://www.cherryarts.org)

**7/6 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](http://www.denver.org/things-to-do/denver-arts-culture/denver-art-districts)

**7/6 Friday—Mozart Under Moonlight at Arvada Center.** Presented by Colorado Symphony. 7:30 pm. [www.arvadacenter.org](http://www.arvadacenter.org)

**7/7 Saturday—Denver Dumb Friends League Catwalk.** 21 and older beer tasting event at the Quebec Street Shelter. Tickets \$20. Waived adoption fees for adult cats 1 year and older the week before Catwalk. 6am-9pm. 2080 S. Quebec. 303.751.5772. [www.ddfl.org](http://www.ddfl.org)

**7/13 to 7/15—Colorado Irish Festival.** Largest Irish celebration in Rocky Mountains. Traditional Irish music, dancing, drama, storytelling, games, food/drink. Littleton, Clement Park. [www.coloradoirishfestival.org](http://www.coloradoirishfestival.org)

**7/13 to 7/15—Colorado Black Arts Festival.** City Park West. [www.colbaf.org](http://www.colbaf.org)

**7/13 to 7/15—Slow Food Nations.** Workshops, tastings, tours, kids' activities. Select events are free, open to public. Various locations:

Larimer Square, Union Station, Tattered Cover, etc. [www.slowfoodnations.org](http://www.slowfoodnations.org)

**7/14 Saturday—Drums Along the Rockies.** 6:30pm. Sports Authority Field at Mile High. Tickets: [www.ascendperformingarts.org](http://www.ascendperformingarts.org)

**7/15 to 7/19—Denver County Fair.** National Western Complex. [www.denvercountyfair.org](http://www.denvercountyfair.org)

**7/19 Thursday—Happy Birthday Mrs. Brown Garden Party.** Molly Brown House. Celebrating Molly Brown's 151st birthday. 6-8pm. \$20, recommended for ages 12+. Music, lawn games, cake and punch. [www.mollybrown.org](http://www.mollybrown.org)

**7/21 to 7/22—Evergreen Summerfest.** [www.evergreenarts.org](http://www.evergreenarts.org)

**7/26 to 7/29—Arapahoe County Fair.** Arapahoe County Fairgrounds, Aurora. [www.arapahoecountyfair.com](http://www.arapahoecountyfair.com)

**7/26 to 7/29—Buffalo Bill Days.** Wild West show, car show, mutton bustin', arts/crafts. Parfet Park, downtown Golden. [www.buffalobilldays.com](http://www.buffalobilldays.com)

**7/27 to 7/29—Denver Post Underground Music Showcase.** S. Broadway. 400+ bands play in 30+ venues. [www.theums.com](http://www.theums.com)

**7/27 to 7/29—Evergreen Jazz Festival.** [www.evergreenjazz.org](http://www.evergreenjazz.org)

**7/28 to 7/29—Denver Dragon Boat Festival.** 14th annual. Denver's Sloan's Lake Park. [www.cdbf.org](http://www.cdbf.org)

## HEALTH AND WELLNESS

**7/14 Saturday—Sand Creek 1/2 Marathon and 5K/10K.** Stapleton Central Park. [www.featonthestreet.com](http://www.featonthestreet.com)

**7/15 Sunday—World Soccer Celebration 5K.** 8am, Dick's Sporting Goods Park. [www.dickssportinggoodspark.com](http://www.dickssportinggoodspark.com)

**7/17 Tuesday—An Evening with Harry Connick, Jr. and Jill Connick.** Free event to educate people 50 and older on colon cancer and early detection, 6-8pm. The Cable Center. Space is limited. All event registrations must be confirmed in advance at [New50.com/](http://New50.com/) Denver. Hors d'oeuvres and desserts.

