

Front Porch

COLORADO

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

SEPTEMBER 2018

NORTHEAST DENVER

Cancer Breakthroughs

University of Colorado researchers are making lifesaving breakthroughs with the help of community fundraising.



“Opening Doors” sculptures by Christopher Weed are a fitting backdrop for University of Colorado researchers Dr. James DeGregori (left) and Dr. Daniel Pollyea (right) who are working on treatment for leukemia. Stapleton dentist Dr. Brett Kessler (second from right) has been fundraising for leukemia for almost two decades. Paige McCoy is a leukemia survivor.

University of Colorado researchers have had “unbelievable” results in a clinical trial for a type of leukemia, with 80% to 90% of patients going into complete remission. Surprisingly, much of the funding for such

research comes not from the government but through grants from private fundraising. Read about these researchers and a local effort that is underway to add \$100,000 to their funding. *Stories by Laurie Dunklee and Melinda Pearson on pages 12 and 13.*



A Look at Voting Behavior

Americans don't vote. At least that's the story that keeps getting told. But Colorado and northeast Denver voter turnout is high, especially when compared to numbers at the national level. This series of

three brief articles on voting shows turnout by precinct in northeast Denver, offers some reflections on voting by experts, and explores the security of Colorado ballots. *Stories by Charles Borsos start on page 6.*

A Local Mom Finds Her Place on Stage

Carla Weikel started her Just a Girl band as a tribute to Gwen Stefani's No Doubt band from the 1990s and 2000s.



Story by Laurie Dunklee on page 30.



At McAuliffe on August 4, as students stood in line to register holding 20 pounds or more of school supplies, others enjoyed the fun of dunking a teacher. Above, sixth grade math teacher Ashton Hougen prepares herself for another dunking as a student throws a ball at the target. A voice was heard calling out, "She gives a lot of homework."

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

Visit FrontPorchNE.com to comment and find articles from past issues.

Letters to the Editor

We welcome your letters. Send to 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 stores in Lowry and Mayfair.

Events & Announcements at Stapleton



Concert on the Green - Denver Municipal Jazz Band

Saturday, September 1, 6–7:30pm, The Green
Join us for a "century plus" tradition, featuring the Denver Municipal Jazz Band. All concerts are free and open to the public.

Stapleton Farmers Market

Sunday, September 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30, 8am–12:30pm, The Green
The Stapleton Farmers Market is held every Sunday from mid-June through mid-October on The Green at Stapleton. Local vendors provide Colorado-grown produce, tasty baked goods, specialty meats, gourmet food items and more. Support your local growers and meet your neighbors. Become a vendor or learn more at coloradofreshmarkets.com.

DJs at the Pool

Monday, September 3, Noon–4pm, All Pools
End the pool season on a high note by celebrating with us on Labor Day at your favorite local Stapleton pool, featuring music from a live DJ!

Stanley Arts Festival Kick-off Party

Friday, September 7 at 6–10pm, The Hangar at Stanley
Purchase your tickets for the Stanley Arts Festival Kick-off Party and get a sneak-peek of 40 juried artists, live performance art, interactive art, open bar and culinary creations. Proceeds benefit arts education programs. Limited tickets are available. Visit stanleyartsfestival.org

Stapleton Rocks

Saturday, September 8, Noon–10pm, The Green
Get ready for a full day of great music, games and other activities! A concession stand will sell beer, soda, water and candy. All games and activities will begin at noon and end at 7pm. Concert line-up coming soon!

Dog Daze

Saturday, September 8, 1–3pm, F15 Pool
Bring your four-footed furry friend for a swim at the F-15 Pool to end the summer season! Dog owners are asked to attentively watch from poolside during the time their pup is swimming or fetching. Dogs must come on a leash to the pool area, and pet owners are responsible for pet behavior and doggie clean up. This event is for furry friends only—no two-footed friends in the pool. The small-dog group is capped at 200 dogs and the large-dog group is limited to 150 dogs. Register at stapletoncommunity.com/event-calendar

Stanley Arts Festival

Saturday, September 8 at 10am–7pm; Sunday September 9 at 10am–5pm
Treat yourself to art at the Stanley Arts Festival with free event admission. Located at the Stanley Marketplace on the border of Aurora and Stapleton, this cultural experience will feature 100 national juried artists and local flavor, providing guests with a chance to interact with the visual artists and engage in family-friendly art activities. Visit stanleyartsfestival.org

Active Minds Seminar – The Challenges of Mexico

Thursday, September 13, 1pm, Sam Gary Library
Join Active Minds for an in-depth look at our neighbor to the south. We will cover Mexican history and recent events as we seek to understand how this country fits in the regional puzzle of North, Central and South America. We will examine key issues in Mexican relations with the U.S. including immigration, trade relations and border security.

OMFest Colorado

Saturday, September 15, 10am–8pm, The Green
Join us for yoga, movement and music for all. OMFest features artisan and craft vendors, food trucks, local breweries and yoga classes all day. Kids are free. Visit omfestcolorado.com

Screenagers

Thursday, September 20, 7pm, The Cube
Screenagers is about the impact of the digital age on children and how to help families minimize harmful effects and find balance. No registration needed.

Active Minds Seminar – The Struggle of Syria

Thursday, September 27, 6:30pm, Sam Gary Library
Since gaining its independence from the French in 1946, Syria has had a rocky and troubled history. Since 2011, Syria has been fighting a brutal Civil War in which the Assad regime (with support from Russia and Iran) has used brutal tactics to cling to power. On the other side, opposition forces have included ISIS (which originated in Syria) and al Qaeda, making for a complicated situation relative to U.S. interests. Join Active Minds as we seek to understand Syria's complex history and how this informs current and future challenges for this pivotal player in the Middle East.

Stapleton Open Studios

Saturday, September 29 and 30, 11am–5pm, Stapleton Community
Free, self-guided tour of the inner creativity of 24 artists' work in home studios. More info and to download a map, visit stapletonartists.org

Sweet William Market

Saturday, September 29, 9am–2pm, The Green
Join us on Saturday, September 29th for Sweet William Market! The Sweet William Market is an open-air vintage, antique and art market. For more information about Sweet William Market, visit sweetwilliammarket.com

For more information, contact Diane Deeter | Community Director ddeeter@stapletoncommunity.com

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The Front Porch – NE Denver distributes more than 27,000 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.

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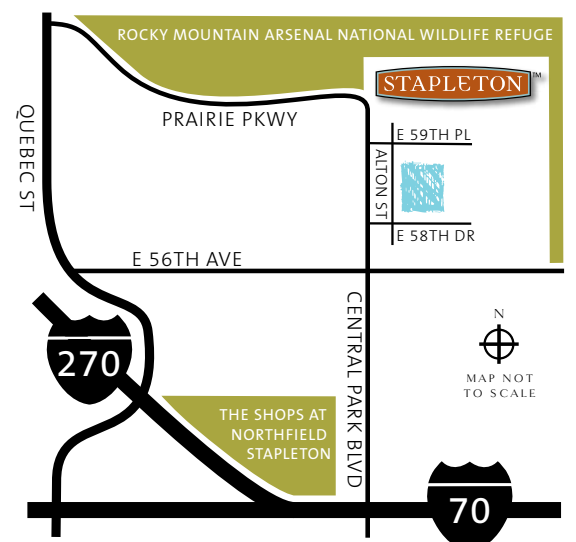
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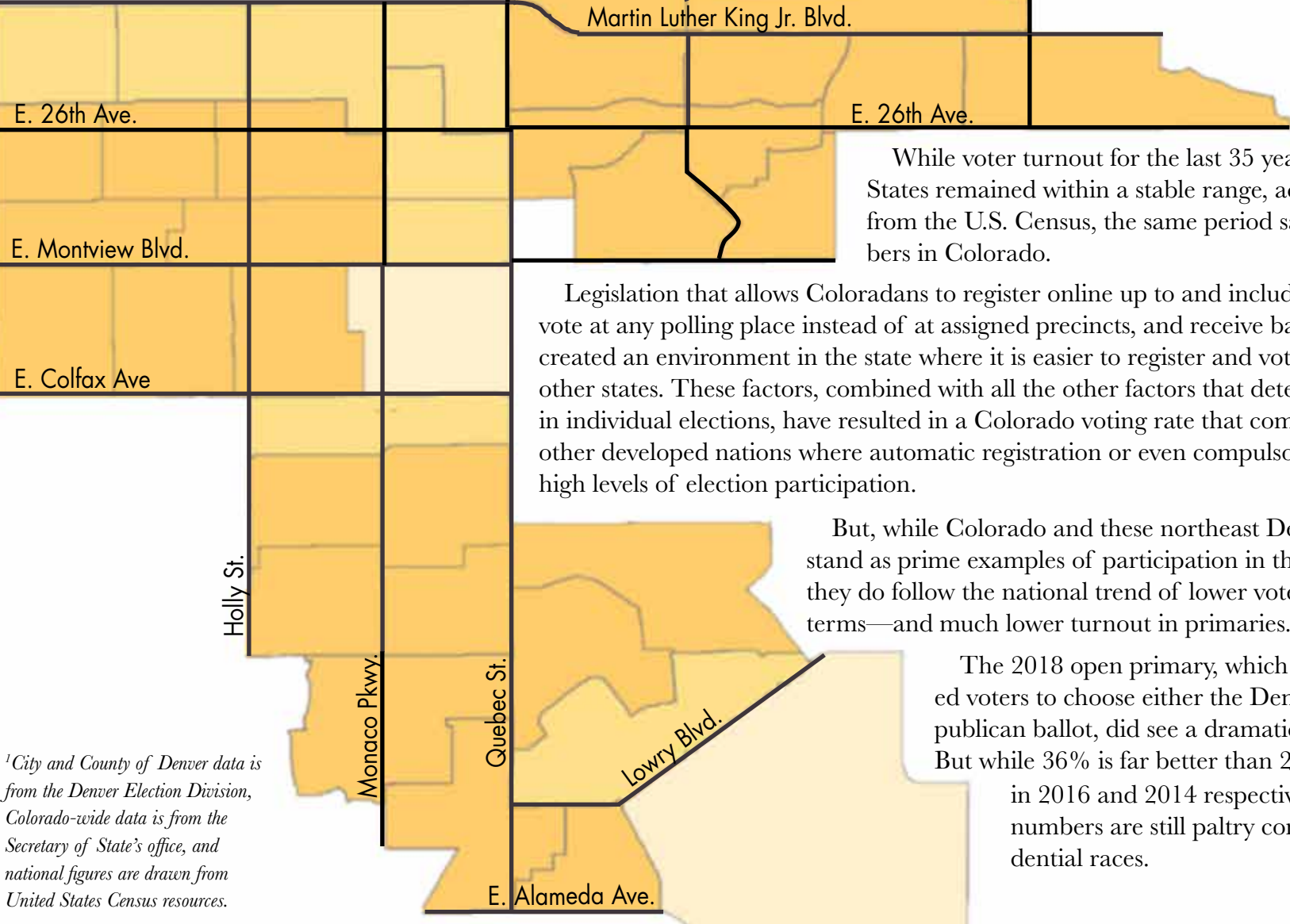
NE Denver voter turnout Nov. '16: B- ... But be proud.

We have one of the highest turnout rates in Denver.

By Charles Borsos

Eighty percent of registered voters in the *Front Porch* distribution area cast ballots in the 2016 Presidential election. That would be a “B-” if assigned a traditional letter grade. Compare that to the “C” (76%) of Denver, the “C-” of Colorado (72%), and the “F” (56%) of the United States—and that “B-” that stands pretty tall.

In fact, during the 2016 election, northeast Denver’s hard fought “B-” stood as one of the highest voter turnout rates in Denver. Two precincts in Stapleton, shown in dark orange on the map, set the curve and tied at 92%, the highest turnout of registered voters in the city.¹



While voter turnout for the last 35 years in the United States remained within a stable range, according to data from the U.S. Census, the same period saw increasing numbers in Colorado.

Legislation that allows Coloradans to register online up to and including election day, vote at any polling place instead of at assigned precincts, and receive ballots by mail have created an environment in the state where it is easier to register and vote than in many other states. These factors, combined with all the other factors that determine who votes in individual elections, have resulted in a Colorado voting rate that compares favorably to other developed nations where automatic registration or even compulsory voting leads to high levels of election participation.

But, while Colorado and these northeast Denver precincts may stand as prime examples of participation in the United States, they do follow the national trend of lower voter turnout in mid-terms—and much lower turnout in primaries.

The 2018 open primary, which allowed unaffiliated voters to choose either the Democratic or Republican ballot, did see a dramatic rise in turnout. But while 36% is far better than 21% and 22% seen in 2016 and 2014 respectively, these primary numbers are still paltry compared to presidential races.

¹City and County of Denver data is from the Denver Election Division, Colorado-wide data is from the Secretary of State’s office, and national figures are drawn from United States Census resources.

