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Centennial State Adventures

From quirky attractions to breathtaking natural wonders, there's something for everyone in the Centennial State. Check out these nine fun and funky things for every Coloradan to experience this summer.

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The BMW Championship's sole charitable beneficiary is the Chicago-based Evans Scholars Foundation, which provides full tuition and housing college scholarships to high-achieving youth caddies with limited financial means.

By Jon Rizzi

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PHOTO: BY JACOB - STOCK.ADOBE.COM

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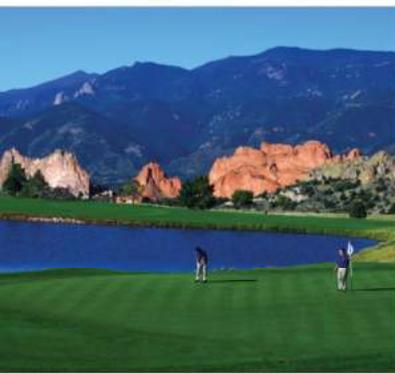
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## TALK OF THE TOWN

**KNOW SOMEONE** who should be featured in AvidLifestyle? Tell me about them at [heather@avidlifestyle.com](mailto:heather@avidlifestyle.com)



## SOAKING UP OUR STATE

**I LOVE COLORADO.** It's not where I was born, but it is truly my "home." And even with more than 14 years here, there is so much I still have yet to see and experience. No matter if you're a Colorado native or just moved here last week, I encourage you to explore our great state like a newbie. There's always something new and wonderful to experience, and you'll get some great ideas in our feature story by writer Lexi Reich. She introduces us to—or reacquaints us with—some quintessential Colorado experiences (Centennial State Adventures, page 36). Did you know there is a UFO watchtower in the southern part of the state?

Next month, the BMW Championship golf tournament comes to Castle Pines. There is, of course, a lot of hype around this fantastic event, but we find the charity aspect particularly interesting. In *A Life-Changing Golf Tournament* (page 42), by Jon Rizzi, we learn about the Evans Scholars program and meet three recent beneficiaries of these important scholarships for caddies—they are truly life-changing for some young adults.

Lone Tree resident Sonya Courtney shares the story of losing her husband when their children were young. A dog turned out to be the saving grace for that family, providing solace and love in their time of need. This year, the mom and her two now-adult children partnered to write a book about their beloved Dodger, and how the pup helped them cope (*Puppy Love*, page 52).

Getting out and about in Colorado's summer heat can be challenging, especially for exercise. *Summer Sizzle* (page 50) offers tips from local pros on how to stay safe while getting your workout on. Looking for a fun indoor activity to beat the heat? Head to LoHi and make your own custom hat at Gem Hats (*Hat Trick*, page 46). This cool new concept is great for girls' nights, birthday parties and more.

Happy Independence Day, and happy reading!

Heather Shoning

AvidLifestyle is a luxury lifestyle magazine serving Denver's south suburbs. And we're excited to add new, experienced writers to our growing list of contributors. Do you have magazine writing experience? Do you know Denver's south suburbs? Can you dig deep for the unique story about the people, places and events that make our community special? If so, we want you! Please email [heather@avidlifestyle.com](mailto:heather@avidlifestyle.com) with basic info about yourself and at least three published clips (links are fine).

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# Curtis Center for the Arts

The center creates a **COMMUNITY SPACE** for art programs for kids and adults alike

*By Kastle Waserman*

*Photography Courtesy of  
The Curtis Center for the Arts*

AS PUBLIC-SCHOOL budget cuts squeeze out arts programs, **The Curtis Center for the Arts**, hosted in a one-hundred-year-old Greenwood Village schoolhouse, continues educating children and adults in various art mediums. “I’ve been here for sixteen years and have watched it grow from only twenty-five students to where we are now with about two thousand students a year,” says assistant cultural arts coordinator Lauren Brant.

The Curtis Center for the Arts was formerly known as the Curtis Center and has a long history in the area. Originally a clapboard, one-room schoolhouse erected in 1901 on land donated for education by a local resident, it was later replaced by a brick structure in 1914, and various add-ons took place. In 1985, it was purchased by the Baptist Church and moved to the southeast corner of Curtis Park, where it stands today.

The Center offers classes for children from ages three to 16. Then, they move on to adult classes. “Our goal is to keep them going,” Brant says. “I have kids that started with us, and now they’re in college, but they’ve continued taking the adult classes, so we see the whole progression.” Youth art classes include





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drawing, painting, sculpture, ceramics and mixed media.

On any given day, kids are bustling inside the Center, exploring different mediums to find what they like and improve their artistic skills. There are also two youth summer art camps with weekly afternoon art classes.