**7/21 Saturday—Barre on the Rocks.** Red Rocks, 7-8am. \$14. Tickets: [www.redrocksonline.com](http://www.redrocksonline.com)

**7/21 Saturday—CF Climb Denver.** Sports Authority Field at Mile High Stadium. Stair climb benefits Cystic Fibrosis. 8am. [www.cff.org/rocky-mountain/](http://www.cff.org/rocky-mountain/)

**7/21 Saturday—Scibabe's Guide to Bad Science Detection.** This giggle-inducing talk will ensure you never need to waste another minute or dollar on bad science. Lowry Conference Center, 7:00 pm. Secular Hub members: \$12 in advance, \$15 at the door; Nonmembers: \$20 tickets at <https://www.secularhub.org> <https://www.secularhub.org>

**7/29 Sunday—4th Annual Dash for Smiles Walk/Run.** Stapleton Central Park. [www.dashforsmiles.org](http://www.dashforsmiles.org)

**8/4 Saturday—Run for the Ring 5K & Kids Fun Run.** Barbara Davis Center for Diabetes, 1775 Aurora Ct Denver 80045 [www.runsignup.com/runforthering](http://www.runsignup.com/runforthering)

## KIDS AND FAMILIES

**Memorial Day to Labor Day—History Colorado Kids Free Admission.** Free admission for youth 15 and under when wearing a baseball jersey. [www.historycolorado.org](http://www.historycolorado.org)

**July—Denver Puppet Theater.** Rapunzel. [www.denverpuppettheater.com](http://www.denverpuppettheater.com)

**To 8/11—Denver Public Libraries Summer of Reading.** Free activities, suggestions for summer reading, incentives for Denver kids, 3 age groups. FREE. [www.summerofreading.org](http://www.summerofreading.org)

**7/7 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](http://www.homedepot.com)

**Sam Gary Library Events for Kids, Families and Teens** Sam Gary Branch Library, 2961 Roslyn St., 80238. 720.865.0325 [samgary@denverlibrary.org](mailto:samgary@denverlibrary.org) [www.denverlibrary.org](http://www.denverlibrary.org). Some events require registration, please check website.

**7/10 Tuesday—The Funny Bunny Magic Show with Magician and Educator Connie Elstun.** 45 minute interactive magic show starring a live magic rabbit and dove.

**7/11 Wednesday—Ceramic Painted Mugs.** 2:00pm-3:00pm. ages 9 to 17. Registration is required and space is limited.

**7/17 Tuesday—Animal Adaptations w/ Safari Sally.** Meet a variety of live animals up close; Invertebrates and reptiles from around the world are featured.

**7/18 Wednesday—Tie Dyed T-Shirts.** 2:00pm-3:00pm. registration required, space is limited.

**7/20 Friday—Movement Storytime w/ Colorado Ballet.** 2:00-3:00pm. Movement games, songs and basic ballet vocabulary. Students will learn about a variety of dance concepts, and the class will develop spatial awareness and problem solving, while strengthening the body and brain.

**7/24 Tuesday—LocoMotion: The Science & Circus Arts Show.** 2:00-3:00pm National Juggling Champion Peter Davison performs amazing juggling, balancing, unicycle riding, and clowning

**7/25 Wednesday—Cupcake Decorating w/ the Church of Cupcakes.** 2:00pm - 3:00pm. Learn the basics of cupcake decorating. Ages 9-17. Registration is required, space is limited.

**7/31 Tuesday—All American Street Organ Jamboree.** 2:00-3:00pm Master magician Mark Strivings brings the entire family a festival of music, laughter, fun, magic and more.

**8/2 to 8/9—Teen Digital Art Workshop.** A 2-part workshop series on digital art creation for ages 11-18 or grades 6-12. Participants will use Wacom drawing tablets to create their own digital art pieces. Registration required.