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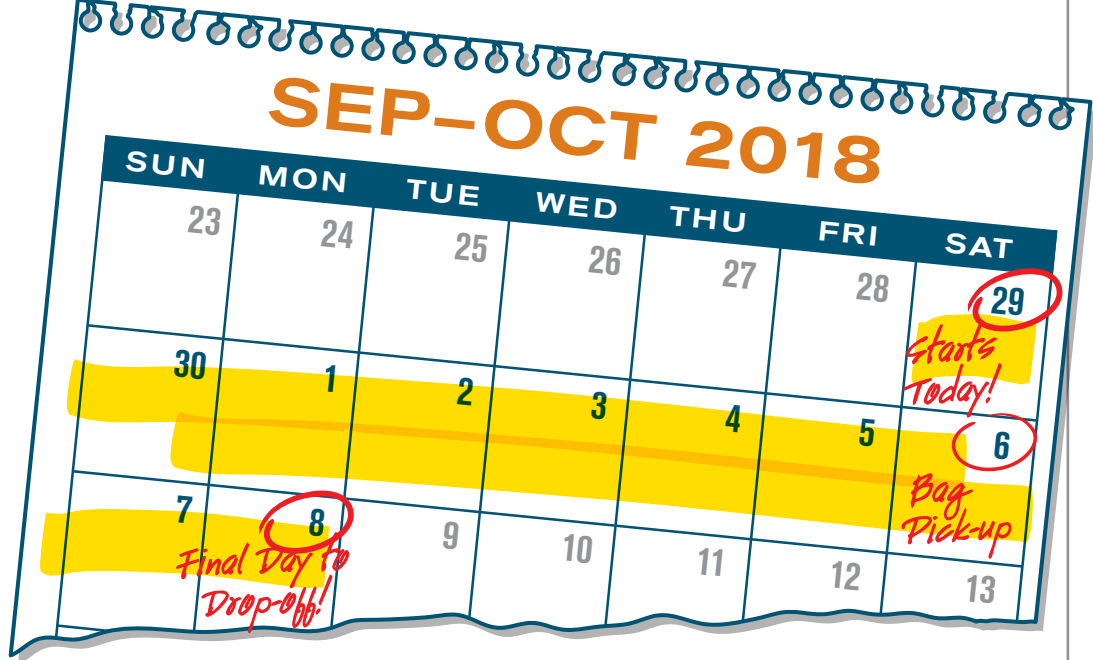
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Reflections on Voting Behavior

By Charles Borsos

Voter turnout data is just part of the story. And the high voter turnout in NE Denver—and in all of Colorado (relative to the nation)—isn't simply because it is easy here. "I think the ease of voting and the ease of registration both have something to do with the fact more people vote, but I think also another key factor is there isn't as much bad government in Colorado," says Fred Brown, who was a longtime political writer for the *Denver Post* and is now a professor of journalism at the University of Denver (DU).

"In other words, people aren't as turned off by government here as they might be in some places ... where there is a long history, especially at the local and state level—corrupt politicians and that sort of thing," says Brown.

Brown predicts that the upcoming midterm election will see higher than usual voter turnout in Colorado, with the Governor's race and Congressional District 6 between Jason Crow (D) and incumbent Mike Coffman (R) being of note. He points out that the District 6 race is of particular interest to watch because it is in a district drawn by a court rather than by elected officials. Strategic redistricting, or gerrymandering, has become a common way for parties to gain and hold political office.

DU Political Science Professor Seth Masket points out that most congressional

elections aren't very competitive. With that lack of competition, he says it is, "not surprising if voting for congressional races is somewhat low."

Editor's note: If Ballot Measures Y and Z pass, state and federal legislative boundaries will have to be drawn in a nonpartisan way rather than gerrymandered for political purposes. Colorado is approximately one-third each Republican, Democrat and unaffiliated. Less gerrymandering in state and congressional districts and more competitive races may give Colorado voters another reason to cast their ballot and believe their vote will make a difference.

Colorado's non-presidential election voting numbers are strong in comparison to the rest of the country—but, says Masket, "There's often a 20-point gap between turnout in a presidential year and turnout in a non-presidential year."

But despite low turnout, he also added in his emailed comments, "Midterm elections are the key time that we actually get to hold members of Congress account-

able for their behavior." With a congress increasingly focused on the presidency, the individual state elections are an opportunity for constituents to hold their representatives accountable in Washington.

Primaries see even lower levels of turnout and Masket said, "Those who turn

out in the primaries tend to be more ideologically motivated than general election voters. But that's not the sole reason that candidates tend to be relatively extreme. Parties also pick candidates who are committed to party goals and they make it harder for less committed candidates to prevail in primaries."

A Gallup poll in October 2017 showed 54% of Americans "want political leaders in Washington to

compromise to get things done," compared to just 18% who prefer candidates who stick to their platform. More extreme candidates typically make compromise more difficult.

Local elections and ballot initiatives can also suffer from low turnout rates. "This is perhaps understandable, given

the amount of attention given to presidential races and the amount of spending by the presidential campaigns on advertising and voter turnout efforts. Statewide races just can't compete," says Masket.

"But it's still regrettable. In many ways, state and local laws affect us far more than federal laws do, affecting the quality of our schools, how we travel, where we can work and live, what we can eat, how we deal with trash, etc," says Masket. "Yet media coverage of these campaigns and of governing at these levels is often much lower—and so is voter interest."

In Colorado, positions like governor switch between the two parties more readily than other states. "This state is definitely, I think, of two minds," says Brown.

But Brown also says the growing number of unaffiliated voters registering could shake up that two-mind or two-party system. The open primary this June (in which unaffiliated voters could choose to vote on either the Republican or Democratic ballot) was perhaps a step toward a more open election system.

"Colorado is experimenting now," says Brown. While he says he doesn't think the open primary worked "particularly well," he suggests other possible systems might be tried, like weighted or proportional elections. After all, there is no constitutional basis for limiting voter choice to two parties and, "maybe it's time for a third party."

Four Observations

If local government is not viewed as corrupt, more people vote.

Low midterm election turnout means voters miss their chance to hold legislators accountable.

Overall, the voters who do cast ballots in primaries tend to be less centrist than the majority, creating the likelihood of more extreme candidates on the ballot.

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Colorado: “The safest state to cast a vote.”

These 10-sided dice are used by counties throughout Colorado to generate random numbers as part of the system that selects ballots for physical review while votes are being counted.

By Charles Borsos

Who are “they” when people talk about cyber security? “They” can hack into your webcam, or computer or email account. In the 2016, “they” were the Russian actors who, according to the U.S. intelligence community, meddled in the presidential election. While there is no evidence that the actual voter rolls or tabulation systems were compromised (although probably scanned for vulnerabilities), the meddling produced fears of what “they” might be able to do in future elections.

In Colorado, however, security-based reforms were well underway before the threat of Russian meddling was raised. On top of being one of the easiest states in which to register and cast a vote, Colorado was named

as “the safest state to cast a vote” in a 2017 article in the *Washington Post*.

According to representatives from the City and County of Denver and the Secretary of State’s office, the reason for this security appears to be that the state has incorporated advice from independent experts and government agencies like the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to form a system that is simultaneously high- and low-tech.

“For both practical and legal reasons, there is a paper record for every ballot cast in Colorado,” said Lynn Bartel of the Secretary of State’s office in an email. While electronic machines are available at many polling places across the state, each also produces a physical

record to fall back on if issues arise. Having a physical record in addition to the voting machines is a requirement in Colorado that goes beyond federal regulations.

Further, a robust auditing procedure is in place. Alton Dillard of the Denver Elections Division explained the process as using a combination of computerized mechanisms (such as software that can detect if someone made an “x” instead of filling in the oval) and physical checks of random ballots.

Pictured above are the 10-sided dice that counties across Colorado use to ensure that a random selection of ballots is pulled for audit. Each roll of 20 dice produces a 20-digit number that corresponds

with a set of ballots to be looked over by hand.

The closer the race, the more ballots looked at during this process, says Dillard, and, he adds, “All our processes take place bipartisanly.”

The Denver Election Division website states election results are then uploaded to the Secretary of State “through an isolated secure network that has no ties to any other network or the internet.” Every other element of the voting process takes place offline with physical paper printouts. In a voluntary DHS program, Colorado received high marks for its election network and system and the DHS found nothing significant to report.

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Local Experts Weigh

By Melinda Pearson

If all goes according to plan, Denver will welcome a new public schools superintendent by the end of the year. Current superintendent Tom Boasberg announced his departure in July, after nearly 10 years at the helm of a district that includes over 92,000 students.

The school board is seeking Boasberg's successor by the end of this year. DPS has invited community input through mid-September and has engaged a search firm to facilitate the search. Candidates will be identified mid-September through October with finalist(s) selected in mid-October.

The *Front Porch* interviewed two local leaders who have extensive experience with education issues in our community about getting a new superintendent.

Laura Lefkowits is a former school board member, a leader in Park Hill Neighbors for Equity in Education (PHNEE) and grandmother of Stedman Elementary students.

Mary Seawell is also a former school board member, current senior vice president for education at the Gates Family Foundation, and a parent of George Washington High and Bill Roberts Elementary students.

What are some of the most important accomplishments for DPS during Boasberg's tenure?

"I think he's done a good job of getting at least a part of the community on board with DPS," says Lefkowits. "I would call that the more elite of the community—fundraisers both locally and nationally, foundation heads, powers that be, as opposed to the grass roots in the district, which I think is maybe something that



Former Denver School Board member Mary Seawell

has been left behind." Lefkowits also praises Boasberg's implementation of more structured systems and accountability measures.

For Seawell, Boasberg has demonstrated "a real commitment to equity ... whether people think it's been implemented well or not, every single meeting, every single document, every single speech is really centered around equity for all students." Seawell also praises out-

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in on Superintendent Search



Tom Boasberg visited DSST:Stapleton Middle School in 2014 during the school's celebration of having no achievement gap and having the second highest School Performance Framework Score in the City.

comes, including enrollment growth and retention, graduation rates, the focus on English Language Learners and the implementation of dual enrollment programs, where high school students can gain college credit in high school.

What are some areas of improvement for DPS?

"There is not a shared sense of vision and purpose in Denver around education. There are just so many factions. It is astounding to me, frankly," says Seawell. "I don't think I've ever seen an era where people define whether or not the school system is working by their own personal experience." She feels it is incumbent upon DPS and its new leader-

ship to foster a shared sense of purpose.

Lefkowits agrees. "The district under Tom's leadership has fallen short of engaging the grassroots community. People have felt

left out of many conversations, and that...promotes factionalism," she says. It can promote reactionary responses too, she adds, where people think, "If there's one thing wrong, the whole system is wrong," as opposed to more of a feeling of "How can we get engaged?"

"It's astounding to me. I don't think I've ever seen an era where people define whether or not the school system is working by their own personal experience."

—Mary Seawell

teachers have more control over testing, budgets, schedules and curriculum. "I think we're starting to see an evolution at DPS. What will be interesting is if the school board—

which has been very supportive of this, all seven members—sees this as something important in the next superintendent or if they

want to go towards a more centralized district. Those are the two paths, and I think the superintendent search will tell us which vision the school board sees."

Both Lefkowits and Seawell agree that greater school integration and attention to equity should be priorities going forward. But how that takes shape will become more clear in the choice of a new leader.

What is at stake in the choice of a new superintendent? What are the issues?



Former Denver School Board member Laura Lefkowits

What about the process in selecting a superintendent?

Both former school board members agree that the school board's most important responsibility is to make a wise choice, and both question how quickly the process is unfolding. "They just need more time. They definitely could find someone else to fill in... there's nothing magic about October," says Lefkowits.

And to voices in the community who are urging even greater transparency about the search, Lefkowits cautions, "Transparency is dictated by the law... DPS should put out a statement about 'the way in which they're limited and the respect they need to have for potential candidates who may ... be currently in a superintendency.'"

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Stapleton dentist Brett Kessler trains for the upcoming Ironman World Championship in Hawaii. His goal is to raise \$100,000 for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society in honor of his mother.

By Laurie Dunklee

“I was so fortunate to beat leukemia,” says Paige McCoy, 31. “The right tools and research allowed me to survive.”

Much of the funding for research on leukemia that saves the lives of patients like Paige comes from the fundraising efforts of people like Stapleton dentist Brett Kessler. For almost two decades, Kessler has devoted his athletic endeavors to the cause. His efforts hit close to home when a Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS) team he was on in the early 2000s raised \$2 million that was sent to a Seattle researcher who was working on a revolutionary treatment for a specific leukemia. It was a grim but fitting coincidence when his mother, Gloria Kessler, was diagnosed in 2009 with that type of leukemia. “Mom would not have lived the almost nine years that followed her diagnosis without that research. So I know the value of research dollars.”

Kessler’s upcoming challenge is the Ironman World Championship in Kona, Hawaii on October 13, 2018. His goal is to raise \$100,000 for The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society—which will help fund the work of CU researchers Dr. James DeGregori and Dr. Daniel Pollyea, featured on the next page.

