

Front Porch

COLORADO

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

JUNE 2019

NORTHEAST DENVER

New Life for Contraband: Helping Save Species



Education Specialist Sarah Metzer of the National Wildlife Property Repository says the illegal wildlife trade is one of the most lucrative criminal industries in the world, after drugs, counterfeiting, human trafficking and oil. Items that can be used for educational purposes are stored at the National Repository located at Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge.

Alion, row upon row of feline heads of many varieties, bags of bear claws and dozens of coin purses made of frogs are among the 1.3 million items stored at the National Wildlife Property Repository in Commerce City. Nestled

within the Rocky Mountain Arsenal that serves as a refuge for bison and other wildlife, this federal facility lends the contraband to educational facilities and researchers to help save these species. *Story by Martina Will, PhD on page 8.*

Beer & Colorado: A Great Pairing



History Colorado ties together beer and the state's history in "Beer Here," a collection of artifacts, photos, and other lore on display through August 2020.

Left: History Colorado Chief Creative Officer Jason Hanson (left), and Sam Bock, lead developer of the Beer Here! exhibit are pictured by a display of glasses from most of the brewers in Colorado.

Story by Dick Kreck on page. 30.

2019 Legislative Wrapup



The session is considered to be one of the most significant in years. *By Todd Engdahl, page 10.*

Stapleton to Vote on Changing Neighborhood Name, page 5.



A giant full arc rainbow filled the sky looking east from Westerly Creek on May 17. The homes on the east side of the creek look like the location of the pot of gold.

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

Is the *Front Porch* arriving on your front porch regularly?

If you're not getting it every month, if it's wet, if it's on the sidewalk, or if it's in the grass and landscaping, we'd like to know. Our delivery contract is to have papers delivered to your front door. Email Carol@FrontPorchNE.com.

Letters to the Editor

We welcome your letters. Send to Carol@FrontPorchNE.com

Pick up the *Front Porch* in local grocery stores.

We now have papers in both King Soopers in Stapleton and in the Mayfair King Soopers. Papers are also available at the Safeway stores in Lowry and Mayfair.

Are you a freelance writer?

Let us know your areas of interest and expertise. We'd like to expand our list of writers to include NE neighbors knowledgeable about subjects of interest to the community.



Getting Back in the Swim of Things

The pools are now open! Visit stapletoncommunity.com for all locations and open swim hours.

Don't Get Stuck on Deck. While you're gathering the swimming essentials (sunscreen, swimsuits, goggles, towels, more sunscreen) don't forget to locate, renew, and pack your Resident Membership Cards too. Without an active membership card in hand, you will not be able to access the pools without paying the daily admission fee. Come prepared and save your cash for the concession stand. *Resident cards may be stored electronically on your mobile device through any 'app' designed for general 'Membership Cards.'* You must be able to display the card's barcode and corresponding number.

At All Costs:

Resident discount (M-F): \$5

Nonresident fee (M-F): \$8

Resident/Nonresident fee (weekends & holidays): \$10

Renew and Replace. The renewal and replacement of expired or lost cards can be completed at one of the MCA's front desk locations or at any pool.

New Hours: Front Desk @ The Cube – Mon, Tues & Wed, 9am-4pm. Front Desk @ 29th Ave – Thu & Fri, 11am-5pm. Sat, 10am-2pm (June only)

Family Nights through Aug. 1.

Beginning Monday, June 4, pools will remain open until 7:45pm on each designated date outlined below.

Monday – Jet Stream

Tuesday – Puddle Jumper

Wednesday – F-15 & Maverick

Thursday – Aviator

Rhyme for a Reason

It's summertime in Stapleton, and the teens are out of school

Moving on to summer jobs, such as working at our pools

So, upon your next encounter, keep in mind the Golden Rule

Be patient with our summer staff, and please don't lose your cool!

All concerts/movies are free and open to the public.

Concert on the Green: Sisters of Rock feat. Ladies of the 80s

Saturday, June 8, 6-8pm, Founders' Green
Don't miss our first outdoor concert of 2019 as we welcome Sisters of Rock to Founders' Green for a night of high energy hits from the 1980s and beyond!

MoJaBlu Concert Series: Thumpin'

Thursday, June 13, 6:30-8:30pm, Conservatory Green

Our first MoJaBlu concert of the season will feature the energetic vocals of 'Thumpin.' With an impressive reper-

toire of songs spanning five decades of funk, soul, and R&B, you'll be off your feet and dancing to the beat in no time.

Movie on the Green: *Black Panther* (PG-13)

Friday, June 14, Dark, Founders' Green
The three-time Oscar-winning blockbuster returns to the big screen and debuts our 2019 summer film series on Founders' Green. With its stunning visuals, intricate narrative, and noteworthy performances, *Black Panther* will easily appeal to everyone in the family.

MoJaBlu Concert Series: The Hot Lunch Band

Thursday, June 20, 6:30-8:30pm, Conservatory Green

The talented musicians that make up The Hot Lunch Band are known for their showmanship and are one of the most sought-after bands for those looking for non-stop energy and electrifying musicianship. Good luck sitting down at this show!

Summer Wine Tasting

Friday, June 21, 6-8pm, The West Crescent
Join us for our first outdoor wine tasting of 2019 featuring a diverse selection of wines from around the world. Registration is \$15 for residents and \$20 for non-residents. Day of tickets can be purchased for \$30 when available. You must be 21+ to attend.

Concert on the Green: Soul School Band

Saturday, June 22, 6-8pm, Founders' Green
Soul School always delivers the musical performance crowds long for, with their extensive entertainment experience and one-of-a-kind repertoire ranging from oldies to rock 'n' roll.

MoJaBlu Concert Series: Hazel Miller Band

Thursday, June 27, 6:30-8:30pm, Conservatory Green

Led by Hazel and her powerful vocals, the Hazel Miller Band members exert infectious energy to electrify audiences making them a recurring crowd favorite in the neighborhood.

Movie on the Green: *A League of Their Own* (PG)

Thursday, June 28, Dark, Founders' Green
The American sports classic portraying a fictionalized account of the real-life All-American Girls Baseball League and their struggle to succeed amidst various hardships and inner rivalries.

June Farmers Markets

June 16, 23 & 30, 8:30am-12:30pm, Founders' Green

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Get the latest on

Master Community Association

Sponsored by Stapleton MCA

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The Front Porch – NE Denver distributes more than 28,000 free papers during the first week of each month. Papers are delivered to doorsteps and/or racks in Stapleton, Park Hill, Lowry, Montclair, Mayfair and NW Aurora.

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

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www.FrontPorchNE.com > Business Directory.



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By Carol Roberts

“It seems to me this is the third time you’ve brought this topic up, rename Stapleton. We all voted on it. Who’s driving this issue for a change?”



Mayor Ben Stapleton

A hand shot up to ask that question at a recent Stapleton community meeting upon hearing a ballot would be sent to all property owners in Stapleton, asking if they want to change the name of the community. That questioner sounded like he had been one of the 452 voters who cast a ballot on the question of changing Stapleton United Neighbors’ name in May 2018.

But this is the first vote on whether to change the legal document that contains the name Stapleton. That document is the Community Declaration and it governs the Master Community Association (MCA).

At that community meeting, Councilman Chris Herndon pointed out that voter turnout in almost all Stapleton precincts in the recent city election was above 50%—outpacing the city’s overall rate of 43%. MCA Executive Director Keven Burnett says the return of ballots for MCA delegate elections has rarely reached 10%. To encourage voter turnout for this important decision, stamped, self-addressed envelopes are being sent out to property owners for all of the 10,563 eligible votes in this election.

Why is this vote happening now?

Concerns about the name were raised as early as 2000 even before homes were built in Stapleton. Fast forward to 2015. Black Lives Matter distributed flyers door-to-door, raising awareness in the community that Mayor Benjamin Stapleton had been a member of the KKK. In November 2017, Rename St*pleton for All registered as a non-profit corporation and organized their supporters to attend Stapleton community group meetings to “advocate for renaming public spaces that honor Denver’s former mayor Ben Stapleton,” according to their website. The boards of several community groups did decide, after much discussion, to drop Stapleton from their names.

Rename St*pleton for All did their homework and learned the MCA executive board has the power to recommend a name change. And they learned that MCA delegates advise the board

and choose delegates to be on the board. They found a slate of candidates to run for the MCA district delegate seats and advocate for the name change through the MCA board.

“The delegates have it in their power to recommend to the executive board if they would like to change the name. It’s written into their role. This is the process in the governance of the community to do this...they actually have it in their Community Declarations,” says Liz Stalnaker the chair of the Rename board.

Two people from the Rename slate got elected as delegates, and “there were 4 of 11 districts where Forest City votes either won outright or swung the election,” says delegate Tom Downey, one of the delegates from the Rename slate who got elected. The Rename group checked the votes and objected to the outcome, saying it was unfair that Forest City was allowed to cast multiple votes on a single ballot when residential owners had to cast separate ballots for each property owned.

Incumbent delegates’ response to rename efforts

Delegate Josh Nicholas is in his third term as a delegate. He volunteered to become a delegate when he saw that his district had no one listed on the 2017 ballot. He describes the meetings up until six months ago as collegial conversations about how they could make the community better—discussing how to improve MCA events and issues associated with pools, parks and snow removal in alleys.

Yuri Tavbin says, “We found out that the agenda of Rename Stapleton was to get their

Change the Name? Or Not?



In August 2015, Black Lives Matter distributed flyers about Mayor Ben Stapleton’s membership in the KKK and promoted renaming Stapleton.

own people put on just so they could push the idea to the Executive Board. They also wanted to get their own people on the Executive Board so that they could go ahead and change the name without any input from the community.”

MCA delegate meetings became tense and controversial over the past six months as the Rename group pursued their goal of a name change. The incumbent delegates were in agreement that their role was to represent the community and it wasn’t right to recommend a name

change without soliciting feedback from the community. Nicholas says they felt the Rename folks were portraying them in a negative light for not wanting the board to change the name.

Another neighborhood group, Brave Coalition, whose mission is to build more inclusive communities, stepped into the discussion to support the name change. Spokesperson Lisa Abuogi said of the tense meetings, “Sometimes discussion of conflict is an important part of building inclusion. We know that in our own families. We have to work our way through that and that’s not a bad thing and it doesn’t mean we can’t come together as a community.”

More community education needed?

Downey, Stalnaker and Abuogi all say they would like to see the community go through a process like DSST: Stapleton (now DSST: Montview) went through in the past two years to change its name.

Teachers planned units on the history of the neighborhood, the airport, Mayor Ben Stapleton and the KKK, says Stefanie Gilary

DSST manager of communications. The students wrote essays where they were allowed to respectfully lay out their feelings based on what they had learned. After a semester of study, the school had a morning-long meeting where they listened to pro-con arguments. “Plenty of students changed their minds when they found out that they had classmates who were genuinely hurt or scared by the name, even if it didn’t seem logical,” says Gilary.

After a vote showed about 60% wanted to change the name, they began the process of choosing a new name. The administration provided guidance and the final choices were location based: DSST: Montview and DSST: Central Park. Montview won out because DSST: Conservatory Green is located on Central Park Blvd.

Stalnaker says, “...this (vote) is something that was initiated by the MCA delegates. We have worked with the MCA delegates to make the wording of the referendum as fair as possible...I think there’s a piece missing. There’s a lot of room for improvement in delegates’ engaging with their community.”

Tavbin says, “We were all blindsided by the Rename Stapleton folks. It really was a hostile takeover. And yet we still decided to go through with finding out what the community wants, because, as delegates, it’s not our tradition to make decisions. We’re just the voice of the people that live there.” Then, after six months discussing this issue, trying to come to agreement on the ballot language, the Rename folks said they now want to hold off on the vote says Nicholas.

Though Downey believes when people have more time to learn about the history, “far more people say, ‘Yes, it’s worth doing a name change,’” he voted with the six other delegates at a late May meeting to send out the ballot, saying, “I voiced my disagreement in the meetings, but what I didn’t want to do was delay and delay over language...Now it’s at the point I’d rather just have closure on this issue.”

Details about the vote follow on the next two pages, including how to contact delegates. Information about the groups supporting a name change can be found at bravecoalition.com/blog and renameforall.com.

Stapleton Real Estate Update

▲ 5.08%

New Listings

YTD 2019: 269
YTD 2018: 256

▼ 9.84%

Sold Listings

YTD 2019: 165
YTD 2018: 183

▲ 5.38%

Median Sold Price

YTD 2019: \$575,000
YTD 2018: \$545,619

▲ 44.4%

Median Days on Market

YTD 2019: 13
YTD 2018: 9

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Data through April 30, 2019. All Property Types. Source: REColorado (MLS), IDC Global, and Datafloat. All information should be independently reviewed and verified for accuracy. Data may not reflect all real estate activity in the market.

COMMUNITY VOTE ON STAPLETON NAME

As you may know, for as long as there has been this development there has been a movement to drop the name “Stapleton” because of its historical association with the Ku Klux Klan. The latest effort to change the name is by a number of residents and non-residents affiliated with “Rename St*pleton for All.” As a name change is a major decision, the MCA District Delegates ask for your direction on how to vote on this issue.