**7/3 to 7/31—Storytime for Preschoolers.** Tuesdays at 10:30am, Free. The Bookies bookstore, 4315 E. Mississippi Ave (303) 759-1117 [info@thebookies.com](mailto:info@thebookies.com) [www.thebookies.com](http://www.thebookies.com)

**7/3 to 7/31—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](mailto:education@fourmilepark.org). [www.fourmilepark.org](http://www.fourmilepark.org)

**7/6 Friday—Four Mile Historic Park Hay Bales and Tall Tales.** 12-1pm. 715 S. Forest St. 720.865.0800. Free with admission. [www.fourmilepark.org](http://www.fourmilepark.org)

**7/8 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](http://www.auroragov.org/nature)

**7/3 to 8/28—Tuesdays in July and August—Four Mile Historic Park Small Settlers.** Ages 2-5 accompanied by parent/caregiver. 9-10am. \$5/child, adults free. Members free. 715 S. Forest St. Advance register: 720.865.0814 or [education@fourmilepark.org](mailto:education@fourmilepark.org). [www.fourmilepark.org](http://www.fourmilepark.org)

**7/21 Saturday—Denver Botanic Gardens Lavender Fest at Chatfield Farms.** 9am-5pm. 800+ blooming lavender plants. Free admission, farm tours, music, kids' activities, and food for purchase; educational programs on lavender for additional charge. Pre-register on website or day of if space available. 8500 W. Deer Creek Canyon Rd. [www.botanicgardens.org](http://www.botanicgardens.org)

**7/19 Thursday—Youth Journalism Day.** 4th-8th-grade students, 7:30am-5pm. Metropolitan State Univ., Denver. Spend the day with professionals learning about story writing, interviews, writing tips and photography. 303.954.3974 or [www.ColoradoNIE.com](http://www.ColoradoNIE.com)

**7/28 to 7/29—Rocky Mountain Train Show.** Forney Transportation Museum. 80+ tables of trains, all scales and gauges. 4303 Brighton Blvd. [www.rockymountaintrainshow.com](http://www.rockymountaintrainshow.com)

## LECTURES AND CLASSES

**7/3 Tuesday—Active Minds Presents: Putin's Russia.** Jewish Community Center, 350 S. Dahlia St. Denver 80246 10am-11am. Free. <http://activeminds.com>

**7/12 Thursday—Active Minds Presents: The Future of Bees.** 6:45-7:45pm. Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St. [www.activeminds.com](http://www.activeminds.com)

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**7/21 Saturday—Tales from an Uncertain World: What Other Assorted Disasters Can Teach Us About Climate Change.** Author L.S. Gardiner will share her quest to learn how people deal with disasters as we attempt to quell the climate catastrophe and be resilient. Books available for sale and signing. 2:30 p.m. at the Park Hill Branch Library, 4705 Montview Blvd. /www.denverlibrary.org

**7/26 Thursday—Active Minds Presents: The Year 1968.** 6:45-7:45pm. Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St. www.activeminds.com

**8/4 Saturday—Denver’s Historic Mountain Parks System.** Historic overview of the creation of this unique park system along with its predicaments and potential. Park Hill Branch Library, 4705 Montview. www.denverlibrary.org

MUSEUMS

**Memorial Day thru Labor Day--Play Ball!** A Celebration of America’s game. Kids 15 and under wear a baseball jersey for free admission. History Colorado Center, 1200 Broadway. www.historycolorado.org

**To 8/5—Drawn to Glamour: Fashion Illustrations by Jim Howard at the Denver Art Museum.** Special exhibit included with museum admission. www.denverartmuseum.org

**To 9/3—Dead Sea Scrolls.** Denver Museum of Nature and Science. Special exhibit, Separate ticket required. www.dmns.org

**To 9/16—New Territory: Landscape Photography Today.** The Art of Summer. Denver Art Museum www.denverartmuseum.org

**7/6 Friday—Conversation with Curator—Ganesha: The Playful Protector at the Denver Art Museum.** Conversations with Curators feature lively discussions with different curators on the first Friday of the month. Free with admission. www.denverartmuseum.org

**7/10 Tuesday—Drop-In Drawing at the Denver Art Museum.** 2nd Tuesday of the month, 1-3pm. Free with museum admission. All levels of experience welcome. Drawing materials provided or bring your own, restrictions apply see website. www.denverartmuseum.org

**7/13 Friday—Meditation in The Museum at the Denver Art Museum.** An hour of mindfulness meditation in the galleries. Chairs, yoga mats, and meditation cushions provided. No registration necessary, but space is limited. www.denverartmuseum.org

