

Front Porch

DENVER, COLORADO

NORTHEAST DENVER

FEBRUARY 2020



Front Porch photo by Christie Gosch

Lift Every Voice and Sing *A Second National Anthem?*

Joslyn Ford-Keel of DIME Denver sings *Lift Every Voice and Sing* at the City Park event preceding the 35th annual Martin Luther King, Jr. parade (“Marade”) on Jan. 20, 2020. The *Front Porch* asked four

NE neighbors to talk about the enduring meaning of *Lift Every Voice*—a song often referred to as the Black National Anthem, but generally unknown in the White community. Story on page 8 by Martina Will, PhD.

Above: The MLK event at City Park prior to the Marade was attended by elected officials including, behind singer Joslyn Ford-Keel (from left): Aurora Mayor Mike Coffman, U.S. Representative Ed Perlmutter, Gov. Jared Polis and Denver Mayor Michael Hancock.



Outdoor School for Tots

Rocks, sticks and dirt become small houses, bridges and even “monster eggs” in the hands of preschool children at The Nursery School. The all-outdoor program meets at Bluff Lake Nature Center and is based on the European model of “forest schools.”

Story on page 26 by Mary Jo Brooks.

Front Porch photo by Steve Larson



2020 Camp Guide

If it's February, it's time to start planning for summer camp. The choices are many and the options are varied, from Outdoor Adventures to Arts, Science and Athletics. Choose from over 100 camps starting on page 15.

Left: Neighborhood Music & Theater camp


Presidential Primary Mar. 3
See page 11 for election info



Traveller, the Augmented Reality screen installed at the lobby of the Denver Museum of Nature and Science (DMNS), immerses visitors of all ages in a captivating 3D environment. It places them up against photo-realistic characters ranging from a life-sized T-Rex and a NASA astronaut to animals including a giraffe and a rhino, as well as other amazing natural world content.

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Is the Front Porch arriving on your front porch regularly?
 If you’re not getting it every month, and if it’s not on your porch and dry, please let us know. Email Carol@FrontPorchNE.com.
Comment on and Share Stories at FrontPorchNE.com
Letters to the Editor — Send to Carol@FrontPorchNE.com

Events & Announcements at Stapleton

Active Minds Seminar: Biography of a City – New Orleans

Thursday, February 13 | 1pm | Sam Gary Library | Free

Join Active Minds for a simulated visit to The Big Easy. Often referred to as the “most unique” city in America, New Orleans is famous for its cuisine, French Creole influence, jazz music, and of course, Mardi Gras! Active Minds will explore the colorful history, culture, and people that contribute to this southern treasure. Bring your colored beads and your jazz trumpet; it’s the next best thing to being there!

Getting Back in the Swim of Things...Save the Date!

3/10 | New Parent Meeting | The Cube | 6pm
3/11 | Swim/Dive/Synchro Team registration | Online/In-person
3/18 | Resident Aquatic Program registration | Online/In-Person | 2pm
4/1 | Party Pad and After-Hours Pool Reservations accepted | Online/In-person
4/15 | Non-Resident Registration | In-Person/Registration Form | 12pm

Wine Education Series: Will You Be My Valent...wine?

Thursday, February 13 | 7pm | The Cube

Join us for another installment of our Wine Education Series, where we spotlight the educational side of viniculture. This special Valentine’s Day-themed tasting, guided by wine expert Grant Harmsen of The Vineyard Wine Shop, will feature a unique selection of 6-8 wines from romantic destinations around the world. The evening will include an hour of sit-down tasting and educational discussion, followed by time for questions, mingling, and additional sampling. Tickets are \$30 and will increase to \$60 on the day of the event. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit stapletoncommunity.com. You must be 21+ to attend; no refunds will be permitted.

Active Minds Seminar: The Civil Rights Act

Friday, February 27 | 6:30pm | Sam Gary Library | Free

The Civil Rights Act of 1964 was a landmark piece of federal legislation that outlawed primary forms of discrimination against minorities and women. Join Active Minds as they examine the act’s inception, now over 50 years later, and evaluate its impact on civil rights in the United States today.

Family Film Series: WALL-E

G · 2008 · 103 minutes
Friday, February 28 | 6pm | The Cube | Free

Our Family Film Series continues with the Disney Pixar masterpiece, *WALL-E*! This one-of-a-kind animated feature about the potentially catastrophic future of our planet is more relevant today than ever before. Even with its virtually dialogue-free first half-hour, it’s impressive how much can be said with so few words. But the action (which includes some robot fights, explosions, and chase scenes) picks up soon enough. Underlying the whole film are strong environmental messages: Reduce, reuse, recycle, and think about what effect our choices may have on the planet.

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Swim/Dive Team Coaches
Coaches are responsible for determining ability and skill level of swimmers, developing and implementing training programs, educating swimmers on water safety, setting training goals and objectives for teams as well as individual swimmers, and ensuring the pool area is clean, well-maintained and free of hazards. Applicants should have relevant certifications, including CPR & First Aid training, strong organization and management skills, a positive attitude, and attentiveness to the needs and safety of children.

Apply TODAY at stapletoncommunity.com!

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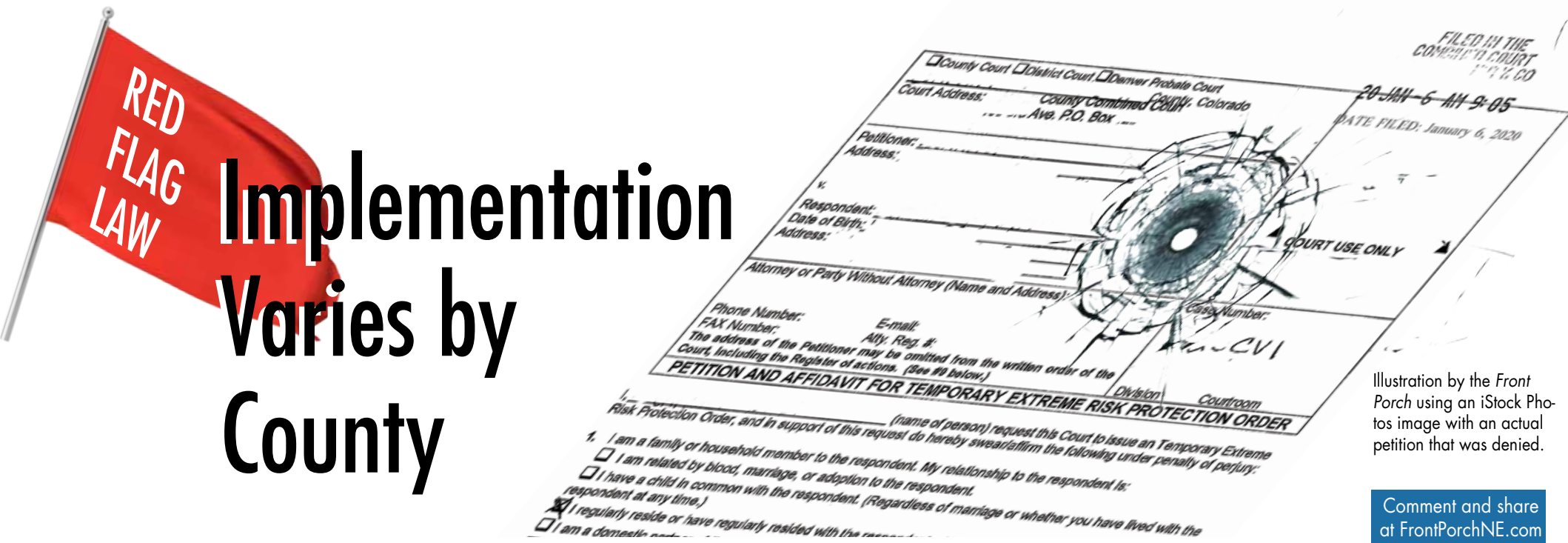
The Front Porch – NE Denver distributes more than 28,000 free papers during the first week of each month. Papers are delivered to doorsteps and/or racks in Stapleton, Park Hill, Lowry, Montclair, Mayfair and NW Aurora.

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.

February 2020

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Front Porch – NE Denver



Implementation Varies by County

Illustration by the Front Porch using an iStock Photos image with an actual petition that was denied.

Comment and share at FrontPorchNE.com

By Tracy Wolfer Osborne

On January 8, a Windsor man petitioned the Denver Probate Court to have his son XYZ’s weapons confiscated under Colorado’s fledgling Red Flag Law. Two days earlier, a Limon woman had filed a similar petition in Lincoln County. His was granted. Hers was denied. The discrepancy is rooted in two different philosophies about how to enforce the controversial law that states a family or household member or law enforcement officer or agency can petition a judge to temporarily remove firearms from a person who may be a danger to self or others.

One philosophy—adopted by 22 Second Amendment “sanctuary” counties—seeks to protect the gun-owner’s rights. The other seeks to be an advocate for the endangered.

In the case of XYZ, court documents reveal that he had recently lost his job and his right to unsupervised visitation with his children. He’d also brought a gun with him to a parenting time-exchange with his ex-wife and accused his father of having his phone “wiped” by the CIA. Furthermore, he sent threatening text messages including: “[I]t’s [sic] the person that you [sic] have nothing to lose that should be your biggest fear. I’ve had nothing before, and I am not afraid to go

the distance with you....I promise you when you’re gone, you will not be missed.... You’re going to see a darker side of me and [sic] you ever wanted to. Consider yourself warned.”

After a petition is filed, a judge reviews the petition the same day—or the next day for petitions filed in the afternoon. In the case of XYZ, Judge Elizabeth Leith granted the temporary extreme risk protection order (T/ERPO), citing a recent and credible threat of violence.

Once an extreme risk protection order (ERPO) is issued, guns are confiscated and a second hearing is scheduled within 14 days to decide if the order should be extended for up to 364 days. If the petition is granted, a respondent may file a motion to terminate the ERPO by proving s/he no longer poses a danger to self or others.

In the case of the Limon woman, she had made previous complaints to police about her abusive boyfriend and stated in her petition that he was, “grabbing and pushing me, not allowing me to leave the house, threatening me with a handgun,” and “even broke the bathroom door to get to me to threaten me verbally.” Her petition was denied. It’s unclear if Lincoln County’s “sanctuary” status played into the judge’s decision; however, it is clear this law is shaping up differently in

different counties.

Sanctuary counties say they aren’t willing to take two specific actions that other counties—that are following the law as written—are willing to do. They won’t file a T/ERPO if they think there’s a risk and they won’t seize guns without a criminal warrant. The new law allows for a civil warrant, which is what the sanctuary counties object to. They cite issues based both the Second Amendment and the Fourth Amendment, which deals with search and seizure.

Weld County’s Sheriff Steve Reams was quoted in the *Washington Post* as saying he’d rather go to jail than enforce the law; he believes it infringes on someone’s constitutional right to due process and the Fourth Amendment, which protects against unlawful search and seizure.¹ El Paso County Sheriff Bill Elder told KRDO News (Colorado Springs) his office will enforce an order if it comes from the court, but a TERPO will not be initiated by any of his deputies. He also said his deputies won’t be searching for firearms like other agencies might.²

Conversely, the Denver Police Department is putting potential victims first. Division Chief of Investigations Joe Montoya said, “There are different philosophies statewide, and I’m not critical of anyone’s perception.

For the community of Denver, it serves our purpose to adhere to the way the law is written. We’ve come across several situations when we look back and say, ‘Boy if this law was in place it might have helped us out.’” The department’s official stance is that “T/ERPOS can significantly reduce the risk of suicide, and harm to victims, the community, and law enforcement, and it is committed to enforcing extreme risk protection orders.”

In fact, on Jan.2, DPD’s Sergeant Troy Bisgard was the first in Colorado to file a T/ERPO. He responded to a domestic violence call and found an intoxicated man with a loaded 9mm Glock semi-automatic handgun in his waistband. The man, who had threatened to do something “bad” to himself voluntarily handed over his Glock as well as another gun in his home. He later said he was thankful for the department’s intervention.

Montoya also stressed that filing a T/ERPO isn’t always necessary for taking someone’s guns. “In a lot of these cases, there’s going to be a crime attached to it, so we can take action because a crime occurred. If someone’s actually threatening someone else with a weapon, that’s a criminal offense, and we take guns all the time from people involved in criminal activity or from people who shouldn’t be in possession of a gun.