In 2002, Forest City Stapleton filed the Community Declaration that established the new community at the former Stapleton airport site. That document states the “initial name” of the master community will be STAPLETON, and it sets forth an express process for how the name can be changed within the 20-year developer control period. Delegates may recommend a name change to the MCA Board of Directors. The Directors may then approve the name change and a full vote of the MCA membership (property owners) would not be required. Brookfield, the master developer,

has the power to veto that decision, but has said they will accept the Board recommendation.

According to the Community Declaration, when the developer control period ends in May 2022, a name change will require a majority vote of all owners. Approval of question #3 on this ballot would mean the express option for a name change by the Board would end after this vote (rather than in 2022), and any future vote on a name change would have to be approved by more than 50% of all property owners.

Changing the name at this point would NOT change historical legal documents such as plat maps, sub-associations, or property deeds for communities in existence, but it would change the name on all future legal documents. In addition, the MCA would use and promote the new name officially.

To that end, the MCA, by and through the Delegates, is requesting your vote on whether to proceed with a process to find a new name and make the change.

ARGUMENT FOR THE CHANGE

To residents, we are your neighbors; to businesses, we are your customers; to schools, we are your students and the parents of your students. We want you to know that we did not initiate this “referendum” process, as we believe that more community engagement on the issue should occur before members or delegates vote. However, since you are being asked to vote now, we ask you to vote: (1) in favor of renaming our community to something we can be proud of, (2) in opposition to a special assessment for expenses, (3) whatever name you think would be best for the community, and (4) in opposition to an amendment to eliminate this renaming process in the future.

Here are the facts: The former airport was named to honor Denver Mayor Benjamin F. Stapleton, Member #1128 of the KKK. During the 1920s in Denver, the Klan controlled politicians and terrorized religious and ethnic minorities. In 1923, when critics learned Stapleton was a Klansman, a recall election occurred. He needed Klan support to keep his seat. Thus, Stapleton promised: “I will work with the Klan and for the Klan in the coming election. And if I am re-elected, I shall give the Klan the kind of administration it wants.” Stapleton survived recall and appointed Klansmen to significant city positions.

Leading historian of the era, Professor Robert Goldberg, recently stated: “Stapleton never ‘publicly split’ from the Klan. He did not fire all of the Klan members in his administration—only those loyal to John Galen Locke [then the Colorado KKK Grand Dragon]. I never found a public apology or statement of regret from Ben Stapleton regarding his membership in the Klan nor his willingness to allow Klan members in his administration to administer Hooded justice or policy. I found no amends, significant or otherwise.”

As far back as 2001, people of color in our community have described how it is personally hurtful to them that the place where their families live continues to use the name of a Klansman. Over the past two years, local organizations have dropped the name. Most recently—after a years-long process involving research, thoughtful discussion, and the vote of their students—DSST has removed the name from its school and renamed itself DSST Montview. Let’s build on their momentum. We can face the truth about history and make a principled decision about whom we honor with our community name. Join us in voting to change the name. For more information, visit www.renameforall.com.

ARGUMENT AGAINST THE CHANGE

The community of Stapleton derived its name from the site of Denver’s former airport that, after 65 years, was moved to the present site that is DIA. The following is an excerpt from the Stapleton Green Book in which the community’s values are outlined: “Stapleton will be part of the legacy left to future generations. It provides a model for addressing the economic and social needs of all people while respecting our natural world; it is a legacy in which we can all be proud. We benefit daily from the beauty and opportunity created by the visions of DeBoer, Speer, Cranmer and so many others over the last century.”

Denver Municipal Airport was opened in 1929, spearheaded by the then Mayor Benjamin Stapleton and the Parks Dept. Manager Charles Vail, and renamed “Stapleton Airfield” in 1944 in honor of Mayor Stapleton. While it is true that Stapleton was a member of the Ku Klux Klan and was supported by them in his first election in 1923, only two years later, in April 1925, he publicly split from the organization and most notably fired his police chief and other Klan members from his administration. He ran for re-election in 1927 without the Klan’s support and also successfully for state auditor and then three more times for mayor. The Klan

era was an ugly period but he evolved and sought change, as did our city, our state and our country. He accomplished great things as mayor, and our community should not lose its iconic name because of one short period of his past for which he made significant amends.

A name change would impose an unnecessary financial burden on the MCA, which will be assumed by homeowners. Initial estimates to implement these changes are approximately \$300,000. Beyond the legal fees of a name change, the MCA would need to change the logo, update the website, change the physical signs throughout the community, and conduct an expensive communications effort to educate the public. This money would be better spent replacing outdated playground structures, upgrading our pools and improving our parks.

The name “Stapleton” does not advocate the decisions made by an individual almost a century ago. Instead, it demonstrates that change and looking forward can be positive. It is important to remember what happened in the past, but we cannot live in it. “Stapleton” is an iconic name and a wonderful community that is inclusive of all. An airport or even a mayor do not define what this community is today; we do.

MASTER COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION SAMPLE BALLOT

Actual ballots will be mailed to Stapleton property owners by June 12, 2019. Each owner gets one vote.

I/we request that our delegate vote as follows on the initiative to rename Stapleton:

QUESTION #1

PLEASE CLEARLY CHECK ONE OPTION ONLY

- ☐ THE NAME “STAPLETON” SHOULD BE LEGALLY REMOVED FROM ARTICLE 1.4 OF THE COMMUNITY DECLARATION AND A NEW NAME SHOULD BE USED AS THE FORMAL REFERENCE TO THE COMMUNITY.
- ☐ THE NAME “STAPLETON” SHOULD BE RETAINED AS THE LEGAL NAME OF THE COMMUNITY AS STATED IN ARTICLE 1.4 OF THE COMMUNITY DECLARATION.

QUESTION #2

PLEASE CLEARLY CHECK ONE OPTION ONLY

- ☐ THE MCA SHOULD ENACT A ONE-TIME SPECIAL ASSESSMENT, NOT TO EXCEED A SINGLE MONTHS ASSESSMENT TO EACH RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL AND RENTAL UNIT TO PROVIDE THE NECESSARY RESOURCES TO LEGALLY CHANGE THE NAME AND RE-BRAND THE COMMUNITY UNDER A NEW NAME TO BE DECIDED BY A MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERSHIP.
- ☐ THE MCA SHOULD NOT ENACT A ONE-TIME SPECIAL ASSESSMENT FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING THE NECESSARY RESOURCES TO LEGALLY CHANGE THE NAME AND RE-BRAND THE COMMUNITY.

QUESTION #3

PLEASE CLEARLY CHECK ONE OPTION ONLY

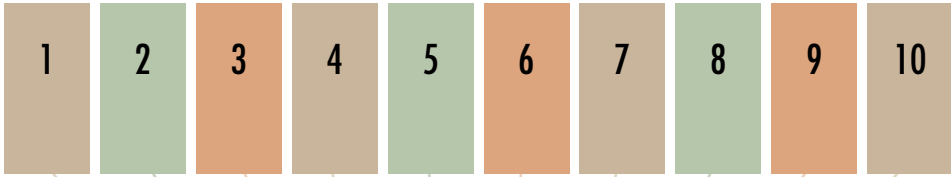
- The proposed declaration amendment shall be approved if 51% of all members vote in favor of the amendment.
I/We cast my/our vote in reference to the proposed Amendment to the MCA Declaration as indicated below:
- ☐ VOTE IN FAVOR OF AND APPROVE THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT AND THE MCA DECLARATION SHOULD BE AMENDED AT ARTICLE 1.4 TO READ: “THE NAME OF THE COMMUNITY CAN ONLY BE CHANGED BY A MAJORITY VOTE OF THE MEMBERSHIP AS DEFINED IN ARTICLE 11.8”.
 - ☐ VOTE AGAINST AND REJECT THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT AND THE MCA DECLARATION SHOULD NOT BE AMENDED AT ARTICLE 1.4 TO READ: “THE NAME OF THE COMMUNITY CAN ONLY BE CHANGED BY A MAJORITY VOTE OF THE MEMBERSHIP AS DEFINED IN ARTICLE 11.8”.

A
stamped
envelope will be
provided; ballot must
be returned by
July 31.

Stapleton MCA Governance Structure

MCA DISTRICTS

Stapleton currently has 10 geographic districts (and will have 12 at buildout), each represented by a delegate. Each district votes annually in the fall to choose a delegate for a one-year term.



MCA COMMUNITY DELEGATES

Responsibilities: (1) Vote to approve the annual MCA budget. (2) Advise the MCA Board. (3) Elect executive board members. To contact your district delegate, visit <http://www.stapletoncommunity.com/mca-info/community-delegates>



MCA EXECUTIVE BOARD

The MCA is a non-profit, governed by its board. The board is currently composed of three delegate members, elected by their fellow delegates to represent the community (C), and two members who represent the developer (D). In May 2022, the board will change to 100% community representation.



DEVELOPER

The developer, Brookfield (since late 2018 when it bought Forest City), has veto rights on certain decisions, including a name change, until May 2022.



When a vote of MCA members (Stapleton property owners) is taken, business property owners also have a vote. Currently the developer, Brookfield, has 334 votes (out of 10,563 total), but they are choosing to abstain from the vote on the name and they have said they will not veto an MCA board recommendation for a new name.

In making a recommendation to the board about the questions on this ballot, delegates in districts that return 10% or more of their ballots are required to cast their vote in the same proportion as the community vote in their district. (If the district votes 60-40 in favor of a new name, the delegate's vote will be split 60-40). In districts that return fewer than 10% of their ballots, the delegates can vote as they choose.

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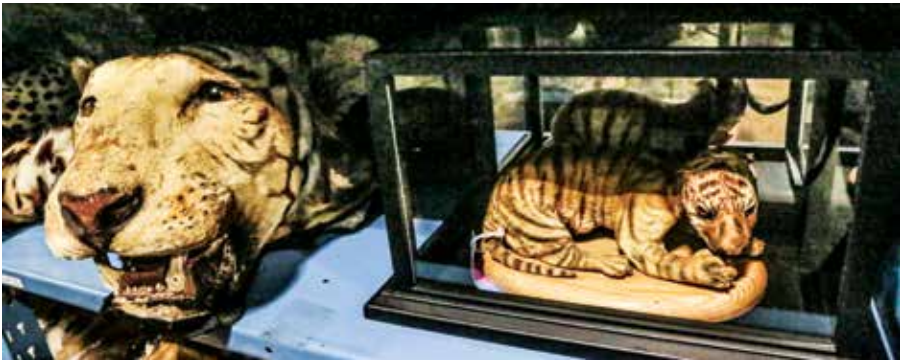


Wildlife Contraband Becomes Conservation Library

By Martina Will, PhD

A sprawled-out polar bear skin with the head, floor-to-ceiling giraffe neck and head, stuffed rhino, life-like tigers and jaguars poised to jump—these are among the illegal imports seized at U.S. ports of entry. Seeing their faces is jolting and saddening. But Education Specialist Sarah Metzger, who has worked at the National Wildlife Property Repository at Rocky Mountain Arsenal for three years, looks at these remains and finds hope.

“I work here to harness the power that these pieces convey...they are ambassadors for their counterparts in



A tiger fetus, shelved next to a long row of tiger heads, reveals the breadth of wildlife trafficking.

the wild,” says Metzger. “One of the biggest misconceptions is that we’re just storing these items—but we’re actually matching them with recipients to promote education. We would like to permanently lend them out.”

For Metzger, the artifacts in the Repository’s collection are not 1.3 million pieces of contraband so much as 1.3 million educational tools. “These are tactile teaching tools,” she says. “They can help people forge a stronger connection to a species.”

The nondescript 22,000-square-foot building at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge offers no clue to the rich array of wildlife remains catalogued and cu-

rated there by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). The Repository does not warehouse all the items confiscated in the U.S., only those that can be used to further conservation and education. Its mission is to inform the public about the illegal wildlife trade and share specimens with researchers for scientific studies. The warehouse teems with rows of carnivores’ skulls and skins, but also with boxes being packed for shipment. Tiger skins, sharkskin boots, leopard skulls, and turtle shells find new homes in zoos and educational institutions around the country, where they help communicate in a tangible way the dire need for conservation.

Most of these items found their way to Commerce City after being seized and forfeited at the end of a circuitous route, having crossed multiple international boundaries.



Even small wild cats such as this South American margay are illegally traded.

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Two photos at left: Moose heads are wrapped in plastic for dust and pest protection. Rhinos face increasing pressure from poaching for their valuable horns. The heads pictured here have artificial horns.

Right: The illegally trafficked wildlife may take the form in fashion such as coats, belts, footwear, and hats. Necklaces made of endangered corals hang along the wall.

Bottom right: Decorative objects and tables made of elephant feet are among the goods seized at U.S. ports.

Below: An Asian leopard together with a case and purse made of jaguar and leopard skin.



Some items had dubious or absent paper trails and were confiscated by customs agents at ports of entry. Others were identified as the product of an illegally trafficked endangered species. Unquestioning travelers purchased some as souvenirs. In other instances, whole-sale shipments were intercepted, yielding large quantities of purses, traditional medicines and items made of ivory, shark fins, and other wildlife parts. These now



A stuffed caiman holding a tray was likely produced as a tourist souvenir.

sit on Repository shelves rather than store shelves, having already served as evidence in legal proceedings against a buyer or importer.