**7/19 Thursday—Science Lounge.** Denver Museum of Nature and Science. Cocktails/entertainment every 3rd Thurs. of month. 6:30-9:30pm. \$8/members; \$10/nonmembers. www.dmns.org

**7/27 Friday—Untitled: Gregg Deal at the Denver Art Museum.** Monthly late night program for adults featuring workshops, performances and tours. College students with valid ID receive 2-for-1 admission to Untitled Final Fridays. www.denverartmuseum.org

**8/1 Wednesday—Colorado Day at History Colorado Center.** Celebrate Colorado’s birthday with music, dancing, food and free admission.

MUSEUMS—SCFD/TARGET FREE DAYS

**7/3 Tuesday—Children’s Museum Free Target Tuesday.** 4-8pm. www.cmdenver.org

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

**7/13 Friday—Four Mile Historic Park Free Day.** 12pm-4pm. www.fourmilepark.org

**7/19 Monday—Denver Botanic Gardens Free Day.** www.botanicgardens.org

**7/27 Friday—Clyfford Still Museum.** Free admission last Friday monthly all day. Free admission every Fri. 5-8pm. 1250 Bannock St. www.clyffordstillmuseum.org

**8/4 Saturday—Denver Art Museum Free Day.** www.denverartmuseum.org

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

**7/5 Thursday--Denver Museum of Nature & Science Free Day, 4-10pm** www.dmns.org

THEATRE

**To 7/7—Alice’s Adventure in Wonderland.** Aurora Fox Arts Center, 9900 E. Colfax Ave. www.aurorafoxartscenter.org

**To 7/8—Agnes of God.** Vintage Theatre. 1468 Dayton St., Aurora Cultural Arts District. www.vintagetheatre.org

**To 7/14—Elizabeth Rex.** Bug Theater 3654 Navajo St. www.lostandfoundproductions.net

**To 8/5—The Bridges of Madison County.** Vintage Theatre. 1468 Dayton St.,Aurora Cultural Arts District. www.vintagetheatre.org

**7/27 to 8/18—War of the Worlds: The Panic Broadcast.** John Hand Theatre 7653 E. 1st Place www.lostandfoundproductions.net

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# Lowry Shop Celebrates the Art of Coffee



Hannah Ulbrich (above) opened a second Copper Door Coffee Roasters in Hangar 2 in Lowry where customers (left) can drink coffee and get some work done while looking out at the air museum's B-52 jet bomber.

By Laurie Dunklee

“Denver coffee is some of the best in the U.S. right now,” says Hannah Ulbrich, owner of Copper Door Coffee Roasters, which opened in

late January in Lowry. “We have an amazing number of coffee companies pushing each other to do great things. We all share our knowledge; a collaborative group of business owners raises the bar.”



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Ulbrich, an East Montclair resident and mother of two children, got into the coffee business in 2013 after teaching literature for 10 years. “I worked as a barista in college, while earning my master’s in education. Now I bring my teaching experience into the business by sharing what I know about specialty coffee.”

The Lowry shop, in Hangar 2 across from the Wings Over the Rockies Air and Space Museum, joins Ulbrich’s first location in The Yard development at W. 1st Ave. and Santa Fe, opened last fall. The coffee sold at both shops is roasted at the Santa Fe location.

Copper Door Coffee Roasters is Denver’s only 100% woman-owned coffee roasting company, says Ulbrich. “I know many amazing female roasters from San Francisco, Los Angeles and Chicago through an organization called She’s the Roaster. We send each other samples for opinions. The best advice I got was to make mistakes, because that’s how you learn. I burned a lot of coffee and threw out a lot. Good coffee roasting uses the senses: you learn to smell it, hear it and see it change colors.”

Ulbrich is the advisory chair of the Rocky Mountain Craft Coffee Alliance, a head judge for the Specialty Coffee Association’s Roasting Competition, and a certified coffee taster.