(continued on page 6)



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Oscars 2020: Males, Male Violence and Male-Only Categories

This month, the Indie Prof reviews Best Picture nominations for the Oscars. Follow “Indie Prof” on Facebook for updates about film events and more reviews.

As the Oscars approaches on February 9, the usual controversies abound. If you’ve read these pages, you are aware of my misgivings about the proceedings and how the Academy handles itself. I won’t repeat them here, but please review past columns for more details. Still, we can take away some positives and celebrate this wonderful art form even as more and more films move to online platforms. So if I can say one thing, it is please go to the movies! It was a good year.

1917
This is my pick for best film of the year. The WWI story of two British soldiers trying to reach the front lines to call off a suicide attack is riveting, groundbreaking, original, tense, innovative, and edge-of-your-seat, can’t-take-your-eyes-off-of-it cinema that is also relentless and technically brilliant. The cinematic premise is a film done all in one take (with a few, small cuts that are barely noticeable) as we follow soldiers through the trenches, across open fields with German air-planes circling above, through a burning town guarded by Germans, to the front lines (and even over a waterfall!). Think *Birdman* in the middle of a war.

The Irishman
See my full review in the 1/20 edition but suffice to say that Martin Scorsese’s epic could go home with a trove of awards unless there is Netflix

backlash. My pick for Best Director, and it wins Best Picture if *1917* is just too much of a fine point for voters.

Once Upon a Time in Hollywood
Quentin Tarantino’s ode to Hollywood is set in the waning days of a fading era in Tinseltown, circa 1969. Leonardo DiCaprio is perfect as an aging TV/cowboy/action star and Brad Pitt melts into his role as the sidekick/stunt man/errand boy while they drive their way through L.A. in the last days of the Golden Era. This is Tarantino at his best: writing that crackles, performances that pitch just the right way, dynamic camera and editing, and a punctuation of violence that surprises since it comes much later than we expect from him. It has the potential for any award, and the potential for a sweep may be in the cards. The award for Best Original Screenplay seems likely, and Pitt will win the Supporting Actor Award.

Joker
This extremely disturbing realistic version of the comic-book story is even more troubling because we have seen this character before, in several iterations, yet never like this. Here, we don’t get “Boom!” or “Pow!” above the players; rather, there is blood sprayed, brains splattered, and heads bashed. This is *Taxi Driver* set in a modern-day Go-

them with contemporary allegorical issues. The vigilante violence of the film was controversial, the messaging can be unseemly, and while those aspects may scare some way, Joaquin Phoenix as the titular character is so eye-poppingly good that it makes the film a must see. He should win the award for Best Actor. I would argue that Director Todd Phillips doesn’t belong in the Best Director Category, however. Leaving out Greta Gerwig while including Phillips is a shortcut to real review.

Little Women
The Greta Gerwig snub from the Best Director category shouldn’t detract from what is an expertly crafted and overall superb telling of a well-known story. The Louisa May Alcott novel from the post-Civil War era has been made into a film several times, and Gerwig’s adaptation updates it wonderfully, with spirited performances (including the lead Saoirse Ronan, who is my favorite for Best Actress) and an elliptical structure that serves the story and is perfectly expressive. The Best Director category should mean mastery over every aspect of the film, not just a singular performance. Gerwig is a master.



Parasite
This gem from one of the world’s best directors, Bong Joon-Ho (*Mother*, *Snowpiercer*), is a psychological comedic thriller punctuated by moments of horror violence. It is a cross between Hitchcock and Tarantino with the Scorsese deft hand at timing and audience reaction in mind. Bong is a master craftsman and brilliant writer as well, and every aspect of his acumen shines through here. If *Roma* did not prevail in a weak category last year, then this film’s prospects are dim. My guess is that many Academy voters are scared away by the subtitles. Still a no-brainer for Best International Film.

Ford v Ferrari
Hard to see the logic with this nomination, especially considering such excellent films as *The Lighthouse* and *Hustlers* were ignored. It’s an adrenaline-filled rush with solid performances, and it may be worth the price of admission. That’s about it.



Finally, there was one film I did not yet screen, so I enlisted the help of an aspiring film critic and writer who is worth the read:

Jojo Rabbit By: Michael Sorentino
It takes finesse and sensitivity to tell a charming coming-of-age story set in the waning years of Nazi Germany. Taika Waititi has proved he is more than qualified by adding this to his ever-growing eclectic filmography. Roman Griffin Davis stars as the 10-year-old title character who has bought into the propaganda so deeply that his imaginary friend is Adolf Hitler, played by Waititi himself. Jojo’s beliefs get challenged when he finds out his mother (Scarlett Johansson), does not subscribe to the same ideology and has been hiding a young Jewish girl in their home. *Jojo Rabbit* brilliantly ridicules the purpose of fanaticism and the indoctrination of children, as we watch Jojo experience new feelings of humanity and empathy in one of the best films of the year.

Two local screenings of note this month that I will introduce and discuss:
The documentary *Amy* at 2pm Sunday, February 16 at Sam Gary Library.
Wall-E at 6pm Friday, February 28 at The Cube in Northfield.
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. And you can follow “Indie Prof” on Facebook and @VincentPiturro on Twitter.

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The new 22,000-square-foot animal hospital building is expected to be completed this spring, but will not be open to visitors until fall.

New Hospital Coming Watch Zoo Vets at Work

By Karyn Cole

This spring, there will be a new hospital in town—one that will cater to some of Denver’s most beloved residents. With the completion of the Denver Zoo’s new Helen and Arthur E. Johnson Animal Hospital later this year, the veterinary team will be able to provide state of the art care to the more than 3,000 animals that call the zoo home.

The new hospital will boast two state-of-the-art treatment rooms, one built for small and medium animals, the other for large animals up to 1,000 pounds. It will also include a public lobby with viewing windows, along with cameras and overhead monitors, where guests can watch exams and procedures.

The new facility will give the zoo’s 11-member Animal Health team the tools and the space to work on multiple animals at one time and address emergencies. It features a world-class diagnostic laboratory, indoor and outdoor holding and quarantine spaces, and one of the only animal hospital CT scanners in the country.

VP of Animal Health Scott Larsen says having an on-site CT scanner will transform how animals are diagnosed. “There are just a handful of zoos in the country that have that, but it allows you to get a three dimensional x-ray of the animal and really changes your ability to know what’s going on with an animal. Having the scanner on site allows us to go from five or six animals a year benefiting from that technology to dozens or hundreds of animals getting those CT images.”

Denver Zoo President and CEO Bert Vescolani is excited about how the new hospital will benefit animals well beyond the zoo’s walls. The extra space will allow the zoo’s Animal Health team to continue to collaborate with students from Colorado State University’s exotic animal program and allow visiting veterinarians to observe best practices.

“Our animals serve as ambassadors,” said Vescolani. “The work that we do here really affects wild populations in a pretty dramatic way because what we learn is going to be critical as those populations shrink—and global populations of animals are shrinking. As they get more fragile, the science that we do here is going to be even more critical in the future.”



Happy Haynes, Executive Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation, signs the wall. She grew up living near the zoo and loved going there as a child.

The 22,000-square-foot animal hospital building is expected to be completed this spring—though the animals and animal

Implementation Varies by County

(continued from page 3)

But if there’s no crime, and we still feel like if we leave guns here, something bad might happen, that’s when we’ll get involved and do the filing to have an emergency T/ERPO hearing.” So, DPD will not only file a T/ERPO, they’ll also execute it along with a civil warrant. Montoya says those two things will go hand-in-hand at DPD.

If you or someone you know is in danger, contact the Denver Police Department at 720-913-2000.

1 – <https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2019/04/02/colorado-sheriff-would-rather-go-jail-than-seize-firearms-under-states-red-flag-law-he-says/>

2 – <https://krdo.com/news/2020/01/13/el-paso-county-sheriff-receives-death-threats-over-red-flag-law-policy/>

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Left: Denver Zoo President and CEO Bert Vescolani describes what guests can expect to see when the hospital opens to zoo visitors.

Above: A public lobby with viewing windows will enable guests to watch exams and procedures. One treatment room will be used for small and medium animals and one will be for large animals up to 1,000 pounds.

The new addition is funded by the Elevate Denver Bond Program, in addition to donors, including the Helen and Arthur E. Johnson Foundation. Before signing an interior wall within the building, Denver Parks and Recreation Director Happy Haynes thanked Denver voters, adding, “I can imagine every individual who is going to stand on this spot and watch the care that takes place here.”

The zoo’s staff is excited to let the public get a peek behind the scenes and to see how people and animals are similar in many ways. “We want people to see the level of care that we provide for the animals, the similarities and differences there are between animals and people,” said Larsen. “We want them to get a hint of both the science and the compassion that go into how we

feel about animals and how important these animals are to us as ambassadors for their species out in the broader world.”



Dr. Scott Larsen, VP of Animal Health, explains how the new hospital will benefit the zoo’s animals.

health team will have a few months to adjust to the new facility before the viewing gallery opens to the public in the fall.



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A Second National Anthem?

Lift Every Voice and Sing

If you know the song “Lift Every Voice and Sing,” you’re most likely Black—and you also know it is often referred to as the Black National Anthem.

If you’re White, you likely know none of the above.

By Martina Will, PhD

James Weldon Johnson penned the poem, *Lift Ev’ry Voice and Sing* in 1899. Composer John Rosamond Johnson, his brother, set the words to music, and in 1919 the NAACP adopted it as its official song, dubbing it the “Negro national anthem.” *Front Porch* spoke to three generations of NE Denver neighbors to explore its meaning 120 years later, and its sometimes-controversial characterization as the “Black National Anthem.”



Rev. Dr. Timothy Tyler and Dr. Nita Mosby Tyler of Shorter Community AME Church affirm the significance of *Lift Every Voice and Sing*, as well as the *Star-Spangled Banner*. Rev. Tyler says, “One song is incomplete without the other.”

NE Neighbors’ Recollections of *Lift Every Voice* from the 40s to the 90s

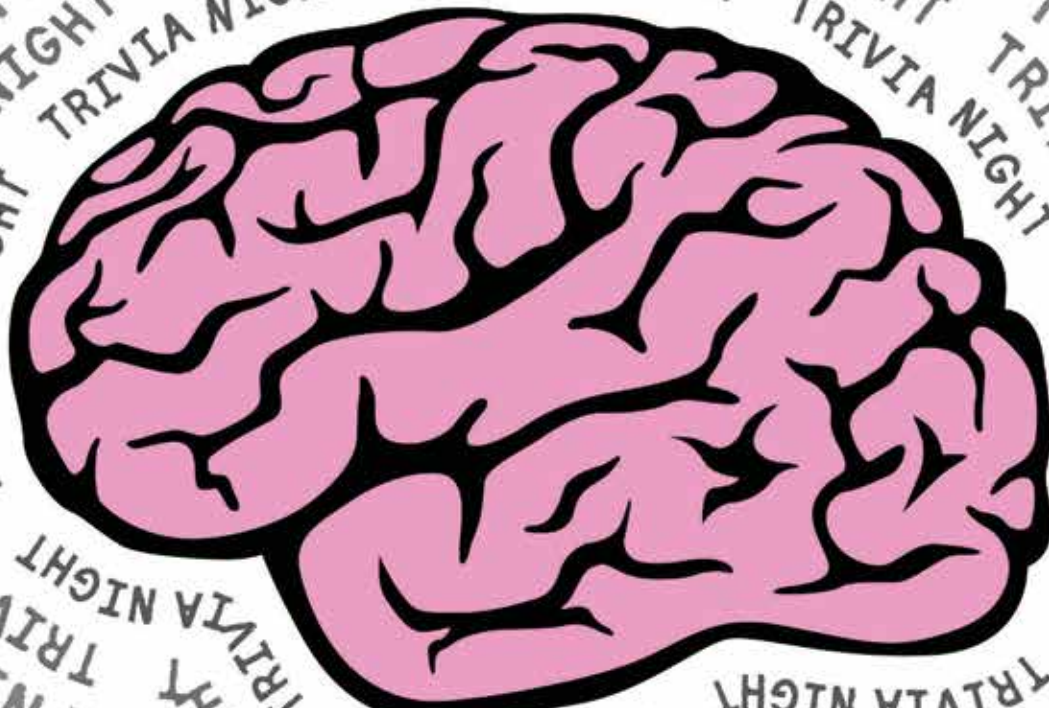




Park Hill resident Dr. Claudette Sweet, a retired DPS literacy educator, received her education in the segregated schools of Beaumont, Texas in the 1940s and 50s. Sweet credits her mother and her teachers with instilling in her a love of music and African American culture and history.