Metzer, who has a background in zoology, explains that the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), to which the U.S. is a signatory, is one factor that determines whether an item is legal or not. According to the CITES website, the international agreement “accords varying degrees of protection to more than 35,000 species of animals and plants, whether they are traded as live specimens, fur coats or dried herbs.”

International and domestic laws regulating wildlife trade seek to protect individual

species—but they also seek to protect biodiversity to ensure that future generations will, for example, be able to both see elephants in the wild and investigate medicinal properties of a particular type of spider.

Metzer talks about the careful balance between present-day uses and species viability—and how illegally obtained items upset that balance. “At that point, use of the species becomes unsustainable—it is just exploitation.”

The Repository is closed to the public, but educators, community, conservation and wildlife groups may schedule private



The Repository has over 1600 pairs of shoes from species like coaiman, a crocodilian, shown here.

tours. Children under the age of 12 are not permitted. A distance learning program allows those outside of the Denver area to arrange educational sessions with educators like Metzer. To learn more or request a tour, email nwpr@fws.gov. If your travel plans take you overseas, educate yourself before leaving so you know what items you can and cannot bring back to the U.S.: <https://www.fws.gov/international/travel-and-trade/index.html>.



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Democrats Push Big Agenda Down Bumpy Legislative Road

Bills on energy, guns, elections, health care and economic security pass

By Todd Engdahl

S ometime in the future, when your utility bill changes, your child goes to kindergarten, you vote for president, get arrested, fill a prescription or need some weed delivered, think of the 2019 session of the Colorado General Assembly.

The legislative session that adjourned on May 3 passed a long list of measures touching on many areas of government and life, and those bills likely will affect most Coloradans for years to come.

The session is considered to be one of the most significant in years, and the reason for that goes back to the 2018 election. After winning control of the governor’s office and both chambers of the legislature, Democrats started the session with an aggressive list of policy proposals on health care, the environment, firearms

safety, election reform, middle class economic security and more.

Republicans, who previously controlled the Senate and could block Democratic proposals, didn’t know what hit them. At times they responded petulantly with procedural gimmicks like requiring the full texts of bills be read aloud. (Democrats spared the vocal chords of House and Senate clerks by having bills “read” by text-to-audio conversion software on laptops.)

Some interest groups, alarmed by Democratic goals for energy, immunizations, sex education and other issues, marshaled their troops via social media and packed committee hearings with hundreds of witnesses. In one case, that dragged out

a hearing until 4:30 a.m.

Despite all that, the majority party achieved significant success on most of its priority issues. The highest profile measures were oil and gas regulation, the “red flag” gun bill, the national popular vote bill proposal and a long-term climate action plan.

Significant failures included a measure to abolish the death penalty, which its sponsor withdrew in the face of opposition, and Gov. Polis’ proposed tobacco and vaping tax, which was defeated with a bipartisan majority on the Senate floor. The other major loss was the bill that would have tightened paperwork requirements for reporting an immunization exemption. Facing opposition and a possible filibuster, Senate Democratic leaders let it die.

There also were bipartisan accomplishments in several areas, including school finance, other education issues like full-day kindergarten, criminal justice reform and a \$100 million boost in transportation funding. Bills were passed addressing the following big issues:



Sen. Lois Court, Senate District 31 includes Lowry, Mayfair and Montclair

Economic Security

Democrats have long pushed for measures to improve middle class economic security, and this session saw bills on tenants’ rights, affordable housing, wages and more.

The majority party had mixed success in this area, as exemplified by a family leave proposal that originally would have created a massive state insurance program funded by employers and workers, a fund that participants could have tapped to support themselves while taking time off to care for new babies, aging relatives and the like. Concerns about how to pay for the plan and business worries led



Sen. Angela Williams Senate District 33 includes Stapleton and Park Hill

Above: Williams (right) talks to Sen. Rhonda Fields shortly before the 2019 session ended. The rubber band ball on her desk in the Senate Chamber gets dropped from the top of the dome on the last day when the session closes.

to the bill being reduced to a series of studies on the idea’s feasibility.

A cherished Democratic goal was achieved with passage of an “equal pay” bill intended to reduce gender gaps and promote equal pay for equal work by creating new wage discrimination standards and transparency requirements.

Education and Youth

Work in this area was largely bipartisan, and Polis played a big role in pushing state financial support of universal full-day kindergarten.

Lawmakers also moved to reform the state literacy program for K-3 students, reduce the use of expulsion and suspension for early-grades students, and expand opportunities for students to take college classes while still in high school.

Energy and Environment

One of the most significant bills of 2019 put tighter controls on oil and gas development, requiring state regulators to give greater priority to public health and safety, and allowing local governments some regulatory control over drilling and production.

Another major environmental measure laid out a multi-year regulatory plan for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Democrats also pushed through measures intended to encourage greater use of electric vehicles.



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Health Care and Costs

Major measures included requirements for greater financial transparency by hospitals, creation of a state reinsurance program to help cover high-cost cases, and a proposal to study future health care financing options for the state.

On consumer issues, lawmakers passed measures to require greater disclosure about out-of-network charges, cap patient payments for insulin and take the first steps toward allowing importation of Canadian prescription drugs into Colorado.



Rep. James Coleman House District 7 includes all of Stapleton and the area of Park Hill/ East Colfax east of Magnolia and north of Montview Blvd.

There were mixed results for two highly controversial health-related bills.

HB 19-1032 set additional requirements for school districts that choose to offer comprehensive sex education, including a ban on offering just abstinence-only programs and a new requirement for offering information about consent.

HB 19-1312 didn't fare as well and was allowed to die on the last day of session in order to avoid delaying other bills. It would have required parents who want exemptions from school immunization requirements to file forms with state or local health offices rather than turn in handwritten notes at schools.

Justice and Public Safety

The hottest issue in this area was HB 19-

1177, the so-called "red flag" bill that will allow court orders for removal of weapons from people deemed a threat to themselves or others.

Other criminal justice bills were less controversial. Those include elimination of cash bail for some lower-level charges, the "ban the box" bill to prevent employers from asking about criminal records on initial job applications and a measure to speed pre-trial release for some people accused of crimes.

Marijuana Regulation

Lawmakers approved use of medical marijuana to treat autism and for some substance abuse disorders, loosened some current restrictions of ownership of marijuana companies, authorized marijuana "hospitality establishments" and created a licensing system for marijuana delivery.

State Government

The most controversial issue here was Colorado's participation in the national popular vote movement, passed as SB 19-042. This commits Colorado to an interstate compact that will take effect when joined by states that represent at least 270 electoral votes. Those states would commit to casting their electoral votes for the winner of the national popular vote. (States with a total of 189 votes already have signed on.)

Legislators referred two financial decisions to voters in November. One asks if voters want to remove the state's annual revenue and spending cap, which would end taxpayer refunds under the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights. The other asks voters if they



Rep. Chris Hansen House District 6 includes Lowry, Mayfair and Montclair



Rep. Leslie Herod House District 8 includes Park Hill from Monaco to Colorado, East Colfax, and the area of Stapleton bounded by Central Park Blvd, E 28th Ave, Beeler St, and Montview Blvd.

want to legalize sports betting, with revenues used to fund the state water plan.

Substance Abuse

A legislative study committee has been working for two years on proposals to combat the opioid epidemic and other substance abuse problems.

Some progress was made this session, including passage of measures to expand housing options for people with substance abuse disorders, create a data-

base of treatment facilities, broaden a medication-assisted treatment pilot program, require electronic prescribing of controlled drugs, promote wider availability of drugs that reverse over-

doses and take steps to better prevent substance abuse.

Todd Engdahl runs Capitol Editorial Services, a research company that provides services to lobbying firms and advocacy groups at the Colorado legislature. He's a former executive city editor of The Denver Post, launched DenverPost.com and was a co-founder of the website Education News Colorado.

Northeast Denver's five Democratic legislators were at the center of many of the biggest 2019 issues.

Sen. Lois Court, who is president pro tem of the Senate, was a prime sponsor of the "red flag" gun bill and of the revenue cap proposal that will be sent to voters. She also tried again with a bill to limit cell phone use while driving but was not successful.

Sen. Angela Williams was a prime sponsor of the greenhouse gases bill, the family leave measure and the unsuccessful death penalty repeal, as well as being a prime sponsor of health care and renters' rights bills.

Rep. James Coleman teamed up with Sen. Williams on a highly publicized bill so occasional businesses—like kids' lemonade stands—aren't subject to city licensing requirements.

Rep. Chris Hansen, a new member on the Joint Budget Committee this session, also was a prime sponsor of six energy-related bills, including reauthorization of the Public Utilities Commission.

Rep. Leslie Herod was a highly visible leader on criminal justice and a prime sponsor of a dozen bills in that area, including bail reform.

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Front Porch – NE Denver

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June 2019



Vanessa Pham arrives at the Denver airport in January 2019, welcomed by her sister Berni Slowey. Reconnected by DNA testing, they hadn't seen each other since they were 2 and 4 years old in Vietnam.



Finding Rose: Sisters

By Laurie Dunklee

In 1975, just before the fall of Saigon, many South Vietnamese families were preparing to evacuate before the North Vietnamese marched into the city. “Mothers with Amerasian children were getting out because they had heard they might be tortured,” says Berni Slowey, the daughter of a South Vietnamese woman and an American soldier, who was 4 years old at the time. “We kids were playing in the courtyard of our apartment complex, when suddenly my 2-year-old sister Rose wasn’t there. My aunt, who was watching us, was frantic. Somehow Rose had gotten out through the gate and into the street.”

Rose was still missing when Slowey and her mom boarded an airplane for the U.S. to meet her father. “Mom had a terrible decision to make: keep looking for her missing child, or evacuate with the daughter she still had? As a mother, I can’t imagine having to make that choice,” said Slowey, a Stapleton resident and the mother of two boys. “We thought we’d never see Rose again, that she was lost forever.”

Fast-forward to January 2019, when Slowey and her sister Rose met at Denver International Airport. It was the first time

they’d seen each other in 44 years. “I had been waiting for her since 1975; it was a weight on me. But now the healing can begin,” Slowey said.

Rose had been adopted by a Vietnamese woman and her name had been changed to Vanessa. She emigrated to the U.S. with her adopted family when she was 11, and she lives in California. Now Vanessa Pham wants to be called Nessa Rose, a nod to her origins. “I never thought I’d find my biological family,” she said. “Now I feel like I’m home.”

DNA Test Connected the Siblings

Pham found her family, including Slowey and three other siblings, through DNA testing after learning in May of 2018 that she was adopted.

Pham sent her DNA to the Family Tree database and there was a match: a cousin emailed her in mid-December 2018 saying she also had a brother and three sisters. Within 12 hours of learning this news from their cousin, Slowey and Pham spoke for the first time in 44 years. Cross-referencing the data between different ancestry websites, it would take 48 hours to confirm that Slowey and Pham were full siblings. But the two already

knew they had found their long lost sister. “It was like a dream,” said Pham.

“Twelve hours later we emailed, texted and talked,” said Slowey.

The family reunion was tinged with sadness when Pham learned that their mother had passed away in 2012. “Her death feels like a thousand weights on my heart,” Pham said.

Their father, who lives in Texas with his second family, is still processing the news that his long-lost daughter has been found. “I think he’s reeling in a lot of guilt, like ‘What if she asks me why I didn’t look for her?’” Slowey said. “He was only 20 or 21 during the war and he had his own story. The DNA testing brings increased vulnerability because our stories can’t be hidden anymore.”

Pham and her father have exchanged Facebook messages but have not met yet.

“The news came as an overwhelming shock for him,” Pham said. “He said he’s adjusting, and he asked me to be patient.”



Berni Slowey, shown in front of a photo of herself and her little sister Vanessa in Vietnam, speaks at a fundraiser to cover film production costs for a documentary about their story.

“We’ll have our time,” he said. I said I’m here and I gave him my phone number.”

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Reunion photos courtesy of Willy Wilson, Life Unstilt Photography



Pham found her family, including Slowey and three other siblings, through DNA testing after learning in May of 2018 that she was adopted.

Reunite after 44 Years

Piecing Together the Story

Now the sisters are piecing together the story of Pham's disappearance in 1975. "Everyone has their own version of what happened based on their personal perspective," Slowey said. "My mother had thought Rose was abducted because kids were being kidnapped during that time." Slowey says their story continues to evolve as they uncover various versions of what family members recall from that time.

Pham's investigations indicate that she was found wandering the streets and taken to the police station, where her future adopted mother worked. "I slept in a jail cell at night and played outside with her kids during the day. After about 10 days, a policeman put me on his motorcycle, bound for the Operation Babylift airplane to the U.S. But the motorcycle broke down, so we didn't make it. The plane took off and exploded over the airfield, killing everyone aboard. So, the officer asked his co-worker if she could take me, and she adopted me."

Making a Documentary Film

Slowey, who produced the documentary film, *Berni's Journey* (reviewed by Indie Prof in the March 2015 *Front Porch*) left for Vietnam on May 28 with Pham to work on the documentary of their story. In the film, *Finding Rose*, Slowey says, "We plan to tell the variations and allow the viewer to come to their own conclusion. I love this part of the story-telling process. It's called the Rashomon Effect."