“Specialty coffee has earned a score of 80 or higher out of 100. It’s graded by a professional ‘Q grader,’ like an advanced sommelier, on-site at the farm before being exported,” said Ulbrich. “The set criteria include no mold, insect damage or rocks in the bag of beans. Whereas Folgers and 7-11 coffee are non-specialty coffees—that’s why they are cheaper.”

Copper Door carries 10-12 single-origin coffees at one time, as well as custom blends.

“When we need to bring in a coffee, like a citrus-y or a floral, we isolate regions to get them and request samples. Then we roast, cup and decide.”

Ulbrich uses 100% wind power to run the shops and the roasting. “We subscribe to a windfarm in Fort Collins. I have 8- and 10-year-old kids and I’d like the world to be a better place for them. We use lots of electricity so it’s nice to have it sourced in an ethical way.”

In addition to serving coffees in the stores, Copper Door also sells whole beans to restaurants and customers. A subscription service delivers coffee to customers nationwide. Classes offered at The Yard location teach about the fundamentals of roasting and cupping, a specific way to brew and taste coffee.

Copper Door Coffee Roasters, copperdoorcoffee.com, is at 7581 E. Academy Blvd., 720.432.1891.





# Friendly New Bookstore Comes to NW Aurora



Heather Friend (above) and her husband Stephen Friend run the Turn a Page Bookshop with the help of a few fuzzy friends like this giraffe and teddy bear who live amongst the thousands of books.



## Turn a Page This Summer

By Melinda Pearson

With all the excitement surrounding the opening of Stanley Marketplace in northwest Aurora, the quiet opening of a second-hand bookshop just down the street may have gone unnoticed. Since September 2016, Heather and Stephen Friend have been operating Turn a Page Bookshop just west of the corner of Dallas and Montview. For the Friends, opening the bookshop is a homegrown, family affair, a natural outgrowth of their relationship.

Stephen had worked in receiving at the LoDo Tattered Cover for years and had been moved to the Cherry Creek location in 2005 when back-office operations moved there. Heather worked the floor at the Cherry Creek Tattered Cover seasonally, to supplement her income from teaching. “He started working on the floor while he was there and was pulling books

for return, and he was always doing it in my section,” recounted Heather. After he got up the nerve to ask her out, the relationship blossomed, and they were married a few months later, in December 2005.

In 2016, family connections brought them to the modest storefront in Aurora that used to be a warehouse, and immediately they thought of a bookstore. “Stephen wanted to do it,” said Heather. “I wasn’t even going to be a part of it. He

wanted to run it. We started setting up, and I helped him with that, and then he told me one day, ‘Clearly, this is your bookstore.’”



She continued, laughing, “Now we have this ongoing, silly little fight that I see this as his bookstore and I’m working to help him with this, and he says, ‘I think of this as your bookstore and I think I’m just helping you out!’”

But since Stephen has a full-time job with DPS managing its science resource center, day-to-day operations fall to Heather, so far the sole employee, who brings her past

experience as a teacher into the process. “I get to teach here, too,” says Heather. “I love watching children learning to love to read. It is the best day when a kid comes in here and sees a book on the shelf and is like, ‘Oh my God! I love that book!’”

Turn a Page has a whole section

devoted to children’s literature and offers an I I am story time on Saturday mornings. They’ve partnered with Westerly Creek and its summer reading program, “Book It to the Creek,” by donating 10% of related book purchases back to the school.

And their general book offerings are robust, with the cozy space filled floor to ceiling with used books in all categories of fiction and non-fiction. The collection of over 12,000 volumes came largely from estate sales, donations and purchases, and Turn a Page offers customers the option of trading in used books for store credit to continue building its collection.

Turn a Page also welcomes book club meetings at the shop after hours. “I love being able to do that,” says Heather. Book clubs bring in their own food and beverages, and Turn a Page can special order books for them at a 15% new book discount, she added.

Find Turn a Page at 9575 E. Montview Blvd. Tu-Fr 10-6, Sa-Su 12-4. Contact [turnapagebookshop@gmail.com](mailto:turnapagebookshop@gmail.com) for more information.