Dr. Claudette Sweet’s signature song is *Lift Every Voice and Sing*, which she sings here a capella from a pew in Zion Baptist Church. Zion, the

A mezzo-soprano, she shares insights on the song’s correct performance, including shifts in its timing with each stanza. She recalls being “really shocked” when she moved to Denver in the 1960s: “The people in the churches here in the North, they did not know that this song was the Black national anthem.”

Dr. Nita Mosby Tyler grew up in Atlanta in the 60s and 70s, where she attended the Baptist church led by Dr. Ralph David Abernathy, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s close friend and advisor. “The song absolutely had great prominence on all kinds of levels for us in the church. It was a part of our hymnal and Rev. Abernathy always said pretty explicitly: ‘We’re not going to wait until Black History Month to sing this song. We’re always going to sing this song.’” Tyler is the founder of The Equity Project, First Lady of Denver’s Shorter Community AME Church, and Board Chair for



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oldest African American church in the Rocky Mountain West, was established a few months after the Civil War ended in 1865.

the Denver Foundation.
Camille Osbourne-Roberts, a Stapleton parent of two, attended schools in central Los Angeles that were desegregated in name but were predominantly Black during the 80s and 90s. In first and second grade, “The books that we read and the lessons we learned were all geared toward self-pride.” Here she learned *Lift Every Voice and Sing*, which students sang after reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Though she thinks Blacks are “expected to know” the song, she recalls a Black fraternal organization’s event a few years ago, where voices dimmed as the song progressed past the first stanza, as fewer people knew the words.

Is it really a Second National Anthem?

Though *Lift Every Voice and Sing*—which has been performed by singers as diverse as Beyoncé and the Mormon Tabernacle Choir—continues to be referred to as the “Black national



Bishop Jerry Demmer, President of the Greater Denver Metropolitan Ministerial Alliance, speaks at the Martin Luther King, Jr. annual event in City Park before Denver’s 2020 Marade.

anthem” by many, others take issue with the moniker, which they see as divisive. Ultimately, however, the song resonates so powerfully not only because of its message of overcoming adversity and achieving excellence, but because, as Dr. Nita says, it speaks to African Americans’ “lived experience.”
Rev. Dr. Timothy Tyler, pastor of Shorter Community AME, says the song speaks to “the common experience of human suffering. There’s so much power in the Black story that it really speaks to anyone who has gone from the bottom and through traumatic odds and has been able to rise despite suffering.” But he also embraces it as specific to Black Americans’ experience and history: “We celebrate it and...I don’t think that our story should ever be separated from the American story. I just think (continued on page 11)

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View video at FrontPorchNE.com

Front Porch photo by Christie Gosch

Lift Every Voice and Sing

By James Weldon Johnson and J. Rosamond Johnson

Lift every voice and sing,
Till earth and heaven ring
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty,
Let our rejoicing rise
High as the list’ning skies,
let it resound loud as the rolling sea
Sing a song full of faith that
the dark past has taught us
Sing a song full of the hope
that the present has brought us
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun
Let us march on till victory is won

Stony the road we trod, Bitter the chast’ning rod
Felt in the day that hope unborn had died
Yet with a steady beat, Have not our weary feet
Come to the place on which our fathers sighed
We have come over a way
that with tears has been watered
We have come, treading our path
through the blood of the slaughtered
Out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our star is cast

God of our weary years
God of our silent tears
Thou who has brought us thus far on the way
Thou who has by thy might
Led us into the light
Keep us forever in the path, we pray
Lest our feet stray from the places,
our God, where we met thee
Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world,
we forget thee
Shadowed beneath the hand
May we forever stand
True to our God
True to our native land

Though James Weldon Johnson is remembered most today for writing *Lift Every Voice and Sing*, his other roles included educator, lawyer, Executive Director of the NAACP, NYU and Fisk professor. and Consul to Venezuela and Nicaragua.

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Left: Pizzeria Locale sent a photographer to Naples to show the colorful street life in their restaurants.

Below: Shift manager Lainey Cupach puts individual pizzas into a custom oven designed to replicate the taste of genuine wood-fired Neapolitan pizza — and they come out perfectly cooked in three minutes.

Pizza—It's All About the Dough

By Carol Roberts

“The dough should be the focus of any pizza. That’s what it’s all about,” says Brand Manager Chris Donato of Pizza Locale, which recently added Stapleton to its Denver locations. The company’s mission is to replicate “the cornerstone elements” of Neapolitan pizza started by sending their chef to Naples for six months of training. And to create “an authentic and welcoming atmosphere” in their restaurants, they also sent a photographer. “The street life there is very, very colorful. There’s a lot of graffiti. People spend a lot of time out and about. So we wanted to capture kind of that vibrant street life from Naples and bring it back to our pizzerias,” says Donato.

But back to the dough. True Neapolitan pizza requires “a laundry list” of things to be certified Neapolitan pizza. Pizzeria



Locale has the traditional four-ingredient crust with dough that’s stretched by hand and fermented overnight. “When you stretch it by hand you really get to maintain a very beautiful crust,” says Donato.

The big question was, how can a fast and competitively-priced pizza taste like it was cooked in a traditional Neapolitan wood-fired oven? That’s when they flew in the engineers to study the wood-fired oven in their original



restaurant in Boulder. “We showed them what we’re looking for and told them what, in our minds, is necessary to make a delicious pizza. And then they made what we call a Neapolitan smart oven to make the pizzas for us, but make them fast,” says Donato. “It’s a super hot oven with a beautiful flame; and the floor of the oven, a stone-coated piece of metal, rotates. So you put in a pizza and three minutes later it comes back out perfect-

ly cooked. That allows us to make pizzas faster than anybody else. It’s a proprietary oven. No one else has it.”

Fresh ingredients made from scratch every day are the next piece of the formula, including cut up vegetables, tossed in olive oil and salt, and cooked in the oven. And Donato explains that since they don’t make “true” Neapolitan pizza, they call themselves “neighborhood” pizza.

The final piece of Pizzeria Locale’s mission to create fast, high-quality individual pizzas in a pleasing atmosphere was to do it at a competitive price. They kept their focus on the pizza, streamlined their processes, and asked guests carry their own food to their tables—and they accomplished that goal, with pizzas that start at \$6.

Pizzeria Locale Stapleton is located at 7505 E 29th Pl. Hours are Mon- Sun 11am – 10pm. 303.835.7465.

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Lift Every Voice

(continued from page 9)

that it [African-Americans’ story] is never included in America’s story; in fact, I think it is the foundation of the American story...and I think it’s important to characterize it [the song] as the Black national anthem.”

“There are pieces of our country’s national anthem that in many ways contradict what the Black national anthem talks about...it is the same flag that felt fine with slavery and the oppression of Black people in America—and so that sort of contradiction...gets talked about in the Black national anthem,” says Dr. Nita.

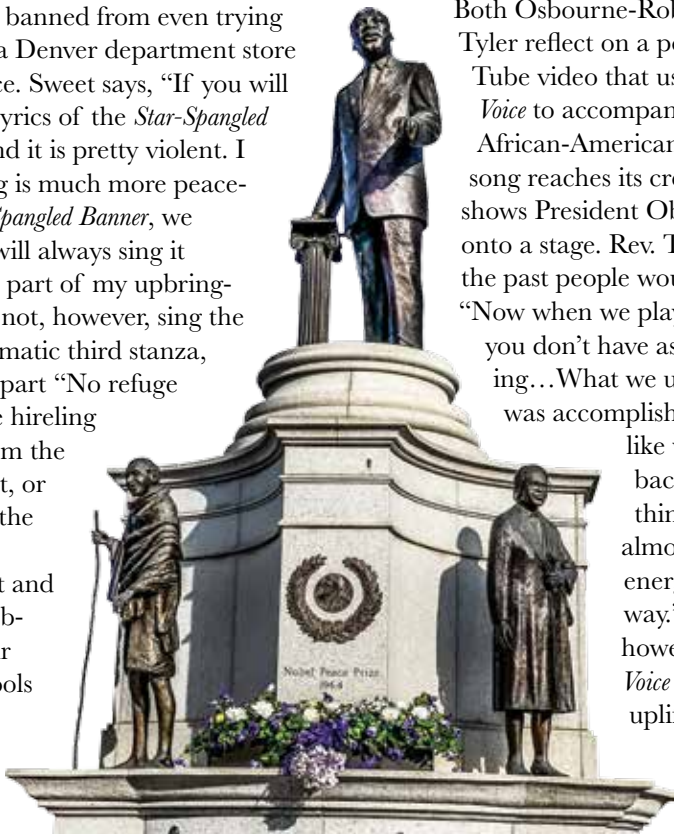
Like the Tylers, Sweet recalls the song typically being paired with the Pledge of Allegiance and the *Star-Spangled Banner*. Sweet says her teachers emphasized both pride in Black history and the nation, despite the country’s failings during an era when she was banned from even trying on clothes in a Denver department store due to her race. Sweet says, “If you will interpret the lyrics of the *Star-Spangled Banner*, you find it is pretty violent. I think our song is much more peaceful...the *Star-Spangled Banner*, we respect it...I will always sing it because it is a part of my upbringing.” She will not, however, sing the deeply problematic third stanza, which says in part “No refuge could save the hireling and slave/From the terror of flight, or the gloom of the grave.”

Both Sweet and Osbourne-Roberts share their wish that schools today would instill greater knowledge of Black history and

cultural pride. Osbourne-Roberts shares her disappointment over the resounding silence on Black history in her children’s curriculum across several DPS schools. She is intentional in educating her children on that history, including *Lift Every Voice and Sing*, and observes that the Black history that *is* taught centers on Martin Luther King, Jr., to the exclusion of all others. “It’s so much more complicated than that,” she says.

Lift Every Voice ends with “true to our native land.” It evokes patriotism while recognizing the hybrid identity many African Americans experience. Osbourne-Roberts says she’s shifted her focus in recent years from July 4th to celebrating Juneteenth, popularly associated with the end of slavery in Texas. With the flag now being used by many as a symbol of nationalism rather than patriotism, “I feel it is taking on new meaning that I can’t get behind,” she says.

Both Osbourne-Roberts and Rev. Tyler reflect on a popular YouTube video that uses *Lift Every Voice* to accompany images from African-American history. As the song reaches its crescendo, a clip shows President Obama coming onto a stage. Rev. Tyler says in the past people would cheer, but “Now when we play that video, you don’t have as much cheering...What we used to think was accomplishment, it feels like we have gone backwards—so I think it [the song] almost has a new energy in a different way.” For Dr. Sweet, however, *Lift Every Voice* is meant to uplift all Americans, and she focuses on its hope for a brighter future.



The MLK Parade on January 20 started with a program at the Martin Luther King Jr. statue in City Park. Also on the monument are Ghandi (left) and Rosa Parks. Front Porch photo by Christie Gosch

Colorado Votes in the Presidential Primary on Super Tuesday, March 3.

Here’s what you need to know:

Vote by mail, not at a caucus meeting

This year, for the first time, the Colorado Presidential Primary will be on Super Tuesday and voters will receive a mailed ballot.

Unaffiliated voters can participate in either party’s primary

Since 2018, unaffiliated voters in Colorado have had the ability to choose a party and vote in the primary. They have three options: 1) They can go to govotecolorado.com and select a party preference to get the selected party’s ballot in the mail. 2) They can go in person to a Voter Service and Polling Center to choose the party’s ballot they want to vote. 3) If they do neither, they will receive both ballots and they can choose and return just one ballot. If two ballots are returned, neither will be counted.

Unaffiliated voters returning a primary ballot will remain unaffiliated; however, under state law, the party of the ballot you choose will be recorded in your voter record.