The Rashomon effect occurs when an event is given contradictory interpretations by the individuals involved. The effect is named after Akira Kurosawa's 1950 film Rashomon, in which a murder is described in four contradictory ways by four witnesses. —Wikipedia

"We have a half-brother, Thien, in Vietnam who is five years older than me," said Slowey. "Vannessa will be able to talk with him in Vietnamese about his recollection. Also, she'll meet our aunt, who had a lot of guilt over the disappearance. She's now in poor health. Maybe when she sees Rose she can die in peace."

Pham works with Amerasians Without Borders, a nonprofit that helps Amerasians living

in Vietnam come to the U.S. "The Amerasians who were left behind in Vietnam have not been treated well," Pham said. "Many are still poor and live in boxes." She created her own non-profit called Amerasians & Beyond Helping Hands to raise money for them and is bringing DNA kits to help them find their American relatives.

Slowey has secured the film and pro-

duction crew and permits to use drones to shoot B-roll of Ho Chi Minh City. To cover production costs, she raised \$11,000 through a fundraiser at Della Radice restaurant on April 4 and is now up to \$16,000 in that fund. She also has a Go Fund Me campaign in progress that had raised \$2,100 of that \$8,000 goal as of the time the paper went to press.



Slowey speaks at a fundraiser at Della Radice restaurant in March.



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Outdoor Living Influenced by Travel

Christine’s love of travel combined with her love of entertaining are evident in her garden. Saetta’s goal was to extend her home’s entertaining space to the backyard while simultaneously incorporating some of her favorite things from her numerous trips to Italy and Hawaii. Vines, an abundance of colorful flowers, and tiki lights are just a few of the items she incorporated into her outdoor space.

Saetta’s multi-functional outdoor space includes a living room, dining room, bar and lounge area. She creatively recycled, reused and repurposed items, including a bar she made out of wooden pallets. The project required a lot of work to open up the yard and bring connection between the patio and other areas in the yard. She admits that as a dog owner, her biggest challenge is keeping her lawn area healthy.

Hanging out in the hammock or lounge chairs next to the fountain is a great place at night for watching the moon and stars., says Saetta. She calls this area her “zen zone,” as it makes her feel at peace.

Right: Christine Saetta created an inviting outdoor living area with a bar made of repurposed pallets. “Don’t be afraid to experiment and be creative with different elements,” she advises. Below: Saetta created the artwork that hangs on her garage near the outdoor living area.



Park Hill Garde

19th Annual Garden Walk, June 23 from 9am – 3pm

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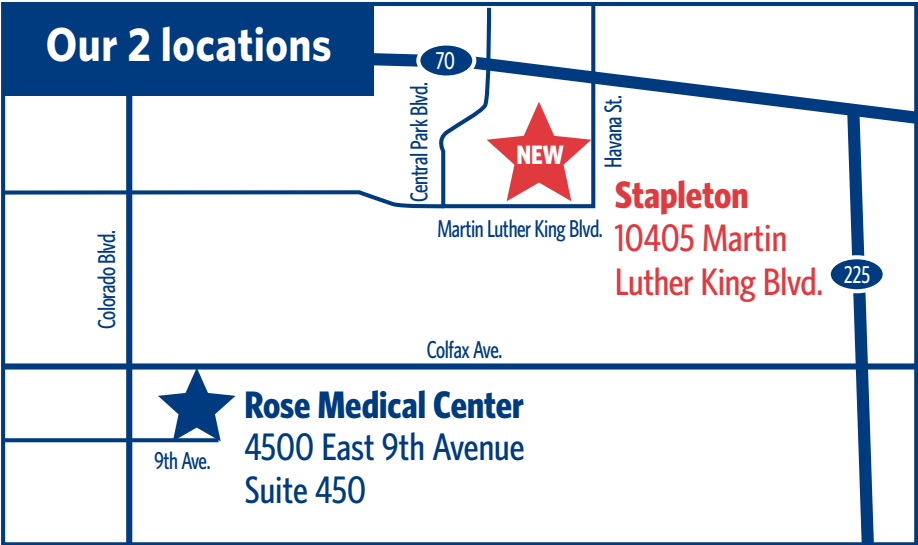
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Right: Becky Combs looks down at the koi from a bridge over one of their backyard ponds.
Below: The koi in the Combs' ponds are thriving, but the Combs worry about their well-being, especially in the winter. Pumps, filters, and a tank heater must all be in working order to keep the fish healthy year-round.



n Walk June 23

It All Started With A Small Fish

Becky and Keith Combs put a small 300-gallon pre-formed pond in their yard over a decade ago and bought some small koi fish for \$3.99 each. As one of the fish, Whitie, grew bigger and bigger, they expanded to a 650-gallon pond. Today, they have three ponds totaling 3,400 gallons and Whitie is 14 years old and quite large. The Combses now have a total of 34 koi fish and many bullfrogs, who live in the original 300-gallon pond.

The entire yard was dug by hand and each stone was hand-picked. The rocks that shape the ponds are softened by plants, and a quaint seating area with a fire pit in the center can be accessed by a small bridge. Colorful flowers dot the yard, including roses selected for their fragrance. "When I am there with my friends and family, I am in my heaven. For me, it couldn't get better than this," says Becky.

Information provided by Jean Ercolani

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Rather than the normal column of one new release and one streaming film/show, this month I give you two reviews of recent, wonderful, historical documentaries. Enjoy the nice, light summer viewing!

Apollo 11 (2019)

This new documentary from writer, producer, director, and editor Todd Douglas Miller is a truly miraculous visual feat. The footage is taken from previously unseen 70mm images, archival video, and still photos of the famous mission. We get to



see rare images of the launchpad, the astronauts, the crowds, the liftoff, the entry into space, the astronauts on the voyage, the moon up-close, breathtaking footage of the actual moon landing, and then their return to Earth. Miller sorted

through hundreds of hours of footage and countless hours of audio tapes to create an artistic piece that is worthy of its scientific subject.

Just think—we sent men to the moon with



less technology than we have in our cell phones. The film itself is the beneficiary of such scientific ingenuity. NASA, along with the National Archives and Records Administration, transported the delicate film cans in specially-designed refrigerated vans from Washington DC to New York City. Miller then used digital restoration programs to clean the footage, assemble it, and finally, to put it all together. A Canadian engineer developed new software to clean the audio tapes and synch it with the visuals. The resulting film, which premiered at Sundance this past January, is stunning.

While the cinematography itself is truly beautiful, the editing is the center of the film. There is no voiceover narration in the film, nor are there any new interviews included. The film stays in the contemporaneous moments of 1969. In one truly remarkable sequence, as Armstrong pilots the landing module onto the moon, the screen splits to show the reactions of the control room in Houston. While the lander is finding an appropriate spot to land, it becomes increasingly clear that they are running out of fuel. The screen splits again to show you the fuel counter. We now feel what everyone felt—are they going to land before running out of fuel? It is the film's great accomplishment that it creates such tension and unease when we already know the outcome! My 10-year-old son covered his eyes.

The 50th anniversary of the moon landing in 1969 is certainly worthy of celebration. It was a scientific achievement and a human endeavor that simultaneously made us feel as though we could accomplish anything while understanding our smallness in the universe. It stands as one of the great human achievements, and watching it unfold before your eyes is like being a kid all over again. It makes you feel like we can really do anything. Watch it with your kids, as I did with mine.

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They Shall Not Grow Old (2018)

Peter Jackson’s powerful documentary about British soldiers in WWI is a relentless visceral experience that literally places us in the boots of the soldiers fighting on the Western front. We feel for them, we identify with them, we sympathize with them, and we root for them. We are sutured into the trenches with them and experience what they experienced. The entire film uses restored and colorized World War I footage overlaid with original audio of soldiers from the war. Jackson waded through hundreds of hours of film footage and countless more hours of audio tapes recorded in the 1960s and 70s by the BBC. His own grandfather fought for the British during the war, and he grew up hearing war stories. When the BBC and the British Imperial War Museums approached him about making a documentary commemorating the 100-year anniversary of the War, he jumped at the chance.

Jackson was faced with a myriad of challenges and a plethora of choices. The initial challenge was to take the World War I footage, clean it, and digitize it. Jackson then decided to “modernize” the footage—first, he had to take the jerky, Charlie Chaplin-esque footage, and format it for today’s projection techniques. The cameras at the time were hand-held, hand-cranked, first-generation cameras. The medium of film had been invented only 25 years earlier, with a standard projection rate of 18 frames per second. In the sound era, the industry moved to 24 frames per second, to synch sound and to mimic realistic movement. After overcoming that hurdle, Jackson then decided to colorize the footage. He stated that the soldiers of the era saw the world in color, and he wanted us to see what they saw. Full disclosure: this critic despises colorizing old footage. But it works here. Jackson’s audacious choices give us a sensory experience unlike any other I have seen in a war picture.

This is not a film about the larger war, the battles, the planning, or the generals. This is a film about the soldiers living in the trenches and relaxing on their days off. The jocularity of certain images is reinforced by the striking narration of the actual soldiers. Who knows if the soldiers, speaking some 50 to 60 years



after the war, remember everything accurately. But it was their war and their experiences. The film is jarring, tense, and sometimes disturbing. Watching the soldiers walk along the trenches with dead bodies surrounding them is horrifying. The audio of the soldiers nonchalantly describing one-on-one battles with German soldiers is shocking and strangely alluring. We realize that they were just boys, on both sides. In the end, this is a film about humanity. And a lot of it.

Now playing on all VOD outlets.

Vincent Piturro, Ph.D., is a Professor of Film and Media Studies at Metropolitan State University of Denver. He can be reached at vpiturro@msudenver.edu. Or follow him on Facebook and Twitter.

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Have you taken a trip with the goal to understand and experience another culture (with or without kids)? Contact us if you'd like to share your information for our "Cultural Travel" page.

By Melissa Downham

Known for its complex history, delicious pho, and iconic landscapes, Vietnam has always been high on our list of places to experience. And experiencing it with our children was important to us. Vietnam marked our second trip to Asia—and our children's first trip to a communist country, as Vietnam is one of the five remaining communist countries today.

Above and below right: In Hanoi's Old Quarter, wares are bought and sold at the various markets and carried on shoulder poles or bicycles.

Left: The author, Melissa Downham and her 4-year-old son Max in 2011.

Travel to Vietnam requires a visa. You may apply for an e-Visa ahead of time through the Vietnam Immigration website. Or you may buy one on arrival. Buying a Visa on arrival requires a pre-approval letter, easily obtained through a tour operator. Upon arrival, we presented the letter and \$25 in cash per visa. Credit cards are not accepted for the visa on arrival.

We started our trip in Hanoi, a fascinating city with a mix of old world charm, French Colonial influences, crumbling narrow alleyways and some of the best-preserved ancient architecture in the world. What struck us immediately was the attention and respect the Vietnamese showed our children. A server



Viet



in a restaurant remarked that our children were well behaved. When we responded we didn't think they were behaving appropriately, he replied that children are loved and revered in his culture. They are "allowed to get away with anything" and welcomed everywhere—a stark departure from attitudes in the United States.

A must is an extensive tour of the Old Quarter's bustling markets with its narrow streets, tuk-tuks and virtually no cars in sight. Tuk-tuks are a popular way for both tourists and locals to get from place to place, and they fascinated our children. Peering into the shops, we learned that shopkeepers both live and work in their stalls. In the front of the stall, business and bartering is conducted.



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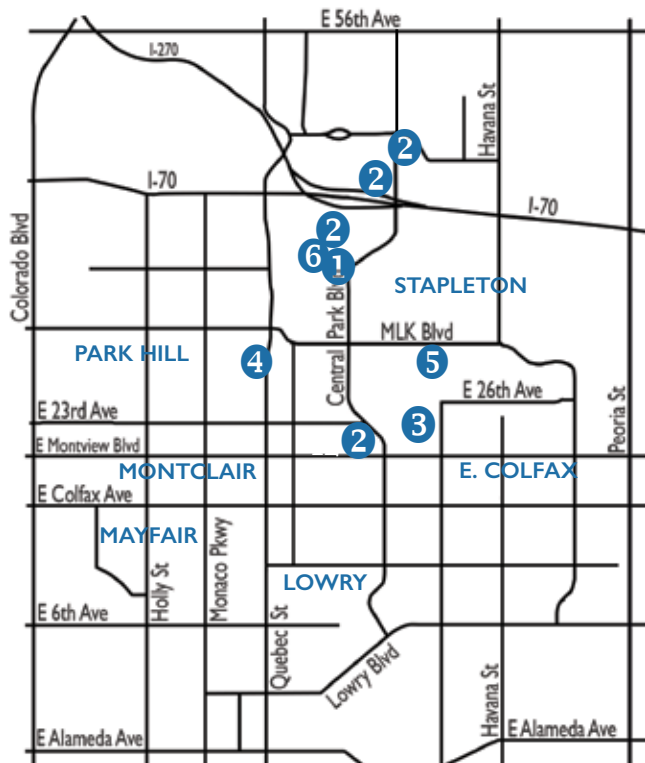
Much of Hanoi reveals a life without cars—most people are on foot, motorbike or tuk-tuk—and they live without conveniences. Wares are bought at the various markets and carried on shoulder poles or stacked impossibly high on a bicycle, not on large trucks.