In the mornings, the Curtis Center for the Arts attracts students in the later stages of life, such as retirees who come to find a peaceful, like-minded social gathering and to learn something new or pick up an old hobby. Adult classes are often held in the morning and include drawing, ceramics, printmaking, painting and encaustics (hot wax painting).

"We have classes going from nine a.m. until nine p.m. and on the weekends," Brant says, who added that there more than 20 teachers involved, often former students of the center who come back to share what they know.

The Center also serves as an exhibit space for artists, consisting of many who have taken classes there. "The 'All Colorado Art Show' is going into our 41st year," Brant says. "That is our most popular show since we exhibit original works of art from Colorado artists who have to apply to get in."

Other events include lectures based on the exhibits, which Brant says is usually done by the juror of that exhibit, who explains why they selected the works and the winners.

A recent study released by The Jameel Arts & Health Lab in collaboration with the World Health Organization showed that active and receptive participation in the arts can play an important role in promoting good health and health equity, preventing illness and treating acute and chronic conditions across the lifespan.

For Brant, she feels the Center is an important part of the community to keep art and access to art classes available to everyone. Its aim is to fill the void left in schools.

"It's a way of being creative," she says, "being free to think and to work with your hands." 

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PHOTO: BY SHUTTERSTOCK.COM/PEOPLEIMAGES.COM - YURI A

## Sommer School

School might be out for summer for the kids, but **Noble Riot**, Denver's award-winning wine bar and restaurant, invites the wine curious to enjoy "sommer school" through its oenological residencies. This new program is perfect for those looking to learn the building blocks for becoming a wine professional. The oenological residencies are dedicated to exploring different wine regions, wine grapes and wine styles—eight weeks at a time. With an incentive to provide students with an opportunity to grow and build on each class, passes are available for \$159 and include access to all the classes, from beginner-level 101s to advanced 401s, during the select residency. Of course, you don't have to be a student—you can always just stop in for a glass of wine with friends.

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## Top Notch

Congratulations to Erika Whitaker and Kelly Whitaker for being named "Outstanding Restaurateur" in the recent James Beard Awards. The Whitakers are co-founders of Id Est Hospitality Group (The Wolf's Tailor, BRUTØ, Basta and more). Also, Matt Vawter of Breckenridge-based Rootstalk took the award for "Best Chef" in the mountain category.

## Recently opened at Park Meadows

**Via 313 Pizza** proudly serves genuine Detroit-style square pizza out of several brick-and-mortar locations and two customized pizza trailers. It offers all of the traditional Detroit-style pizza topping combinations as well as gluten and dairy free options. Via 313 was dubbed one of the very best pizzas by Food and Wine Magazine, named, Independent Pizzeria of the Year, by Pizza Today and recognized as one of the Top 10 Pizzas in America, by Food Network.



PHOTO: COURTESY OF TURNBUCKLE DISTILLING

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# Top a Dog

Tasty ways to TOP YOUR GRILLED DOGS THIS SUMMER

By Heather Shoning

Throw a backyard bash with a bushel of hot dogs and a toppings bar. Treat guests to unique options like Mexican street corn dogs, peach-jalapeño salsa dogs or bacon and green chile-wrapped dogs. Add a Colorado twist with Olathe sweet corn, Palisade peaches and Pueblo chiles.

## MEXICAN STREET CORN DOGS

### INGREDIENTS

- 1 tbsp butter
- 2 ears of Olathe sweet corn
- ¼ cup sour cream
- juice of half a lime
- ¼ cup cotija cheese (crumbled)
- cilantro leaves
- seasoned salt

### MAKE IT:

Melt the butter and brush it over the fresh corn. Roast the whole corn ears over an open flame, turning frequently until slightly charred. Cut the corn kernels off of the cob and set them aside.

Whisk together sour cream and lime juice to make the lime crema.

Drizzle the crema over the top of the hot dog. Then top with the charred corn, cotija cheese, cilantro leaves and seasoned salt to taste.

Serve immediately!

## PEACH-JALAPEÑO SALSA DOGS

### INGREDIENTS

- 2 medium yellow Palisade peaches, diced small
- 1 small jalapeño very thinly sliced
- ¼ cup minced red onion
- 2 tbsp finely chopped fresh cilantro leaves
- 2 tbsp fresh lime juice
- Pinch of kosher salt

### MAKE IT:

Combine all the ingredients for the salsa in a medium mixing bowl.

Cover the bowl with plastic wrap and refrigerate until ready to top your dogs.

## BACON & GREEN CHILE-WRAPPED DOGS

### MAKE IT:

Roast and peel 4 Pueblo chiles, slice into thirds

Wrap uncooked hot dogs lengthwise with one slice of chile

Wrap one slice of bacon around hot dog from one end to the other

Grill until bacon is crispy

Top these tasty dogs with shredded Monterey Jack cheese, pico de gallo or other toppings of your choice.