Making a Difference in the Fight Against Cancer

Recovery stories like those of Paige McCoy and Gloria Kessler depend on people like Brett Kessler who commit to raising money for research on new life-saving treatments.

“It’s an opportunity to make a difference in the fight, while doing something I love,” says Kessler, who has lived in Stapleton since 2002 with his orthodontist wife, Gina, and their four children, ages 8 to 18.

Since 1994 he has competed in dozens of triathlons and marathons, five half-Ironman competitions and four ul-

Fundraisers and Research

tra-marathons—including a 50-mile race. He started competing for The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS) in 2001 and then coached the Team in Training program for seven years. The Team in Training program prepares athletes for competitive endurance challenges to raise money for cancer research. “We have raised a bunch of money to cure blood cancers,” he says.

The LLS website says the organization has invested more than \$1.2 billion in groundbreaking research since 1949.

Kessler’s mom died in 2017 at age 73. Now he competes in honor of her. Kessler says the Ironman Competition will be “an adventure that will push my limits emotionally, physically and spiritually every day. Mom goes with me—I think of her a lot.”

Ironman competitors tackle a 2.4-mile ocean swim, a 112-mile bicycle ride and a 26.2-mile run—in that order—without a break. “Most of the competitors have won another Ironman, so this is no casual race,” Kessler says. “I’ll be with the world’s fastest. It’s like the Olympics for me.”

Kessler wants people to understand that their contributions to medical research have life-changing impacts. “In the late ‘90s during my hospital oncology residency, many people died of leukemia

or lymphoma because there wasn’t much treatment at the time. New treatments are raising survival rates dramatically.”

McCoy says it’s important to help the scientists so they can help patients. “There’s no cure for leukemia, so research will help us find it. We have drugs to get it into remission, but we need more protocols. Researchers are also working on ways to reduce the side effects of cancer treatment. People die from the treatments because they are so hard on the body.”

In October 2015, McCoy was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia, a type of leukemia that starts in the bone marrow. Between October and January, she underwent chemotherapy, radiation and finally a bone marrow transplant. The transplant put the cancer in remission in January 2016.

McCoy says that since she’s remained in remission past the 2-1/2-year mark, her chances of relapse are very low. “I’ve gone back to living.”

Beating leukemia changed McCoy’s life. Before she got sick, she was a paralegal

for a law firm—but after her recovery she changed careers. She now works in administration in the oncology department at CU (continued on page 15)



After surviving leukemia, Paige McCoy changed jobs and now works with cancer patients.

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Dr. DeGregori is researching targeted interventions that “disfavor cancer without being so disruptive so as to prevent healthy immune responses.”

Dr. James DeGregori is researching ways to mitigate changes that occur with aging, which create an opportunity for cancer cells to take hold.

Private Grants Are Vital to Cutting-Edge Research

By Melinda Pearson

The connection between running a race and curing cancer might seem abstract, but it’s not to local researchers who benefit from The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS) funding.

In fact, it wouldn’t be a stretch to say that LLS grants have led to what may be one of the most significant advances for one of the most common and vicious types of blood cancers, acute myeloid leukemia (AML).

Although leukemia, lymphomas and myelomas are rare compared to solid cancer tumors, nearly 175,000 new

cases are diagnosed every year, with an estimated 1.3 million people affected by these blood cancers. AML, which is most prevalent in older adults, has the lowest survival rate of any leukemia, at just 27.4% over five years among adults.

But this grim statistic could soon change due to the research of Dr. Dan Pollyea and his team of clinical researchers at the University of Colorado School of Medicine.

“For many decades, the only...available therapies [for AML] involved really intensive chemotherapy,” says Pollyea, “And it can work for some people, but it’s very toxic.” Older adults struggle to withstand the side effects, and outcomes have been poor, he said.

The last decade of research by investigators at the University of Colorado has been focused on the leukemia stem cell population, the cells that give rise to leukemia and cause relapses. Pollyea and his team have sought weaknesses in this leukemia stem cell population, specifically focusing on a protein called BCL2.

They embarked on a clinical trial program three years ago, focused on an inhibitor of the BCL2 protein. “Our unique interest in this was that this could potentially be the first therapy that could effectively eradicate leukemia stem cell populations,” said Pollyea. “If you can really eradicate the leukemia stem cells, then you can potentially cure this disease.”

And the results of their clinical trials are “unbelievable” said Pollyea. “We can really get 80% to 90% of people into complete remission with this approach.” The mostly outpatient, well-tolerated, non-intensive chemotherapy has led to durable re-

sponses, with few relapses and extended survival rates. “In some cases we can now prove that...this is a potentially curative regimen,” added Pollyea.

This game-changing research can be traced back to funding that has come through grants like those provided by the LLS.

“LLS has been crucial personally to my career,” says Pollyea. “I was funded by Leukemia & Lymphoma Society as a fellow to work on projects that led to my position here at the University of Colorado.” In addition, the key basic research from the lab of Dr. Craig Jordan, also at the University of Colorado School of Medicine, that demonstrated the strong dependency of leukemia stem cells on the BCL2 protein was also funded by the LLS. And in a climate of potentially shrinking government funding for research, private grants like those made by LLS are vital to cutting-edge research.

Dr. James DeGregori at the University of Colorado School of Medicine



Dr. Daniel Pollyea’s research results have been “unbelievable,” getting 80% to 90% of people into complete remission.

says that he has received at least half his funding for leukemia research from LLS grants over the years and continues to seek private funding.

DeGregori brings an evolutionary biology approach to cancer research. *(continued on page 15)*

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...NE News Updates



By Carol Roberts

1 When will the new lane on Central Park Bridge open?

The new estimated completion date is October 31, according to Nancy Kuhn of Denver Public Works.

2 What is the construction schedule for the MLK Extension?

“The project goes out to bid on August 29. We expect to begin construction in late fall and the current anticipated completion date is early 2020. The dates will be more firmly established once the procurement process is over and a contractor is on board,” according to Nancy Kuhn, Denver Public Works.

3 I-70 Construction noise ordinance hearing will be September 6.

Kiewit Meridian Partners, the contractor for the I-70 construction project, requested a night time noise variance in July, saying they couldn’t complete the project

on schedule in 2022 without the variance. A July hearing was scheduled, but based on community response to that request, the hearing before the Board of Public Health and Environment was postponed. Kiewit has suggested some noise mitigation measures that are expected to be publicized on August 30.

The noise variance hearing is scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 6, at 5:30 pm in the third floor Parr Widener Room at the City and County Building, 1437 Bannock St. Input for DDPHE’s recommendation and comments for the Board on the variance request can be sent via email to BEH@denvergov.org by Sept. 5. Any change to the meeting location will be posted prior to the meeting at denvergov.org/BPHE. For questions regarding the hearing contact Kathy Houston at 720-865-5484 or email BEH@Denvergov.org

4 Will the A-Line horns be stopping soon?



The City of Denver and RTD filed an application to the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) on approximately August 6 requesting to stop the horns on the A Line. “We will not be able to speculate on how long this might take, we are dependent upon the regulatory process being completed and approved,” said Scott Reed, Assistant General Manager for Communications by email. At the time the *Front Porch* went to press they did not have a response from the FRA.

5 Remember the plan to widen Quebec? It’s off the table for now.

In September 2017 the City started the environmental review process to determine the impacts of Quebec improvements between E. 13th Ave and E. 26th Ave. In that review process, “it was determined that estimated costs to implement the recommendations are well beyond the \$23M we have in available funding and no additional funding for the project has been identified at this time.” The city continues to engage in the East Neighborhood Planning Initiative ([search DenverGov.org](http://search.DenverGov.org) for East Area Plan).

The *Front Porch* described the improvements in our May 2015 issue, “Funding Approved for MLK Extension and Quebec Improvements.”

6 What’s happening at the Quebec interchange during the I-70 project?

With the start of the Central 70 construction, the *Front Porch* requested information on how the Quebec St./I-70 interchange will be improved. Work is not scheduled until the third and fourth quarters of the construction project that’s scheduled to be completed in 2022, but the basic changes are described in the caption with the graphic at right.

For more information go to www.codot.gov and search for “Central 70.”

7 Brookfield Asset Management Acquires Forest City

On July 31, Brookfield Asset Management Company and Forest City, the master developer of Stapleton, announced on their websites that Brookfield would acquire Forest City in a transaction valued at \$11.4 billion, subject to approval by Forest City stockholders.

Forest City’s assets, in that announcement, are described as 6.3 million square feet of high-quality office space, 2.3 million square feet of premier life science assets, primarily in Cambridge, MA, 2.2 million square feet of retail space and 18,500 multifamily units, as well as five large-scale development projects in the New York Metro area, San Francisco and Washington, D.C.

Surprisingly, to those of us who think of Stapleton as a big project, it was not mentioned by name in the press release. In response to an email asking what this acquisition means for the Stapleton development, Tom Gleason, Forest City Stapleton’s Vice President for Public Relations replied, “The entire company, including anything we own at Stapleton, will be acquired if the shareholders vote to accept the deal. The reference in the press release to the ‘large development projects’ was intended to point to large chunks of future entitled development. Because Stapleton is largely a land project, and reaching a mature stage, we consider it in a different category.”

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Improvements at the Quebec/I-70 interchange will include:
—Widening of the lanes under the bridge from 60 feet today to just over 153 feet to accommodate new lanes and new eight-foot sidewalks
—Two lengthened left turn lanes for both east- and westbound I-70 access
—Moving the exit and entrance to westbound 70 closer to the highway
—Longer acceleration lanes to merge onto I-70

Forest City previously sold the Shops at Northfield to QIC, an Australian asset management company, so, in Stapleton, Brookfield is acquiring Forest City’s apartments, retail property, land not yet sold to builders, and land not yet acquired from Denver International Airport.

At the August Citizens Advisory Board meeting, Gleason said 88 acres (including the land adjoining the tower) remain to be purchased from Denver International Airport. He confirmed that David Friedman has purchased the land for Sprouts and other retail, along with residential, near the Central Park Station, so that land is not part

sustainable resources including more than 200 hydroelectric facilities, and several high quality business services and industrial companies. They employ more than 80,000 people in 30 countries.

On the subject of community engagement, the website states, “... we continually look to involve our local communities...”

Mayor Hancock said the City of Denver has worked with Brookfield on commercial projects in Denver and confirmed that they will be required to fulfill the requirement of ten percent affordable housing in Stapleton.

of the Brookfield deal. Gleason did not respond to our inquiry about the retail and residential development plans Forest City had previously announced for the land directly adjoining Central Park Station. It is our assumption that that land is being acquired by Brookfield, which will determine it’s future use.

Who is Brookfield Asset Management? Their website says the company, founded in 1899 and based in Toronto, Canada, manages \$282 billion in assets that “form the backbone of the global economy.” Assets include utilities, transport, energy, communications infrastructure,

Fundraisers and Survivors

(continued from page 12) Anschutz Medical Campus with the Cancer Clinical Trials Office. “I wanted to work in the medical field on behalf of patients.”

As the LLS’s 2018 Honored Hero for the annual Light the Night fundraiser, McCoy speaks at events to provide inspiration and support for the fundraising programs of the nonprofit. “I am a different person after leukemia. I have a new perspective. I learned the importance of supporting patients and caregivers. I

was lucky because I was young going through cancer, and now I get the rest of my life to give back.”

To donate to Brett Kessler’s fundraising effort, see: <https://pages.team-intraining.org/rm/ironworl18/bkessler>

For more information about The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society visit www.lls.org.



Cancer Research

(continued from page 13)

“From my lab’s perspective, we don’t get cancer because, during youth, our tissues are maintained relatively consistently,” explains DeGregori. “If you were to look at the lungs of a 20-year-old nonsmoker and a 40-year-old nonsmoker, they really wouldn’t look that different. But later in life, they start to look different. Things start to change.”

And it is with the changes in the aging human body that opportunistic cancer cells find a way to take hold, developing into solid tumors or blood cancers, like leukemia and lymphoma, he theorizes.

“How can we mitigate those changes, and which changes need to be mitigated?” asks DeGregori. “I’d love to make a tissue completely youthful-like. If I could do that, then you’d essentially not only avoid cancer but you’d avoid aging.”

While this fountain of youth is thus far still elusive, the research of DeGregori and his colleagues is pointing the way towards clinical interventions in the aging process that could interfere with cancerous proliferation.

“We’ve designed strategies that reduce cancer incidence in old mice. We don’t completely rejuvenate the tissue, but there’s a fraction of the age-associated

changes that we do reverse,” explains DeGregori.

The approach used in humans will likely be different than that used in mice, he added, but “By learning what changes are key, we can design more targeted interventions that would allow us to basically change the landscape just enough to disfavor cancer without being so disruptive so as to prevent healthy immune responses.”