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# The SUN Spot

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SUN Meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 6:30pm (Block Captain meeting) and 7:30pm (Board meeting) at the Central Park Recreation Center, 9651 MLK Jr. Blvd. For information about SUN, visit [www.stapletonunitedneighbors.com](http://www.stapletonunitedneighbors.com). To contact SUN or confirm meeting time, email [stapletonunitedneighbors@gmail.com](mailto:stapletonunitedneighbors@gmail.com)

## July SUN News and Events

Amanda Allshouse, President, Stapleton United Neighbors

### SUN June Outreach Meetings Recap

The June Outreach meeting began with updates from Denver police. Lt. Ian Culverhouse introduced his replacement, Lt. Kevin Hines, the new lieutenant for the Stapleton area. Culverhouse suggested summertime safety measures for attendees: Remind childcare providers or any other persons staying in the area to keep house and car doors closed and locked. If a remote garage door opener is taken from a car, immediately throw away all other remotes and replace the set. Finally, a special unit is funded by Denver Police to issue citations for fireworks, which are illegal in Denver; if this unit is dispatched, residents will receive a citation.

Michelle Wingfield from the Central Park Recreation Center shared information about a running group

that meets at the rec center Thursday mornings at 5:55am to run 3-6 miles. Join this group on Facebook at Northeast Denver Running Connect, or in person on Thursday mornings.

Librarian Lily Kosmicki from Denver's Sam Gary Branch discussed summer programming, including 2pm Tuesday presentations for kids of all ages; 2pm Wednesday crafts for teens; a July 14 "How to Spot Fake News" seminar; and Monday, July 23 "Pollinator Basics" for aspiring apiculturists or anyone who finds bees interesting. On August 5 from 1:30 to 3pm, the library will host an activity fair for the whole community, where interested persons can learn more information about regional organizations and/or eat ice cream. SUN will have a table at this event and welcomes all neighbors to stop by.

Additional updates on late June events were provided: parenting seminar on June 26 and Bike to Work Day on June 27.

Discussion at the end of the meeting was about the previous month's community vote on the organization name, Stapleton United Neighbors. SUN received feedback on this vote from residents who would have preferred additional modes of participat-

ing. In the remaining months of 2018, SUN will revisit voting procedures and announce any planned changes in procedures for any future bylaw vote.

### SUN June board meeting Recap

The SUN board voted for officers: Amanda Allshouse (President), Geoff Horsfall (Vice President), Bryan Penny (Treasurer) and Mark Mehringer (Secretary). Committee participation was discussed, with residents and board members enthusiastically volunteering for the Diversity and Inclusion Committee. A more structured approach is planned for communication and community outreach, and board members from across all neighborhoods in Stapleton will now be liaisons for block captains in each neighborhood. These committees, as well as sustainability, education, safety, transportation, and parks and greenspace will present an action plan for the coming year at the August SUN board meeting. There will not be a third Tuesday SUN Outreach/Board meeting in July. Committees will be working throughout the month on what will be presented at the August monthly meeting. Residents interested in future involvement are encouraged to attend (August 21, 7:30pm, Central Park Rec Center Multipurpose room).

### Sustainability Committee Upcoming Events

*Monthly Sustainability Meeting and Happy Hour:* Tuesday July 10, 6:30pm. La Sandia – Northfield (8340 Northfield Blvd). All neighbors concerned about sustainability are invited to join together to help plan events in the community as part of the City of Denver's Sustainable

Neighborhoods Program: Stapleton. For more information, email : [sunsustainability@gmail.com](mailto:sunsustainability@gmail.com).

