

# Front Porch

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

DENVER, COLORADO

DECEMBER 2021

NORTHEAST DENVER

## *The Winning* **GOOOOOAL!**



Photo by Sean Dougherty

Zach Liptzin, a Northfield High School junior, starts celebrating the first-half goal that winds up winning the 4A State Soccer Championship 1-0 against Mullen High School. The free kick into the top right corner of the net was by senior Moises Inda, who had 24 goals during the Northfield Nighthawks' 20-0 season.

**B**efore the big game, the boys showed their unity by bleaching their hair blonde. "Some were very reluctant, even refusing to do it, but we were all at a teammate's house and one person did it, then another, and eventually everyone gave in; I actually think it's a greater sign of unity that everyone did it even though they didn't want to," says Team Captain Max Garfield. *Story on page 7 by Tracy Wolfer Osborne.*

## **Looking Ahead with Optimism**



Front Porch photo by Christie Gosch

A crowd gathered as holiday lights were flipped on to illuminate a giant Christmas Tree and Menorah in the East 29th Ave. Town Center during the Winter Welcome on Nov. 19. Festivities included photos with Santa and dancing trees—and people told us what they're looking forward to in 2022. *Story on page 6.*

*What happens  
when the most  
troubled kids  
can't get the  
help they need?*

Colorado ranks 42nd in the nation for mental health spending. Mental health services are booked out for months—and matching a child's needs to the available programs feels like finding a needle in a haystack. *Story on page 8 by Mary Jo Brooks*

**Front Porch Annual Summer Camp  
Guide Is Coming in Our Feb. Issue**

Camps can start posting their free listings now at <https://frontporchne.com/submit-event/>



Join the Front Porch team in our

# Ad Sales Position

Approximately half time • Sales experience required

Email your resume to Carol@FrontPorchNE.com to get add'l info about the position

## Bird Sightings

### Wild Turkey

Wild Turkeys are ground birds that live year-round in open forests with interspersed clearings in 49 states (excluding Alaska). They are omnivorous, foraging on the ground or in shrubs for nuts, berries and insects—and sometimes small reptiles (lizards and snakes). Adult males are called gobblers or toms, females are hens. Juveniles are called jakes and jennies. Photographed at Bluff Lake Nature Center.



Average weight: Male 17 lb, female 9.4 lb  
Wingspan: 4.1 ft. to 4.7 ft



Average weight: 2.5 oz  
Wingspan: 12 -14 inches



Photos and information by George Ho

### Northern Shrike

Also known as the butcher bird, the northern shrike will save its food for later by impaling its prey on spines, thorns, or barbed wire. Though it has songbird feet (not talons like a raptor), its falcon-like hooked bill reveals that it is meat eating—consuming birds, small mammals, and insects. Photo-

graphed along Sand Creek Regional Greenway.



Search FrontPorchNE.com for “Bird Sightings” to see all the past bird stories and photos from George Ho.

### Bird Walks

Dec. 4 and Jan. 1, 8 –10am. Join George Ho and other bird experts for a free guided walk around Bluff Lake. All are welcome. Bring your own binoculars or borrowed ones will be available. 11255 MLK Blvd. BluffLake.org.

## Visit FrontPorchNE.com

- Upload and view events in our online calendar
- Comment on and share stories
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## Events & Announcements

## BE IN THE KNOW BEFORE IT SNOWS

There are several entities who take on snow removal responsibilities on a regular basis from the City & County of Denver down to individual property owners. The system works when everyone does their part. **Snow should be addressed within 24 hours of the completion of the snow event under normal circumstances. Major blizzards can extend the time it takes to address snow community wide for all involved.**

### MAJOR ROADWAYS AND ARTERIALS:

Major roadways are maintained by the Denver Department of Transportation and Infrastructure. Snow removal on these designated roadways begins prior to every snow event and continues throughout its completion. Roads are placed in different priority levels and are addressed as equipment becomes available.

### NEIGHBORHOOD STREETS:

Neighborhood streets are maintained by the Denver Department of Transportation and Infrastructure or the Aurora Department of Public Works. These streets are not plowed unless a “major snow event” is declared.

### NEIGHBORHOOD SIDEWALKS:

Neighborhood sidewalks are the responsibility of the adjacent property owner or sub-association. When the sidewalk is located adjacent to a community park or parkway the parks manager will remove the snow. The MCA will remove snow on sidewalks located in MCA managed parks, and the Denver Department of Parks and Recreation removes snow on sidewalks located in city parks.

### Does your property abut a neighborhood park?

Whereas homes that are adjacent to public streets have the responsibility to clear snow on their sidewalks we are encouraging residents that live on community parks to do the same. As a courtesy to your neighbors that may rely on using the entire sidewalk your assistance in clearing the sidewalk directly adjacent to your property will greatly help in keeping an access path open until our crews cycle through to clear the entire park.

### NEIGHBORHOOD ALLEY SURFACES:

Neighborhood alley surfaces are to be routinely maintained by the adjacent property owner or sub-association. Residents and sub-associations are not permitted to shovel or plow snow in such a manner that it impacts the access of the alley by any motor vehicle. Snow should always be shoveled, plowed, and stored on the landscaping areas located within each alley easement. Residents or sub-associations found to have caused access issues due to

improper snow storage can be issued a violation notice and corresponding fine for the cost to remedy the situation if the MCA is required to do so. Please respect that all residents need to access their property via the rear alleys by never shoveling snow onto any alley surface. The MCA will plow alley “center lane” only during a “major snow event” and “blizzards”.

### DURING SIGNIFICANT & MAJOR SNOW EVENTS:

During ‘major snow events’, as now defined by the City & County of Denver, the MCA will initiate its emergency snow removal plan for community alleys based upon actual accumulation along with the city’s snow removal plan for neighborhood streets. During significant snow events, typically 8+”, the MCA will make a single pass through each alley to clean up the center drive lane following the storm. Although it is not the intent to impact anyone’s access in and out of their garages, residents should be prepared to remove any “wind-rows” that can be created during these plowing operations. During major snow events (16+”) - the snow removal plan will include the continuous use of heavy and light equipment. Alley work will be limited to the removal of enough snow so residents can drive through. These alley procedures do not negate individual property owners from participating in the snow removal during these types of storms. Vehicles should never be parked overnight in any alley during snow events. Vehicles left parked in any alley during snow events may be towed to allow for continued snow removal. Residents who require additional assistance accessing their property because of excess snow, due to age, disability, or health, should contact the MCA office at 303-388-0724 for additional assistance.

Although we are unable to address the complete removal of snow on public streets, it is our goal during a major snow event to remove enough snow to allow for some level of travel in and out of the alleys. We will continue to address all MCA parks and pathways to ensure that they are as snow free as possible to promote pedestrian access throughout the community. All concerns regarding travel on public streets should be directed towards Denver 311.

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# Front Porch

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Front Porch – NE Denver distributes approximately 23,000 free papers during the first week of each month. Papers are delivered by mail and/or racks in Central Park, Park Hill, Lowry, Montclair, Mayfair, E. Colfax 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.