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Three Schools Vie for North

Denver Green School

- Currently has one K-8 school in south Denver with focus on sustainability, including a farm and garden
- Member of Luminary Learning Network, an innovation zone
- Unique governance – leadership includes nine teachers, three administrators, who decide in consensus
- Experienced leader would come to new school from original school
- Core values include teacher empowerment, sustainability, community engagement, excursions/hands-on learning, equity and diversity
- Denver Green School's 2018 CMAS results:
 - 58% met or exceeded standards on English Language Arts (ELA), with 78% median growth
 - 40% met or exceeded standards on Math, with 76% median growth.*
- Lead Partner, Kartal Jaquette, says, "We want to work with the community and actively find what makes the most sense," and hopes to host a barbecue for the community this fall.
- Check out horizontal-education.com and denvergreenschool.com to learn more

By Melinda Pearson

What do local families want to see in a new local middle school? That's the question on the minds of three school leaders vying to open a new 500-600 seat middle school in the Greater Park Hill/Stapleton enrollment zone in Fall 2019.

Denver Green School, High Tech Elementary and Beacon Middle Schools submitted letters of intent in July. Applications are due at the end of October with a decision to be made by December 2018.

The new school will be located in north Stapleton at a site to be determined, although its temporary opening location will be at the new Park Street Campus where Inspire Elementary is now located, along 56th Ave. Its permanent location will likely be a shared campus, said Maya Lagana, Senior Director of Portfolio Management for DPS.

Local families were surprised that McAuliffe International School did not submit a letter of intent. Principal Kurt Dennis said his leadership team spent a lot of time considering the idea but ultimately, concerns about limited size, the probability of sharing a campus, and the early opening date dissuaded McAuliffe from applying.

Community Engagement

On social media and via email conversations, Park Hill and Stapleton residents have expressed concerns about what the new school will be like.

Will it offer a comprehensive program, including languages, arts and sports? Or will it be a specialized, charter school, with an emphasis on a specific content or school culture? Can it be a diverse school and still accommodate the rapid growth occurring in Stapleton? Where will it be located?

Most importantly, they ask, will DPS listen to the community?

"Our process will be guided largely by a facility allocation process which centralizes student academic growth and achievement, alignment with district priority needs and community support and demand," said DPS's Lagana. "We will also be working with the community in the coming months to identify the priorities they have for a new middle school in the area, and those will be centralized in the process as well."

The Schools

From interviews with leaders of the three candidate schools, one thing became clear: each school leader is eager to connect with the local community to learn what people who live in the GPHS zone most want and need in a new middle school. "We want to work with the community and actively find what makes the most sense," says Kartal Jaquette a Lead Partner with the Denver Green School.

All three candidate schools are innovation schools, meaning they are district-run but with more flexibility than traditional schools. School leaders confirmed that their teachers are licensed and paid at least union wages. All have "green" SPF ratings in 2017, indicating academic strength, and good reputations in the district.

High Tech ECE-8

- Currently has one ECE-5 innovation school in Stapleton zone
- Current executive principal, Amy Gile, would serve as overall principal of proposed K-8 program
- Interested in applying based on strong parent interest, successful program and unique focus on personalized learning
- Intends to continue model of comprehensive programming, using computers to enhanced project-based learning, writing and special needs, and offering Spanish, sports, arts.
- Proposes a "full inclusion" model for special education, mainstreaming students into traditional classrooms
- High Tech Elementary's 2018 CMAS results:
 - 61% met or exceeded standards on English Language Arts (ELA), with 41% median growth
 - 52% met or exceeded standards on Math with 50% median growth
- Will engage community and conduct site visits to other middle schools to develop detailed application and plan
- Learn more at hightechelementary.dpsk12.org

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Market data as reported by ReColorado.

Stapleton Site

School	Beacon Middle School	Denver Green School Northfield Campus	High Tech ECE-8
Grades	6-8	6-8	ECE-8
Charter?	No, Innovation	No, Innovation	No, Innovation
Proposed Leader	To be Hired/ Alex Magaña	Kartal Jaquette	Amy Gile
Proposed Enrollment	510	540	450 (can grow)
Proposed Demographics	70% FRL 15% SPED 30% ELL	42.7% FRL 11.0% SPED 14.6% ELL	40% FRL 10% SPED 20% ELL
Foreign Languages	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sports	Yes	Yes	Yes
Arts	Yes	Yes	Yes
Licensed Teachers	yes	yes	yes
Current SPF	Green	Green	Green
Community Input Meeting Dates	9/10/18, 6pm Location to be announced	9/28/18, 3:30–6:30pm 10/13/18 11am–2:30pm BBQ @ Central Park (MLK & Beeler)	9/13/18, 6pm, Hallet 9/25/18 5:30pm, High Tech 10/4/18, 6pm, Swigert

ECE – Early Childhood Education; FRL – Free and Reduced Lunch; SPED – Special Education; ELL – English Language Learner
These three schools have submitted letters of intent. Leaders at these applicant schools emphasized that the details in the letters of intent are provisional. Ultimately, community input, demand, and DPS priorities will shape the final proposals.

All have 1:1 computer programs (one computer per child), but they emphasize that the computers merely enhance, not replace, traditional learning. Technology “is not their teacher,” said Amy Gile, Executive Principal of High Tech Elementary.

The three schools all intend to offer foreign languages and arts, likely as electives or enrichments, and all three will field DPS sports teams as well as club or elective sports opportunities.

So far, the schools have only submitted non-binding letters of intent, which offer a sketch of the proposed programs.¹ The chart above summarizes the schools’ current proposals, but as Alex Magaña, Executive Director for the Beacon Schools points out, these are provisional: “It all depends on the demand of the school.”

For example, issues like ultimate size of the school or proposed demographics can be modified based on community input and demand. “The targets listed in the letters

of intent are targets,” says Lagana, “but students who reside in the enrollment zone will always get first priority into this school and every other school.”

The applicant schools will be holding community meet-

Beacon Middle School

- Currently has two innovation middle schools in its nascent network, Grant Beacon and Kepner Beacon. Approved by DPS to open a third somewhere in the district.
- Current Executive Principal, Alex Magaña, plans to mentor new school leader on site
- Beacon network schools have four “cornerstones”:
- Blended Learning - all student levels served together in classrooms
- Extended Learning – longer school days with enrichment/elective options for languages, arts, STEM, etc., offered two per week, each two days a week, in 9-week sessions
- Character Development – focused on school culture and leadership
- Critical Thinking – inspiring students to self-reflect
- Grant Beacon’s 2018 CMAS results:
- 46% met or exceeded standards in English Language Arts (ELA), with 69% median growth
- 27% met or exceeded standards in Math with 54% median growth.
- Kepner Beacon’s, 2018 CMAS results:
- 26% met or exceeded standards in English Language Arts (ELA)e, with 70% growth
- 7% met or exceeded standards in Math with 42% growth.
- Nationally recognized model can be adapted fit needs of community - invites input, visits, questions from people
- Learn more at <https://beacon-networkschools.org/>

ings and will attend the Stapleton United Neighbors (SUN) meeting scheduled for October 16. DPS also intends to hold community meetings, which they will announce at the end of September. To get involved in the process, email Maya Lagana with DPS at Maya_Lagana@dpsk12.org.

¹ According to Lagana of DPS, state law regarding charter schools mandates that DPS consider applicants who have not submitted letters of intent but later submit an application. Additional applications are not expected, however, and DPS believes

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Daniel and Talia Haykin sit in the tasting room at their cidery just east of Stapleton. They use a wide variety of apples to produce a range of ciders for American customers, who are generally less familiar with the drink than Europeans.



Cider in the City

By Courtney Drake-McDonough

Daniel Haykin finds apples captivating. Not only will he tell you that but it's readily apparent in the sole ingredients of the cider he makes: apples and yeast. Haykin explains that this simplicity follows the more than 1000-year tradition of cider-making originating in western Europe and brought to America by the Founding Fathers. Daniel and his wife Talia opened Haykin Family



Cider in February, taking their in-home hobby into a commercial setting in an industrial strip just east of Stapleton. Their goal, besides making a beverage they enjoy drinking, is to honor the history, the variety of flavors and terroir of apples, specifically, those grown in Colorado.

Even before they opened the cidery, the Haykins were winning prestigious, international

awards in blind competitions which give small cider-makers like Daniel and Talia an even playing field. "When your wife and mother say they like it (the cider), that's great, but it's completely different when it's coming from the judges (at these competitions). We wouldn't be here if it wasn't for the competitions because we wouldn't have believed we were doing something world class. It helped convince us it was true."

When people visit their tasting room, the comment the Haykins and their staff hear most is "I didn't know cider could taste like this." This allows them an op-

portunity to show people, especially wine and beer lovers, what an apple can become with some warm days, cool nights and time to rest after picking to allow the sugars to develop. It's also a chance to clarify the differences between wine, cider and beer.

"Cider is wine made out of apples and the best cider comes from the best apples," explains Daniel. People often mistakenly ask the couple if they "brew cider," but cider is never cooked and is, therefore, "live." "Beer is heated which is where 'brewing' comes from," explains Daniel. "Beer is made out of grain, cider is made out of apples. Beer is best enjoyed fresh while wine benefits from aging." All of Haykin's equipment is made for white wine-making, from the press to the bottling machine.



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Cider is not brewed like beer, nor distilled like liquor. Rather, using the tanks (pictured top left), the apples are fermented like wine. At Haykin, the similarities to wine-making continue with the use of special champagne bottles (right), topped with a cork (above).

The purity of the apple is critical to the Haykins' product. While some ciders play off of the beer-inspired trend to add flavors like hops, jalapeños and chocolate, for example, Haykin Family Cider won't do that. "Historically, there's the contention that there's so much biodiversity in the apple world, such a tremendous palette of flavors and aroma, you don't need to hide the apple behind anything,



Just like a grape can stand on its own, so too, can the apples."

The couple finds that both beer and wine lovers enjoy discovering their ciders. It's most popular with beer drinkers who, they find, are more likely to have experimented with fermentation through home-brewing. When presented with a flight of seven ciders in the tasting room, both wine and beer drinkers are surprised how different each one tastes and that each is from apples. They are also surprised by the cider containers, champagne bottles ordered from Quebec. They can withstand the high level of carbonation pressure, which at 60psi, is just under that of Champagne.

Located a few minutes away from Stapleton's Eastbridge restaurant area, Stanley Marketplace and the Anschutz campus, visitors are welcome to bring food to the tasting room from home or area restaurants. Cheese boards will soon be available for purchase as will pints of ice cream based on their cider flavors from Sweet Action Ice Cream. The location has proven to be ideal. As Daniel has observed, "Once there's a product and something really, really unique, turns out people will drive for it."

Haykin Family Cider is located at 12001 E. 33rd Ave., Unit D in Aurora. For more information visit haykinfamilycider.com/ or call (720) 242-7292.

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Each month, the Indie Prof reviews a current film in the theater and second film or series available on DVD or instant-streaming service. Follow “Indie Prof” on Facebook for updates about film events and more reviews.

Nico, 1988 (2018)

“I’ve been on the top, and I’ve been on the bottom. Both places are empty.”

So states Christa Paffgen, better known by her stage name “Nico,” in this new biopic from Italian director Susanna Nicchiarelli. Nico was the famous *femme fatale* (as a radio DJ early in the film calls her) of the super-cult band The Velvet Underground for a short time in the mid-60s. The film follows Nico in the

last years of her life, as she is aging, bloated, strung out on heroin, and indifferent to life. While the film itself won’t necessarily win any awards, it is nonetheless fascinating as a character study and an examination of fame, superficiality, and emptiness. If you are a fan of the band, or her, or even the 60s, then you will enjoy this interesting film. Count me in for all of the above.

Nico was a beauty, a figure cut from central casting for a 60s heroin-chic rocker. She was waifish grunge before waifish grunge. She started as a model, and even landed a few bit movie parts (Fellini’s *La Dolce Vita* for one). She caught the eye of Andy Warhol, who was managing The Velvet Underground at the time, and

she joined the band for two years. She left when the band severed ties with Warhol; she then began a solo career (inspired by good friend Jim Morrison). Her solo career was marginal, but she (along with The Velvet Underground) was extremely influential in the development of alternative rock—bands such as Joy Division and The Cure cite her as a crucial influence.

The film only covers the last years of her life as a nomadic performer: her drug use, her divisiveness, her erratic performing, and her tenderness toward her son Ari (also a heroin addict). Her reputation carries her through life at this point, in spite of her fading singing voice and her less-than-stellar

music. She is feted wherever she goes, she is constantly asked questions about The Velvet Underground (which she is loathe to discuss), and she can be irascible and uncomfortable to be around. Still, the draw of fame is tantalizing.

The film itself is very straightforward, and it shines brightest when Nico has flashbacks to her childhood in Berlin (seeing the city bombed during WWII) or intermittent cuts of her time with the Velvet Underground.



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It's as if her memory doesn't work properly, and the blurred bits of the past she sees are rendered nicely in the film. It all adds up to a drab and desolate life; she is utterly lonely even though she is constantly surrounded. And certainly the strongest aspect of the film is the performance of wonderful Danish actress Trine Dyrholm (*In a Better World, Troubled Water*) as Nico; she is able to capture the aloofness of the mercurial star while still conveying the emptiness. It is a wonderful performance and a worthwhile watch.