A traditional wooden boat with a red roof and blue trim, carrying several people, including children, on a body of water. The boat is surrounded by lush greenery and a rocky shoreline.

Our trip continued on to Halong Bay for a junk cruise. Junks, ancient Chinese sailing ships, are still used today as a popular way to navigate water. And Halong Bay is one of the most pop-

Melissa Downham is a travel advisor and travel blogger at www.theroamingfamily.com. She lives in Stapleton with her husband and two kids.

...NE News Updates



By Martina Will, PhD and Carol Roberts

1 Sprouts Construction to Start by June

David Friedman spoke briefly at the annual meeting of Stapleton United Neighbors in May to announce that his development, located between 35th and 36th on the west side of Central Park Blvd. “is about to break ground. It will include Sprouts and 12,000 feet of additional retail.” It is scheduled to be turned over to Sprouts the first of April 2020 and will likely open in May 2020. He added, “The residential component has fallen behind the commercial, but we’re hoping to have something to announce there fairly quickly.”

2 Upcoming Development in Stapleton

At the annual SUN community meeting Jim Chrisman, representing master developer Brookfield, identified upcoming development projects. **At the northwest corner of Central Park Blvd. (CPB) and Montview**, construction on 10,000 sf of retail is expected to begin in about two months. (Not stated by Chrisman, but reported earlier, it is expected to be a drive through coffee shop, a restaurant and another retail shop.) **At the northwest corner of CPB and I-70**, Evergreen Development has purchased 10.9 acres for retail development (Evergreen developed the Eastbridge Town Center and is now developing the retail center on the northeast corner of 56th Ave. and CPB.) **At the northeast corner of 46th and CPB** will be a physical therapy hospital, and north of that will be a Home2 Suites Hotel. **Just south of the Central Park A-Line Station**, plans for residential and shops that were previously announced by Forest City are under consideration by the new master developer, Brookfield. A decision on that will “probably” be made later this summer, said Chrisman.

3 New Aurora Beer Garden Being Planned

A new restaurant and entertainment venue, identified in documents as “Beer Garden at Stapleton”—but not yet officially named—is planned for 2323 Dayton St. in Aurora. According to the site plan filed in May with the City of Aurora, the family-friendly business will include a restaurant, bar, and outdoor entertainment area with volleyball courts, bocce ball, and outdoor patios. The Planning Commission hearing is tentatively scheduled for August 14, 2019.

4 Carjacking at Quebec King Soopers

The Denver Police Department confirms that the May 20 carjacking that took place at the King Soopers on 2810 N. Quebec St. was not a random act. According to Sgt. Daniel Dunn, District 5: “The victim was delivering pharmaceuticals to the King Soopers Pharmacy and was targeted for the pharmaceuticals.” DPD has made an arrest, but the investigation is ongoing.

5 Stolen Vehicle Leads to Eastbridge Fatality

Stapleton’s Eastbridge neighborhood was the site of a traffic fatality on May 8. According to District 5 Police, “an officer was behind a vehicle that was hesitating for a green light. The vehicle eventually went through the green light and pulled away from the officer. The officer ran the plate and discovered the vehicle to be stolen out of Lakewood.” When the officer attempted to pursue the stolen vehicle, the driver ran a

red light and was killed when an oncoming vehicle hit the stolen vehicle. Sgt. Daniel Dunn says, “The stolen vehicle then crashed into a light pole and the driver was pronounced deceased at the scene. The officer never got close enough to initiate a traffic stop and was not in pursuit.”

6 A-Line Passenger Killed Crossing Tracks at Central Park Station

Listening on headphones, enjoying a conversation, hurrying because you’re late—these simple acts most people engage in daily can be deadly if engaged in near train tracks. On April 26, a pedestrian was struck and killed by an RTD Train at the Central Park station. “We know this person was distracted and walked into the path of the train. You would have to consciously open the gate to cross when the train is approaching,” says Laurie Huff with RTD Public Affairs.

An estimated 2-3 “near-misses” take place each week across the entire RTD commuter and light rail system, says Huff. “A higher number of near-misses take place at the Peoria and Central Park stations on the University of Colorado A Line.” RTD defines a “near-miss” as “an incident in which an individual comes within a second or two of being hit by a train.” Though train operators may see an individual on the tracks, it takes 1/4 to 1/2 mile for the train’s brakes to stop the train fully. “Even if a train operator sees someone, they can’t stop a vehicle of that size and speed quickly,” says Tina Jaquez, RTD Public Affairs and Media Relations Manager. A system of bells, lights and gates alerts pedestrians to trains, but handheld devices, engaging conversations, and other distractions mean people are not always as alert as they need to be when near the train tracks. “People need to be mindful,” says Jaquez,

pointing out that RTD’s safety equipment also relies on passengers engaging in safe behavior.

7 Bike Lane Coming to CPB: Montview to 36th

The design process is underway for a protected bike lane on Central Park Blvd., from Montview Blvd. to 36th Ave. A community meeting requesting input was held at Central Park Rec Center on May 29. For information about upcoming meetings and other new Denver bike lanes, visit www.denvergov.org/bikeprogram.

Elevate Denver Bond funds will pay for these improvements. Heather Burke, Denver Public Works Public Information Specialist, stated in an email, “The 8 high-comfort bikeways...will be installed in 2020 and will add about 9 miles of bikeways to the city’s bike network.”

8 Not the Indianapolis 500... Just Another Day on MLK and CPB

Numerous traffic accidents along Stapleton’s main thoroughfares—MLK and CPB—have left residents frustrated and concerned, as suggested by a flurry of posts on community Facebook groups. Can the City step in and help slow traffic to increase safety? District 5’s Traffic Officer Dion Dyson says the City’s traffic engineers routinely do random assessments based on their review of traffic data including speeding tickets, red light violations, accidents, and other information.

When asked what residents can do, Dyson says “all you can do collectively is call 311 and express your concerns, and ask for a new traffic engineering assessment.” Dyson ascribes some of the increase in accidents to the City’s exponential population growth. “People are selfishly driving in the bubble of their own realities,” says Dyson. He cites texting and even the use of hands-free devices as distracting drivers and causing them to be unaware of their actual speeds.

Heather Burke with Denver Public Works says “we’re prioritizing safety improvements along corridors that have been identified as high injury networks through Denver’s Vision Zero Action Plan. High injury networks are corridors that are experiencing high rates of serious injuries and fatal crashes, such as Federal Boulevard and Colfax Avenue. Both MLK and Central Park Boulevard have not been identified as high injury network corridors at this time; however, we will keep an eye on crashes that occur along these stretches as the Stapleton area continues to evolve.”



Sand Creek Greenway trail

9 Improvements Coming to Fred Thomas Park and Sand Creek Regional Greenway in 2020

The City has allocated \$2.5 million for a new irrigation system at Fred Thomas Park and \$3 million to complete the Sand Creek Regional Greenway. According to Cyndi Karvaski with the City of Denver, the new irrigation system at Fred Thomas will shift all water use at the park with the exception of five acres to non-potable water in 2020.

Karvaski shared: “The RFP for design (along the Sand Creek) is being developed right now and should go out in June or July. The design will identify locations for improvements along the entire trail corridor in addition to designing a concrete trail where the trail is currently dirt and add the soft surface side path where the grades allow for it....The project has \$3 million identified in 2020 for construction and the goal is to have the construction out for bid in the third or fourth quarter of 2020.”

“We are really excited. This has been more than a 30-year effort by three cities and many staff and volunteers. This is the last stretch of the Greenway that was intended to be completed,” says Sand Creek Regional Greenway Partnership Executive Director, Beth Nobles. “While the trail’s surface in Denver will be completed with this funding and cause for celebration, the thought that the trail is to be ‘done’ is not quite accurate. We still have plenty of work to do in habitat restoration, building trail amenities, volunteerism, environmental education and public outreach.”

The funds for these improvements are from the 0.25% sales tax voters approved in Nov. 2018, under Ballot Measure 2A. The tax will bring estimated revenues of \$37.5 million this year for Denver open spaces and parks.

10 TIF and Special District Taxes in Stapleton

Because Stapleton is being built with funds from tax increment financing (TIF), Denver taxes for the city, for Denver Public Schools and for Urban Drainage, instead of going to those entities, are going toward Stapleton infrastructure for 25 years. When the TIF ends in 2025, residents will see no change in those taxes on their tax bill, but that tax money will again flow to those original entities. Mike Guertin from Denver Urban Renewal Authority, which manages the TIF, told attendees at the annual SUN meeting that recent projects with TIF funds included widening of the Central Park Blvd. bridge, the new fire station north of I-70, grading and drainage for a new school site in Section 10 (north of 56th Ave.) and along 56th Ave. near Dallas.

The additional tax Stapleton residents see on their tax bills for Westerly Creek Metro District (WCMD) will continue after the TIF ends to pay the debt on long term financing incurred for local development in Stapleton (pools, pocket parks, alleys, residential streets).

11 Women’s Self-Defense Seminar Coming to District 5 in August

Community Resource Officer LaTrisha Guss with District 5 Police informed the Front Porch in an email that DPD plans to offer another free self-defense seminar for women and girls in August. See <https://frontporchne.com/article/womens-self-defense/> for our story on a previous seminar. Date and time TBD.

12 DSST: Stapleton Changes to DSST: Montview

DSST: Stapleton’s name change to DSST: Montview was announced Thursday, May 16 after an almost two-year academic and reflection process. Students thought about and discussed the meaning of school names, wrote essays and made presentations arguing for or against the change. After much debate and deliberation, a school wide vote showed the majority favored the change. “The decision to change the founding campus name emerged as many of our students have come to believe that the Stapleton name no longer represents the rich and diverse community our school serves,” wrote principal Dan Sullivan in a letter to parents announcing the decision. The students then considered new names within guidelines provided by the DSST administration. They settled on a location identifier using major street names. The middle school favored Montview and the high school favored Central Park, but since DSST: Conservatory Green High School is located on Central Park Blvd., Montview was selected.

June and Early July Events

For Summer camp offerings, search our online calendar under the category Summer Camp Guide (or any secondary categories: arts, sports, etc.) at www.frontporchne.com > Events > Upcoming Events or check out our February camp guide: frontporchne.com/article/2019-front-porch-guide-summer-camps/

Events were submitted online. Please double check dates and times using contact info provided.

NE DENVER/NW AURORA EVENTS

6/1 Saturday—Block Party and Model Home Tours. 10am - 3pm at 59th Pl. and Dallas St. Lawn games, food trucks, cold drinks, family fun and model home tours. stapletondenver.com.

6/1 Saturday—Greater Park “Over the Hill” 50th Anniversary Celebration! On Fairfax (between 28th and 29th) from 3pm-7pm with food, beverages, and activities. FREE and open to the public. facebook.com/events/565294887313962

Every Sunday thru 8/4—City Park Jazz. Kick off the season June 2 with Emma Mayes & the Hip at the City Park Pavilion, 1700 N. York St. 6-8pm. Go to cityparkjazz.org for this season's bands.

6/6 Thursday—The Fax Partnership: Local Business & Neighborhood Open House. Nonprofit dedicated to supporting East Colfax businesses and residents. 4-6pm. Come to know your fellow neighbors. thefaxdenver.com. 6740 E Colfax Ave.

6/6 Thursday—The Lowry Beer Garden Anniversary Celebration. To benefit the Lowry Foundation. Check for details at: lowryfoundation.org. Lowry Beer Garden, 7577 E Academy Blvd.

6/6 to 8/29—Park Hill Farm & Flea. A Thursday Night Market featuring local makers, food purveyors and more. Every Thursday this Summer in the Oneida Park from 4-9pm. parkhillfarmandflea.com, 2231 Oneida St.

6/8 Saturday—Wear Orange. Join Moms Demand Action For Gun Sense In America from 12-3pm for a free community picnic to honor local

survivors of gun violence. Parkfield Lake Park in Montbello. bit.ly/2vFYc5IDenverWearOrange. 15555 E 53rd Ave, 301-213-5969

6/13 Thursday—The Mother of All Baby Showers. An adults-only night out for new and expectant parents. Education, food & drinks, huge giveaways and mini spa treatments! bit.ly/MOABSDENVER. The Hangar at Stanley Marketplace 2501 Dallas St, Aurora.

6/13 & 6/27—Knitting Circle. 5:30-7:30pm. Bring your knitting or crochet project and join other crafters in conversation around the Sam Gary fireplace. denverlibrary.org. Sam Gary Branch, 2961 Roslyn St.

6/14 to 7/7 Aurora Summer in the City. 11am-2pm. Free, fun events at various Aurora park locations – for exact dates and locations, go to aurora.gov/events

6/15 Saturday—Denver Century Ride and Street Party. All routes start/finish at The Shops at Northfield Stapleton. Enjoy entertainment, cold beer and drinks and an expo among a row of restaurants. northfieldstapleton.com. 8340 Northfield Blvd.

6/16 Sunday—Sam Gary Literary Book Club. 2pm. June Title: Pachinko, by Min Jin Lee. denverlibrary.org. Sam Gary Branch, 2961 Roslyn St.

6/17 Monday—Colfax Swings. Dance the night away with Tuff-Tones, a swing band project from members of the Brothers of Brass. facebook.com/events/2021958944599465. 9995 E Colfax Ave, Aurora.