# What's on Your Wish List?

Whether a new home is on your wish list now or after the holidays, we're here to help!

The low interest rates are the gift that keeps on giving and our buyers are enjoying less competition now.

Sellers are still enjoying the low inventory market but if you're thinking to move this spring, get started with those pre-market plans early.

Full-service staging and pre-market update advice has always been part of our listing services, but don't forget we've also got upfront financial resources through **Compass Concierge** to help with pre-market improvements too.

What a gift!

Give us a shout to get started on those wish lists!



Season's Greetings to our friends and neighbors!

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Please double check event dates & times using contact info provided.

**12/7 Tuesday—Colorado Gives Day.** Join the movement to “give where you live” and support your favorite non-profits. coloradogives.org

SEASONAL/HOLIDAY EVENTS

**12/1 to 12/31—Who’s Holiday!** Your favorite little Who is all grown up. Adults only. Vintage Theatre, 1468 Dayton St, Aurora. vintagetheatre.org

**12/2 Thursday—Central Park Town Center Menorah Lighting.** Annual ceremony of singing the blessings and lighting the Menorah. 6pm. East 29th Ave. chabaddenvernorth.com

**12/3 to 12/19—Winter Tales.** An interactive theater experience for children that brings four classic holiday stories to life. Factory Five Five, 10255 East 25th Ave. factoryfivefive.com

**12/3 to 12/26—The 12 Dates of Christmas.** A hilarious and heartfelt comedy/drama. Vintage Theatre, 1468 Dayton St, Aurora. vintagetheatre.org

**12/4 Saturday—YouthBiz Holiday Marketplace.** Great holiday gifts while supporting young entrepreneurs ages 6-21. 10am–2pm. 3550 E. 1st Ave. yacenter.org

**12/4 Saturday—9News Parade of Lights.** 4pm in Civic Center Park. A special appearance by Major Waddles the Penguin and Santa downtowndenver.com

**12/4, 12/11 & 12/18— Saturday Night Lights.** 5–7pm. Complimentary treats while you stroll this enchanting neighborhood. Cherry Creek North, CherryCreekHolidayMarket.com

**12/5 Sunday—Chanukah Celebration.** Crafts, food, music and fun. 4pm & 5pm. Stanley Marketplace, 2501 Dallas St, Aurora. chabaddenvernorth.com

**12/6 Monday—City of Aurora Holiday Tree Lighting.** Aurora Municipal Center. auroragov.org

**12/9 Thursday—Christmas with The King’s Singers.** A cappella singing to celebrate Christmas and the holiday season. The Newman Center, 2344 East Iliff Ave. newmancenterpresents.com

**Through 12/10—Festival of Wreaths.** Benefiting the Aurora Museum Foundation, 15051 East Alameda Pkwy. auroragov.org

View and add local events FREE at [FrontPorchNE.com/events](http://FrontPorchNE.com/events). Submissions by the 17th will be considered for printing in the upcoming month’s issue.

# Dec. & Early Jan. Events

**12/10 to 12/12—A Colorado Christmas.** Family-friendly sounds of the holidays. Tickets start at \$15. Boettcher Concert Hall. coloradosymphony.org



Denver Christkindl Market in Civic Center Park thru 12/23.

**12/22 to 12/23—Disney’s A Muppet Christmas Carol in Concert.** The Muppets perform the classic Dickens holiday tale. Tickets start at \$15. Boettcher Concert Hall. coloradosymphony.org

**Through 12/23—Denver Christkindl Market.** Authentic German holiday experience. Civic Center Park, 101 West 14th Ave. ChristkindlMarketDenver.com

**Through 12/23—The Polar Express™ Train Ride.** A Magical Journey to Re-Kindle the Christmas Spirit. Colorado Railroad Museum, 17155 W. 44th Ave. event-vesta.com/events/8932

**Through 12/24—Cherry Creek Holiday Market.** Live music while you shop. In the Fillmore Plaza, Cherry Creek North, CherryCreekHolidayMarket.com

**Through 12/24—Colorado Ballet Presents The Nutcracker.** The beloved holiday favorite returns. Ellie Caulkins Opera House (14th & Curtis) coloradoballet.org

**Through 12/26—A Christmas Carol.** Based on Charles Dickens’ classic novel. Wolf Theatre at the DCPA. denvercenter.org

**Through 12/31—Cherry Creek North Winter Wanderland.** Shops, lights and bites. Cherry Creek North, 2401 E. 2nd Ave, CherryCreekNorth.com/Holidays

**Through 1/2/22—Zoo Lights.** A Toast to Love, 125 Years + Beyond. Denver Zoo, 2300 Steele St. denverzoo.org

**Through 1/8/22—Blossoms of Light.** A dazzling and ever-changing display of light and color. Denver Botanic Gardens, 1007 York St. botanicgardens.org

**Through 2/20/22—Downtown Denver Rink.** Free admission, rentals available. Check out hours at downtowndenver.com

**Through 2/21/22—Winter Skate.** Outdoor ice skating with holiday entertainment. 47th & Verbena St. at The Shops at Northfield. shopsatnorthfield.com

NE DENVER/NW AURORA EVENTS

**12/4 Saturday—Northfield High School Post-Turkey Trot.** A fun 5k run to support Northfield High School Athletics. 10am. Sign-up at [runsignup.com/Race/CO/Denver/NorthfieldHighSchool-PostTurkeyTrot](http://runsignup.com/Race/CO/Denver/NorthfieldHighSchool-PostTurkeyTrot). 5550 Central Park Blvd.

**12/4, 12/11 & 12/18—Bluff Lake Welcome Booth & Family Adventure Day.** Activities for all ages. Later end-time, fire pit, and s’mores on select weeks. 11255 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. blufflake.org

**12/14 & 12/21—In-person Memory Café.** 1:30–3pm. For people experiencing memory loss and their families/caregivers. Schlessman Family Library, 100 Poplar St. denverlibrary.org

METRO EVENTS

**12/2 Thursday—Chef and Author Jake Cohen.** At the Neustadt JAAMM Festival. 6:30pm. JCC Mizel Arts and Culture Center, 350 S. Dahlia St. jccdenver.org

**12/3 Friday—First Friday Art Walks.** Art District on Santa. 5:30–9:30pm. [denver.org/things-to-do/denver-arts-culture/denver-art-districts](http://denver.org/things-to-do/denver-arts-culture/denver-art-districts)

**12/7 Tuesday— Navigating Judaism with Multiple Identities & Building Bridges.** Join Rabbi Lawson as she speaks at the Neustadt JAAMM Festival. JCC Mizel Arts and Culture Center, 350 S. Dahlia St. jccdenver.org

**12/12 Sunday—Music in the Galleries: Harlem Quartet.** 1–3pm, included with admission. 1250 Bannock St. clyffordstillmuseum.org

**12/14 Tuesday—Active Minds presents: Eleanor Roosevelt.** Free, 12:30-1:30pm. Tattered Cover, 2526 E Colfax. activeminds.com