*Open Space Clean Up,* Saturday August 11: SUN is working with Sand Creek Greenway for an open space clean up during Denver Days. Additional support will be provided by Runners Roost and Cheluna Brewing Co. for a volunteer day at the Smith Road Trailhead (10450 Smith Rd) followed by a benefit for Sand Creek Regional Greenway at Cheluna Brewing. Volunteers will meet at the Smith Road Trailhead of Sand Creek Greenway at 10am. Projects for the day may include trail repair, invasive species removal, planting native species, cleaning out flood refuse and trash, painting over graffiti. At noon volunteers will celebrate having completed hard work by visiting Cheluna Brewing in Stanley Marketplace. Eligible participants need to be age 5 or older, wear closed-toe shoes, and bring a water bottle. Volunteers will be given water and snacks, as well as all tools and work gloves. The Smith Road Trailhead can be reached by car .6 miles west on Smith Rd. from Havana St., or on foot or bicycle via trails north of the Westerly Creek and Sand Creek confluence.

### New Plaque at Eastbridge Town Center Honoring Marlon Green

Around the time of what would have been Marlon Green's 89th birthday in June, a commemorative plaque was installed with the two existing photo panels: "Breaking the Color Barrier Denver resident Marlon D. Green was the first African-American pilot hired by a major U.S. airline (Denver-based

Continental Airlines, 1964). Pictured left with parents Lucy and McKinley at Stapleton Airport, and right with co-pilot Ken Brown." SUN sends much gratitude to Evergreen Development for making such a meaningful contribution to the community with this space in the Eastbridge Town Center. The plaque and panels are visible on the north side of Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd between Havana St. and Geneva Ct. from the King Soopers parking lot.

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## Lemons, Sugar, Water... Business License?

# Setting up a Lemonade Stand to the Letter of the Law in Denver

By Charles Borsos

Technically, even a child's lemonade stand falls under the same rules and regulations as other temporary businesses. The Denver Police Department said in a recent Facebook post it doesn't go out of its way to enforce "matters of this nature." However, after they shut down a stand in Stapleton following complaints, it begs the question: What is required to set up a lemonade stand in full compliance with Denver's ordinances?

The first step is determining the type of temporary business license you need. Eric Escudero, director of communications for Denver Excise and Licenses, said in an email that the two following licensing procedures "cover the laws for selling lemonade anywhere in Denver."

**Peddler**—Perhaps the simplest way to get lemonade to the masses is selling prepackaged soft drinks as a peddler. Because the drink was manufactured and sealed in a facility that meets food safety guidelines, that product can be sold to the public directly.

**Forms required:** Food peddler application, signed guidelines form, criminal history form, affidavit of lawful presence, two character references, a Colorado Bureau of Investigation name check and photo ID. Children 12 and over require a peddler sponsor.

**Fees:** Application: \$25; License: \$50; Colorado Bureau of Investigation Name Check: \$6.85.

**Restaurant-Temporary**—If you fancy yourself a gourmand and prepare your own lemonade (either fresh-squeezed or powdered), you are supposed to procure a temporary restaurant license and the additional food preparation requirements.

While this license might appear to require fewer forms, the requirement for an inspected kitchen or "commissary" is a significant hurdle. To ensure food safety, items have to be prepared at a food-safe kitchen and the lemonade stand itself is required to have things like hot and cold running water.

**Forms Required:** Affidavit of Commissary, Temporary Restaurant Acknowledgment Letter, Federal Employee Identification Number and a list of all events the business is planned to operate at.

**Fees:** License Fee: \$100 plus \$10 per day for the first 5 days. Fees can be waived if all proceeds go to a nonprofit.

A final consideration is location. The lemonade stand shut down in Stapleton was also near a park. To operate within 300 feet of City and County of Denver parks and parkways, there is an additional permit with a \$25 application fee and either a \$100 one-day fee or a \$200 monthly permit.

In the end, is it really feasible or even worth it for a child to go through all these steps just to set up a lemonade stand? That's up for debate. But what this process does show is the great lengths to which others operating a temporary business must go before setting up their stands.