Important election dates

- FEB 3 – Last day to change or withdraw your current political affiliation if you wish to vote in a different party’s primary.
- FEB 10 – First day ballots can be mailed to voters.
- FEB 18 – First day counting of ballots can begin.
- FEB 24 – Last day to submit a voter registration and still receive a ballot in the mail.
- FEB 25 – Voters who submit a registration within 8 days of the election will be informed they won’t get a mailed ballot and must get theirs from a Voter Service and Polling Center
- MAR 3 – Ballots must be received by 7pm.

Register or check your registration at www.GoVoteColorado.com

Information from Colorado Secretary of State,
<https://www.sos.state.co.us/pubs/elections/electionInfo.html>



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DA Beth McCann would like to expand her office’s young adult diversion program, which allows “felony offenders” ages 18-26 who meet strict eligibility conditions to work with a case manager and get therapy, take classes, and take responsibility for their actions.

By Martina Will, PhD

A majority of Americans believe that our criminal justice system needs reform. Since taking office in 2017, Denver District Attorney (DA) Beth McCann has been in a unique position to do just that. “We have made some progress I believe,” she says, citing in particular her office’s efforts to establish alternatives to jail in certain cases, especially where mental health, substance abuse,

and youth are key factors.

Young adults, defined here as those ages 18 to 26, are in the middle of a tremendous phase of brain development, especially in the prefrontal cortex. This is where rational thought, judgement and impulse control are centered.

In May 2018, McCann introduced the “Young Adult Diversion” program that offers an alternative to jail for young adults without a prior felony who have committed crimes that do not involve a victim (such as criminal trespass, drug possession, forgery, and shoplifting). Those successfully completing the program will not have a criminal record as a result of their arrest for committing a youthful indiscretion. The criteria for being in the program are very stringent, however, and participants must accept responsibility for their actions to be eligible.

When someone is arrested, they are taken to court—and they generally see a judge within 24 hours, says McCann. The DA’s office examines incoming cases and “we have an intake person there every day to help do an intake on the potential person who might be a good client for diversion.”

Since May 2018, 84 individuals have



Young Adult Diversion “Growing to See

been accepted into the program. To date, 41 of this group have “successfully terminated,” only one of whom again committed a crime. Five “terminated unsuccessfully,” meaning that they did not complete the program. The remaining 38 are still actively participating in the program. McCann is encouraged by early results and believes diversion is much more successful than probation, which doesn’t include the individualized attention, life management skills and other elements that young adult diversion includes.

The case manager ratio is also much smaller than for those on probation, with a ratio of one case manager to about 25-30 clients versus a probation officer’s typical caseload of over 100. Case managers evaluate risk factors for each client, such as family life and substance abuse, and they design an individualized program. “So if it’s someone who’s in for drugs, they figure out, ‘Is this a person that can really benefit from substance abuse treatment?...Do they need help



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District Attorney Beth McCann implemented a young adult diversion program in May 2018 to put eligible young adult offenders on track for a future without incarceration. A juvenile diversion program was authorized by a Colorado statute in 1974. This *Front Porch* file photo from 2015 was taken at the Denver County Jail on Smith Road adjoining the Stapleton neighborhood.

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life.” When queried how the program had impacted their view of themselves, another wrote, “Honestly, I’ve grown to see my own light.” McCann cites one participant who earned a real estate license during the program; another was able to continue training in the medical field, a prospect that a criminal record would have jeopardized.

McCann would like to expand the young adult diversion program to include more types of offenses, citing budget constraints among the reasons for its limited reach. City Councilwoman Robin Kniech, when asked by *Front Porch*, expressed support for diversion programs “and other criminal justice reforms that seek to provide support and services to get at the root causes that can prevent crime rather than a system of punishment through incarceration that has proven ineffective and racially biased.” Neither Kniech nor Councilman Chris Herndon had heard any concerns from their constituents about diverting rather than punishing in these circumstances.

McCann is part of a national movement of reform prosecutors who are advancing common-sense and compassionate reforms to course-correct the “get tough on crime” philosophy that resulted in mass incarceration. For example, McCann says she is committed to addressing the racial disparities baked into the criminal justice system and cites a new race and justice project that her office has launched to ensure prosecutions are fair. By advancing community-oriented and prevention approaches,

DA McCann believes her office can promote a smarter and more equitable system of justice for all Denverites.

Perceptions of how just the criminal justice system actually is differ widely by race in the U.S. A 2019 Pew Research Center study found that though a majority of Black and White Americans believe the justice system is inequitable, the groups have “widely different perceptions of how blacks are treated in America, but

majorities of both groups say blacks are treated less fairly than whites by the criminal justice system (87% of blacks vs. 61% of whites) and in dealing with police (84% vs. 63%, respectively).”

With a keen perspective from inside the criminal justice system, McCann does not equivocate when she cites the need for reform. “Probation and possible prison sentence in terms of racial injustice and the over-representation of people of color in the system” remain areas where McCann hopes to do more. “I think we

have a lot to do. I think we are making some progress, but it’s challenging and it involves not just the criminal system. Reform also means addressing issues like poverty and education.”

Participants who complete the Young Adult Diversion Program enacted in 2018 by Denver District Attorney Beth McCann will not have a criminal record as a result of their arrest for committing a youthful indiscretion.

My Own Light”

with getting a job? Do they need help with how to do a resume?” You know, it’s not all about just reporting to your probation officer.”

For McCann, the post-program participation surveys offer poignant evidence of success that mere data can’t reflect. When asked, “What ways have you repaired the harm you caused the victim?” one participant responded, “I have repaired myself by knowing who I should have and shouldn’t have in my


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2020 Front Porch Guide to Summer Camps

Summer camps were submitted online. Please double check using info provided.

ADVENTURE/OUTDOOR/NATURE

5/25 to 8/21—Avid4 Adventure Summer Camps. We teach kids of all levels to climb, paddle, bike, hike and thrive in the great outdoors. Kids gain confidence and outdoor skills they can use for life. avid4.com. Westerly Creek Elementary School, 8800 E 28th Ave.

6/1 to 8/14—Butterfly Pavilion Summer Nature Camps. Designed to provide memorable experiences that connect kids to nature and encourage an appreciation for science. butterflies.org. 6252 W. 104th Ave., Westminster

6/1 to 8/15—Bluff Lake Nature Center Day Camps. Full-day, half-day, pre-care (7:30–9) \$315/week, discounts and scholarships available. Ages 6–15. 7 different weekly themes. More info at: blufflake.org/camps. 3400 Havana Way.

6/1 to 8/14—SPREE Summer Camps. 10 unique weeks of camp at 2 Denver locations. Each

week has a theme about our waterways and environment. Join us for learning through activities, games, and crafts. thegreenway-foundation.org. 610 S Jason St.

ANIMAL/FARM LOVERS

6/1 to 7/31—Equine Summer Camps at The Urban Farm. Half-day and full-day camps for ages 5–7 and 8+ at different levels including no experience. For more details on weeks available for which ages/levels, go to theurbanfarm.org. The Urban Farm at Stapleton, 10200 Smith Rd. 303-307-9332

6/1–6/5 and 6/22–6/26—Story Book Farm at The Urban Farm. Introduces young children to the excitement of farm animals and plants through picturesque literature and engaging activities. theurbanfarm.org. The Urban Farm at Stapleton, 10200 Smith Rd. 303-307-9332

6/8 to 7/30—Dumb Friends League Critter Camp. 3rd–5th graders are invited to



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explore the amazing world of animals from pets to local wildlife. Children will experience learning through activities, games, and crafts. 4 separate weeks offered at 2 locations. ddfl.org. 2080 S Quebec St. 303-751-5772

6/22 to 6/25—Dumb Friends League Solutions Veterinary Hospital Camp. Half-day educational camps for children in 2nd– 5th grades. Includes lessons on Staying Safe Around Dogs, playing Pet Jeopardy, interacting with an

ambassador dog and making a pet toy. ddfl.org. 191 Yuma St. 303-751-5772

7/10 Friday—Dumb Friends League Equine Exploration Camp. 3rd–5th graders are invited to our Harmony Equine Center Equine Exploration Camp. Through interactive hands-on activities, campers will gain knowledge about horse anatomy, body language, markings and more. ddfl.org. 5540 E. Hwy. 86, Franktown.

(continued on page 16)

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6/1 to 7/31—DCPA Education Summer Camp. For eager students as young as three to high schoolers taking the first step towards a theatre career, our classes fuel creativity and reinforce the tools to help all skill levels improve and develop their craft. denver-center.org/education. Robert and Judi Newman Theatre Education, 1101 13th St, Denver/education@dcpa.org

6/1 to 8/14—Songwriters/Composition Intensive Program. Work on music writing skills with Stapleton singer-songwriter/composer David Ross. Basic music theory and piano playing a plus. Ages 13+. Flexible dates/hours based on teacher availability. E-mail for rates and more info: pianomanross@yahoo.com. Southeast Stapleton (Beeler St. & 23rd Ave.) denverpianostudio.com

6/1 to 8/14—Summer Camps With Talk to the Camera. Video & Moviemaking Camps spark imagination through STEAM-based, hands-on curriculum, that's super-fun and engaging! Your kids become storytellers, content creators and build communication skills. 3–14yrs. talktothecamera.com. The Highlands Center, 2945 Julian St. naomi@talktothecamera.com

6/2 to 7/30—Fired Art Workshops. Ceramics in the City Fired Art Workshops include Clay Hand-building, Glass Fusing, Pottery

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6/8 to 7/24—LYNX National Arts & Media Camps. The LYNX Camps are CU Denver sponsored arts camps for high school students. We offer 8 camp programs spread over 3 camp sessions. The camps are previews of our college programs. Costs range from \$100–\$2,200 depending on program and option. artsandmedia.ucdenver.edu/lynx-camps. 1150 10th St. lynxcamp@ucdenver.edu



Stapleton All Sports

6/15 to 7/24—Themed Acting Camps at Aurora Fox Arts Center. Fractured Fairy Tale acting camp for ages 4–7; Knights of The Round Table play/camp for ages 7–12; Percy Jackson play/camp for ages 7–14; The Vikings camp for ages 11–18; and Musical Theatre Fairy Tales play/camp for ages 11–18. For camp weeks and fees, to go: auroragov.org/arts. Discount for Aurora residents. Aurora Fox Arts Center, 9900 East Colfax Ave. Aurora.

6/15 to 8/7—Dance Camps and Intensives. Dance Institute offers something for everyone. From 6-week dance intensives to weeklong camps. Our Summer programs have full and half-day options including Ballet, Hip-Hop, Art and much more. Ages 4–19. DancelnstituteDenver.com. 4601 Quebec St C8 & C9. dance@danceinstitutedenver.com

6/15 to 8/7—Park Hill Academy Dance Camps. Camps and intensives for beginners (3–5), young dancers (6–8), junior dancers (8–12), and senior dancers (12 and up.) For pricing and times/dates, go to: parkhilldanceacademy.com. 2245 Kearney St #103. info@parkhilldance.com

6/22 to 7/24—Neighborhood Music Theater Camps. Act! Sing! Perform! For ages 5 and up using inspiration from Frozen II, West Side Story, Disney's Newsies, Charlotte's Web and more! Full details at neighborhoodmusicstapleton.com. Stanley Marketplace, 2501 Dallas St, Aurora. 720-378-3668



7/20 to 8/7—Athena Project's Girls Create Summer Camps. Fun creative playwriting, comedy/improv, song writing and fashion camps for girls 6th–10th grade. Empowering girls to lead and affect change through the arts. athenaprojectarts.org. Newman Center for the Performing Arts, 2344 E. Clift Ave. info@athenaprojectarts.org

7/27 to 7/31—Stagecraft Camp – Theater Make-up for Beginners. Open your student's imagination and creativity with our talented theater production teachers focusing on the magic of stage make-up. Class registration includes a free make-up kit to practice each new artistic skill. neighborhoodmusicstapleton.com. Neighborhood Music at Stanley Marketplace, 2501 Dallas St, Aurora. 720-378-3668

ATHLETICS/SPORTS

6/1 to 7/30—Preschool Summer Adventure Camp. Preschool Gymnastics Camp For boys and girls ages 3 to 5 1/2. Two 4-week sessions beginning June 1st combining gymnastics with theme-based enrichment activities & crafts. Monday-Thursday 9:30a-12:30p \$48/day \$175/week \$430/4-week session. dardanosgym.com/camp. 2250 Kearney St. info@dardanosgym.com