**12/28 Tuesday—Active Minds presents: Whisky.** Free, 12:30-1:30pm. Tattered Cover, 2526 E Colfax. activeminds.com

KIDS AND FAMILIES

**Tuesdays & Wednesdays—All Ages Storytime at Sam Gary Library.** 10:30–11am. Ages 0–5. Space is limited, registration is required. 2961 Roslyn St. denverlibrary.org

**Wednesdays—Toddler Storytime at Schlessman Library.** 10:30–11am. Ages 18–36 months. Space is limited,. 100 Poplar St. denverlibrary.org

**Thursdays—Baby Storytime at Sam Gary Library.** 10:30–11am. Ages 0–18 months. Space is limited, registration is required. 2961 Roslyn St. denverlibrary.org

**Thursdays—Baby Storytime at Schlessman Library.** 10:30–11am. Ages 0–18-months. Space is limited,. 100 Poplar St. denverlibrary.org

**Fridays—Preschool Storytime at Schlessman Library.** 10:30–11am. Ages 3–5-years. Space is limited,. 100 Poplar St. denverlibrary.org



Downtown Denver Rink open through Feb. 20. Photo by Brent Andeck

**12/1 Wednesday—Mornings at the Museum.** Ages 3–6, 10:30–11:30am. Aurora History Museum, 15051 East Alameda Pkwy. auroragov.org

**12/2, 12/9 & 12/16—After School is Cool at Pauline Robinson Library.** 4:15–5:15pm. Kids and teens for arts & crafts and STEM activities. 5575 E 33rd Ave. denverlibrary.org

**12/11 Saturday—Low Sensory Morning.** The History Colorado Center will be closed to the general public, attendance limited and sounds in the exhibits turned down. 1200 North Broadway. historycolorado.org

**12/12 Sunday—Sensory-Friendly Morning.** For kids with neurodiversity or

## These businesses give you a community paper.

Please support them—find their links at [www.FrontPorchNE.com](http://www.FrontPorchNE.com) > Business Directory

Accounting/Taxes	Dori Suess Managing Member	12
Arcade Game Rental/Sales/Event Center	Mile High Arcade	6
Barbershop/Hair Salon	Fantastic Sams	12
Child Entertainment	Children’s Museum of Denver	13
Churches	Augustana Lutheran Church	15
Classes	Shredder Outdoors	14
	Shredder Ski	14
Clinical Research	National Jewish Health	9
Community Organization	Central Park Master Community Association	2
Dental	Nestman Orthodontics	15
	Williams Family Dentistry	10

Design and Remodeling	Diane Gordon Design	5
Environmental Sustainability	Denver Recycles	15
Events	Cherry Creek North	5
Fitness	Nurture Pilates	13
Health and Wellness	Ubergrippen Indoor Climbing Crag	15
Heating and Air Conditioning	Unique Heating and Air Conditioning Inc.	11
Home Furnishings	Smart Spaces	12
Home Services	Reflection Windows & Doors LLC	6
Housecleaning	Number 1 House Cleaning	14
	White Magic Cleaning Services	11

Medical Doctors	Colorado Kids Pediatrics	13
Pets	Paws-N-Play and Ciji’s Natural Pet Supplies	12
Real Estate	New Perspective Real Estate, LLC	3
	Wolfe & Epperson Real Estate	13
Schools	Denver Language School	11
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Shopping Mall	The Shops at Northfield	8
Theater Classes	Denver Center for Performing Arts	15
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**Delivered free every month**—Approximately 24,000 *Front Porch* newspapers are distributed in the Northeast Denver neighborhoods of Central Park — Park Hill — Lowry — Mayfair — Montclair — East Colfax — NW Aurora.

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YouthBiz Holiday Marketplace supporting young entrepreneurs on Dec. 4 from 10am–2pm.

sensory processing disorders and their families to visit in a safe and fun way. Denver Art Museum, 100 W. 14th Ave. denverartmuseum.org

**12/19 Sunday—Spanish Storytime at Tattered Cover Kids.** 5pm. Stanley Marketplace, 2501 N. Dallas St, Aurora. stanleymarketplace.com

**12/21 & 12/29—Day at the DAM.** Spend a day at the museum exploring, discussing, and creating art for kids age 6–11. 100 W. 14th Ave. Pkwy. denverartmuseum.org

## MUSEUMS, ETC.

**American Museum of Western Art.** Advanced tickets required, admission is \$5. 1727 Tremont Pl. anschutzcollection.org

**Aurora History Museum.** Advanced reservation is required, admission is free. 15051 East Alameda Pkwy. auroragov.org

**The Byers–Evans House Museum.** Timed tickets required, History Colorado members are free. 1310 Bannock St. Tickets at historycolorado.org

**The Children’s Museum.** Snow Days start Dec. 8. Wed–Sun, by reservation only at mychildsmuseum.org

**Clyfford Still Museum.** SCFD Free Day Wed., Dec. 8. Reserve tickets in advance. 1250 Bannock St. clyffordstillmuseum.org

**Denver Art Museum.** SCFD Free Day Tue., Dec. 14. Youth 18 & under always free. 100 W. 14th Ave. Pkwy. denverartmuseum.org

**Denver Botanic Gardens.** Tickets and member reservations required. 1007 York St. botanicgardens.org

**Denver Firefighters Museum.** Tues–Sat, 10am–4pm. 1326 Tremont Pl. denverfirefightersmuseum.org

**Denver Museum of Nature and Science.** 2001 Colorado Blvd. Timed tickets required. dmns.org

**The Forney Museum of Transportation.** Mon, Th–Sat, 10am–5pm; Sun, noon–5pm. 4303 Brighton Blvd. forneymuseum.org

**Four Mile Historic Park.** SCFD Free Day Fri., Dec. 10. Open Wed–Sun, 10am–4pm. 715 S. Forest St. fourmilepark.org

**History Colorado.** Some exhibits are timed entry and free with museum admission. 1200 Broadway. More info at historycolorado.org

**Kirkland Museum of Fine and Decorative Art.** Tue–Sat, 11am–5pm; Sun 12–5pm. Ages 13+ welcome. 1201 Bannock St. kirklandmuseum.org

**Molly Brown House Museum.** Tue–Sun, 10am–4:30pm. 1340 Pennsylvania St. mollybrown.org

**Museo de las Americas.** Tue–Fri, noon–6pm. Sat, noon–5pm. Closed Mon & Sun. 861 Santa Fe Dr. museo.org

**Museum of Contemporary Art Denver.** Penny admission 1st Sat. of the month. 1485 Delgany St. mcadenver.org

**National Ballpark Museum.** 1940 Blake St. Check for days/hours at ballparkmuseum.com

**The Urban Farm.** Open Fri & Sat, 9am–1pm. Fill out online waiver before arriving. 10200 Smith Rd. theurbanfarm.org

**Wings Over the Rockies Museum.** Cockpit demo day Sat, Dec. 11. 7711 East Academy Blvd. wingsmuseum.org

## PERFORMANCE/ THEATRE

**12/2 to 2/2/22—The Lion King.** The entire Serengeti comes to life. Buell Theatre, 1350 Curtis St. denvercenter.org

**Through 12/11—American Son.** Examining our nation’s racial divide through the eyes of parents on the brink. 1080 Acoma St. curious theatre.org