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# Baseball Beyond the Ball Field



Chief creative officer, Jason Hanson (above) walks through the Play Ball! exhibit, pausing at the Hank Aaron display on the left in the main hall. (right) Hanson shows museum guests Daniel Murphy and Kathleen Brockel a bat and glove Roberto Clemente used. The three discussed the backwards ways the press at the time covered this highly successful Puerto Rican ball player.



sized photograph of Gehrig in the background and adds the real bats to flesh out the scene. And, because each bat comes from a unique player, within that single swing, the museum covers a whole arc of bats and the players that swung them. Additionally, there are some elements of the museum that even the Hall of Fame doesn't have. One display shows memorabilia from players ineligible to be in the Hall of Fame. Banned players like "Shoeless" Joe Jackson and Mark McGuire are critical characters in baseball's story.

While the exhibit has obvious appeal for baseball fans, Hanson says, "We tried to make a conscious effort with the artifacts we selected and the stories we told on the labels to go on beyond the ball field wherever we could."

Items like the receipt for flowers Joe DiMaggio bought for Marilyn Monroe or the poster for the 1942 Gary Cooper film *The Pride of the Yankees* touch on the pervasiveness of baseball in American society. "Everyone has a favorite baseball movie," says Hanson—just as everyone has seen the larger than life players on car adverts or soft drink labels.

The Bond Bread advertisement with Jackie Robinson and his family is of particular interest in that regard. Hanson says it was the first time anyone ran a national campaign using images of an African American family.

By Charlie Borsos

The combination of the "spectacular material" and in-house expertise allowed the museum to pull together an impressive exhibit on a truncated schedule, says Jason Hanson, chief creative officer at History Colorado. After starting last fall, they were able to open in April before the first pitch of the 2018 baseball season.

The result was a "great demonstration of what we are capable of. . . . We set a really high bar we can continue to meet," says Hanson, as the museum aims to produce most of its exhibits in-house going forward.

Play Ball! was itself designed to reach high marks set by other baseball museums and exhibits. Hanson directly

compares History Colorado's exhibit with the Baseball Hall of Fame: "We wanted you to know you were in a Hall of Fame caliber exhibit. There are things here you could go all the way to Cooperstown to see . . . you won't feel cheated coming here."

For starters, Play Ball! has a remarkable collection of bats on display. From a bat used by "Wee Willie" Keeler in the 1890s to one used by contemporary Ichiro Suzuki, they cover a lot of territory. But the museum also wanted to do something special with the display.

"Usually you see bats on pegs against a wall or in a case. We wanted to bring them to life," says Hanson. Here the bats are suspended in glass, tracing the path of Lou Gehrig's swing. It takes the motion from the flat life-

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This commercial copy of Babe Ruth’s glove stands as an example of Ruth’s early celebrity status. Before there were many other super stars, people wanted to play with Ruth’s glove. (Below) This advertisement used Jackie Robinson’s fame to sell bread and was the first national ad campaign to feature a Black family.



Denver was itself home to some early integrated baseball teams and games (see article on page 18). The Play Ball! exhibit wraps up with displays on the early history of Colorado baseball and ends with the establishment of the Colorado Rockies and their 2007 World Series run.

Play Ball! at the History Colorado Center will run until the end of baseball season—and for the rest of the summer, fans under 15 wearing a baseball jersey can check out the museum for free.



### Colorado Baseball History:

Just two years after Denver was itself established, the town held its first baseball game. As part of its section on Colorado Baseball History, Play Ball! walks visitors from of the earliest team, the Denver Denvers (top right) to the Rockies and their 2007 World Series attempt (bottom).

Established in 1886, the Denvers preceded the more than 200 teams that flooded area ball fields by 1900. Teams represented neighborhoods, factories, church groups and more.

The Bayly-Underhill team (pictured second) was one such team. Bayly-Underhill was a large manufacturer of work clothes. Hiring both men and women for the work, the baseball team was mixed.

Colorado was also the home of several Black baseball teams, such as the Denver White Elephants (pictured third)—one of the most successful and popular teams in the region during before World War Two. *For more on Black baseball in Colorado, check out our article on page 18.*



The city's first organized team, the Denvers, formed in 1886.



Both boys and girls played on the Bayly-Underhill Company-sponsored baseball team.



Denver's first semi-professional baseball team, the White Elephants, in 1928. Some team members went on to play professionally in the Negro Leagues.



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