6/18 Tuesday—Greater Stapleton Business Association Monthly Meeting. An association of businesses in the Stapleton area whose purpose is to support each other and our neighbors. stapletonbusiness.com, 7350 E 29th Ave, Ste 300.

Visit our online calendar to view more events.

Events submitted by the 17th of the month are considered for printing as space allows.

FrontPorchNE.com > Events

6/22 to 6/23—Aurora Arts Festival. 12-8pm, Fletcher Plaza, 9898 E. Colfax, Aurora Arts and Cultural District. 100 artists, makers and creative businesses. auroraculture.org

6/23 Sunday—19th Annual Park Hill Garden Walk. \$15 in advance, \$12 for Seniors (65+) and children under 12 are free. parkhillgardenwalk.org. Greater Park Hill Neighborhood.

7/4 to 8/13—Sistene Chapel Reproductions. Open daily at The Hangar at Stanley. \$16 for general admission; \$12 for seniors, active military, and students with valid ID; and \$10 for groups of 10 or more. Same-day tickets available. chapelsistene.com. 2501 Dallas St., Aurora.

SEASONAL/HOLIDAY EVENTS

7/2 Tuesday—Rockies vs. the Houston Astros at Coors Field. 6:10pm. Fireworks display after the game. mlb.com/rockies

7/2 Tuesday—Four Mile Historic Park's Old Fashioned July 4 Celebration. 5-10pm. Old-fashioned games, historic demonstrations, live music, horse-drawn wagon rides and more. Free entry. Stay and watch the Glendale fireworks. 715 S. Forest St., 720-865-0800, fourmilepark.org

7/2 Tuesday—Glendale Fireworks Show. One of the largest and oldest displays in Denver. Starts at dusk.

For best parking and viewing info, go to milehighonthecheap.com/denver-fourth-of-july/

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

7/4 Thursday—10th Annual Park Hill 4th of July Parade. Floats, music, classic cars, community groups, costumed characters and more! The parade runs along 23rd Ave. from Dexter St. to Krameria St. parkhillparade.org

7/4 Thursday—Colorado Rapids vs. New England Revolution. Fireworks after game. coloradorapids.com

7/4 Thursday—Denver Outlaws vs. Chesapeake. 7pm. Sports Authority Field. Fireworks after game. denveroutlaws.com

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

7/4 Thursday—Evergreen 30th Annual 4th of July Celebration. Music festival, art show, free kids' activities. 10am-7:30pm. Tickets \$15 for 19 and over; \$5 for 13-18, 12 and under free. Evergreen Lakehouse. evergreenmusicfestival.org

METRO EVENTS

6/1 to 6/2—Denver Chalk Art Festival. Street-painting festival where 200+ artists turn the streets of Larimer Square into a museum of chalk art. larimerarts.org

6/2 Sunday—Sunday Funday: A Creative Vintage Pop-Up Market. Free event hosting 30+ artists, vintage businesses, and supporting Beloved Community Village; a housing community

for Denver's homeless. eventbrite.com. 3636 Chestnut Pl.

6/5 to 6/8—Denver Public Library's Summer Used Book Sale. In the Conference Center at the Denver Central Library, featuring over 60,000 items: children's books, nonfiction and fiction books, CDs, DVD & audio books—all at bargain prices starting at under \$1. New items added daily. 10am-4pm. denverlibrary.org. 14th Ave. and Broadway.

6/5 to 8/4—Colorado Renaissance Festival. 8 weekends. Larkspur. coloradorenaissance.com

6/7 Friday—First Friday Art Walks. Santa Fe Arts District, Tenneyson Art Walk, River North (RiNo) Art District, Golden Triangle Museum, Navajo Street Art District. www.denver.org/things-to-do/denver-arts-culture/denver-art-districts

6/8 Saturday—Old South Pearl Brewgrass Festival. \$10 for 8 hours of music. 1200 block Old South Pearl St. southpearlstreet.com

6/9 Sunday—A Taste of Puerto Rico. Civic Center Park, 11am-7pm. atopr.com

6/15 Saturday—Highlands Street Fair. Highlands neighborhood, 32nd Ave., Julian St. to Perry St. Music, family activities, etc. visitdenverhighlands.com

6/15 to 6/16—Juneteenth Music Festival. Historic Five Points Neighborhood, Denver Colorado on 27th & Welton St. juneteenthmusicfestival.com

6/15 to 6/16—Denver Pride Fest. Live entertainment on 3 stages, 250+ exhibitors, an array of food and beverage vendors, the Coors Light Denver Pride Parade, and the Pride 5K race. denverpride.org

6/21 to 6/23—Denver Greek Festival. Greek food, music, boutique, cathedral tours, etc. 4610 E. Alameda. thegreekfestival.com

(continued on page 22)



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METRO EVENTS
(cont'd from page 21)

6/22 Saturday—Citizens for The River. Combining with South Platte Riverfest. Shoemaker Plaza & Confluence Park. thegreenwayfoundation.org

6/22 to 6/23—Cherry Blossom Festival. Downtown Denver in Sakura Square. cherryblossomdenver.org

6/26 Wednesday—Free Breakfast on Bike to Work Day 6:30-9am! Breakfast stations all over the city – for a specific location, go to biketoworkday.us.

6/29 Saturday—Westword Music Show-case. Golden Triangle. westword.com/musicshow-case

6/29 Saturday—Sabrina & Corina by Kali Fajardo-Anstine at Tattered Cover. Short stories following Latinas of Indigenous descent living in the American West, a fiction book talk & signing. Tattered Cover, 2526 E Colfax Ave. tatteredcover.com

7/5 to 7/7—Cherry Creek Arts Festival. cherryarts.org

HEALTH, WELLNESS, FITNESS

6/1 Saturday—Denver Heart & Stroke Walk. Mile High Stadium featuring a 5K Run, Yoga,

5K Walk & Survivor Mile, health expo, and Puppy Parade. 1701 Bryant St., 866-430-9255, Denver-HeartWalk.org

6/3 to 8/1—Adult Early Morning Swim Conditioning & Lap Swim Upgrade. 5:30/6am-7am - Masters. 9am-10/11am - LSU. Our instructor-led adult programs offer two areas of concentration: Masters Swim and Tri-Training. stapletoncommunity.com. Stapleton pools.

6/8 Saturday—10th Anniversary Jodi's Race for Awareness. 1 mile & 5K run/walk fundraiser for ovarian cancer. jodisrace.org/Denver. City Park

6/8 to 6/29—CPY Stapleton Yoga Summer Series at Los Chingones. 6/8, 6/15, 6/22 and 6/29 from 10:30-11:30am. facebook.com/events/1962550907189781. Los Chingones in Stapleton, 10155 E 29th Dr #110, 303-377-7444.

6/9 Sunday—Strides for Epilepsy. City Park, 5K walk/run. epilepsycolorado.org

6/16 Sunday—Father's Day 5K, 10K, Half Marathon. Stapleton Central Park, 7am. featonthetstreet.com

6/22 Saturday—Undy 5000: A Brief Run to Fight Colon Cancer. 5K in your undies to fight colon cancer. City Park. undy5000.org

To 6/25—Mother's Milk Bank Baby Café at Hygge Birth and Baby. Every Tuesday, 1-3pm. Free guidance and tips with breastfeeding, weight checks for babies, and complimentary refreshments. hyggebirthcenter.as.me. 8111 E Lowry Blvd, Ste 230, 720-464-7599.

KIDS AND FAMILIES

Every Tuesday—Tattered Tales Storytime. 30 minutes of stories, activities and snacks. 10:30am, 2526 East Colfax Ave. tatteredcover.com

Every Thursday—Star K Kids. 9:30 and 11am; kids 5 and under. Morrison Nature Center, 16002 E. Smith Rd., Aurora. auroragov.org

Storytimes! At Bookies. Every Tues. 10:30am, Sat. at 4pm. Free. The Bookies Bookstore, 4315 E. Mississippi Ave. 303.759.1117, thebookies.com

6/1 Saturday—International School of Denver Bash. 10am-4pm. isdenver.org

6/1 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. homedepot.com

6/3 Monday—Magic is from Mars, Juggling is from Jupiter. Ann Lincoln will use comedy, magic and juggling to show the importance of reading, learning and the universe of stories available at the library. Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St., denverlibrary.org

6/6 to 6/27—Teen Graphic Novel Workshop. 4-6pm. 4-part workshop series on graphic novel creation as we explore the art of sequential storytelling. Ideal for ages 12-19. Register online at denverlibrary.org. Sam Gary Branch, 2961 Roslyn St.

6/7 & 6/22—Slime and Potions. Make and play with slime as well as other potions! neighborhoodartstudio.pike13.com. 4890 Ironton St., Unit 6A

6/8 Saturday—Build an Imaginary Playground. Build an imaginary playground out of new and repurposed items. neighborhoodartstudio.pike13.com. 4890 Ironton St., Unit 6A

6/10 Monday—Animals of the Wizarding World. 3-4pm. We will introduce you to some of the animals featured in the stories and learn about their habitat, diet, and natural history. denverlibrary.org. Sam Gary Branch, 2961 Roslyn St.

6/10 Monday—Dinner with Princess Jasmine. Meet and take photos with Princess Jasmine and her songs and stories at Oblio's obliospizza.com. 6115 E. 22nd Ave., 303-321-1511

6/11 & 6/25—Crafternoon. 2-3pm. Join us for a craft! denverlibrary.org. Sam Gary Branch, 2961 Roslyn St.

6/11 to 6/25—Creative Writing Lab. 3 sessions, weekly, 4-5:30pm, 4th to 12th grade. Registration is required, and space is limited. denverlibrary.org. Sam Gary Branch 2961 Roslyn St.

6/14 & 6/29—Calligraphy. Artists will dabble in basic cursive and calligraphy. neighborhoodartstudio.pike13.com. 4890 Ironton St., Unit 6A

6/17 Monday—Adventures in Ventriloquism with Mark Hellerstein. 3-4pm. One audience member will be invited on stage to become a "live" puppet! denverlibrary.org. Sam Gary Branch, 2961 Roslyn St.

6/17 Monday—Dine with Anna and Elsa. Meet Princess Anna and Queen Elsa at Oblio's. They will visit each table to talk and take photos with children and families. obliospizza.com. 6115 E. 22nd Ave., 303-321-1511

6/18 Tuesday—Little Wings: Let's Have a Planet Party. 9-10am. Kids 2-4 with adult. Learn the difference between flying and gliding. Wings Over the Rockies Museum. wingsmuseum.org

6/19 Wednesday—Cupcake Decorating. 3-4pm This workshop will teach you the basics of cupcake decorating, and you'll get to eat one! Registration is required and space is limited. 4th to 12th grade. denverlibrary.org. Sam Gary Branch 2961 Roslyn St.

6/21 Friday—Summer Solstice Celebration. Do art and learn about the longest day of the year. neighborhoodartstudio.pike13.com. 4890 Ironton St., Unit 6A

6/22 Saturday—2019 Community Baby Fair. Free event for new & expecting parents. Enjoy food trucks, a kids' DJ, swag bags, and fun activities. children-simmunization.org. Aviator Park & Pool, 8054 E. 28th Ave.

6/22 Saturday—Inside the Orchestra's Tiny Tots Concerts. Kids are truly inside the orchestra as they are seated on the floor and surrounded by a 30+ piece orchestra. insidetheorchestra.org. The Hangar at Stanley Marketplace, Aurora

6/24 Monday—Fun Stuff with Peter Davison. 3-4pm. National Juggling Champion and kinetic comedian Peter Davison. denverlibrary.org. Sam Gary Branch, 2961 Roslyn St.

6/26 Wednesday—Harry Potter Dunk Mugs. 3-4pm Registration is required online, and space is limited. Grades 4th to 12th. denverlibrary.org. Sam Gary Branch, 2961 Roslyn St.

To 6/29— Denver Puppet Theater. Silly Jack. 3156 W. 38th Ave. denverpuppettheater.com

LECTURES, CLASSES, INFORMATIONAL EVENTS

6/4 Tuesday—Active Minds presents: Railroads. Review the rich history of railroads in the United States. 10-11am. Free. activeminds.com, Jewish Community Center, 303-316-6359

6/13 Thursday—Active Minds: Van Gogh. 1-2pm. A journey into the life and art of Vincent Van Gogh, whose painting career spanned only 10 years, during which time he produced over 900 paintings, selling only one. denverlibrary.org. Sam Gary Branch, 2961 Roslyn St.

6/20 Thursday—Financial Literacy: Social Security. 6:30-7:30pm Learn how you can optimize your retirement income needs with Social Security. denverlibrary.org. Sam Gary Branch, 2961 Roslyn St.

6/27 Thursday—Active Minds: China's Human Rights Struggle. 6:30-7:30pm. Look at how modern China continues to struggle with the balance between authoritarian government and basic human rights. denverlibrary.org. Sam Gary Branch, 2961 Roslyn St.