**12/17 Friday—The Denver Moth - StorySLAM.** Theme: Wisdom. 7pm, \$15. Swallow Hill Music, Daniels Hall, 71 East Yale Ave. swallowhillmusic.org

**Through 12/18—Ada and the Engine.** Jane Austen meets Steve Jobs in this poignant pre-tech romance heralding the computer age. John Hand Theater, 7653 E. 1st Pl. FirehouseTheaterCompany.com

**Through 12/19—A Very Merry Unauthorized Children’s Scientology Pageant.** Absurdly entertaining satirical musical. Aurora Fox Arts Center, 9900 E. Colfax Ave. aurorafoxartscenter.org

**Through 1/9/22—Rogers and Hammerstein’s Cinderella.** The classic musical from the most famous of duos. Vintage Theatre, 1468 Dayton St, Aurora. vintagetheatre.org

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

**Denver Public Schools - Volunteer Services.** Check out what services are needed at local DPS schools at volunteermatch.org/search/org/110806.jsp

**Food For Thought Denver.** Striving to eliminate childhood hunger by providing food for students to take home to their family for the weekend. Sign up to volunteer or donate at foodforthoughtdenver.org

**Mentoring high performing, low income students.** Minds Matter is recruiting our next class of college access mentors to help high-performing, low-income high school. mindsmatterdenver.org

**Project Worthmore.** Help bag and deliver fresh fruits and vegetables, dairy, and household necessities to refugees in Denver and Aurora. projectworthmore.org

**Reach Out and Read Colorado.** Help sort and pack gently-used children’s books for underserved families. On the Clayton Early Learning Campus, individuals and groups welcome. Email info@reachoutandreadco.org for details.

**Reading Volunteers Needed.** Stedman Elementary and Bill Roberts Middle School. More info at partnersinliteracy.org

**Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)** For volunteer opportunities, email Cathy Law at claw@voacolorado.org

**Ronald McDonald House Charities Volunteer.** Go to ronaldhouse.org under “How You Can Help” for info.

**Sand Creek Greenway Volunteer Opportunities.** For more info, email cgarwood@sandcreekgreenway.org or go to sandcreekgreenway.org/upcoming-volunteer-opportunities/

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

**Village Exchange Center** A non-profit formed to serve immigrants and refugees in the Aurora & Denver. villageexchangecenter.org

**Volunteers of America Colorado Branch** For volunteer opportunities, email bgulley@voacolorado.org

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Delight in exciting entertainment  
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while you stroll this  
enchancing neighborhood.

**domino effect\***  
November 18 - December 31

Collaborate and play with  
this vibrant interactive light  
art installation featuring 120  
oversized musical dominos  
bursting with light and  
dancing with color.

**Cherry Creek Holiday Market**  
November 18 - December 24

Discover unique gifts from  
30 local artisans and enjoy  
festive live music while  
you shop.

**Winter Wonderland Light Walk**  
November 18 - December 31

Stroll among 600 trees  
brightly lit from trunk to  
tip with nearly a million  
twinkling lights. Plus, find  
eight dazzling musical trees  
and enter for a chance to win  
a \$1,000 Cherry Creek North  
shopping spree!

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# What are you looking forward to in 2022?



Mary and Daniel Kang with baby Elliott  
“We’re looking forward to traveling. We want to see our family in Florida and Georgia.”



Sarah Schuler with daughter Scarlett and husband Brian  
“I work in education, so I’m really excited for the vaccination that was approved for kids. I’m most looking forward to teaching without a mask.”



Olivia Cook with Dad Kyle & puppy Ruby  
“She already knows how to use the doggy door, so I’m teaching Ruby to not bite and be a good girl.”



Daphne Bates, who adopted a black lab-mix named Troy from Boulder Humane Society (not pictured)  
“A lot of dogs that were adopted during COVID have been returned. I’m most excited that more consistency will mean foster dogs find their forever homes.”



Sidewalks bustling as adults drank mulled wine, kids roasted marshmallows and all enjoyed food and goodies from vendors at the Winter Welcome in the East 29th Ave. Town Center. Live entertainment, including a scene from “It’s a Wonderful Life,” added to the festive atmosphere.  
Front Porch photos by Christie Gosch



Northfield students Tessa Mair (left) and Helena Wang-Lohnes  
“We’re most excited for summer.”



Chantel Akerele with son Christian and baby Jordan  
“I’m looking forward to creating family traditions since my little ones are still small.”



Dan and Arielle Lee  
“We’ve been married for a year now, so we went through all the normal transitions but in a pandemic. We’re looking forward to more consistency and new beginnings.”

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December 2021

6

Front Porch – NE Denver





Coach: *It didn't come fast and it didn't come easy*

# Northfield Wins Soccer Title

The starting lineup for the Northfield championship team top left: Mercer Dergance (junior), Beckham Blew (senior), Jack Freimann (junior), Moises lnda (senior), Max Garfield (senior), Alex Witzel (senior), Ben Kiley (senior), Miles Smith (junior), Zach Liptzin (junior), Charlie Edinger (senior) and Eduardo Hernandez (senior.) Photos by Sean Dougherty

By Tracy Wolfer Osborne

When Jason Keever became head soccer coach at Northfield High School in 2015, the school didn't exist. "I was looking at mockups," he says. "There was no school, no field, nothing." Just six years later, the Northfield Nighthawks are the undefeated 4A state champs.

So, how did they find such meteoric success?

Keever says it isn't fair to say it came fast. And it isn't fair to say it came easy. "I've heard the rumors that people think we have a bunch of DA (Development Academy) players. It's not true. I think only two of our boys play ECNL (Elite Clubs National League). We've lost game after game after game by one goal in overtime. We've had a torn ACL, injuries, and multiple health issues. We should have gone to the playoffs last year, but after



Northfield forward #10, Moises lnda, who scored the winning goal on a free kick.

CHSAA cut the playoff field by half, we were squeezed out. These boys have faced so much and they've continued to believe and work and work and work despite so much failure.

"All year long it's been Northfield and Mullen as the one and two, so it's fitting we met them at the state championship. Mullen is very good. They had the better run of play, but we knew exactly what we were doing. We kept the lead, kept the goal, and sometimes that's all you need."

Max Garfield, co-captain with Eduardo Hernandez since he was a sophomore, says, "We all felt the pressure. I think a lot of us hadn't played in a game of that magnitude. One of our main goals all season has been scoring first. Other than our first game, we've done it every time. It was super important because

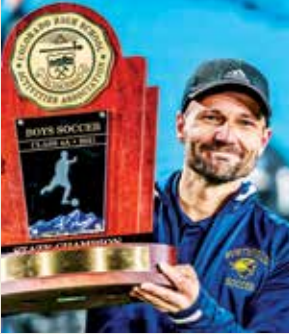
as soon as we got that goal, we changed our formation and started playing more defense. It gave us a leg up especially against a team

2015, mentions moral character more than soccer; it reads in part: "Our team will be composed of players who desire to sharpen each other and become better men; players who choose others before themselves. Our soccer ambitions will be fierce, but will always subordinate to our pursuit of robust

like Mullen that's super offensive, and I think that's one of the reasons we were able to hold them off."