6/1 to 7/31—Speed and Strength Summer Camp. Weeklong, half-day camps geared at giving every kid elite coaching to reach their potential. Improve technique + increase speed and strength in a positive, non-competitive environment. MightyMovementAcademy.com. Mighty Movement Academy, 2245 Kearney St. #102. info@mightymovementacademy.com

6/1 to 7/31—Denver Fencing Center Summer Camps. Denver Fencing Center will offer 11 different weeklong day camps. Our camps are the perfect way to introduce a beginner or take your fencing up to the next level. denverfencingcenter.com. 1930 South Navajo St. info@denverfencingcenter.com

6/1 to 8/7—Bounce Gymnastics Summer Camp. Come join us for a camp filled with fun activities to keep your child engaged all week long! Activities include: Parkour, Gymnastics, Challenging Obstacle Courses, Sport Skills, and Team building. bouncestapleton.com. 2501 Dallas St, Aurora. 720-460-0267

6/1 to 8/14—CampGrippen Summer Climbing Camps. Übergrippen's full day, week long, all inclusive climbing camps for kids 7–12 years old. 6 unique full week experiential camps offered through the summer. Our camps include extended hours (8:30a–5p daily), 2 snacks, and lunch daily. \$445/wk. ugcimbing.com/camps. 8610 E. 21st Ave. camps@ugclimbing.com

6/1 to 8/14—Learn to Sail Summer Camps. Don't miss our incredible series of summer sailing camps for children ages 5–17, all skill levels. Weeklong camps run at the Cherry Creek Reservoir. communitysailing.org. Cherry Creek Marina inside the Cherry Creek State Park, Greenwood Village. admin@communitysailing.org

6/1 to 8/14—Enshin Karate Summer Camp. Every day includes a wide variety of activities that focus on mindfulness, discipline, embodiment, and play. Half-day Lil' Samurai Camps for 4–6 years (8:30–12:30), Full-day Pre-teen Camps for 6–12 years (9–3.) 10 weeks available. enshin.com. Stanley Marketplace, 2501 N Dallas St, Aurora, 303-320-7632.

6/8 to 6/12—Soccer Electric Summer Soccer and Movie Camp. Soccer Electric is teaming up again this year with the Denver Film Society, Denver East High School Soccer and other local partners for the 7th annual "Summer SOCCER and a MOVIE Camp. soccerelectric.com/camps.html. Denver East High School and Sie FilmCenter. 720-201-5750

6/8 to 7/9—Stapleton All Sports Camps for Tennis, Golf & Baseball. Full week camps at 3 NE Denver locations. For dates/times/ages, go to: stapletonallsports.com. stapletonallsports@gmail.com

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AthenaProjectArts.org

WRITEIMPROV&COMEDYFASHIONDESIGNWRITESONGS

February 2020

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Front Porch – NE Denver



Create Cooking School Jr. Chef Camp

6/1 to 7/17—Evergreen Country Day School Summer Camps. Exceptional opportunities for your child (18 months through 8th grade) to continue learning, growing, honing their skills, amplifying their interests, and making great friends. evergreen-countryday.org. 1036 El Rancho Rd, Evergreen. smahoney@evergreen-countryday.org

6/1 to 7/24—Summer at Stanley Day Camp and Specialty Camp. Child-centered, experiential summer program for school-age children through grade 9. Activities range from Swim Lessons and Weather Science to Project Runway and Top Chef. From \$190/wk for half days to \$355/wk for full days. stanleybps.org/summer. 350 Quebec St. 303-360-0803

6/1 to 7/31—Commerce City Summer Day Camps. Youth Camp Venture: Ages 6-10 Adventure Trek: Ages 11-15 State-licensed day camps. Sign up early, space is limited! Registration opens Feb. 20 c3gov.com/camp. Eagle Pointe Recreation Center, 6060 E Parkway Dr, Commerce City. 303-289-3789

6/1 to 7/31—Montessori Children's House of Denver Summer Day Camp. Learning centered, fun, theme-based camps at our three campuses for children ages 1-12. We focus on hands on, real world experiences and include field trips, gardening, sports, arts & crafts, cooking, and more. mchdenver.org. 1467 Birch St. directorofadmissions@mchdenver.org

6/1 to 8/7—Arvada Center Summer Camps. Arvada Center Summer Camps are available in a variety of subjects including digital arts, drama, visual art and more. With options for children ages 3-18. arvadacenter.org/education. 6901 Wadsworth Boulevard, Arvada. info@arvadacenter.org

6/1 to 8/14—Camp Bladium Summer 2020. Campers have the opportunity to choose games and activities as part of our focus on their development. Kids experience a variety of games, activities, and guest entertainers like magicians and animal educators. camps.bladiumdenver.com. 2400 Central Park Blvd. 303-320-3033

6/1 to 8/14—Camp Shai. Offering something for everyone for rising Kindergartens to 10th graders from sports, art, theatre & STEM, to traditional day camp and a leadership program for CITs. Multiple camp sessions to choose from. jccdenver.org. Graland Country Day School, 55 Clermont St. 303-316-6315

6/1 to 8/14—Creative Learning Preschool Summer Camp. 3-8 yr olds. Located in Bluff Lake; full & extended day options available 2, 3 or 5 days/wk. pam@creativelearningdenver.com, apps

processed in order of inquiry starting Feb 15. creativelearningdenver.com. Creative Learning Preschool, 2578 Moline St, Aurora.

6/1 to Mid-August—Summer Adventure Club. Engineering design challenges, experiments and themed activities await as children unlock new ways of thinking—all while having a blast! New themes/challenges each week. Ages 4-12. primrose-stapleton.com. Primrose School, 2501 Syracuse St. 303-322-7200. Try us risk free 3/30-4/4. Call for details.

6/1 to 8/21—Dream BIG Day Camps. 4-17 year-olds. 6:1 ratios, 20+ program areas including individual/team sports, arts/crafts, performing arts, climbing walls, water slides, special events,

competitions, teenage leadership programming and more! dreambigdaycamp.com. Carson Elementary, Aspen Academy and Montessori Academy of Colorado. 303-377-1805

6/8 to 7/31—International School of Denver Summer Camps. Explore a new world every week at ISDenver Summer Camps! Your child will thrive while building sports skills; learning about a new subject in French, Spanish, or Chinese; or designing an innovative STEAM project. Ages 3-14. isdenver.org/camps. 7701 E 1st Pl Unit C. summercamps@isdenver.org

6/8 to 7/31—Summer at Kent Denver School. 100+ camps for ages 3-18. Arts, drama, music, athletics, tech, STEM, creative writing, debate, robotics, Hogwarts & more! (continued on page 18)

ADHD SUMMER CAMP



RESULTS LEARNING
Guiding Bright Minds



Have fun while learning Planning, Organization, Time Management and Self-Advocacy Skills this summer!

C.E.O. Executive Functioning Summer Camp
Visit results-learning.com or call 303-771-1160

6/8 to 7/24—Ultimate Frisbee Summer Camp. For both experienced players and youth athletes new to the sport. Camps at Central Park in NE Denver (as well as others in metro) Ages: 7-14. Cost: \$285 - Includes daily lunch, camp Jersey and Disc. altitudeyouthultimate.org. 8601 MLK Blvd. camps@altitudeyouthultimate.org


6/8 to 8/14—Bike Camp. Bike Camp teaches campers to set personal goals, debrief about their successes and challenges, and how to navigate our community on two wheels! Camps are two weeks long, Mon-Fri, 9am-3pm (before and aftercare available.) Ages 6-14. https://bikecamp.square.site. Odyssey School of Denver, 6550 E 21st Ave.

7/5 to 7/31—Stapleton All Sports Camp. Weekly Sports Camps rotating through soccer, baseball/tee-ball, football, dodge-ball, and kickball each day. Ages 4-11. \$160/week or \$550 for all four weeks. stapletonallsports.com. Central Park in Stapleton. stapletonallsports@gmail.com


7/27 to 7/31—Grand Slam Tennis Camps. Run by Meredith McGrath, former Wimbledon singles semi-finalist. Camp focuses on tennis fundamentals & proper technique. Ages 6-13, all abilities levels. 9:30-12:30. Cost \$275/week. meredithjmcgrath@yahoo.com. McAuliffe MS, 2540 Holly St.



DAY CAMPS

5/26 to 6/5—Camp McAuliffe. McAuliffe International School will be offering a variety of athletic and academic summer camps for ages 11-14. Morning and afternoon sessions. Camp descriptions can be found at McAuliffe.dpsk12.org. 2540 Holly St. 720-424-1540



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Our Super Stars Summer Camp is an engaging and fun 5 week Orton-Gillingham intervention program where students receive intensive high quality 1-1 or small group (max 4) individualized reading instruction along with small group math and writing instruction to grow skills and self confidence.

Summer 2020 Dates:
June 8-July 10 (no camp July 4), 8:15am-12:30pm
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Full-Day Camp Option at our Littleton/Lakewood location for Super Star Camps and their siblings and friends.
New this year:
STEAM/Entrepreneurship Hour—our kids thrive with hands-on learning so we are going to add that to their camp morning!

www.EveryChildReading.org
2 Locations:

Denver 1091 S. Parker Rd (Leetsdale near Quebec) Denver, CO 80231	Littleton/Lakewood 3898 S. Teller St (Wadsworth and Hampden) Lakewood, CO 80235
--	--

4EveryChildReading@gmail.com

CAMPGRIPPEN 2020
 Let your kids come hang with Stewy this summer!
 Summer Camp Registration now open: www.ugclimbing.com/camps

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ÜBERGRIPPEN
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 @ BLUFF LAKE NATURE CENTER

Camp Themes and Ages	
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Mad Science	(Ages 6-11)
Nature Artists	(Ages 6-11)
Wild West	(Ages 6-11)
Best of Bluff Lake	(Ages 7-11)
Junior Naturalists	(Ages 10-12)
Junior Counselors	(Ages 12-15)

Week-long outdoor nature day camps
 June 1-August 15

Monday-Friday 9am-3pm
 also available: Half-Day 9am-12:30pm/
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\$315 per week
 discounts and scholarships available

Find out more and register at www.blufflake.org/camps/

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A blend of fun summer activities and rich learning experiences on the University of Denver campus.

Week long camps | June 15-Aug 7 | 8:30am-3:30pm*

Enjoy weekly themes and specialty camps ranging from Life Sized Games, Tiny Chef, Wild Wild West, Rocket Science, Play-Well Lego® Engineering Camps, Cardboard Challenge and more!