Started Augusts 31st at the Chez Artiste Theater.

You will like this film if you enjoyed *Control*, *The Doors*, and/or *The Runaways*.

The Wire (HBO, 2002 – 2008)

This groundbreaking series is now considered one of the best shows ever put on TV. While initial critical reactions were positive, the viewer-

ship was mixed and even tepid. But time has been good to *The Wire*, and it is now held in high regard by everyone (*The Guardian* magazine called the "best TV show ever"). Count Barack Obama as one of its fans, and he fa-



mously invited much of the cast to his first inauguration. His fandom is not unwarranted: the show has uncanny depth, a stunning ensemble cast (including Idris Elba, Dominic West, Lance Reddick, Sonja Sohn, and

Wendell Pierce), incredible breadth, dense storylines and themes, and a rawness and realism that had never been seen on T.V. before. It still holds up well today.

Based on his real-life experiences as a reporter for *The Baltimore Sun*, writer/creator David Simon fashioned the show from actual stories he had covered over the years. Each one of its five seasons was themed: the drug trade, the Stevedores union, city government, education, and the media. Those themes are fleshed out around the stellar cast from season to season, all


of which was filmed in Baltimore, on the streets where the events took place.

If you have never seen it, or if you need a refresher, I am hosting a five-week series based on the show (one week for each season) at the Sie Film Center starting in September. In conjunction with the Denver Film Society, MSU Denver, and the Denver civic group Warm Cookies of the Revolution, we will have different guest speakers and community activists every week to lend their expertise. Join us for the series and then start your own binge of this important and interesting show.

The series begins at 7PM on 9/12 and runs every Wednesday for five weeks at the Sie Film Center.

You will like this show if you enjoyed *Breaking Bad*, *The Sopranos*, and/or *Oz*.


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.



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Bob Corman, the new owner of Ciji's pet store in Park Hill, sits on a dog food bench with his store manager, Celeste Crowder and her dog Chico.

By Martina Will de Chaparro

Bob Corman's first job was as a bagger at an Albertson's grocery store; today, customers may find him bagging healthy pet foods—but now he's the owner of his own store in Park Hill. In May, the Colorado native and longtime Stapleton resident purchased the neighborhood institution—Ciji's pet store—from Bonnie Simpson. Simpson, who opened Ciji's two decades ago when natural pet foods were relatively new, says she only ever considered selling to Bob, convinced of their

shared vision. After working as Purchasing Director for the State of Colorado Department of Transportation for close to a decade, Bob sought a career change—he jokes “In what other job can you spend the day petting dogs?” Though Bob's previous retail background includes years with some very big names—Albertson's and Bed Bath & Beyond—he is committed to continuing not only the Ciji's name but Bonnie's concept of a small neighborhood store. “Our push is to be more inclusive of Colorado products and thereby support other small businesses,” he says. This commitment to local and small businesses may be a family theme; Bob's father, Lee Corman, founded Lee's Appliance in Denver in 1955. Bonnie Simpson says she knew when she walked into the future home of Ciji's in Park Hill in 1998 that she had found the perfect space for her innovative natural pet food store. Barred windows and dubious pet food distributors did not dissuade her from her vision of creating a retail outlet devoted exclusively to natural foods for dogs and cats. She felt



Bonnie Simpson, former Ciji's owner

Healthy Foods for Pets

an immediate connection to the space and loved the Kearney Street neighborhood. The store's namesake and inspiration was a rescued terrier mix. Ciji embodied the store's vision, which Bonnie says originated in her question, “How can I keep this dog healthy and alive as long as possible?”

Bonnie realized that the answer lay in good nutrition. By opening a store devoted to promoting pet nutrition, she felt she could help others extend the lives of their four-legged family members as well. Ciji lived to the very respectable age of 19, substantiating Bonnie's conviction that “good nutrition matters.”

Over the last twenty years, Bonnie and Ciji's became part of people's lives and part of multiple generations of family pets' lives. She shares, with some sadness, “I love this

neighborhood. Everyone was so supportive of us.” When she sold the store, she received notes from customers reflecting on her years serving the community and supporting numerous canine and feline rescue groups, including the Colorado Pet Pantry, which helps low-income families feed their pets and keeps animals out of shelters. Bob says he is committed to maintaining the store's community outreach and philanthropy.

From locally fresh-made pet foods to unique greeting cards and Colorado kitty “pot,” Ciji's offers a wide array of local and natural products for pets and the people who love them. It is located in Park Hill at 2260 Kearney St. and is open seven days a week.

For more information visit at cijispetsupplies.com or call 303-322-8000.

Ciji's owner Bob Corman greets a canine visitor with a dog biscuit.



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September & Early October Events

NE DENVER AND NW AURORA EVENTS

Thursdays 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.

Fridays 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/>

9/1 Givetoberfest. Oktoberfest meets charity event at Stanley Marketplace. 4-9pm. German bands, beer, stein hoisting contests, face painting and balloon artists for kids and more. Commemorative mug \$25. Benefits Impact360. www.givetoberfest.com

9/6 Thursday—Thursday Night Bazaar at Stanley Marketplace. Shop and sip the 1st Thursday of the month, 5-10pm. www.denverbazaar.com

9/8 Saturday- Arts & Crafts Market. 9am-3pm. Overture Stapleton, 8133 E 29th Pl.

9/8 to 9/9 Stanley Arts Festival. Produced by CherryArts. Opening night kickoff party Sept 7. 100 national juried artists, family activities, live performances, interactive art. Free admission Sat and Sun. StanleyArts-Festival.org

9/9 Sunday—Day of Service in our Community. 9am. Augustana Lutheran Church, 5000 E. Alameda Ave. 303.388.4678 www.augustanadenver.org

9/9 Sunday—Celebration Sunday at Montview Church. Pizza and ice cream social to celebrate the new season. Montview Blvd Presbyterian Church, 1980 Dahlia St, 303.355.1651. www.montview.org

9/9 Sunday—Mommy Burnout with Sheryl Ziegler. 2-3pm, Join author Sheryl Ziegler as she discusses her book Mommy Burnout: How to Reclaim your Life and Raise Healthier Children in the Process. [https://www.denverlibrary.org/event/mommy-burnout-sheryl-ziegler/Sam Gary Branch 2961 Roslyn St. Denver/720-865-0325](https://www.denverlibrary.org/event/mommy-burnout-sheryl-ziegler/Sam%20Gary%20Branch%202961%20Roslyn%20St.%20Denver/720-865-0325)

9/13 Thursday—Sam Gary Knitting Circle. Bring your knitting or crochet project and join other crafters in conversation around the fireplace. Repeats 9/27. Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St. 720-865-0325, asksamgarylibrary@denverlibrary.org www.denverlibrary.org/event/knitting-circle-13

Visit our online calendar
to view more events or submit events
FrontPorchNE.com > Events

9/16 Sunday—Sam Gary Literary. 2pm-3pm. 2961 Roslyn St. Book club once a month on Sundays; rotates between fiction, nonfiction, and reader's choice selections. <https://www.denverlibrary.org/event/sam-gary-literary>

9/17 to 9/18—STEAM: Natural Disasters. 4-5pm on Monday 9/17 or Tuesday 9/18 come make tornadoes, volcanoes, and earthquakes and learn about geology and weather, including how to stay safe in natural disasters. Registration required [https://www.denverlibrary.org/event/steam-1/Sam Gary Branch 2961 Roslyn St, Denver/720-865-0325](https://www.denverlibrary.org/event/steam-1/Sam%20Gary%20Branch%202961%20Roslyn%20St.%20Denver/720-865-0325)

9/19 Wednesday—Welcoming Week Card-Making. 3:30-5:30pm Stop by and make a card to welcome a newcomer to the United States. Craft supplies will be provided. All ages [https://www.denverlibrary.org/event/welcoming-week-card-making/Sam Gary Branch Library 2961 Roslyn St, Denver/720-865-0325](https://www.denverlibrary.org/event/welcoming-week-card-making/Sam%20Gary%20Branch%202961%20Roslyn%20St.%20Denver/720-865-0325)

9/20 Thursday—Sazza Pizza + Salads-7th Annual Farm To Table Dinner and Fundraiser. Patio dinner with wine. Proceeds to Bluff Lake Nature Center, Aurora, CO <https://www.facebook.com/events/226141284687061/> Stanley Marketplace-2501 N. Dallas St., Aurora. 303-797-3048

9/22 Saturday—Film Screening & Series Kick-Off: Coming of Age in Aging America. Sam Gary Branch, 2961 Roslyn St. Saturday, September 22, 10am-12pm. The PBS documentary Coming of Age in Aging America provides an introduction to the complex issues we'll address in the Connected & Creative Aging series. [https://www.denverlibrary.org/event/film-screening-series-kick-coming-age-aging-america/Sam Gary Library, Denver/720-865-0325](https://www.denverlibrary.org/event/film-screening-series-kick-coming-age-aging-america/Sam%20Gary%20Branch%202961%20Roslyn%20St.%20Denver/720-865-0325)

9/23 Sunday—40th Annual Park Hill Home Tour and Street Fair. Tour homes 11am-5pm. Street Fair, between Montview and 17th on Forest Parkway. 10am-5pm. Kids activities, wine/beer garden, music. Tickets and info: greaterparkhill.org www.parkhillhometour.org

9/28 Friday—In Stitches Quilting Meeting.

"Grands" sewing, quilting and friendship group that makes quilts for Children's Hospital, University Hospital and the community. 4th Friday of the month, Jan.-Oct. at 9:30am, 5273 N. Beeler St. Contact: Cheryl at 720-498-3823

9/29 Saturday—Our Financial Future: Retirement, Social Security, and Inequality. Sam Gary Branch, 2961 Roslyn St., 10am-12pm. How our financial programs will keep up with our new longevity, who benefits and who will be at risk. www.denverlibrary.org 720-865-032

9/29 to 9/30—Stapleton Open Studios Tour. 11am-5pm. Stapleton artists' studios on free self-guided tour. www.stapletonartists.org

9/29 to 10/8—Stapleton Food Drive. Presented by New Perspective Real Estate. To volunteer or donate: www.StapletonFoodDrive.com

10/13 Saturday—Denver Citizens Academy. Denver D.A. 101. Interactive presentations and discussions with Denver District Attorney and staff. Blair Caldwell Library, 2401 Welton. Apply to attend at www.denverda.org or email, Michael.song@denverda.org

SEASONAL EVENTS

9/7 to 9/9—Longs Peak Scottish Irish Festival. Pipe bands, Irish and folk dancing, parade, etc. Estes Park. www.scotfest.com

9/14 to 9/15—Broomfield Days. www.broomfield.org

9/21 to 10/28—Botanic Gardens Corn Maze. Denver Botanic Gardens Chatfield, 8500 W. Deer Creek Canyon Rd. www.botanicgardens.org

9/19 to 10/31—Anderson Farms Fall Festival. Corn maze, pumpkin patch, hayrides, barrel train, etc. 6728 County Road 3 1/4 Erie. www.andersonfarms.com

9/21 to 9/23—Denver Oktoberfest. 20th and Larimer, Ballpark neighborhood. Repeats 9/28-30.

www.thedenveroktoberfest.com

9/21 to 10/31—Haunted Field of Screams. Colorado's largest scream park. [http://haunted-fieldofscreams.com//10451 McKay Road, Thornton/info@hauntedfieldofscreams.com](http://haunted-fieldofscreams.com//10451%20McKay%20Road%20Thornton/info@hauntedfieldofscreams.com)

9/22 to 9/23—Doors Open Denver 2018. Self guided or expert guided tours of Denver's unique spaces. List of sites at www.denverarchitecture.org

9/22 to 10/31—Cottonwood Farms Pumpkin Patch and Fall Festival. Farm animals, straw bale maze, 1 1/2-acre corn maze, wagon rides, etc. Daily 10am -6pm. New location: 10600 Isabelle Rd (287 and Isabelle), Lafayette. www.cottonwoodfarms.com

9/28 to 10/31—Maize in the City. Attractions for the whole family. [http://www.maizeinthecity.com/10451 McKay Road, Thornton/info@maizeinthecity.com](http://www.maizeinthecity.com/10451%20McKay%20Road%20Thornton/info@maizeinthecity.com)

DENVER METRO EVENTS

Wednesdays and Saturdays to 10/13—Free composting classes. Wed. and Sat. thru mid-Oct. Denver Compost Demonstration Site, Gove Community Garden, 13th Ave. and Colo. Blvd. Sign up: 303.292.9900 or www.dug.org/compost.