Keever credits their success to team-building. "I can't overstate how important it is for them to take their minds off the game and just be together." An example is playing a trivia game where correct answers earn penalty shots. Keever draws a goofy cartoon mockup of their opponents on the whiteboard, and the boys take aim with wadded-up wet toilet paper.

The team's vision, which has remained unchanged since Keever drafted it in



Northfield boys' soccer head coach Jason Keever raises the 4A Championship trophy.

moral character. The boys added their own goals, which include, "building strong relationships, creating a positive reputation in the community, and leaving something meaningful behind for younger classmen."

"They're humble. They're not arrogant. They've never once forgotten their roots or the experiences they've gone through. And they approach every game with the knowledge they haven't won it yet," says Keever.

Garfield says, "I think coach is the whole reason we were successful. He's super invested in us and the program, and I feel like that poured into the team, and everyone became committed. We had a lot of extra people willing to commit their time, like our weightlifting coach Harry Glor. We didn't win alone."



Northfield fans and players celebrate their 1-0 win over Mullen High School and their 20-0 season.



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# "The System Needs To Be Completely Rebuilt"

By Mary Jo Brooks

"She's a ticking time bomb." The desperation in the mother's voice is palpable as she talks about how her middle school student spent many months self-harming and has even threatened to kill herself. Her daughter has gone through numerous therapists, multiple visits to the emergency room, a six-day stint at Children's Hospital, and several outpatient treatment facilities. Nothing has worked and her mother isn't sure where to turn next. "These facilities have set up an assembly-line system. They don't examine the underlying behaviors and so they release kids from treatment without really treating them."

To protect the child's identity, Front Porch is not publishing the mother's name, but in a series of interviews, the Central Park mom talked about how the mental health system in Colorado is failing her child. She says most facilities can't take new patients and those that do "treat 'em and street 'em. They want to

She is not alone. Jim Wiegand is a Jefferson County father of seven; four were adopted from the foster care system. One child experienced a severe mental health breakdown when she entered middle school and "the trauma dam burst. Everything came uncorked," says Wiegand. The young girl suffered PTSD and threatened suicide. For two years, she went through multiple treatment programs in Colorado until officials told Wiegand they couldn't serve her anymore. In desperation, Wiegand sent his daughter to a residen-

tial treatment center in Georgia, where she stayed for 15 months. She is now back home and doing well, but Wiegand is frustrated that Colorado seems to lack essential services to help young people in severe crisis. "Families should not have to fight this hard to get the care their kids need to heal and thrive," says Wiegand.

The statistics about the youth mental health crisis are sobering. Only 22% of Colorado children and youth who have severe mental health issues are able to access care. Colorado ranks 42nd in the nation for access to mental health services for children and youth. And, most alarmingly, suicide is the number one cause of death among youth ages 10-19.

David Brumbaugh, chief medical officer at Children's Hospital of Colorado says the need for youth mental health services has skyrocketed by 73% since the pandemic began. "From the start of the year to mid-October, there

have been more than 5,000 emergency room behavioral health visits for children in crisis," says Brumbaugh. "On any given day, there are 40-50 kids suffering an acute mental health crisis presenting to our emergency departments."

Two weeks ago, Brumbaugh and a consortium of health and school officials sent an urgent plea to elected officials: it's time to make significant investments in youth mental health or the crisis will continue to spiral out of control. They say more mental healthcare workers need to be trained and hired, in-patient facilities need to be expanded, and community and school-based clinics need to be more broadly available.

Sophia Meharena is on the frontlines of the crisis. A community physician with Every Child Pediatrics in Aurora, she has created an integrated model of care with behavioral health professionals based at her clinic. But most clinics can't afford to implement that model because they don't get reimbursed for mental health consultations. Meharena says the overall system is too

reactive and needs to move more toward prevention. "We need to have a system that engages care givers, youth, the community, and primary health providers."

Meharena joined the other healthcare professionals in calling on Governor Jared Polis to devote \$150 million from the American Rescue Plan Act to youth mental health services. The coalition also wants the state's congressional delegation to ensure that the Build Back Better Act

includes \$2.5 billion each year for five years in grants to children's hospitals to increase their capacity to provide pediatric mental health services.

Jenna Glover, director of psychology training at Children's Hospital said the state's mental health services system for children and youth needs to be completely

rebuilt. "We are calling on the Colorado congressional delegation to take advantage of this generational opportunity to invest in a system that works for kids by strengthening the mental health workforce, building on the success of telehealth, and enhancing mental health insurance parity to improve access-to-care."

Although the medical health professionals say elected officials need to take immediate action to fund these kind of mental health initiatives, they know that rebuilding the system won't happen overnight. "The type of commitment that is going to be needed for long-term sustainable change is not going to be measured in months," said Brumbaugh. "Long term investments in building or building out residential treatment facilities, that's going to take years."

That's little comfort for the Central Park mother who worries every day that

her daughter may do something to harm herself or others. "I love my kid. I just want to help the child that I know is inside before it's too late."

## COLORADO STATISTIC

Four out of five students report depression and anxiety.

—Colorado Association for School-Based Health Care

## COLORADO STATISTIC

Only 22% of youth who have severe mental health issues are able to access care.

—Partners for Children's Mental Health

## COLORADO STATISTIC

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# What's Next for the Park Hill Golf Course?

Photo courtesy of Larry Walsh NW Drone Photography



Front Porch file photo by Steve Larson



Supporters of the Save Open Space Initiative argue the Park Hill Golf Course operates as a much-needed pair of lungs for the city.

By Tracy Wolfer Osborne

**O**n election night, voters handed a big win to Save Open Space Denver (SOS), a group that for years now has been fighting to halt development on the now-defunct Park Hill Golf Course, a currently unused 155-acre open space that sits at the corner of Colorado Blvd. and East 35th Ave.

The land is owned by Westside Investment Partners, a development company that would like to turn it into a mixed-use property including affordable housing, retail, and 60 acres of promised green space.

However, the city owns a taxpayer-funded conservation easement on the property that limits how the land can be used. The conservation easement was at the crux of two battling ballot initiatives put forth by SOS and Westside.

SOS's 301 initiative, which boiled down to "Green vs. Concrete" yard signs, passed with 64 percent voter approval. 301 changes Denver's municipal code so development on city-owned conservation easements can not happen without citywide voter approval. Denverites will likely be asked if they're in favor or opposed to development on the November 2022 ballot. Westside's 302 countermeasure failed by a similar margin. Had 302 passed, it would have amended the definition of a conservation easement, exempting the course from being considered easement property and therefore nullifying SOS's measure.

So, what's next?

Much remains unclear about the future of the property. And the additional ballot question isn't the only issue muddying the crystal ball.

Both parties still disagree on terms of the easement. Westside and attorneys for the City of Denver believe that in order for any development to happen, mixed-use or otherwise, the conservation easement must be lifted—and that can only be done by a vote of Denver City Council.