*Extended day available. 2040 South York St, Denver, CO 80210
 303-871-4839 | www.du.edu/ricks | email Margaret.wright@du.edu

SUMMER CAMP GUIDE (continued from page 17)

Partners include Eurekus, Central City Opera, Denver Childrens Choir, Lighthouse Writers & TriVelo. kentdenver.org/summer. 4000 E. Quincy Ave, Englewood. lmortell@kentdenver.org

6/8 to 8/7—Denver Museum of Nature & Science Summer Camp. Learn and play as we experiment, create, build, ask questions, and develop a knowledge of and passion for science. Our camps are led by experienced educators, with assistance from trained teens. dmns.org. 2001 Colorado Blvd. 303-370-8327

6/8 to 8/14—Steve & Kate's Camp. An arts and technology day camp focused on self-directed learning and choice-driven activities. Lunch and snacks are included and we've got one of the most flexible payment options. Pre-K through 7th & leadership programs. steveandkatescamp.com. The Logan School for Creative Learning, 1005 Yosemite St. 720-439-7785, denver@steveandkate.com



6/15 to 6/19—S.M.A.R.T CAMP 2020. Joe Harvey, Tracy Schoneman and Eddie Egloff present S.M.A.R.T Camp. Register by February 21st for discounted price \$250 Email: tracy_80206@yahoo.com to reserve your spot. 2100 Akron Way. 720-933-3705

6/15 to 8/7—Summer at Ricks. Blends fun summer activities with rich learning experiences all while enjoying the benefits of the University of Denver Campus du.edu/ricks. 2040 South York St. 303-871-4839

MISC

6/1 to 7/31—Junior Chef Camps. Let your junior chefs immerse themselves in a variety of different cuisines and techniques during our week-long camps! Morning and afternoon half-day camps, 3rd-8th grade options. createfoods.co. Create Cooking School, 2501 Dallas St, Aurora, 720-573-9949

6/8 to 7/10—Super Stars Summer Camp. Engaging and fun 5-week Orton-Gillingham intervention program intensive, high-quality reading instruction along with math and writing instruction to grow skills and self-confidence. Half-day and full-day options at 2 locations, Denver and Littleton/Lakewood. EveryChildReading.org. 4EveryChildReading@gmail.com

6/15 to 7/17—ADHD and Executive Functioning, C.E.O. Summer Camp. Your child will learn planning, organization, time management and self-advocacy skills while having fun. Students are engaged in lessons, practice and fun events including a cook-off. Sessions: 6/15-6/26 and 7/6-7/17. results-learning.com. 4400 E Iliff Ave. 303-771-1160

6/15 to 7/20—Summer Sacred Art. This is an exploration of major world religions through music, visual art, dance and stories for children K-4th grade. \$125/session 9am-2pm M-F; \$75 add-on for extended care 2-5:30pm. montview.org. Montview Church, 1980 Dahlia St. prouty@montview.org 303-355-1651 x110

6/22 to 6/26—Stapleton Church Vacation Bible School. Join us as we adventure through The Rocky Railway at Stapleton Church. For kids that have finished kindergarten-6th grade. Free, but space is limited. M-F 9-11:30am. stapletonchurch.com/elevate-kids. Stapleton Church, 8700 E. 21st Ave. amyers@stapletonchurch.com

7/12 to 8/1—Preparing Rising High School Juniors & Seniors for College Success. This program provides students a taste of college and an opportunity to join a learning community where everyone is dedicated to academic achievement, mutual respect, and personal change and growth. landmark.edu/summer. Johnson & Wales University, 802-387-6885

OVERNIGHT

6/7 Sunday—Camp Chief Ouray Opening Day. Nestled in the heart of the Rocky Mountains, Camp Chief Ouray is the premier overnight camp and adventurous playground for boys and girls from

SOCCER and a MOVIE Camp
 June 8-12, 9am-5pm
 Grades 1-8, All Levels

SOCCER ELECTRIC
 At Denver East High School and the Sie FilmCenter. \$395/week. More info
 at soccerelectric.com or email director@soccerelectric.com

New Deli on Colfax

By Karyn Cole

Chef and owner Vince Howard says his new delicatessen, Tessa, “is a conduit for fun with food, rather than being your grandfather’s deli.” Tessa has differentiated itself from other sandwich shops in the area with its weekend brunch featuring Bloody Marys, mimosas and unique themed pop-up events.

Vince and his wife and co-owner, Jessica, relocated from Los Angeles two years ago, looking for better schools for their children and a new restaurant opportunity. Once settled in Denver, they began the search for the perfect location to host their vision. They landed on a 2,500-square-foot space that used to be an antique furniture store on Colfax near Ivy. After a lengthy renovation, the duo opened their deli in early November, and have found a

loyal following in their Park Hill neighborhood.

The Howards chose the name “Tessa” for a variety of reasons, but a favorite is the fact that in Greek, “Tessa” can sometimes mean the fourth daughter. Father to three daughters already, Howard jokes that Tessa “is my last and most expensive baby.”

The Tessa menu features classic deli favorites, such as the “OG” Italian and Reuben alongside dishes like avocado toast, quinoa bowls, and a kale caesar salad. Breakfast lovers can get Tessa’s pretzel egg sandwich day or night. Howard says his approach is to keep to a simple, streamlined menu. “Menus can get too crowded. We keep it simple so we can serve everything all day.”

Howard works with local ingredients whenever possible, and Tessa serves local River Bear Meats. Sandwiches are served on bread made fresh daily at City Bakery and the soup of the day is prepared in house. The deli has become known for



Above: Owners Vince and Jessica Howard share a laugh about the renovations of their new venture.

Below: A classic deli sandwich and avocado toast, which comes with a fried egg. Front Porch photos by Christie Gosch



The open kitchen and spacious seating area offer a relaxed dining experience at Tessa’s.

its break-
fasts—
and the
serve-your-
self
coffee bar
encourages
customers
to relax
and stay
awhile. The
kids’ area,
complete
with toys and kid-sized picnic tables,
makes it easy to linger over a meal in a
child-friendly setting.

Howard would like his deli to be known as the place for a fun dinner with a formal flair. Tessa has a full liquor license and happy hour Tuesday through Friday from 4 to 7. Going forward, Howard plans to continue adding special pop-up style events that allow him to showcase other chefs and menu options. Tessa



recently
hosted
a River
Bear
Kobe
steak and
whiskey
pairing
and a
special
tequila
tasting
menu.

“Ramen Sundays” started in mid-January, and new dinner items such as sticky ribs, bison burgers, and adult mac and cheese are coming soon.

Tessa is located at 5724 E. Colfax Ave. It’s open Tuesday-Friday 8am–8pm; Saturday & Sunday 8am–4pm; and closed Mondays. Find current menu items or upcoming events at www.tessadenver.com or on Facebook or call 720.746.9138.

SUMMER CAMP GUIDE (con’t)

across the country and internationally. Spend your summer exploring the Great Outdoors with us. campchiefouray.org. 1101 County Rd. 53, Granby. 970-887-2648

6/7 to 8/15—Camp Timberline. Colorado’s premier Christian sports and mountain adventure camps! Overnight camp, Beyond Timberline backpacking and SHIFT are in Estes Park, Outta Bounds Day Camp is at 10 Front Range locations. camptimberline.com. 1207 Longs Peak Rd, Estes Park. office@camptimberline.com

6/14 to 8/8—Camp Granite Lake. Connect with friends, counselors and nature in a supportive, un-plugged community. 2-week overnight sessions for 2nd–9th grades, CIT program for 10th & 11th grades. Located in Coal Creek Canyon. ACA Accredited, CDHS Licensed. \$2575/Session. campgranitelake.com. 11902 Camp Eden Rd, Golden. 720-249-2997

6/29 to 7/3—Camp Con Brio – String Camp of the Rockies. Sleep away camp for Middle and High School string students. Experience the beauty of the mountains and work with talented teachers from around the state while participating in a large orchestra, sectionals and many rec activities. campconbrio.com. Golden Bell Camp, Divide, CO

STEM

6/1 to 7/8—Chess Camp. 26th Rocky Mountain Chess Camp. 2 sessions: 6/1–6/5 & 7/6–7/10 run by National Chess Master and 5-time Denver Chess Champion, Todd Bardwick. Also offered, 2-day Chess Workshops in July and private lessons. 303-770-6696 coloradomasterchess.com. 1 Red Fox Lane, Englewood. tbardwick@yahoo.com

6/1 to 7/31—Wings Over the Rockies Summer Camp. If your child is looking to explore, get messy, and prepare to be an ace pilot or the next kid in space, this is the place for them. We offer elementary, middle and high school camps.

Contact for pricing, scholarships are available. wingsmuseum.org/camps. 7711 E Academy Blvd. ckepner@wingsmuseum.org

6/1 to 8/3—Summer Camps @ MindCraft Makerspace. We offer unique and fun summer camps with 3D printing, laser cutting, sewing, circuitry, robots, STEM and more for kids grouped by ages 5–7 and 8–12. Teen Summer Studio for kids ages 12–6. mindcraftmakerspace.com. Stanley Marketplace, 2501 Dallas St, Aurora, 303-364-9581

6/8 to 7/31—Coding Camps for Youth. STEM and Coding. Learn real-world coding skills. Apply to robotics, drones, circuits, game design, A/R, 3D printing, and more. codespire.org. 3401 Quebec St, Ste #5010. codespireinfo@gmail.com

7/13 to 7/24—STEAM-Powered History Camp. Campers launch their own rockets, escape from Science Fiction Land, and craft their own future through the lens of science and technology, past and present. AuroraMuseum.org. 15051 East Alameda Pkwy, Aurora. 303-739-6660

LAUGH • LIFE SKILLS • POSITIVE INFLUENCES • PLAY •

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June 1-July 31

Youth Camp Venture: Ages 6-10
Mon-Fri • 7 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Adventure Trek: Ages 11-15
Mon-Thur • 7 a.m. – 6 p.m.

State licensed and low child to staff ratios. Just minutes away in Commerce City!

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\$135 per week. Space is limited.
c3gov.com/camp
303-289-3789

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SUMMER ADVENTURE CLUB

Primrose School at Stapleton Summer Adventure Club Ages 4-12

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- Medieval Times
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2501 Syracuse Street, Denver, CO, 80238

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Front Porch – NE Denver

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February 2020

...NE News Updates



Crow's expertise on national security, informed by

his military service, was a recurring theme in his statement during the debate on the trial rules. He recalled "scavenging scrap metal on the streets of Baghdad in the summer of 2003 that we had to bolt onto the side of our trucks because we had no armor to protect us against roadside bombs. So when we talk about troops not getting the equipment they need when they need it, it's personal to me."

He added: "To be clear, here, we are talking about 391 million dollars of taxpayer money intended to protect our national security by helping our strategic partner, Ukraine, fight against Vladimir Putin's Russia, an adversary of the United States."

Crow made the case for the importance of jurors (the senators) seeing Office of Management and Budget (OMB) documents being withheld at the President's direction. "They would reveal concerns about the impact of the freeze on Ukraine and

U.S. national security... This funding had wide bipartisan support because, as many witnesses testified, providing military aid to help Ukraine to defend itself against Russian aggression benefits our own national security... I remember what it feels like to not have the equipment you need when you need it. Real people's lives are at stake. That's why this matters," referencing the delayed U.S. aid to Ukraine's military.

2 GW Principal Boldly Addresses Past Issues; Will Offer IB Courses for All

George Washington (GW) High School's principal Kristin Waters recently sent a letter to families saying "the demographic composition of our classrooms and advanced academic programs does not mirror that of our student body... In 2019, 65 years after *Brown v. Board of Education*, our students are attending class in a racially and economically segregated learning environment... [and] there has been no measurable shift in the outcomes for our historically underserved students."

The letter acknowledged that their longstanding International Baccalaureate (IB) program had "a reputation for being academically, racially, and socially insulated,

the program has been described as 'a school within a school.'"

Waters' letter went on to say GW would start enrolling all 9th graders in English 1 Honors and start offering the option for students to take individual IB courses, "joining other Denver area high schools such as East High School, North High School, and Northfield High

School in setting high expectations for every student. Research has shown that when students are placed in a heterogenous classroom and given access to a rigorous curriculum, all students experience measurable gains in achievement."

Opening a new school is a monumental undertaking—and opening a new school that defies long-held traditions is vastly more difficult yet. When Northfield High School (NHS) opened, those familiar with the rigorous IB curriculum questioned whether IB could be implemented successfully. Now having just graduated its first four-year class last spring, NHS is a model for that approach.

NHS principal Amy Bringedahl, responding by email to our request for her thoughts on the change at GW, wrote, "GW's transition to an IB for All model brings it in closer alignment with the program that Northfield High School has offered to their students since its inception. I'm very excited that GW is moving in this direction—it's such a great opportunity for students and their school community. It's great to have another high school in DPS taking on this work to provide equitable opportunities for all students, and we look forward to partnering with them as they implement these changes."

3 Lucky's Pulls Out of Lowry

As reported by multiple news sources on Jan. 22, Lucky's grocery store is pulling out as anchor tenant at Boulevard One in Lowry. Celeste Tanner, Chief Developments Officer at Confluent Development says they are actively talking to other grocers and are confident the grocery project will resume. Construction on the two adjoining office/retail buildings is continuing "full speed ahead."

4 Berkshire Closing Feb. 2

The Berkshire released a statement saying the restaurant will be closing on Feb. 2. "Due to the challenges of staffing from new restaurant openings along with the low rate of unemployment, it was no longer feasible



This July 2012 photo of Andy Ganick was taken for a *Front Porch* story about The Berkshire Restaurant. Ganick has announced the restaurant is closing and will have its Farewell party Sat., Feb. 2 at 9pm and serve their final brunch Feb. 2 from 9am – 2pm. Guests will be encouraged to reminisce about the past 12 years and "drink the bar dry."

to maintain operations. The rise of rent and an increase in the minimum wage for the front of the house also contributed to owners Andy and Krissy Ganick's decision to close The Berkshire." Farewell party plans are listed with photo above.