(continued on page 24)

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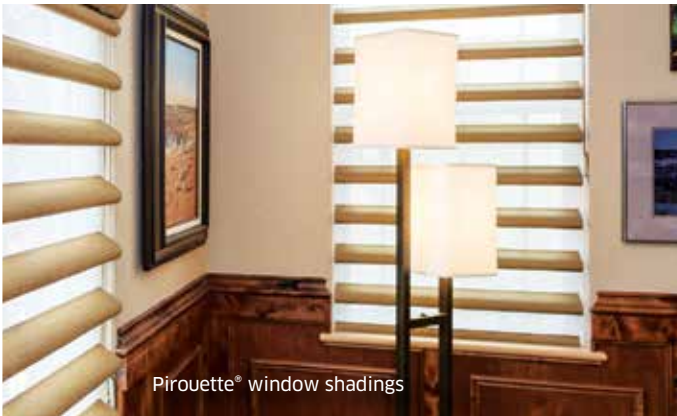


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LOCAL EVENTS

(continued from page 23)

8/31 to 9/3—A Taste of Colorado. Food, music, arts/crafts, fireworks, carnival rides. Civic Center Park. www.atasteofcolorado.com

9/2 Saturday—Smithsonian Magazine Museum Day Live. History Colorado Center. Visit HistoryColoradoCenter.org to download free admission pass for this nationwide celebration of art and culture. www.historycolorado.org

9/4 to 9/9—Denver Food and Wine Festival. 6-day festival, multiple events, locations. Details/tickets: www.denverfoodandwine.com

9/7 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

9/8 Saturday—Sunnyside Music Festival. Chaffee Park 12-7:30pm. NW Denver. www.sunnysidemusicfest.org

9/8 to 9/9—Festival Italiano 2017 at Belmar. Italian food, wine, artisan vendors. 10am-9pm Sat., 10am-5pm Sun. www.belmarcolorado.com

9/9 Saturday—29th Annual Friendship Powwow and American Indian Cultural Celebration. Denver Art Museum, 10am-5pm. FREE. www.denverartmuseum.org

9/9 to 9/17—Denver Coliseum Mineral Fossil and Gem Show. Denver Coliseum, I-70 and Brighton Blvd. Largest U.S.

9/10 to 9/19—National Jewish Health High Holiday Services. FREE High Holiday services for Denver’s Jewish community. www.servicesatnjjh.org

mineral/fossil show. Hundreds of exhibitors 9am-6pm Mon-Sat, 9am-5pm Sun. FREE admission. www.coliseumshow.com

9/14 to 9/18—5th Annual Denver Vintage Jazz Festival. Live swing and traditional jazz music from ’20s thru ’40s. Multiple venues, check website. Tickets/performance info: www.denverjazzfestival.org

9/14 to 9/16—51st Annual Denver Gem and Mineral Show. Denver Mart Expo, 451 E. 58th Ave. I-25, exit 215. Tickets \$4-\$6, under 13 free with adult. Cash/check only. www.denvermineralshow.com

9/22 Saturday—2018 Energy Day Festival. Family festival featuring STEM exhibits. 11am-4pm. East High School, Free. www.energydayfestival.org/colorado/

9/22 Saturday—Denver Dumb Friends League Wag N Trail. 1.6-mile hike with your dog helps home-

less pets at Buddy Center. 8am-12pm. Glendale Farm Open Space, Castle Rock. 303.751.5772 ext. 1378 www.ddfl.org

9/28 to 9/29—Botanic Gardens Fall Plant and Bulb Sale. West Terrace, 9-5pm Fri., 9-3pm, Sat. Free admission to gardens both days. Thousands of bulbs, plants and bushes; members get 10% discount. 1007 York St. www.botanicgardens.org

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

9/7 Friday—Wear Teal Day to Raise Awareness of Ovarian Cancer. Wear teal to kick off Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month and raise awareness of the deadliest gynecologic cancer. http://denverco.denver/jeanene@colo-ovariancancer.org

9/10 Monday—Compassion Cultivation Training led by Dr Kerry Makin-Byrd. Stanley Marketplace http://drkerrymakinbyrd.com/compassion-training/

9/15 Saturday—2017 Walk to End Alzheimer’s. Denver’s City Park. 8am. www.alz.org

9/16 Sunday—8th Annual Hop, Skip and a Jump Start. Stroller and family-friendly 5K and expo benefits Children’s Museum of Denver. www.mychildsmuseum.org

KIDS AND FAMILIES

To 9/3 Colorado State Fair. Pueblo Fairgrounds, Pueblo. www.coloradostatefair.com

To 9/23—Pixelated: Sculpture by Mike Whiting. Exhibit at Denver Botanic Gardens. Included with admission. www.botanicgardens.org

9/1 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

9/2 Sunday—Junior Rangers. 1:30-3pm. Ages 6-12. Morrison Nature Center, 16002 E. Smith Rd., Aurora. Reservations required. 303.739.9428, www.auroragov.org/nature

9/4 to 9/25—Storytime for Preschoolers. Tuesdays at 10:30am, Free. The Bookies bookstore, 4315 E. Mississippi Avenue (303) 759-1117 info@thebookies.com www.thebookies.com

9/4 to 9/25—Tuesdays in September—Four Mile Historic Park Small Settlers. Ages 2-5 accompanied by parent/caregiver. 9-10am. \$5/child adults free, members free. 7150D. Forest St. Advance register: 720.865.0814 or education@fourmilepark.org. www.fourmilepark.org

9/10 Sunday—STEAM for All Festival. Wings Over the Rockies Air & Space Museum with fellow institutions, industry leaders, experts in STEAM give overview of what it is and how these fields can be used for personal/career development. Movies, 3-D animations, and more. http://wingsmuseum.org/event/steam/

9/19 to 9/23—Just Between Friends of Denver. National Western Complex. www.jbfsale.com

LECTURES, CLASSES, INFORMATIONAL EVENTS

9/4 Tuesday—Active Minds: -Cowboys. 10:00-11:00 am. Jewish Community Center, 350 S Dahlia St www.activeminds.com

9/13 Thursday—Active Minds: The Challenges of Mexico. 1-2 pm, An in-depth look at our neighbor to the south. As Mexico prepares itself for Presidential elections. https://www.denverlibrary.org/event/active-minds-challenges-mexico/Sam Gary Library Branch 2961 Roslyn St, 720-865-0325

9/17 Monday—League of Women Voters Denver Presents: A Discussion on What Can Be Done about Gun Violence. Tom Mauer, who lost his son in the Columbine tragedy and Mary Blegen from Colorado Ceasefire, will speak at Montview Presbyterian 5:30 pm coffee, 6:00 pm presentation http://LWVDenver.org/Montview Presbyterian Church, 1980 Dahlia Street, McCollum Room, Denver/303-321-7571

9/20 Thursday—Gene Editing Revolution: The What, How, and Why of CRISPR Technology. 6:30pm - 7:45pm Join three scientists from the University of Colorado as they discuss the discovery, incredible potential, and complex ethics of CRISPR. Ideal for ages 12 and up. https://www.denverlibrary.org/event/science-news/Sam Gary Branch Library 2961 Roslyn St, Denver/720-865-0325

9/27 Thursday—Active Minds: The Struggles of Syria. 6:45 pm Since gaining its independence from the French in 1946, Syria has had a rocky and troubled history. https://www.denverlibrary.org/event/active-minds-struggles-syria/Sam Gary Branch 2961 Roslyn St, Denver/720-865-0325

SCFD FREE DAYS

9/1 Saturday—Denver Art Museum Free Day. SCFD Free day. www.denverartmuseum.org

9/1 Saturday—Counterterrorism Education Learning Lab. SCFD Free day. www.thecell.org

9/4 Tuesday—Children’s Museum

Free Target Tuesday. 4-8pm. www.cmdenver.org

9/7 Friday—Museo de las Americas. SCFD Free evening 5-9pm. www.museo.org.

9/8 Saturday—Denver Art Museum Free Day. SCFD Free day. www.denverartmuseum.org

9/14 Friday—Four Mile Historic Park Free Day. SCFD Free second Friday, 12pm-4pm. www.fourmilepark.org

9/12 Wednesday—Denver Museum of Nature & Science Free Day. SCFD Free evening, 4pm to 10pm. www.dnms.org

9/22 Saturday—Counterterrorism Education Learning Lab. SCFD Free day. www.thecell.org

9/28 Friday—Clyfford Still Museum. SCFD Free day. Free admission last Friday monthly all day. Free admission Fridays 5-8pm. 1250 Bannock St. www.clyffordstillmuseum.org

9/28 Friday—Counterterrorism Education Learning Lab. SCFD Free evening, 5-9pm. www.thecell.org

10/2 Tuesday—Children’s Museum Free Target Tuesday. 4-8pm. www.cmdenver.org

MUSEUMS

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

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

To 1/20/19—“Eyes On: Shima-buku” at the Denver Art Museum. A video illustrates the adaptation of a group of Japanese snow monkeys living in a Texas desert sanctuary since they were brought to the U.S. in 1972. The film also symbolically explores human migration and reconnection. Ticket required, www.denverartmuseum.org

9/11 Tuesday—Drop-In Drawing at the Denver Art Museum. 2nd Tuesdays, 1-3pm. Free with museum admission. All levels welcome. Drawing materials provided or bring your own, restrictions apply see website. www.denverartmuseum.org

9/20 Thursday—Science Lounge. Cocktails/entertainment 3rd Thurs. monthly. 6:30-9:30pm. \$8/members; \$10/nonmembers.

9/28 Friday—DAM Untitled Final Friday. 6pm-10pm, Cash bar, DJ, light munchies. Members free, nonmembers \$8-\$13.

9/23 Sunday—40th Annual Park Hill Home Tour and Street Fair. Tour homes 11am-5pm. Street Fair, between Montview and 17th on Forest Pkwy. 10am-5pm. Kids activities, wine/beer garden, music. www.parkhillhometour.org

THEATRE

To 9/9—The Sunshine Boys. Vintage Theatre. 1468 Dayton St., Aurora Cultural Arts District. www.vintagetheatre.org

To 10/13—The Cake. Curious Theatre Company, 1080 Acoma St, www.curious theatre.org

9/7 to 10/21—The Kentucky Cycle. Vintage Theatre. 1468 Dayton St., Aurora Cultural Arts District. www.vintagetheatre.org

9/7 to 9/30—Mama Mia! Arvada Center, 6901 Wadsworth Blvd, Arvada. www.arvadacenter.org

9/14 to 10/14—Songs for a New World. Aurora Fox Arts Center, 9900 E. Colfax Ave. www.aurorafoxartscenter.org

9/21 to 10/21—The Constant Wife. Denver Center for the Performing Arts. 14th and Curtis, www.denvercenter.org

10/5 to 12/9—Corduroy. Denver Center for the Performing Arts, 14th and Curtis. www.denvercenter.org

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

9/18 Tuesday—Support Social Change. Change, Not Charity: Join Chinook Fund’s Giving Project to support statewide social change https://chinookfund.org/givingproject/11031 33rd Street, Denver/303-455-6905

Ronald McDonald Family Rooms at Rocky Mountain Hospital for Children. Seeking volunteers for once-a-week commitment, 6-month minimum. At Presbyterian/St. Luke’s Hospital. Info at: www.ronaldhouse.org under “How You Can Help”

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

Reading Volunteers Needed. For students in K-8 grade. 1 hour, 1 student, 1x week. During school hours. julie@partnersinliteracy.org or 303.316.3944 ext. 241.

Project Worthmore. Nonprofit organization of committed community members give, volunteer, mentor, befriend refugee neighbors. 1532 Galena St., Ste. 380. 720.460.1393

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Artists Welcome Guests to Their Studios

By Laurie Dunklee

Approaching Susan Crane's house, it's apparent an artist lives there. A self-portrait in red clay peeks out from under a shrub. A vortex fountain, surrounded by a swirl of blue and white glass mesmerizes before stepping inside. Glass tile accents frame the fireplace. Crane says her house is her largest work of art. You'll see all that before ever stepping into her actual jewelry and fused glass studios, which will be open for viewing September 29 and 30 during the free and open to the public Stapleton Open Studios tour.

Tour founder and coordinator Lin Clark says artists in the event live and/or work in the Stapleton area and open their studios for visitors. Twenty-four artists will participate in this sixth year of the tour. With some pairing up, the



Fiber and quilt artist Rebecca Musgrave, a software test engineer by day, stands by the computerized long-arm sewing machine in her basement where she designs and makes quilts and other fiber art.

Free and Open to the Public Stapleton Open Studios Tour

September 29-30, 11am-5pm
Opening Reception Sept. 28, 6-8pm
Complimentary hors d'oeuvres and beverages
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The Cube, 8371 Northfield Blvd., Suite C

Pick up a free map at the Cube starting Sept. 1
For more information visit StapletonArtists.org

be hard to see concrete results. "But here, I have in my hand something I've created from start to finish. It's so satisfying to feel it and to know what I've done."

Fiber and quilt artist Rebecca Musgrave says visitors to her basement studio ask lots of questions about her long-arm sewing machine. "It's on a 14-foot table so it

goes almost across the width of my whole basement. It's computerized so it lends itself to my engineering sensibilities," says Musgrave, whose day job is working as a software test engineer. "I do a lot of computer work during the day so I really love that I can design my own patterns, and use other peoples' designs. The computer is attached to the machine or I can guide it with my hands. It's a way to bring art and technology together." With it, Musgrave makes what she describes as pictures out of fabric, sometimes of animals, landscapes and scenery. "Think paint-by-numbers but with pieces of fabric," she says.