SOS argues that the conservation

easement only requires that the property be used generally as open space, and therefore can be turned into a park without lifting the easement. They also argue that because of a state statute, a judge—not Denver City Council—is the only one who can lift the easement.

Both parties are also awaiting a Denver District Judge's ruling on a lawsuit filed this past June. Former Mayor Wellington Webb, Penfield Tate, and other notable community members on the side of SOS claim in that suit that the city is in a "joint venture" with Westside and is wrongfully using taxpayer money to fund a planning process that violates a taxpayer-funded conservation easement.

Colette Carey, a spokesperson for SOS said, "We the people still own the conservation easement and the developer still owns the land, subject to the conservation easement, that the developer knew was in place when they purchased the land. 301 was never about telling people what the open space and recreational uses of the property were supposed to be, it was—and still is—about letting the community have a say in how we activate that space into a recreational amenity for everyone, not just golfers. We want to come together to build that. The decisive victory of 301, along with the equally decisive defeat of 302 (especially as it appears now in the precincts around the PHGC property) should speak loud and



Front Porch file photo by Steve Larson

Green signs on the Golf Course suggest Park Hill residents deserve the same kind of development that other Denver neighborhoods have enjoyed.

clear to the fact that Denverites love their open space and they will fight for it."

Kenneth Ho, Principal at Westside said, "It's unclear what SOS has won. Neither initiative lifted nor modified the easement, and we aren't going anywhere. Our next steps are the same. We're committed to a shared vision with the community including 60 acres of park where a park doesn't exist. We will have a shared vision backed with written agreements from the city and the community. We know people support green space, but they also support affordable housing, equitable development, and parks."



## Can allergies be prevented in infants?

Researchers want to know if keeping a baby's skin healthy and hydrated with moisturizer will prevent the child from developing allergies such as food allergies.

- New parents and their newborns up to 12 weeks are needed for this important research study.
- Children in this study will be followed for three years to track whether or not the child develops allergies.
- Compensation provided.

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## Why do babies develop food allergies and eczema?

Researchers are studying factors before birth and through age 3 that may influence the development of allergic conditions such as food allergies and eczema.

- Pregnant women who are delivering their baby at Saint Joseph Hospital are needed for this important study.
- Mom and baby (biological father optional) will be followed for up to three years.
- Compensation provided.

Learn more at [njhealth.org/SUNBEAM](https://njhealth.org/SUNBEAM) or call 303.398.1409.







The Terra building (left) will house agriculture and food research facilities while the Hydro building (right) will focus on water quality issues. Both buildings are part of the CSU Spur project at the National Western Center campus and are expected to open to the public in 2022.

By Mary Jo Brooks

Although Denver voters rejected a \$190 million bond measure to help pay for a 10,000-seat arena and community market at the National Western Center, city officials say they are still committed to both projects, as envisioned in the 2015 master plan for redeveloping the campus. “We’re in the process of evaluating what our options are,” said Tykus

### 116th Annual National Western Stock Show Starts January 8

Planners say after the unprecedented cancellation of the show last year, the upcoming festivities will be bigger than ever. Read about the Stock Show’s new facilities and planned activities in the January *Front Porch*.

Holloway, executive director of the Mayor’s Office of the National Western Center. “We’ll continue to seek funding to bring that to fruition.”

The massive Western Center redevelopment plan calls for new facilities to bolster tourism, foster agriculture education and research, and create new amenities for the surrounding neighborhoods, which have historically been underserved. It expands the stock show campus from 90 to 250 acres.

In 2015 voters approved a measure to raise nearly \$800 million for the project by extending an existing 1.75% tax on car rentals and hotel rooms. That funding, however, was just for the first two phases of construction, which has been underway for the past three years.

### Infrastructure—including a heating system from sewer pipes and work on a riverfront park

Holloway says that although “tremendous progress” has been made in the first two phases, much of it wasn’t visible until about six months ago. The majority of the construction involved horizontal infrastructure: new

## Election Followup: National Cutting Edge R

water lines and wastewater pipes, electrical and fiberoptic wiring, new roads, re-located rail lines, a new light rail stop, and the foundation for a new bridge across the South Platte River. Crews have also begun to build an innovative heating system that will provide buildings with heat from underground sewer pipes, and they have started preliminary work on what will become a 6-acre riverfront park with walkways and public art. Previously, there was no riverfront access from the Western Center campus.

### Four New Buildings in 2022

A new Stockyard Events Center with an open-air plaza and 20 acres of stockyards is getting the final finishing touches while three other buildings, managed by Colorado State University, are also nearing completion. They are part of the CSU Spur project that is designed to educate and connect people to issues surrounding health, food, and water. “The buildings will all be open to the public and will offer opportunities to learners of all ages to connect with professionals in the field,” says Jocelyn Hittle, CSU vice-chancellor in charge of the Spur project. Each building will be devoted to one of those three issues. “The



The Stockyards Event Center is the first building to be completed as part of the redevelopment. The plaza in front was made from historic bricks from the site.



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# Research Is Coming—but Voters Say No to Arena



The Vida (or “life”) building will house a veterinary clinic and the Temple Grandin Equestrian Center. It will open in time for the January Stock Show.

goal for all three facilities is to provide opportunities to connect visitors directly with professionals in the field,” says Hittle. “We want young people to see themselves in careers that maybe they’ve never considered.”

**Animal health and its connection to human health**—The Vida (or “life”) building is expected to be completed in time for the stock show and will showcase animal health and its connection to human health. The Denver Dumb Friends League will operate a veterinary clinic in the building that will offer free or low-cost vet services to any income-qualified family in the area. “One of the special things about the clinic is that there will be an area where visitors can watch the veterinarians working in the space and ask questions to learn more about promoting good animal health,” says Hittle. The Vida building will house the Temple Grandin Equine Center for therapeutic riding and a state-of-the-art equine sports medicine center where horses can receive acupuncture and use

underwater treadmills to recover from injuries.

**Urban agriculture—growing food in a small space**—The Terra (or “earth”) building is expected to open in the spring of 2022. It will focus on urban agriculture and will feature a rooftop greenhouse and garden. “We want to show people that even if they don’t have a big yard, they can still grow food,” says Hittle. Visitors will also be able to bring in soil or water samples for testing, take classes in gardening or composting, or visit the food innovation lab.

**Water quality**—The Hydro building will open next November and will focus on water research, innovation and policy. In collaboration with Denver Water, more than 200,000 water quality tests will be conducted at the site and young visitors will have the chance to meet with scientists and learn how to take water samples out of the South Platte River.

## Completion of the National Western Plans

The mid-sized arena and the community market, which failed to attract voter funding this year, are part of phases 3-8 of the redevelopment. City officials are hopeful that funding can be secured once the public sees how the National Western Center is being completely transformed.



Construction has begun on the 51st Avenue bridge that will connect the National Western Center to the Globeville neighborhood. A 6-acre park will also be developed along the South Platte River.