5 Multiple Changes in NE Legislators

In our 2018 *Front Porch* legislative look forward, we reported our same five state legislators for NE Denver would be remaining in office. Lois Court and Angela Williams would remain our senators; James Coleman, Leslie Herod and Chris Hansen would remain our representatives.



Lois Court



Chris Hansen

Now, multiple changes both have happened and lie ahead. Sen. Lois Court, who had already announced she would not seek re-election, recently became ill with the rare Guillaume-Barre Syndrome in which the body's immune system attacks the nerves, causing her to step down from her position. Rep. Chris Hansen had announced his intention to run for Court's senate seat and requested to be considered by the senate committee choosing Court's replacement for the remainder of her term. Hansen was selected, leaving his seat open in the House. Now a house committee is selecting a replacement to fill the remainder of Hansen's term.

While Angela Williams was running for U.S. Senate, James Coleman announced he would run for her seat. Then Williams dropped out of the U.S. Senate race; in our January issue we interviewed Coleman and Williams about their head-to-head competition. Now Williams has dropped out of the state senate race, leaving Leslie Herod as the only incumbent of the five NE legislators seeking re-election to the same position.

1 Congressman Jason Crow Tapped to Serve as Impeachment Manager

Speaker of the House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi in January named Stapleton Aurora resident and freshman congressman Jason Crow (D-CO) one of the seven impeachment managers who presented the House's case to the Senate on the two articles of impeachment: abuse of power and obstruction of Congress.

Crow, who served three combat tours as a paratrooper and an Army Ranger in Iraq and Afghanistan, is a member of the House Armed Services Committee and a former litigator. His litigation and national security experience were considered to be the qualities that made him stand out for the job.



Rep. Jason Crow was tapped to be an impeachment manager based on his litigation and national security expertise.



This photo of Jason Crow was taken in Sept. 2012 for a *Front Porch* story after he spoke at the Democratic National Convention immediately preceding President Barack Obama's acceptance speech. He is holding a photo of himself in Afghanistan.

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February and Early March Events

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

NE DENVER/NW AURORA EVENTS

Through February—Winter-skate. Old-fashioned, outdoor ice skating. More details at: northfieldstapleton.com

Wednesdays in February—Kindness Club: Community Art Project. 4–5pm. Inter-generational, all-ages club. Sam Gary Branch 2961 Roslyn St. denverlibrary.org

2/7 Friday—2020 Visions of Love 10th Annual Benefit for Anchor Center for Blind Children. Join us for wine and sweet and savory decadent delights. Tickets are \$50 general admission and \$75 VIP. 6–9pm. Anchor Center, 2550 Roslyn St. anchorcenter.org

2/8 Saturday—Urban Air Denver First Responder Charity Challenge for JDRF. Charity Challenge to benefit JDRF (formerly Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation) and raise critical funds for type 1 diabetes research. urbanairtrampolinepark.com. 9550 East 40th Ave.

2/12 Wednesday—Community Sing-Along. An intergenerational sing-along with a live band. 6:30–7:30pm. Sam Gary Branch 2961 Roslyn St. denverlibrary.org

2/13 Thursday—Active Minds: New Orleans: Biography of a City. A virtual visit to this iconic place. Free. 1–2pm. activeminds.com. Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St.

2/18 Tuesday—Greater Stapleton Business Association Monthly Meeting. 8–9am. Monthly meeting to network, present your business, learn about other members businesses or stuff welcome bags. stapletonbusiness.com. MCA Offices, 7350 E. 29th Ave. Ste 300

2/19 Wednesday—Sam Gary Literary Book Club. 2–3pm. February Title: *Blindness*, by Jose Saramago. Sam Gary Branch 2961 Roslyn St. denverlibrary.org

2/20 Thursday—Community Screening of The Mask You Live In. Screening at 5:45pm, followed by panel discussion. At The Cube, 8371 E. Northfield Blvd. StapletonUnitedNeighbors.org

2/27 Thursday—Active Minds: The Civil Rights Act. Examine the act over 50 years later and evaluate its impact on civil rights today. Free. 6:30–7:30pm. activeminds.com. Sam Gary Library, 2961 Roslyn St.

2/27 Thursday—Moms Demand Action For Gun Sense In America monthly meeting. 6pm. Aurora Central Library, 14949 E Alameda Pkwy, Aurora. MomsDemandAction.org

2/27 Thursday—Knitting Circle. 5:30–6:30pm. Join other crafters in conversation around the fireplace. Sam Gary Branch 2961 Roslyn St. denverlibrary.org

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

Celebrating Black History Month in Film

February 22—two film documentaries:
Historian Paul Stewart and *Project 75 The Mile High Society*
February 29—three film documentaries:
A Hue-Man Experience, *Ujamaa Holiday Market* and *The Civil Rights Peaceful Protests in Washington D.C. 1963*
Black American West Museum & Heritage Center
3091 California St. www.bawmhc.org
Movie Night Coordinator: 720-242-7428

2/29 Saturday—Ukulele Workshop. 2–3:30pm Grab your ukulele or borrow one of ours to join us in an accessible, beginner level workshop. Sam Gary Branch 2961 Roslyn St. denverlibrary.org

3/1 Sunday—Author Visit: Mona Siegel on Women's Rights and the Suffrage Movement. 2–3pm. Sam Gary Branch 2961 Roslyn St. denverlibrary.org

METRO EVENTS

2/5 to 2/19—24th Annual Denver Jewish Film Festival. Festival includes 43 films on a variety of

topics showcasing Israeli and Jewish cinema. jccdenver.org. JCC Mizel Arts and Culture Center, 350 S. Dahlia St. 303-316-6360

2/7 Friday—First Friday Art Walks. Santa Fe Arts District, Tennyson Art Walk, River North (RiNo) Art District, Golden Triangle Museum, Navajo Street Art District. denver.org/things-to-do/denver-arts-culture/denver-art-districts

2/8 Saturday—Serenade: Of Love & Enchantment – Stratus Chamber Orchestra. However you picture it, the Serenade uses

the language of love. augustanaarts.org. Augustana Lutheran Church, 5000 E. Alameda Ave.

2/14 Friday—Denver Clerk and Recorder Valentine's Day Celebration. 13th annual Valentine's Day Celebration. Clerk and Recorder's Office issues marriage licenses. denverclerkandrecorder.org. 201 W. Colfax Ave. Dept. 101

To 2/16—Downtown Denver Rink. FREE entry; bring skates or

rent: \$7/kids 12 and under, \$9/13 and older. downtowndenver.com

2/21 to 3/1—Denver Restaurant Week. 200+ restaurants offer multicourse meals for special pricing. Menus/pricing: www.denverrestaurantweek.com

2/22 to 2/23—Travel & Adventure Show. Explore various vacation options, discover destinations from around the globe, plan a trip face-to-face with travel experts and much more. travelshows.com/shows/Denver. Colorado Convention Center (Hall C)

2/22 to 3/1—Colorado Garden & Home Show. The Rocky Mountain region's largest, oldest and most prestigious garden and home show! coloradogardenfoundation.org. Colorado Convention Center

2/29 Saturday—Colcannon: Authentic, Joyous Irish Music. A distinctive, inventive, and contemporary musical style while still keeping in firm touch with the heart and essence of traditional Irish music. augustanaarts.org. 5000 E Alameda Ave.

(continued on page 22)

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FEBRUARY/EARLY MARCH EVENTS
(continued from page 21)

HEALTH, WELLNESS,
FITNESS

2/3, 2/4, 2/10 & 2/11—Balance class with Shae Patnoe. Adults learn how to maintain balance and posture. 2–3:30pm. Park Hill Library, 4705 Montview Blvd. denverlibrary.org

2/8 Saturday—Le Cours de l'Amour 1M, 5K, 10K & Doubles. 9am. Denver City Park. featonthetstreet.com

2/14 Friday—Winter Bike to Work Day. Enjoy fresh air/exercise of riding your bike to work. Check website for breakfast stations and events along your route. winterbiketoworkday.org

2/22 Saturday—Cupid's Undie Run. Stoney's – 1111 Lincoln St, 12–4pm. Benefits research to help end neurofibromatosis. cupids.org

2/23 Saturday—Special Olympics Denver Polar Plunge. Polar plunge benefits Special Olympics. Aurora Reservoir. specialolympicsco.org

3/1 Sunday—Fight For Air Climb. The American Lung Association's signature fundraising events. This year we are climbing 56 Floors and 1098 Stairs at the Republic Plaza Building. action.lung.org. 370 17th St. cynthia.roman@lung.org

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

Every Saturday—Little University. 10:30–11am. Various kids' programming; changes weekly. Schlessman Library, 100 Poplar St. denverlibrary.org

Baby, Toddler & Preschool storytime. Denver Library. Various locations, times and days. Details at denverlibrary.org/events.

2/1 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

2/5 Wednesday—Firehouse Tales for Tots. Free with general admission. 11am–12pm. Denver Firefighters Museum, 1326 Tremont Pl. denverfirefightersmuseum.org

2/8 & 2/16—Ballet Ariel's Fairy Tale Suite & Tea Party – Pinnacle. The perfect one act ballet for young audiences. Each performance will be followed by a Fairy Tale Tea Party. balletariel.org. 2 locations. 303-945-4388

2/11 Tuesday—Let's Build It – Dragon Cave. 4–5pm. Create a cave that's perfect for a dragon. Sam Gary Branch 2961 Roslyn St. denverlibrary.org

2/11 to 2/12—Beethoven's Birthday Youth Concerts. 4 concert times. Boettcher Concert Hall, 1000 14th St. General admission tickets are \$5. coloradosymphony.org

2/12 Wednesday—Create Playdate: Drop-in Art-making Program for Kids 3-5. 10am–1pm. Tots and their grownups enjoy story time, art making, and more. Denver Art Museum, 100 W 14th Ave. Pkwy. denverartmuseum.org

2/14 & 2/17—SPREE Holiday Camps. SPREE= South Platte River Environmental Education. thegreenwayfoundation.org/holiday-camps. 610 S Jason St.

2/14 & 2/17—Neighborhood Art Studio Schools Out Camps. Your child will have a blast making and creating with us! neighborhoodartstudio.com/school-out-camps. 4890 Ironton St. Unit 6A

2/15 Saturday—Family Swing Dance Class. Ideal for ages 9–12 with adult. Presented by Colorado Ballet. 2–2:30pm. Park Hill Library, 4705 Montview Blvd. denverlibrary.org

2/15 Saturday—Inside the Orchestra's Tiny Tots Concerts. Kids get truly inside the orchestra as they are seated on the floor and surrounded by a 30+ piece orchestra. insidetheorchestra.org. 144 W. Colfax Ave. 303-355-7855

2/18 Tuesday—Little Wings: Let's Create Constellations. 9–10am. Ages 2–4. With one adult. \$1 off admission. Wings Over the Rockies Air & Space Museum, 7711 East Academy Blvd. wingsmuseum.org.

2/18 Tuesday—Butterfly Balloons. 4–5pm. Make a colorful balloon with watercolors & a paper lantern. Sam Gary Branch 2961 Roslyn St. denverlibrary.org

2/22 Saturday—Talking With Kids About Race in Current Events & Children's Media. 2–4pm. A children's activity, ideal for ages 3–8, accompanies the workshop. Sam Gary Branch 2961 Roslyn St. denverlibrary.org

2/22 Saturday—Little University: Movement Storytime with Colorado Ballet. Ages birth–5 and their caregivers. 10:30–11am. Schlessman Family Branch Library, 100 Poplar St. denverlibrary.org

2/23—Fourth Sundays at Four Mile Historic Park. Story time and free wagon rides and hot cocoa & cider. Adults \$7, youth (7–17) \$5, under 6 free. Get here early! 715 S Forest St. fourmilepark.org

2/28 Friday—Family Film Series: WALL-E. 6pm. Free event at The Cube, 8371 E. Northfield Blvd. stapletoncommunity.com

To 3/1—Denver Puppet Theater. Rumpelstiltskin. 3156 W. 38th Ave. denverpuppettheater.com

To 5/8—LEGO Brick Building Contest. For youth 3–18. Winning creations will be displayed. Required theme is nature and science. Museum of Nature and Science, 2001 Colorado Blvd. dmns.org

LECTURES,
CLASSES,
INFORMATIONAL
EVENTS

2/4 Monday—League of Women Voters Denver Presents: Saving Coloradoans Money on Health. 5:30–7:30pm. LVVDenver.org. Montview Presbyterian Church, 1980 Dahlia St.