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MUSEUMS

To 8/9—Beer Here! Brewing the New West. More than just a tale of ale, this is a story of Colorado—told over a few beers. History Colorado, 1200 Broadway. historycolorado.org

To Labor Day—Kids Free Summer! Kids 18 and under get free admission. History Colorado Center, 1200 Broadway. historycolorado.org

6/7 Friday—Cultural First Fridays – The Heart and Soul: The Mariachi. 5-9pm. Museo de las Americas. www.museo.org

6/8 Saturday—Cockpit Demo Day. 10am–2pm, Wings over the Rockies Museum, Lowry. wingsmuseum.org

6/8 Saturday—Four Mile Historic Park Rendezvous Gala. Celebrating 160 years. Cocktails, silent & live auction, dinner and dancing. 5–10pm, 715 S Forest St. Tickets at four-milepark.org

6/12 Wednesday—Insiders Tour: LGBTQ: 1900 to Now. Molly Brown House Museum, 9-10:30am. Admission: \$13/adults, \$11/seniors/military/teachers/college, \$9/juniors (6-18 yrs) 1340 Pennsylvania St. Register at mollybrown.org

To 8/25—Serious Play at the Denver Art Museum. Serious Play: Design in Midcentury America presents the concept of playfulness in postwar American design as a catalyst for creativity and innovation. 100 W 14th Ave Pkwy. denverartmuseum.org/exhibitions/serious-play

MUSEUM FREE DAYS

Monday–Friday—The Money Museum. Closed weekends and bank holidays. 1020 16th St. kansascityfed.org

Tuesday–Sunday—Aurora History Museum. 15051 E. Alameda Pkwy, Aurora, auroragov.org

6/1 Saturday—Denver Art Museum Free SCFD First Saturday. Free general admission tickets are available on-site starting at 10am. Denver Art Museum, 100 W 14 Ave Pkwy. 720-865-5000, denverartmuseum.org

6/2 Sunday—Denver Museum of Nature & Science SCFD Free Evening. 2001 Colorado Blvd. dmns.org

6/6 Tuesday—The Children’s Museum Free Day. mychildsmuseum.org

6/14 Friday—Four Mile Historic Park SCFD Free Day. 12-4pm. fourmilepark.org

6/18 Tuesday—Clyford Still Museum SCFD Free Day. clyffordstillmuseum.org

6/4 Tuesday—Botanic Gardens SCFD Free Day. 1007 York St. botanicgardens.org

PERFORMANCE AND THEATRE

6/1 Saturday—Ivy Street Ensemble with Guest Harpist Rachel Ellins. 5000 E Alameda Ave., augustanaarts.org

6/2 Sunday—The One Night Stand with Jeffrey Neuman. 7pm at Vintage Theatre, 1468 Dayton St. in Aurora. onenightstandtheater.org

6/14 to 6/15— Wonderbound Presents Boomtown with Chimney Choir. 7:30pm shows, Arvada Center, 6901 Wadsworth Blvd. arvadacenter.org

To 6/15—Sanctions. As the Cats come off sanctions, the racially-divided staff battle out how far they are willing to bend the rules to ensure a win. Every Saturday afternoon. curioustheatre.org/event/sanctions/

To 6/16—The Language Archive. Vintage Theatre, 1468 Dayton St, Aurora. vintagetheatre.org

6/21 Friday—“Under The Stars” Neil Bridge’s Group “Quintessence” augustanaarts.org. 5000 E Alameda Ave.

6/22 to 7/20—well, by Lisa Kron. Friday/Saturday 7:30pm, Sunday 2pm. John Hand Theater, 7653 E 1st Pl. firehousetheatercompany.com, 303-562-3232

6/25 and 7/13—Cinderella Eats Rice and Beans: A Salsa Fairy Tale. Several shows and times, Aurora Fox Arts Center, 9900 E. Colfax Ave, Aurora. aurorafoxartscenter.org

6/30— The Denver Brass: Awesome Summer Mix. 7:30pm, outdoor amphitheater: covered and lawn tickets. Arvada Center, 6901 Wadsworth Blvd. arvadacenter.org

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

6/1—Sand Creek Greenway Volunteer Work Days. Sand Creek Park in Aurora. More info: sandcreekgreenway.org/upcoming-volunteer-opportunities/

6/29 to 6/30—Bike MS: Colorado. Volunteers make Bike MS happen and are the foundation of why Bike MS is the largest cycling fundraising event in the country. We need nearly 500 volunteers and welcome ALL ages! Contact Brittany at Brittany.McGarry@nmss.org to sign up!

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

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

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.

Photo courtesy of Park People



Approximately 20 volunteers from Stapleton United Neighbors and First Western Trust planted trees in Stapleton’s Greenway Park in mid-May as part of the Park People’s Mile High Tree Champions program. More than 1,000 volunteers have added almost 1,000 trees in Denver through this program since 2010.

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East High Con Law Wins National Competition

RECOG

By Martina Will, PhD

East High School AP Government and Politics students took first place at an annual national mock trial competition. “The questions are different every year but they are really tailored to the issues of the day and true to the nature of our democracy. Ten years ago, we were looking at Guantánamo and the War on Terror. This year, the focus was on issues like civic engagement, government oversight,” says East teacher and team coach Susan McHugh.

“The judges and the simulated hearings really treat the kids as experts in the room, resulting in detailed discussions of where we should go.” Co-coach and East teacher Matt Fulford adds, “One of the things they really appreciated at the national competition was how well the students could relate local issues to national issues.” He cites the recent ballot initiative 300 (Right to Survive) as an example.

More than 1,200 students and 56 teachers from across the U.S. competed in We the People, administered by the

Center for Civic Education. East represented Colorado after winning the state championship, with a team from Grandview participating as a wild card team this year.

Historically, the East team has done well in the competition, earning the state championship for all but two years since the program’s inception in 1988, according to McHugh. This year’s national win marks their 5th national championship, with the most recent in 2009.

McHugh, who had been a teacher for the 2007 and 2008 championship teams as well, observes that the program inspires hope in her. “The kids are informed, engaged, and compassionate, and grappling with tough, complex problems...but they look forward to meeting those problems. We can all feel really hopeless. But it [this experience] leaves me feeling renewed.”

Students commonly refer to the class as “Con Law,” and all Con Law students participate in the annual competition, with



East High School “Con Law” students pose with their medals after winning the national We the People competition.

fundraising key to ensuring that no one is left out. Former East teacher Beth Gower, who spearheads fundraising, shares that the alumni network was again extremely supportive in helping the team reach its \$80,000 goal. She notes that some alumni have told her how transformative their participation in the program was, and they now donate to ensure that others have the same opportunity. “There has never been one kid who hasn’t said it wasn’t the most significant thing that they did,” says Gower.

Even though not all participating students will pursue a career in the justice system or attend law school, the program nurtures a love of civics. Fulford observes that on their return trip

to Denver, the students had a lively discussion about the Mueller Report and Attorney General Barr.

“I think students have come back inspired and excited about the experience. They don’t have a competition ahead of them anymore but they were reading the paper this morning and talking about the issues...it’s ongoing...it’s not over for them. The skills they learned go beyond civics and government. They collaborated in a way that I only ever did in college. They have to be great researchers and writers. They all have to persevere and learn...some on public speaking or writing, others on teamwork or learning how to delegate. The value of it goes way beyond civics,” says Fulford.

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Three Local Students Win National Merit Scholarships

By Martina Will PhD

In May, as neighborhood teens prepared for final exams, prom, and high school graduation, three Stapleton students also received great news: each had received a National Merit Scholarship for \$2,500.

Thousands of seniors from across the country competed for the honor, 2,500 of whom earned the title of “National Merit Scholar.” The pool of approximately 15,000 finalists represents less than one percent of all U.S. high school seniors.



Ana Paola Kwan will graduate with an IB certificate from George Washington High School (GW). In the fall, she will attend CU Boulder, where she plans to pursue an engineering degree.

Kwan sounds ready for this next step, confident that GW’s “very rigorous” IB program and speech and debate prepared her for college. She says that she has always loved math and science, and credits math teacher Joseph Bolz with nurturing that passion while at GW. “He is always really supporting all of our learning, not just in math,” she observes. This past summer, an engineering camp at the University of Notre Dame solidified her commitment to engineering. Though she is not sure if she will focus on mechanical engineering, she’s already talking about pursuing a Master’s.



Tessa Berns, who goes by *Elizah*, will take an entirely new direction after completing her degree in creative writing at Denver School of the Arts (DSA). She plans to

attend Arizona State University, which offers a full scholarship for National Merit finalists—and major in computer science and math. She says she was really impacted by reading Elie Wiesel’s *Night* in fifth grade. “I felt really upset because it felt like people should have done something more...I didn’t want to be the person who turned away the boat of refugees,” she reflects, referring to the fate of 937 Jewish refugees aboard the M.S. St. Louis, denied entry to Cuba, the U.S. and Canada by their respective governments in 1939. A fan of the “Unit of Caring” blog, Berns researched how she could best influence the world. “It turns out that math and computer science are really important for interventions in global poverty, artificial intelligence, and other areas.” These fields, she hopes, will allow her to be an “effective altruist” as well as a change-maker.



Andrew Hageman will be attending the University of Southern California in the fall, where he plans to major in business adminis-

tration and possibly double major in engineering. Hageman was already an entrepreneur while at Westerly Creek Elementary School, when he met Dr. Philip Schmidt of the University of Texas at Austin who gave him the inspiration for making rocket launchers. With his friend Zac Stahlhut, he launched ZARL, Inc., which made and sold rocket launchers and toy rockets at the Sweet William Market and other area venues. He credits Young

Americans Center for Financial Education with some of the business acumen he had developed. “Even before I had the business, I did a lot of camps there, and they helped me start a business.” [ZARL Inc. received a 2013 award from Young Americans, featured here: <https://frontporchne.com/article/three-local-youth-entrepreneurs-win->

[awards/](#)]. At GW, math teacher Joseph Bolz and economics teacher Marcus Lee continued to nurture Hageman’s interests in business, math, and economics. “The best thing about IB is that you have the same teacher for several years. Mr. Bolz has been one of the few teachers that really challenged me in math,” he says.



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SERIOUS PLAY

Design in Midcentury America

By Laurie Dunklee

“Take your pleasure seriously,” was the motto of Charles and Ray Eames, a husband-and-wife midcentury design team.

“Play was essential to their process, as it was to many designers of the time,” said Darrin Alfred, curator of architecture and design at the Denver Art Museum, presenting *Serious Play: Design in Midcentury America*, through August 25. Featuring 250 works by 40 designers of the postwar era, the exhibition is a romp through some of the most imaginative 1950s and ‘60s home decor, toys and advertising.

From the marshmallow sofa to the ball clock, bold design innovations of the time reflected a changing society, as many families were enjoying more disposable income and leisure time. “It was part of the movement from war-time austerity to a freer time,” said Ann Lambson, interpretive specialist for architecture and design at the DAM.

New materials and manufacturing techniques allowed designers to introduce new looks for home interiors. Visitors are greeted with a display of midcentury modernist furniture pieces, including Irving Harper’s whimsical marshmallow sofa. “I designed it in one weekend,” Harper told *Metropolis* magazine in 2001. “I made a little model and brought it into the office. It was supposed to be a joke, sort of a game, because I’d never done anything that looked like that.”

The exhibition includes textiles and ceramics, as well as films, toys, playground equipment and product design. “Designers were re-imagining and re-invigorating everyday objects,” Alfred said.

Eameses was comprised of modular pieces that could be put together to suit any room. “Consumers were encouraged to make their own expression, to stand out in the crowd,” said Alfred. “It was a response to the *Mad Men* plain gray suits.”

Irving Harper’s clocks were pieces of sculpture. A wall of Harper clocks includes the ball clock, the kite, the sunflower, the kaleidoscope and the “eye.” “To omit the numbers and have an abstract object that moved on the wall was something no one was doing at the time,” Harper said.

An emerging focus on child development prompted an interest in children’s furniture, including Henry P. Glass’s Swingline toy cabinet that operates on hinges and looks like stacked blocks. Smart toy designs include a city planning set by Gere Kavanaugh, comprised of abstract wooden forms for developing city plans on a child-size scale.

Designers found new and fun ways to brand products, including Paul Rand’s ads for El Producto cigars, in which cigars were brought to life as amusing characters. “Companies of that time challenged designers to surprise the world through imagination and delight,” Alfred said.

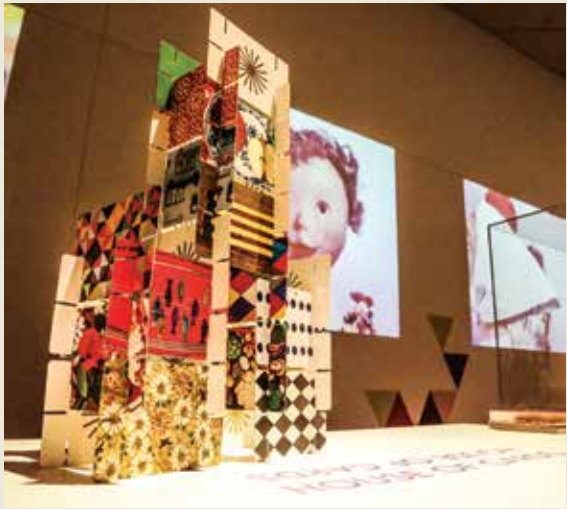
The large Free Play Zone invites kids to don masks for theater play or construct wooden toys with pieces designed by architect Anne Tyng. Throughout the exhibit, films by the Eameses bring toys and other objects up close. In the film *Parade*, toys are characters in a narrative about a passing parade. “Their purpose was to draw attention to everyday objects, their beauty and playfulness,” said Alfred.