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As we head into December, the holidays, and a busy season for all of us, we also get some down time to get away from it all. I review two current movies (both streaming) and then give two short takes that you won't want to miss. I also might have a little fun this month because we should all do the same this time of year! Happy holidays and stay safe, says the Indie Prof.

### The Green Knight (2021)

This is a gorgeous film. Written and directed by David Lowery, this version of the famous Middle English poem *Sir Gawain and The Green Knight* is not wholly faithful to the source work, but it is just as enchanting and equally ethereal. The poem is the lair of literary legend and the

love of professorial punditry. (And in case you haven't realized it yet, it was justly famous for its alliteration.) While that source poem has always been open for multiple interpretations, the allure of its style, its depth, its whimsy, and its sensuous material has never been in question. The film follows this alluring path, and it adds a few layers. It is dead serious, magical, and whimsical at various points. The tonal shifts work, however, and the whole package is mesmerizing.

This is David Lowery's coming out party; he has directed a few films up to this point but nothing close to this level of beauty and verve. The talent was evident in his first few films, but nobody saw this coming. Pairing with obvious superstar-to-be in cinematographer Andrew Droz Palermo, the duo has fashioned a film that is alternately dreary and dreamlike and then realistic and rancid. The green forests and meadows of King Arthur's England are there (ironically shot in Ireland), but the lighting coupled with the meandering camera create a constant cornucopia of captivating images. There are even actors.

Dev Patel stars as the conflicted journeyer: he is serviceable but never rises above the camera. Sean Harris is memorable as the breathy King Arthur; Alicia Vikander is stunning as the seductive and sultry "The Lady" while also playing the doey, dreamy, denizen of Gawain's love, Essel; Joel Edgerton is superb in a spot role; and Sarita Choudhury is mesmerizing as Gawain's magical mother. To be certain, however, the true stars here are Lowery and Palermo. This is a cinephile's dream, and it goes beyond the acting—the writing, the direction, the sets, the cinematography, the editing, and the sound all create visual poetry.

The interpretations of the source material are many, but the visuals add another dimension to the legend—the magical aspects are realized through meaningful cross-cutting in the editing while the environmental toll we are having on the Earth, not to mention the body counts that we are racking up, are made viciously apparent through settings. It is hard to ignore such stunning visuals, and watch for those if nothing else. But there is plenty else: it is mesmerizing, momentous in scope, and even melancholically monastic at points. (That's a lot of alliteration and about all I've got.)

Now streaming.  
You'll like this if you enjoyed *Willow*, *The Seventh Seal*, and/or *The Lord of The Rings* Trilogy.

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### Lamb (2021)

Talk about tonal shifts! If you've read these pages, you know I have an affinity for Icelandic film. They tend to be filled with dark humor, long spaces of silence, beautiful landscape cinematography, whimsical happenings, and many times, unexpected violence. This film is no different, and it pays to watch all the way through. Directed by Valdimar Jóhannsson and starring the outstanding Noomi Rapace, the story is simple: a sheepherding couple in rural Iceland make a peculiar find one day in their barn. As other people come into their lives and their peculiarity is revealed, the surprise hits like a barn door.

But then we become similarly enmeshed in the couple's success, or subterfuge, depending on how you look at it.

If all this feels like I am being uncommonly oblique, I am. The story gives us quite the surprise, and that is wholly different from suspense. With suspense, the audience is let in on the "bomb under the table" scenario, but with surprise, we don't know it is there in the first place. All very Hitchcock. This movie gives us a healthy dose of both. And once we think we are in the realm of fantasy, we get

more of a Grimm Brothers fairy tale. If you remember those, they were unforgettably gruesome. Just like those tales, this one is probably not for the kids.

Now streaming.  
You will like this film if you enjoyed *Fargo*, *The Lobster*, and/or *The Favorite*.

### Short Takes:

*Dune* (2021) lives up to the hype. You'll have to catch it in the theater now, and this film deserves to be seen there. My review is simple: wonderfully operatic.

*Narcos: Mexico* Season 3 (Netflix) is now streaming all 10 episodes of its final season. The show's *ethos* is simple: "Mexico doesn't have a drug problem; Mexico has a corruption problem and a poverty problem. America has a drug problem." The show itself is not so simple, however, as it cross-cuts among continents, cities, characters, and situations at a dizzying pace. This season is quite violent and shows how the cartel activities escalated throughout the last 30 years. If you can take the violence, the show is brilliant in all aspects.

Vincent Piturro, Ph.D., is a Professor of Film and Media Studies at MSU Denver. Contact him directly at [vpiturro@msudenver.edu](mailto:vpiturro@msudenver.edu) or follow him on Twitter. For more reviews, search The Indie Prof at [FrontPorchNE.com](http://FrontPorchNE.com).

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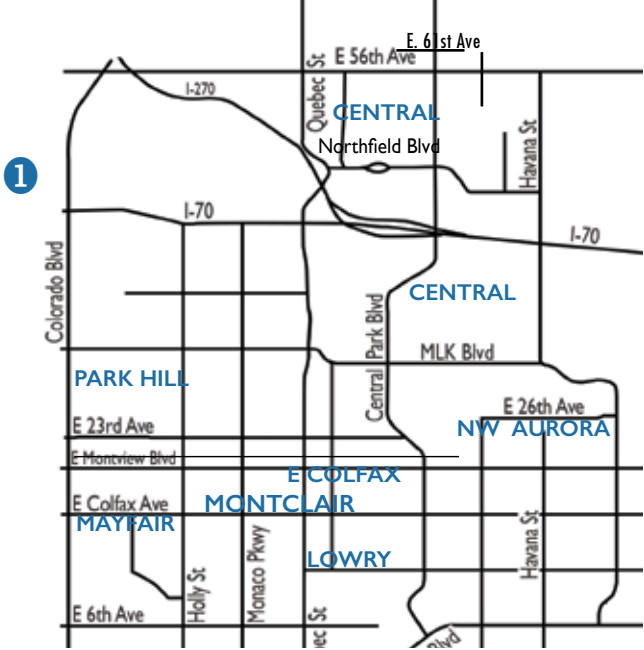
December 2021

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Front Porch – NE Denver



# ...NE News Updates



By Carol Roberts

## 1 Central 70 Project—Steadily proceeding toward a park over the highway

To support retaining walls and bridges in the Central 70 construction project, crews are drilling and installing nearly 1,100 caissons, about 600 of which will support the park. The caissons are 65-85 feet tall and weigh 117,450 to 156,600 pounds. Roughly two-thirds of each caisson is underground.

With caissons in place, crews have been installing the horizontal beams that rest on the caissons—100-foot-long girders, each weighing about 150,000 pounds—to support the park that will be built over the highway between Columbine and Clayton streets. As of Nov. 9, 183 girders had been installed on the northern half of the park. The 4-acre park will require 328 girders. Crews will continue placing girders for the southern half of the park through early 2022. Once they are in place, construction of the bridge deck can begin and the park will be complete in early 2023. More info at [https://www.codot.gov/projects/i70east/resources/cover\\_park](https://www.codot.gov/projects/i70east/resources/cover_park)

Remaining work at I-70 and Quebec will continue, and maintenance of I-70 between Quebec and Chambers, as well as on and off ramps, will require some overnight restrictions through early 2022.