2/4 Tuesday—Active Minds: Space Exploration. Reflect on the space race, the Apollo Mission and NASA since the lunar landing. Free. 10–11am. activeminds.com. The Jewish Community Center, 350 S Dahlia St.

2/6 Thursday—Ghost Towns of the American West. Historic and contemporary photos illustrate a fascinating collection of Old West legends. freeeregistration.com. Colorado Free University, 7653 East 1st Pl. 303-399-0093

2/12 Wednesday—Bold Women. Change History. Lecture Series. Carol Anderson, Human Rights Advocate. Complimentary childcare. 1200 Broadway. H-co.org/BoldWomen

2/13 Tuesday—Active Minds: Climate Change. Examine predictions and politics given the US withdrawal from the Paris climate accord. Free. 2–3pm. activeminds.com. Windsor Gardens, 597 S Clinton St.

2/19 Wednesday—Marijuana 101. Learn from an expert from the Office of Marijuana Policy. 2–3:30pm. Park Hill Library, 4705 Montview Blvd. denverlibrary.org

2/26 Wednesday—Recycling, Composting and Trash in Denver. How to promote best recycle and compost practices and reduce waste. 6:30–7:30pm. Park Hill Library, 4705 Montview Blvd. denverlibrary.org

MUSEUMS

2/1 to 5/8—Drones: Is The Sky The Limit? Explores the modern phenomenon of drones, their uses in history and the exciting possibilities of their future roles. Exhibit included with admission. Wings over the Rockies Museum, Lowry. wingsmuseum.org


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

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Community Screening of *The Mask You Live In*

In partnership between the Stapleton MCA, the Greater Stapleton Business Association (GSBA) and Stapleton United Neighbors (SUN), a community screening of the documentary *The Mask You Live In* will be hosted at The Cube Thursday, February 20th, 2020 at 5:45pm. This award-winning film documents America's narrow definition of masculinity, and its impact on adolescent boys. Most importantly, it illustrates how we, as a society, can raise a healthier generation of boys and young men. Screening will be followed by a 1-hour panel discussion. Panelists include Derek McCoy www.projectpave.org and Stacey Hervey, Criminal Justice and Sociology Professor; both have worked extensively with young men and will talk about the impact of sports on male development as well as the increase in suicidal ideation in young men.

The SUN Spot

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SUN Meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of every month from 6:30-8:30pm; a break at 7:30pm allows attendees to depart after an hour, though all are welcome to stay until the end. Meetings are held at Central Park Recreation Center, 9651 MLK Jr. Blvd. For information about SUN, visit www.stapletonunitedneighbors.com. To contact SUN, email stapletonunitedneighbors@gmail.com

February SUN News

Central Park Blvd Bike Lane Symbol Design

SUN is seeking community suggestions for a unique stylized bike lane symbol design for the comfort bike line along Central Park Blvd between Montview and 35th Avenue. All submissions are required to meet general design parameters regarding size and recognition. The RINO District in Denver is an example, where a modified design has the appearance of a rhinoceros (a cyclist with horns on head, and squared-off feet and hands). Designs should be 40-inches wide by 72-inches tall. All images submitted will be judged on their adherence to the general graphic portrayal of a bike and rider and implementation of elements that

reflect the unique history and flavor of the Stapleton Community. With questions on technical elements, please contact Rick Leuthold at rleuthold@sandersonstewart.com or 406-698-6910. Please see SUN's web site for further details. www.stapletonunitedneighbors.org.

Please submit designs by February 29. Community voting will take place electronically from March 1-28, with a final recommendation made to the city of Denver at the end of March. Final approval of images shall be at the sole discretion of the City of Denver Public Works Department.

CPAC for the DPS 2020 Bond and Mill Levy Planning Committee

DPS has selected 75 community members to comprise its Community Planning and Advisory Committee (CPAC) for the Denver Public Schools (DPS) 2020 Bond and Mill Levy Planning Committee. CPAC members are tasked with examining the needs of schools across the district and working together to prepare recommendations on updating buildings and play spaces, improving technology and other essential investments that will ensure quality learning environments for all students. Final recommendations will be made to the DPS school board in June, and if approved, Denver Voters have final approval during the 2020 fall election. Among 19 members from District 4 (the location of Stapleton in Denver), is SUN

board president Amanda Allshouse (full list: <http://bond.dpsk12.org/cpac/>). SUN will be seeking community input this spring to inform the process.

Seeking Diverse Candidates for the SUN Board

At the Annual Community Forum (2020 May 13th) a slate of 8 candidates will be presented to the community for a vote to begin a 2-year term on the SUN board of directors. SUN seeks to have a board diverse in geography within Stapleton, sex, race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, rental/ownership status, and professions. In addition to attending SUN's monthly meetings, (SUN meets in the Central Park Rec Center on the 3rd Tuesday of most months from 6:30pm-8:30pm), interested candidates should contact Nominations Committee Chairs Geoff Horsfall (geoff.horsfall@gmail.com) and Mark Mehringer (mehringer@gmail.com) with questions, and to submit a biography of 250 words describing interests and relevant experiences. Interested candidates should have a passion for civic engagement, public service, and community. SUN is comprised solely of volunteers and is committed to providing an inclusive and welcoming environment for all members of our community.

Annual Community Forum: Wed., May 13, 6-8:30pm (The Cube)

In May of 2020, SUN's Annual Community Forum will be held at The Cube on Wednesday May 13th (in lieu of a 3rd Tuesday monthly SUN meeting for May). At this community meeting, the agenda will begin with SUN's annual elections, followed by development updates on retail and housing from Brookfield and other area developers. Other speakers to be announced.

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Metro meteorology student Josh Storm (left) fills the weather balloon with helium; the cylindrical device transmits weather information to meteorologists. The photo above, taken for a *Front Porch* article in 2016, shows Robert Koopmeiners reviewing the data and, below, ready to launch the balloon at the weather station near The Urban Farm in Stapleton.

Official Weather Station Moves Back to Stapleton

By Mary Jo Brooks

Stapleton will once again be home to an official weather observation station. When the Stapleton airport closed in 1995, the National Weather Service moved Denver’s official weather observation station to Denver International Airport (DIA) twenty miles east of the city. The National Weather Service shares vital weather observation data with airports across the country.

But often weather conditions at DIA are noticeably different than downtown. “So there’s always been a huge interest in having real-time observations from the Denver metro area,” says National Weather Service meteorologist Greg Hanson. “It’s usually warmer at DIA and gets less precipitation than the city.”

Later this fall, a new weather service tower will be constructed at its old Stapleton site, near The Urban Farm. Funded

with private donations, the new tower will generate continuous weather information that will be used to make more accurate weather forecasts. Contractors will also continue to release weather balloons twice a day from the small, domed building on the old Stapleton site, an operation that never stopped after the old airport closed.

Weather balloons are still the primary source of data from above the ground. Every day, weather balloons are released at exactly the same time from nearly 900 sites around the world. In Denver, the release happens at 5 am and 5 pm. The balloons measure temperature, humidity, wind speeds and pressure.

Additionally, the National Weather Service relies on a team of a dozen volun-



teer observers in the Denver area who measure temperature and rainfall once a day. Until recently, the agency also received data from a private weather tower located near the Museum of Nature and Science. That equipment was dismantled when the City Park Golf Course began its reconstruction and donated to Metro State University’s meteorology program. According to Hanson, losing that tower created a “data gap” which up until now has not been filled.

The new Stapleton tower will hold equipment that is used by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and meets National Weather Service standards for high-quality data. Hanson said he hopes the new tower will be up and running by this summer. “We have the equipment on hand. We have the site identified. We can start building it as soon as we get through the legal process of signing all of the agreements and contracts.”

Have You Had a Concussion in the Past 5 Years?

Research study investigates concussions and brain health in older adults 65+. We are looking for interested adults 65 and older to participate in a research study examining how a concussion sustained in late life relates to inflammation and brain health. Data gathered to better understand how concussion may or may not disrupt thinking, the immune system, and brain health in late life. Study involves 2 research visits: a baseline and a one year follow-up visit at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus.

Each study visit requires:

- Health History Review
- Neurological Exam
- Blood Sample
- Set of tests that assess memory, attention, behavior, and other thinking skills.
- Brain MRI

You may qualify if you are:

- 65 years or older
- Have had a medically documented concussion (less than 30 minutes loss of consciousness) within the past 5 years but not in the past 6 months.
- Have NOT been diagnosed with a memory disorder
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Brett Dabb (left) and Matt Hebard are the founders of “The Nursery School”—a preschool modeled after European forest schools. Classes are held entirely outdoors—rain or shine—at the Bluff Lake Nature Center at the east edge of Stapleton. School is only cancelled when DPS is closed or when temperatures dip below 15 degrees.



By Mary Jo Brooks

The temperature is a brisk 23 degrees as bundled-up preschool children tromp down the steps at Bluff Lake Nature Center, eager to start their school day. “Where should we go today?” asks instructor Brett Dabb. “The cicada forest!” yell several children. “The bird blind,” suggest others. Eventually a consensus is reached: today’s class will meet in the cicada forest.

So begins another typical day at The Nursery School, a pre-school founded by Dabb and his grad school friend Matt Hebard 2 1/2 years ago. The half-day program at Bluff Lake is held completely outdoors—there are no enclosed structures, running water or electricity—with the students, ages three to six, deciding what activities to pursue.

Dabb and Hebard have helped run some traditional pre-schools in Denver, but their passion for the outdoors prompted them to investigate the nature-based education philosophy of European forest schools. Since the 1950s, advocates for outdoor learning

have started thousands of such forest schools in Europe. Only about 100 exist in the United States. Until recently, there were none in Colorado.

“The idea behind these schools is that children should learn by playing in nature. Cramming academics doesn’t do any good. The more that children can play outside and create outside, the more it helps build their confidence, their communication and cooperation skills,” says Dabb.

Park Hill parent Shannon Spezialy agrees. Her 5-year old son Shepard has been attending The Nursery School for 18 months and she says her 2 1/2-year-old will start there in May. “I think he’s really learned to problem-solve and figure things out for himself at school. He’s getting real life experiences that will



help him make better decisions in the future.”
Dabb and Hebard, who have master’s

Outdoor S

degrees in Administrative Leadership with a focus on Early Childhood Education, went to England for forest school training. Then came the tricky part: working with the Colorado Department of Human Services for two years to develop a pilot program to see if forest schools could become licensed by the state.

“The state visited us every couple of weeks to see what the program was like. They saw that kids were happy, safe and very engaged. For us, the pilot was a big success,” says Dabb. “Unfortunately, the state decided it wasn’t comfortable licensing a program that allowed children to use sharp tools and build fires. We think that’s an important part of the forest school experience.”

After consulting with the parents of

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Students at The Nursery School decide what each day's activities include. They use tools, ropes, rocks, sticks and their imaginations to build small bridges, teepees, sometimes whole villages. They also engage in fishing, hiking, tree-climbing and fire-building.



their students, the two decided to continue operating. Under Colorado law, an individual is allowed to care for up to four children without a license, so The Nursery School is currently capped at eight students with the two instructors.

Carin Rosa, director of childcare licensing for the State of Colorado, says she isn't opposed to the idea of outdoor-based pre-schools and points to a second pilot program that has been operating at City Park for over a year. She says that program has access to an indoor classroom in case of bad weather, something The Nursery School does not.

She acknowledges that forest schools "push the boundaries" for the state licensing process. Still, she's hopeful to have guidelines written this fall that will license outdoor-based schools that agree to abide by safety regulations and restrictions. "They will have to have a structure for inclement weather and for napping. It's just not viable otherwise," says Rosa.

As for Dabb and Hebard, they plan to continue operating without a license so they can stay true to the forest school philosophy.

"We understand that the number one priority of the state is keeping children safe. But when you take away all risk, children don't learn how to move forward in life," says Hebard. "Our students climb trees, sometimes way over our heads. We're there to spot them, but we also remind them to use both hands, pay attention to what they're doing. The kids cheer each other on and it really builds their self-confidence."



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