Musgrave knows people have



Rebecca Musgrave holds a fabric design so detailed it looks like a painting. The computer behind her shows an example of a complicated pattern that gets sent to her sewing machine, creating intricate designs on a quilt or other fabric.

preconceived notions about quilting. "I think most people hear 'quilting' and their first thought is: 'My Grandma did that, woop-di-doo.'" She likes seeing how surprised people are when they walk in and see one of her pieces and think it's a painting. "I want to show people that quilting doesn't have to be just a bunch of little old ladies quilting at church. I love that tradition and heritage, but in the last 20 years, it has really grown so much beyond that."

Visitors on the tour often share with the artists that they dabble in art but say they haven't pursued it. Crane loves those conversations and hopes the Stapleton Open Studios tour will inspire the visitors. "I think artists are so stigmatized about what it means to do art, and there are elitist terms about it," she says. "But I believe we are all creative and have it in us."



Susan Crane uses the glass cutter in her workshop as she works on one of her current creations.



Artist Susan Crane calls her home her biggest art project. Here she sits in her patio among her sculptures.

A Crane Creation so it would apply to any kind of art she did, including jewelry, glass or polymer clay she usually works with. A psychologist specializing in children's sleep issues by day, Crane frequently takes classes to learn more about art. "I'm so curious ...and everything fascinates me," she says. "I never lose interest in the old stuff, but anything new, I want to figure it out and put my own twist on it." Her basement jewelry studio looks more like a stylish boutique than a workspace, with earrings, necklaces and bracelets set up on display forms, ready to be taken to shows where she displays and sells her work. Her fused glass projects happen in the garage, with a cabinet of forms and other equipment including upside-down cocktail shaker bases.

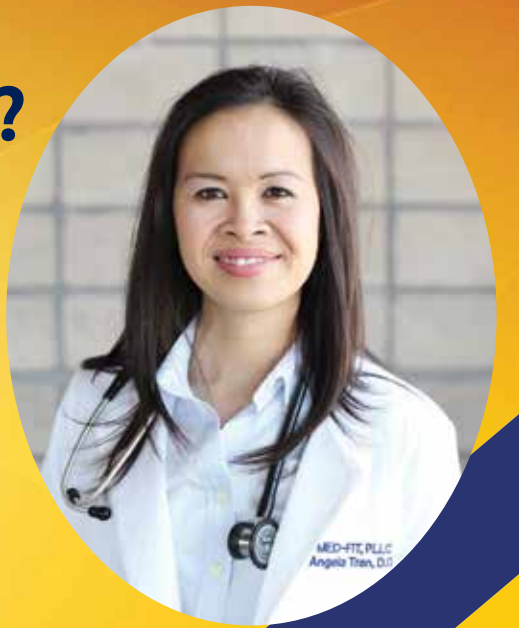
Her art provides balance in her life. At work, it can

Susan Crane named her company

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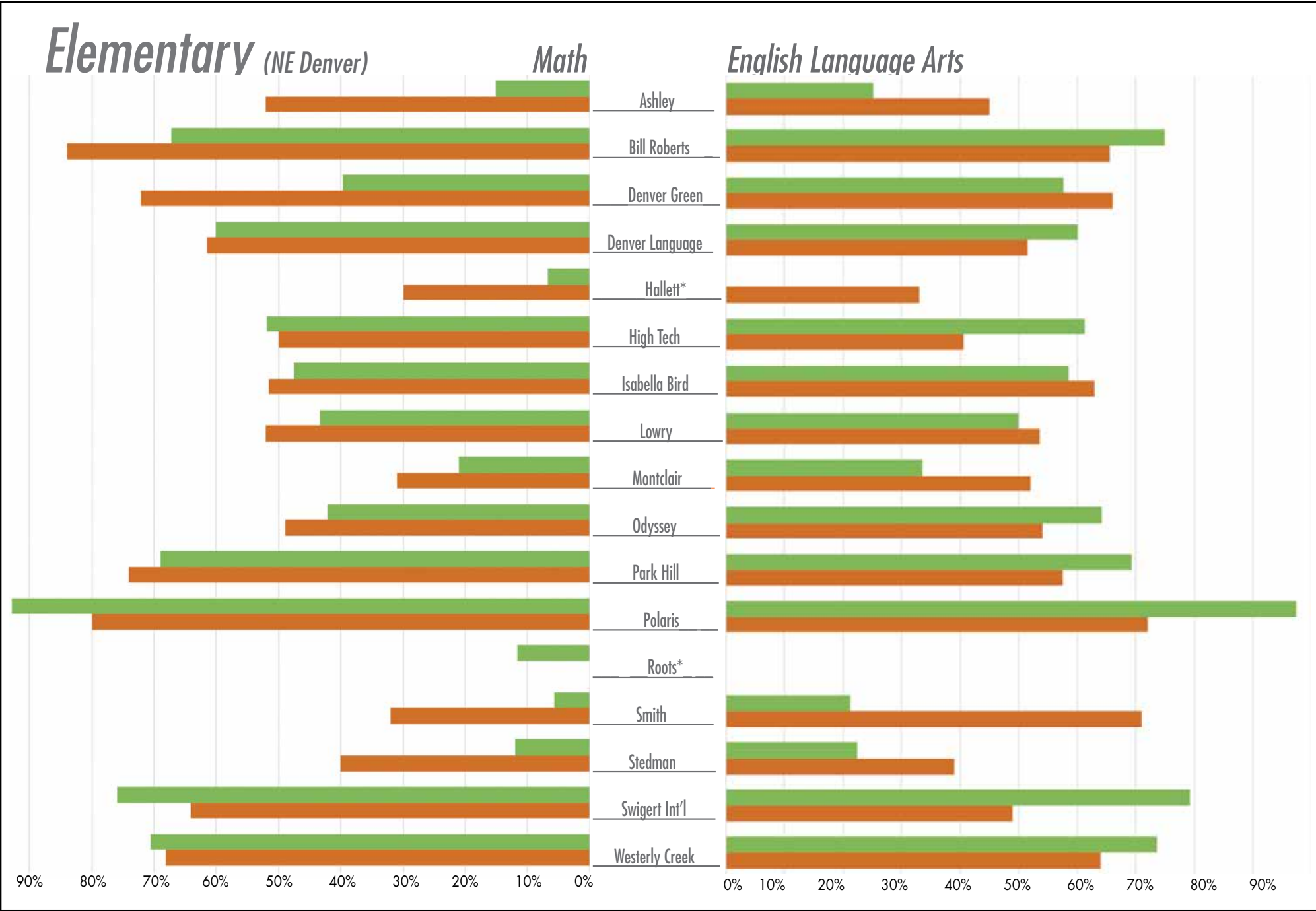
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NOTE: This bar graph combines the "sold" listings of all office locations and independent offices of each multi-office or franchise organization identified, which listings were sold by such organization itself, or with the aid of a cooperating broker, according to data maintained by the Local Board or Multiple Listing Service for the geographic area indicated. The bar graph compares all those listings that were "sold" by each organization during the period 1/1/17-12/31/17. This representation is based in whole or in part on data supplied by RECOLORADO. Neither the Associations nor their MLS guarantee or are in any way responsible for its accuracy. Data maintained by the Associations may not reflect all real estate activity in a market. ©2016, RE/MAX, LLC. Each RE/MAX® office is independently owned and operated.

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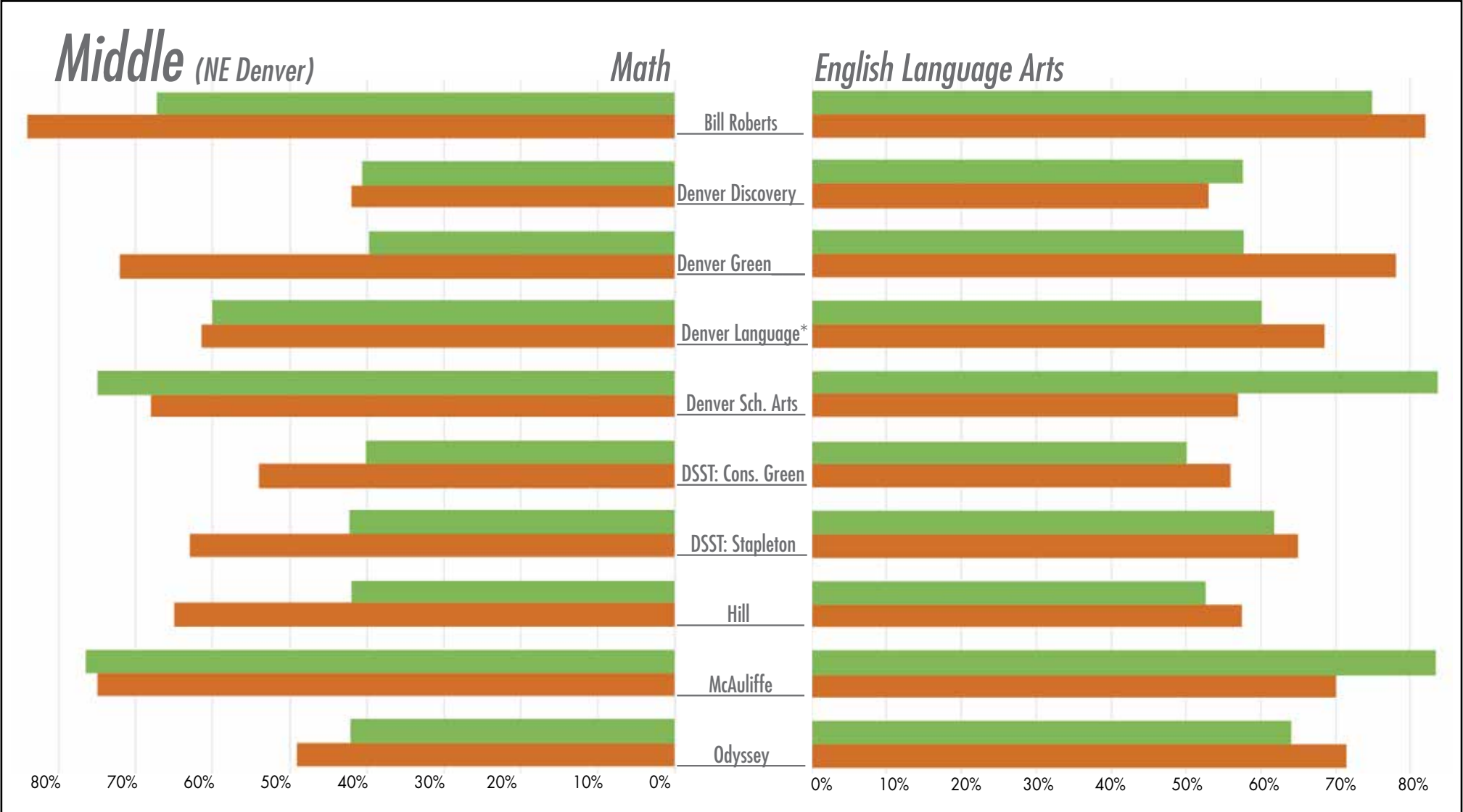
2373 Cental Park Blvd., Suite 302, Denver, CO 80238

September 2018

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Front Porch – NE Denver

for NE Denver Schools



Understanding CMAS Results

In August, scores were released for the CMAS exams (Colorado Measures of Academic Success) in English Language Arts (ELA) and Math. The exams assess student proficiency in meeting grade-level standards set by the state.