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## State Updates

### 2 What will Colorado get from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act?

A White House fact sheet on what Colorado will get from the recently passed infrastructure bill says, “For decades, infrastructure in Colorado has suffered from a systemic lack of investment. In fact, the American Society of Civil Engineers gave Colorado a C- grade on its infrastructure report card.” The following list, pulled from the fact sheet, shows amounts Colorado will receive in each category:

- \$3.7 billion for highways over five years
- \$916 million to improve public transportation options over five years
- \$225 million for bridge replacement and repairs over five years
- \$432 million for infrastructure development for airports over five years
- \$57 million to expand the electric vehicle charging network over five years (plus possible future grants from a \$2.5 billion fund)
- \$688 million for water infrastructure over five years to ensure safe clean drinking water in all communities
- \$35 million for wildfire prevention over five years
- At least \$100 million for broadband coverage (22% of Coloradans will be eligible for a benefit that will help low-income families afford internet access)
- \$16 million to protect against cyberattacks.



Photo courtesy of Central 70 Project

This drill is being used for the installation of caissons that support retaining walls and bridges. Nearly 1,100 caissons will be installed in the Central 70 construction project.

- In addition, millions are expected to cap orphaned oil and gas wells, and
- Colorado will benefit from a \$3.5 billion national investment in weatherization to reduce energy costs.

Download the fact sheet accompanying this article at [FrontPorchNE.com](https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/COLORADO_The-Infrastructure-Investment-and-Jobs-Act-State-Fact-Sheet.pdf) or at [https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/COLORADO\\_The-Infrastructure-Investment-and-Jobs-Act-State-Fact-Sheet.pdf](https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/COLORADO_The-Infrastructure-Investment-and-Jobs-Act-State-Fact-Sheet.pdf)

Thanks to the office of State Senator Steve Fenberg for providing a link to the fact sheet.

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## DAM: American Painters in France Do These Paintings Lack “Americanness”?

Hanging in gorgeous gilded frames is DAM’s first comprehensive exhibition of France’s impact on American painting. Curator Standing said there’s a connective tissue throughout the entire exhibition, so when people view one painting and then the next, they say, “Oh, I get it now.”



John Singer Sargent drew “The Dancing Faun” when he was only 18. It secured his placement in Carolus-Duran’s prestigious studio. Later he painted Carolus-Duran, an homage to his master.

By Tracy Wolfer Osborne

**H**ungry for artistic technique and eager to make a name for themselves, ambitious American artists flocked to France from 1855 to 1913. Denver Art Museum’s (DAM) latest exhibition: *Whistler to Cassatt: American Painters in France*, which opened Nov. 14, follows the work of these artists in more than 100 paintings.

Aspiring artists recognized that studying abroad was essential to their careers, says DAM’s Curator Emeritus Timothy Standing. Art schools in the U.S. weren’t as

sophisticated as those in France. American students could have gone to Dusseldorf, to Munich, to Rome, to London, but most of them went to Paris—then considered the center of the art world. In Paris, they could experience the complexity of French painting from traditional academic paintings to canvases showing strains of realism and impressionism. American artists observed, experimented, and learned in the private studios of famous French painters or at the state Académie des Beaux-Arts. The curriculum included copying reliefs or plaster casts of classical sculptures and drawing and painting the human figure from life models. Many students were also required to copy and study at the Louvre once a week.

France offered another draw—the Paris Salon. The Paris Salon was an official art exhibition of the Académie des Beaux-Arts, which was arguably the most esteemed annual or biannual art event in the western world from 1748 to 1890. To be featured in the Paris Salon not only solidified your standing in the art world, it also meant you would be featured in the likes of *New York Times Magazine*, an accomplishment that meant your work was worthy of purchase and a springboard that catapulted many artists from starving to successful.

When they weren’t studying, American artists and their French colleagues congregated in artist colonies to which some returned faithfully every year and others never left. They sketched together in the French countryside, and some of their works

featured prominent academic figures placed in picturesque Parisian landscapes.

The French art world was neither a level playing field nor completely exclusionary. Women weren’t allowed to join the Académie des Beaux-Arts until 1897, and even then they attended separate classes. They also weren’t allowed to sketch nude male models. However, they were allowed to enter competitions and often walked away with the top prizes. Mary Cassatt achieved her first critical acclaim in 1868 when her “Mandolin Player” was accepted for that year’s salon. One critic wrote, “The French were wild over her.” Another said, “Babies, my God! How their portraits have repeatedly horrified me! A whole sequel of English and French daubers painted them in such stupid and pretentious poses! For the first time, I have, thanks to Miss Cassatt, seen the effigies of ravishing youngsters, peaceful and bourgeois scenes painted with a kind of delicate tenderness, all charming.”

African American

artist Henry Ossawa Tanner strove to master the single male nude evidenced in his piece, “Study of a Negro Man.” He eventually won a third-class gold medal and elicited high praise from critics. He was the first African American man to be submitted to the Paris Salon, about which he said, “In Paris no one regards me curiously. I am simply Mr. Tanner, an American artist. Nobody knows



Standing anticipates “Mother and Child” by Mary Cassatt, which captures a tender moment between a mother and her sleepy toddler, will be a big draw for art enthusiasts.

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or cares what was the complexion of my forebears. I live and work there on terms of absolute social equality. Questions of race or color are not considered—a man's professional skill and social qualities are fairly and ungrudgingly recognized."

Upon returning home, many artists were criticized for honing skills that lacked "Americanness." Having earned their place in the Paris Salon, several artists were disappointed to be excluded from New York's National Academy of Design exhibition. So ten of them, eventually dubbed "The Ten" by the media, created their own collection, cohesive in theme and direction, and showcased it on their own. Later, a group called, "The Eight" followed suit asserting that each artist had the right to craft a completely individual approach to his or her stylistic inclinations.

"In this exhibition, visitors will experience the stories of renowned American artists, their challenges, triumphs, and learnings in the region [and how they] contributed to




Henry Ossawa Tanner was the first African American man to submit a painting to the Paris Salon; he achieved international acclaim for "The Young Sabot Maker" in 1895.

the fluorescence of this period's paintings," says DAM Director Christoph Heinrich. "By advancing narratives that reveal the deep cultural links between France and America, DAM's exhibition provides audiences with a

more comprehensive understanding of one of the most complex periods in American art history."

*Whistler to Cassatt* will be presented in the Anschutz and Martin and McCormick

Galleries on level 2 of the Hamilton Building through March 13, 2022. Entry requires a special ticket. For more information visit <https://www.denverartmuseum.org/en/exhibitions/whistler-cassatt>.



# Peace

**Augustana Festival Christmas Concert** | Sunday, December 19 | 7 pm | Choir, Handbells, Organ, Orchestra  
**Longest Night: A Service of Healing and Hope** | Wednesday, December 18 | 6:30 pm  
**Christmas Eve Worship** | Friday, December 24 | 11 am • 3 pm • 5 pm\* • 7:30 pm\*

\*Service will be livestreamed.

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