Above left: Woman and Man bench for the patio or poolside, by John Risley.



Middle photo, from left: The Coconut chair by George C. Mulhauser Jr., named for its shell-like shape that vaguely resembles a fragment of coconut, embodies a relaxed approach to domestic life



Above, left to right: Charles Eames’ House of Cards, comprised of a picture deck and a pattern deck, with slots to lock them together; The Little Toy, designed to build small theater sets, tents and houses to use with other toys and objects; Invitations to Play are





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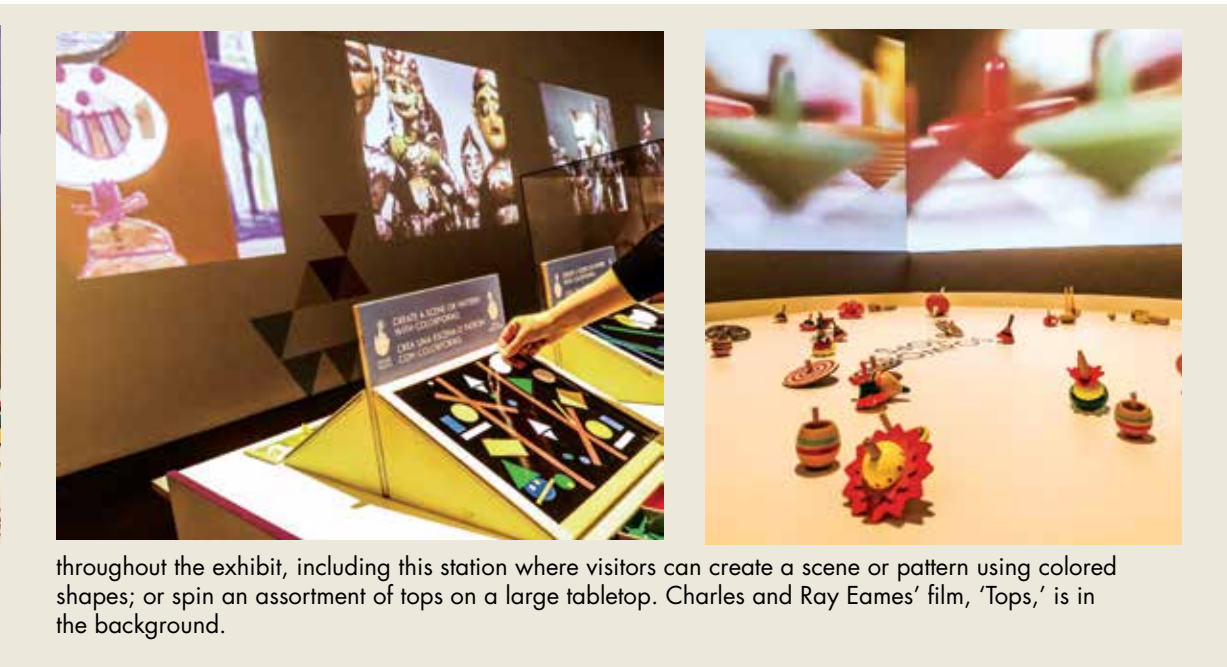
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that was a distinguishing characteristic of midcentury design; the Asterisk wall clock, one in a series of cutting-edge clockfaces designed by Irving Harper in the 1950s and '60s; and Harper's whimsical marshmallow sofa, comprised of 12-inch diameter upholstered discs.



Above: Tulip chair with portrait of a girl. The chair's elegant form contrasts with the freehand quality of its painted decoration.
Below: Explore this: one of Isamu Naguchi's play sculptures, intended to stimulate open-ended and creative play.



throughout the exhibit, including this station where visitors can create a scene or pattern using colored shapes; or spin an assortment of tops on a large tabletop. Charles and Ray Eames' film, 'Tops,' is in the background.



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

By Amanda Allshouse
President Stapleton United Neighbors (SUN)

Host a Block Party Day in Stapleton during Denver Days, National Night Out

Consider hosting a party during Denver Days: August 3-11. Block Parties are encouraged by the Denver Police Department, the City of Denver, and SUN. When neighbors know each other, and know and what is "normal" they better recognize unordinary activity. People who know their neighbors are more likely to report suspicious behavior (e.g., text a tip: 720.723.8911)

and people are far less likely to have disputes with neighbors if they know them and have a community bond with them. Block Parties can improve safety, avoid conflict, and improve quality of life.

Denver Days is Mayor Hancock's initiative to get neighbors to know each other. During Denver Days, city-managed park fees are waived for block parties and barricades are provided for street closure. The MCA has waived the registration fee for block parties hosted on MCA-managed pocket parks during Denver Days.

June SUN News

Councilman Herndon's police-escorted Bike Parade from the 29th Avenue Town Center to the McAuliffe Campus is one of the largest events in the area during Denver Days (all are welcome to participate). Service projects are another suggested activity during Denver Days. The city will provide trash pickers and grabbers for clean-up events, and more.

National Night Out is the first Tuesday in August (Tuesday, August 6, 2019 this year). Consider hosting your block party the evening of National Night Out to participate in community building in partnership with Denver Police, and other communities across the county.

If you wish to incorporate Stapleton's participation in the Sustainable neighborhoods program into your block party, incorporate an environmental and/or cultural aspect into the event, and consider making your event ZERO waste. (For this you would need to collect, weigh, and properly dispose of trash, recycling, and compost.)

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Call for Community Engagement, Need for Space North of I-70

The SUN Registered Neighborhood Organization (RNO) will start a new session at the June 21 meeting in the Central Park Recreation Center. Wide community engagement is essential for this volunteer organization to be well-representative of the community, and effective at tackling issues of importance to the community at large.

This past year, the Inclusivity and Diversity Committee hosted the Second Annual Day of Reflection, with a focus on Implicit Bias, facilitated by Dr. Antwan Jefferson, University of Colorado Denver; and is currently coordinating plans with the Northfield High School Student Government for a series of fall events across the community. The Sustainability committee hosted several events through Denver's Sustainable Neighborhoods Program (most recently: a tree planting May 18 and co-hosted SUN's Second Annual Day of Reflection April 27) and hosts monthly happy hours on the second Tuesday at 6:30pm at Cheluna Brewery. SUN's education committee advocates for the full build out and support of Northfield High School, and hosts a fall forum for education including a school board candidate meet and greet. Residents interested in joining in or expanding on any of these efforts are encouraged to contact SUN or the committee chair.

Residents interested in community engagement, transportation/pedestrian safety, other topics not previously mentioned, and residents living north of 56th Avenue are most strongly encouraged to become involved, as these subject and geographic areas not currently represented on the SUN board. The monthly meeting location at the Central Park Recreation center could contribute to a logistical challenge for residents on the north end of the community. SUN is actively soliciting meeting space north of I-70, but mid-size public spaces are not currently available for these purposes. The Stapleton MCA is aware of this need from SUN (and other organizations), but accommodating this need is not part of any short-term plans. If you are a business owner with a room with a capacity of 50 people that can be reserved once a month with reasonable acoustics such that people can hear each other in a meeting setting, and you would be willing to donate this space for SUN's monthly meetings, please contact SUN.

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Sistine Chapel Reproductions Coming to Stanley Marketplace



Near life-size museum-quality reproductions of Michelangelo's ceiling frescoes in the Sistine Chapel in Rome will be exhibited at Stanley Marketplace this summer. The exhibit gives visitors an up-close view of 34 of the masterpieces.

Open daily at The Hangar at Stanley from July 4 to August 13, ticket prices for the exhibit will be \$16 for general admission; \$12 for seniors, active military, and students with valid ID; and \$10 for groups of 10 or more. An optional audio guide,

with narrative accompaniment will be available in four languages. Same-day tickets will be for sale at the box office throughout the exhibit's run.

For more information visit chapelsistine.com. Tickets can be purchased at <https://www.etix.com/ticket/v/14892/the-hangar-at-stanley>

Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel is a licensed exhibition of SEE Global Entertainment, a Las Vegas-based exhibition production company which acquired the worldwide rights to the fresco reproductions by Bridgeman Images. The Colorado debut of the Sistine Chapel exhibit is presented in association with Daniel Sladek Entertainment.

Information provided by Stanley Marketplace.

Letter to the Editor

Coffee drive-through not in keeping with neighborhood or city

"Protecting our air with a bold commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions..." "Reducing dependence on driving alone..." This is language from Denver's newly approved plans to guide growth and development.

A drive-through coffee restaurant at the northwest corner of Montview and Central Park Blvds. is nearing city approval and construction is expected to start in the next two months. It will likely be a market success, attracting fleets of Stapleton SUVs along with sedans and pick-up trucks from the larger neighborhood. Their drivers will idle their vehicles spewing polluting emissions while they peck away at their cell phones oblivious to the walkers, bicyclists and school children trying to navigate multiple through lanes, free-right turn lanes, and multiple traffic signal cycles not to mention the drive-through lane itself.

Focused as it is on serving cars, the

building turns its back to the surrounding neighborhood. It makes a mockery of Denver's vaunted city-wide planning efforts and the "Green Book," Stapleton's visionary master plan. For the people living in Stapleton and East Colfax, what could have been a neighborhood coffee shop becomes yet one more strip center designed for cars at the expense of people.

Nothing in the recently approved city plans suggest that drive-through uses are to be encouraged in residential areas. While the use will no doubt be a commercial success, sometimes we have to save ourselves from our worst instincts. That's why we adopt bold, visionary planning documents—to steer us in a different, healthier direction. Fortunately, there's a clear-cut solution to this particular problem: allow a coffee shop, reject the drive-through. Let's walk, not just talk.

—John Fernandez

Fun for kids at Augustana this summer!

- | | |
|--|---|
| Vacation Bible School/Day Camp <ul style="list-style-type: none">Monday, July 15–Friday, July 198 a.m.–4 p.m. (until noon on Friday)For kids grades K–5 | WAM! (Worship, Art, and Music Camp) <ul style="list-style-type: none">Monday, July 22–Sunday, July 28Children who have completed grades 1–7 practice all week and present a musical during worship, July 28 |
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Beer



Above: A re-creation of a mining town saloon is complete down to bar towels and spittoons.

Left: Drinks could be paid for with gold. A gold-dust scale made sure beer drinkers got their fair share.



By Dick Kreck

The current craze for craft beer in Colorado (“the Napa Valley of beer”) has its roots in the 1850s. Even before there was a Colorado there was locally produced beer.

The “Beer Here: Brewing in the New West” exhibition at the History Colorado Center, chronicles the intertwined histories of Colorado and beer. Sections on beer and the mining industry, Prohibition (“Drinking leads to neglect of duty, moral degradation and crime,” warned its proponents), and the meteoric rise of the craft-beer industry engage visitors.

Since the beginning, beer has been an economic engine in Colorado. By 1900, Denver had nine breweries and 478 saloons, according to historian Tom Noel. There was Coors, of course, but there were also long-gone names, including Union, Neef, Zang, Milwaukee, and Tivoli.

“This exhibit is more than a history of the brewing industry,” lead developer Sam Bock—it’s his real name—said in a news release. “It is a history of Colorado told over a few beers.”

The exhibit includes early bottles, a re-creation of an early saloon complete with spittoons, posters, and interior photographs of frontier saloons (including the wonderfully named Holy Moly). Saloons were more than places to hoist a refreshing beverage. They also served as meeting halls, post offices, banks, and even churches. There’s also a re-creation of the kitchen of Boulder’s Charlie Papazian, founder of the Great American Beer Festival,

who is credited with launching the craft-beer revolution in the 1980s. 1950s magazine advertisements proclaim, “Any time’s a good time for beer.” A clever feature is Pints Peak, a collection of 357 glasses from Colorado breweries which covers almost an entire wall. Count how many you’ve been to.

Coors Brewing Co. and Ball Corp. cosponsored the exhibit and many of the items in the exhibit are from the Coors

collection. Some items have never been publicly displayed before, including Adolph Coors’s hand-drawn label for its first bottles. While Coors is a sponsor, said Jason Hanson, History Colorado chief creative director, it had “no edito-

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Here!



Above: Prohibition, begun in Colorado in 1916, put most breweries out of business. Orphanages housed many of the children (shown at right) from homes ruined by drink.

Left: Crowds watched in sorrow as revenue agents smashed beer barrels.



rial control. (But) you can't talk about beer in Colorado without Coors." There's even a look at the famous boycott of Coors in the 1960s.

The state's love affair with beer is ongoing. Colorado Public Radio reported recently that the state taxed 9.8 million gallons of beer sales in January, 1.6 million more than January 2018. Museum staff shares this

enthusiasm: they're growing hops on the south side of the building and visitors can stop by a bar near the exhibit to sample some of the state's current offerings. Plus, the museum will host a Historic Styles Brewfest, featuring 25 Colorado breweries, on July 20.

"Beer Here" at the History Colorado Center, 1200 Broadway, is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily (except Thanksgiving,



Above: Craft-brew pioneer Charlie Papazian's Boulder kitchen is re-created.

Left: An early-day Coors delivery truck.

Right: A campaign poster touts beer-loving Governor John Hickenlooper with a row of tap handles.



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