They are aligned to the Common Core national standards. **PERCENT PROFICIENT** represents the percentage of students who meet or exceed state proficiency standards in the content area. **GROWTH** is the Median Growth Percentile

(MGP). Fifty percent represents one year's growth. It is calculated by ordering individual student growth percentiles from lowest to highest and identifying a middle score, which is the median. A median score below 50 percent indicates

more than half the students have not achieved a year's growth. A median score above 50 percent indicates more than half the students have achieved a year's growth. *Scores represent averages of grades 3-5 for elementary and

grades 6-8 for middle schools. Score categories with fewer than 16 students represented are not reported by the Colorado Department of Education. Sources: Colorado Dept of Education; Chalkbeat.org

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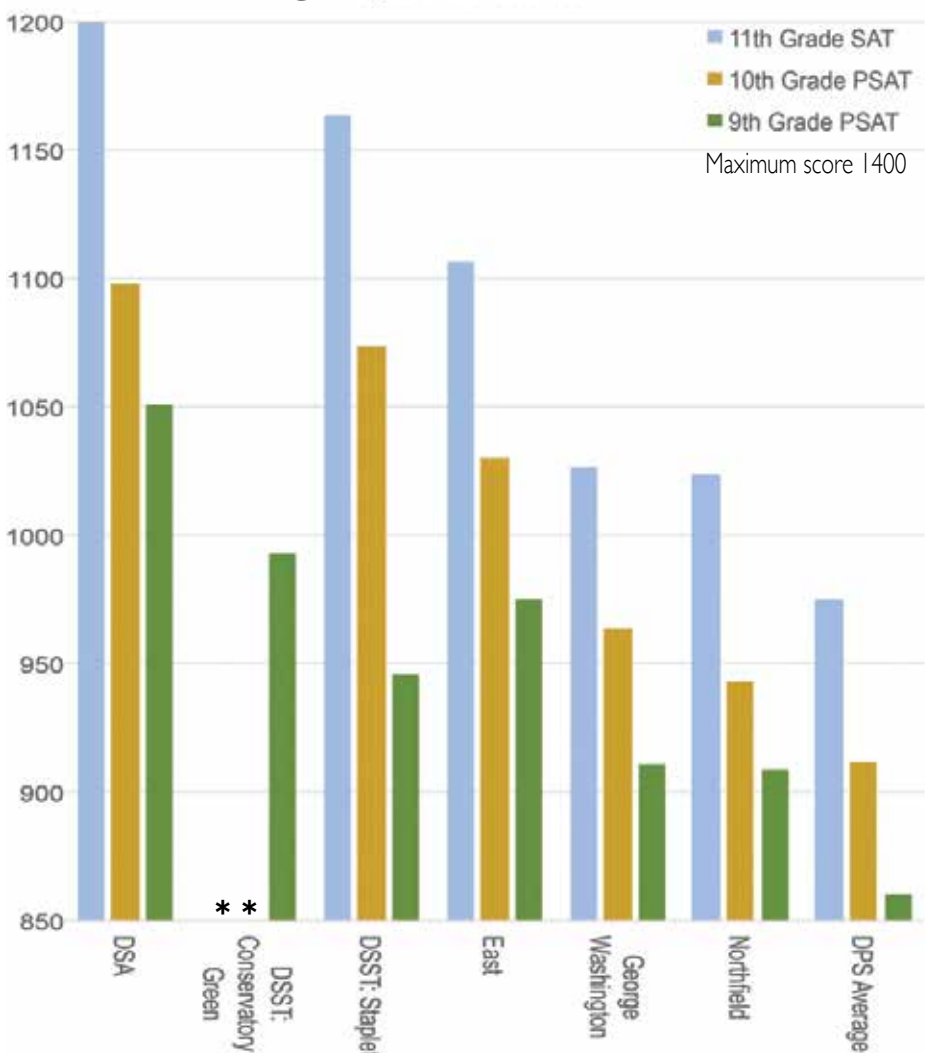
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2018 High School PSAT Scores



*No students in these grades yet

Three programs have responded to the Denver Public Schools (DPS) call for quality middle schools issued in late July 2018: The Denver Green School, High Tech, and Beacon Middle School. The October SUN outreach meeting (Tuesday October 16, 6:30pm, Central Park Recreation Center) will be focused on education and an in-depth conversation with leadership from the three programs responding to the DPS call.

Community Has Asked for a Large Comprehensive Program

The timeline for a placement decision was announced as December 2018. However, prior to finalizing the selection process DPS should pursue obtaining centrally-located land along I-70, and reissue a call for a large comprehensive or IB middle school that can accommodate the diverse needs and preferences of the GPHS boundary students, with adequate space for a substantial number of students from out of boundary.

Any school designed to meet the DPS call for a school with 500-600 students will face challenges in meeting the preferences and needs of the community which it has been called to serve.

Parents have communicated to SUN a desire for leveled math for 6th graders, and a curriculum including management skills, planning, and organization. Such demands are more easily met at a larger school, thus larger school sizes appeal to a wide range of students with broad preferences.

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

September SUN News —DPS Call for Quality Schools—

At the May 2018 Stapleton United Neighbors annual community forum held at The Cube, DPS Superintendent Tom Boasberg was last to address the room, with in-depth Q&A covering parent concerns. Comments at that forum from parents included a desire for a school centrally-located in Stapleton (near Central Park Blvd. between I-70 and Northfield Blvd.) serving families who prefer a comprehensive-style school or with IB programming like that offered in McAuliffe. At the end of the annual forum, Superintendent Boasberg stated that if the Stapleton Developer Forest City would turn over land along Central Park Blvd. between I-70 and Northfield Blvd., DPS would use it for a middle school.

DPS Requirements for the New School

DPS's call for quality middle schools included five requirements: 1) Staged grade addition starting with 6th and filling through 8th, with the capacity to serve up to 500-600 students. 2) Preference to

students in the Greater Park Hill-Stapleton (GPHS) enrollment zone, with the potential for offering zone preference if asked to do so. 3) Accommodations for English language learners regardless of language level. 4) Special education serving mild-moderate needs with Individualized Education Program (IEP)s. 5) Diverse and Inclusive by design.

Space Projections for New School Are Not Aligned with Community Preferences

In the call for quality middle schools, DPS's space projections demonstrated a need for 100 seats for in-boundary 6th grade students in GPHS by 2021-22. DPS enrollment data for 2017-18 shows current middle school seats (grades 6-8) for in-boundary students across the five middle schools in GPHS include 1,880 seats filled by in-boundary students and an additional 849 from out of boundary (35%). This percentage parallels the percentage of seats at Northfield High School designated for out-of-boundary students.

The community appreciates efforts and applauds successes in bringing diversity to and fostering diversity within schools. Designating 35% of seats for out-of-boundary students will allow for more diversity within the school and foster connections across communities. In the June 2018 *Front Porch* interview with Superintendent Boasberg, the superintendent

stated "We build capacity to allow all families in the zone to have a seat, but also capacity for families outside the zone, [in order to] drive greater socioeconomic diversity [and to foster connections between Stapleton and neighboring communities]."

In the call for quality middle schools, DPS did not require the applicant to explicitly mention how a school would be designed to meet in-boundary space needs while also meeting diversity goals; what percentage of seats would be reserved for in-boundary and out-of-boundary students is not explicitly requested.

Currently, the most frequently preferred middle school in GPHS houses 61% of all in-boundary middle school students who remain in boundary: McAuliffe. While McAuliffe is currently the largest middle school with 1,158 seats, its strength as a program resulted in its growth to the current state. DPS choice data shows that McAuliffe was ranked first by 53.5% of in-boundary families in 2017-18, and had the largest waiting list of 136 students. Additionally, parents have communicated the importance of a wide range of clubs, sports, and electives.

How Many Seats Are Needed?

Combining the projected need for 100 more 6th grade seats with the 136 in-boundary children on the McAuliffe waiting list after choice, and an additional number of seats such that 35% of students can come from out-of-boundary suggests that the community would best be served by an additional middle school nearly twice as large as the one DPS has requested. Such a school would have capacity for 366 students per grade (130 of whom would be from out of boundary), and a total size across grades of around 1,100 students.

—Amanda Allhouse, SUN president

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RECOGNITIONS

A Winning Softball Season

By Carol Roberts

Four years ago, the Riptide girls competitive softball team was formed—and they didn't win a single tournament game that year. This year, the same group of girls, most of whom live in Stapleton, Park Hill and Lowry, won their league championship and placed second in state. That performance got them to the regional competitions where they beat the championship teams from five states—including the Colorado team that had just beaten them for the state championship.

Amid the excitement of winning, the team had to make a quick decision. Would they travel to Florida in two weeks for the Babe Ruth Softball World Series and compete against the best teams in the country? Would enough girls give up their plans for family vacations and summer camps? Could they raise enough money to help offset expenses estimated at \$20,000 for the entire team?

The answer was yes—and the team went into action.

Together, four of the girls, Ana, Maddie, Sam and Claire, wove a picture of their World Series experience: Fundraising went quickly when they spread the word about their Go Fund Me site among their parents' friends. Two teammates went door to door on Montview and got contributions from 18 of 20 people they told about their trip.

During a week of 90 degree days with 90 percent humidity in Florida in August, the Riptide played 13 games against teams that were better than they'd ever seen. "The first game was like a rude awakening...a different level of competition...After that we knew what to look for. We saw a lot of our errors go away, mental and physical. We all supported each other when we were nervous...I would look around and realize...no matter how I do I can say, 'We were there.'"

Coach Steve Federico summed up the outcome. "They ended up in fifth place out of eight, and the game



Riptide Girls U14 Softball Team at the Babe Ruth Softball World Series in Florida (from left):

Dave Reeder & Steve Federico coaches

Samantha Brown

Kaylye Machalek

Vanessa Tarango

Ana Federico

Claire Fontenot

Carmela Tejada

Grace Hatch

Maddie Rodgers

Annika Reeder-Holman

Bella Marusich

Krisie Steiner coach

Not pictured: Camille Kelly and Charlotte McHugh

they won to get into fourth place was against the team that had beaten them 16-3 the first time they played—and we beat them 9-1." Though the team played in the U14 divi-

sion, most of the players are only 13, so they will play in the same division next year. They are optimistic that they'll have another shot at the World Series next year.

After this issue, the *Front Porch* will no longer have a service directory.

SERVICE DIRECTORY

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The upcoming sessions include: a day in the life of an emergency physician; what you need to know about Diabetes Mellitus; a storm chasing physician's account of the Joplin tornado and lessons for emergency preparedness; women's health in 2018; the primary care dilemma; a day in the life of a rheumatologist; a day in the life of a cardiologist; end of life care.

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Local Mom Finds “Wholeness” in a Rock Band



Carla Weikel performed with her band, Just a Girl, at Soiled Dove on July 21. The band is a tribute to Gwen Stefani’s No Doubt band, which performed in the 1990s and 2000s. Weikel is scheduled to perform at the Oriental on Sept. 15.

View video of Just a Girl at FrontPorchNE.com

By Laurie Dunklee

“This is my mid-life crisis band,” says Carla Weikel, lead singer and founder of Just a Girl, a tribute to Gwen Stefani’s No Doubt band. Weikel, 40, is a Stapleton resident and mother of two, ages 6 and 10. “My goal is to rediscover fun before my kids get older and I get too old to do this.”

Just a Girl emulates No Doubt, a rock-ska-pop band that was fronted in the 1990s and 2000s by flamboyant vocalist Gwen Stefani. “We play mostly the songs from their heyday, plus a few current songs,” says Weikel. “We try to match the sound of their instruments and I try to match Gwen’s tone and emotion.”

Weikel imitates the wild costumes worn by Stefani, a clothing designer. “I watch all of their shows on YouTube and I try to match her look, like half-shirts, wrist bands and heavy makeup. It’s impossible to buy anything like what she wears so I piece it together. She sometimes wore a *bindi* [a colored dot on the center of the forehead, worn by Hindu women], so I found one at Forever 21 and glued it on. I get the look pretty well

if no one gets up close.”

No Doubt’s music is a fun challenge, she said. “It runs the gamut of styles so we’re not stuck with one style. The music is technical and the players like their parts. The hooks are great. This music stays fresh for me.”

Weikel was inspired to start the band while on her nightly walk in Stapleton in August 2017. “No Doubt came up on my iPod and I realized that while there were lots of tribute bands in Colorado, none of them were No Doubt tribute bands. When I found people who also wanted to do this, it solidified my vision.”

She found musicians for the band on Craigslist. “I got lucky right away and found good people, who referred me to more good people.”

Just a Girl came together early

2018, and the band has played at venues including Herman’s Hideaway and the Soiled Dove Underground. The band’s next show will be at the Oriental Theater Sept. 15.

Weikel started performing as a singer in high school musical theater and continued with community theater after college. She sang with bands in Denver, including her own band, from 2004 to 2015. “After I stopped performing, I felt I was losing a part of myself, my creative side. Things like work and kids can take priority over fun, and your time gets thin,” said Weikel, who works full time at a real estate investment company. “So I needed something to make me feel that wholeness again. This is very satisfying and fun.”

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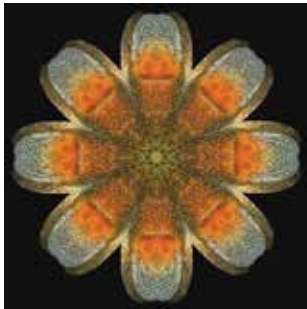
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Weikel says her kids, Addison, 6, and Gavin, 10, like to watch her rehearse with her band in their sound-proofed basement.

A basement room of Weikel’s house became the band rehearsal space once she sound-proofed it. “The kids sneak down to the basement to watch us. My daughter sings along with the songs. She still thinks I’m cool and I’m milking that because it won’t be long before she thinks I am *not* cool.” Weikel attributes the band’s early success to its nostalgic appeal. “Just about

everyone who was a teen or 20-something in the 1990s or 2000s can associate No Doubt’s songs with some part their youth. I think that’s why we’ve resonated with people right off the bat. I loved No Doubt in the ‘90s. It reminds me of high school, going to the beach in my best friend’s Jetta.” For more information and tickets for the Sept. 15 show at the Oriental, see www.justagirtribute.com.

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