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# pick your pie

PIZZA JOINTS ARE OFFERING a variety of ways to enjoy your favorite slice

By Jay McKinney

PHOTO: COURTESY OF BEAU JO'S

**POLITICS AND PIZZA:** possibly the two most-heated topics. Toss aside politics for a more savory debate. To add pineapple or not to add pineapple, New York style versus Chicago style, white sauce or red sauce? Pizza as it is known today can be traced to 18<sup>th</sup> century Naples, Italy. It was a common meal among the lower class, but it wasn't until Italian immigrants brought it to the U.S. that it made a name for itself in the culinary world. Today, there's no shortage of great restaurants with distinctive approaches to the ultimate pie.

**Beau Jo's** is the OG of Colorado-style pizza—Colorado Mountain Pie, as they call it—and the company is locally famous for its extra thick crust with a generous portion of toppings. In fact, pizzas here are ordered in pounds, not the traditional small, medium or large. The

restaurant has seven locations in Colorado and has grown a loyal following of customers who embrace the signature style.

"Our pizza is one of a kind. The mountain pie is a hand rolled edge surrounding a mountain full of toppings," says vice president of marketing, Codi Bair. "We started in a small storefront in Idaho Springs and slowly grew from there. We want everyone to be able to enjoy our pizza, so we were one of the first to offer gluten-free and dairy-free options."

The Lone Tree location is the most recent to open and it is approaching its two-year anniversary this summer and it's a modern twist: Beau Jo's 2go. This smaller restaurant makes fresh mountain pies but caters to the take-out and delivery crowd, although they do

have a small dining room, and you order from the counter. After years of treating Beau Jo's as an I-70 pitstop on skiing trips, residents in the south Denver metro area can now frequent the restaurant as often as they like.

When it comes to quick and easy drive-through meals, pizza isn't the first food that comes to mind. **Slices** located in South Denver aims to change that. It's a drive-through pizzeria that serves delicious slices and whole pies for unbeatable prices. Whether stopping by for a quick lunch or picking up dinner for movie night, it's hard to beat the convenience of Slices.

**Walter's 303 Pizzeria and Publik House** was founded in 2010 and got its name from a funny misunderstanding. When founder Mike Kienast was starting out, his now-wife

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Jen repeatedly suggested that he call his restaurant Walter's. When he finally asked her why, she replied, "because it's your middle name." Kienast then had to break it to her that his middle name is actually Wayne. Despite the mix-up, the name stuck, and the restaurant now has four locations including Bow Mar in Littleton. Serving craft beer and mouthwatering pizza, the restaurant lives up to its "always funky, never dull" tagline.

For those longing for the flavor of New York pizza, **Parry's Pizzeria and Taphouse** brings the city's style to the west. The franchise has gained a loyal following in Texas, Nevada, Arizona and Colorado with multiple locations within the south metro area. Stop by the Parker, Centennial or Greenwood Village Parry's to get a slice of New York. The only downside is you can't take the subway to get there. 

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# Culinary Style

**BACKYARD COOKING** never looked so good

*By Heather Shoning*

*Photography Courtesy of Gozney*



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# Trop Stylé

FRENCH PROVINCIAL STYLE reigns supreme in this Lake Avery–area designer home

By Heather Shoning

Photography by Western Exposures

**WHEN SELF-DESCRIBED** Francophile **Jacqueline Chavanu Gilbert** set about designing a home for herself and her husband, she leaned into her niche to build a French provincial country home in the Denver metro. Living and working in Colorado since 2009, Chavanu Gilbert has worked primarily with builder Brian Krueger of **Built By Krueger**, who built this home. She also enlisted the help of architect and landscape architect Stephanie Ridgway, owner of **303 Architecture**, to turn her design dreams into solid plans. “She understood our vision about what French architecture entails,” Chavanu Gilbert says. “She knew how to assemble the building blocks to create an authentic French country home.”

Ridgway says it all started with careful indoor and outdoor integration while maintaining symmetry and balance. She incorporated elements such as tall, narrow windows; shutters; stucco and stone; and dark, steep pitched roofs. “Then we had fun with some of the detailing such as stone arches and traditional gutters with the collector boxes,” Ridgway says, “plus the beautiful arched iron entry doors and iron metalwork as you come through the gate.”

But the French details don’t stop at the front door. Much like a French brocante, there are carefully compiled treasures in every space. A style that could easily go awry—feeling cluttered rather than curated—is perfectly balanced with a blend of period furnishings, layered patterns, soft colors and loads of texture in this home. “I aimed to capture the essence of sustainability, incorporating time-worn elements that exude a patinated beauty and defy fleeting design trends,” Chavanu Gilbert says. “There is beauty in imperfection.”

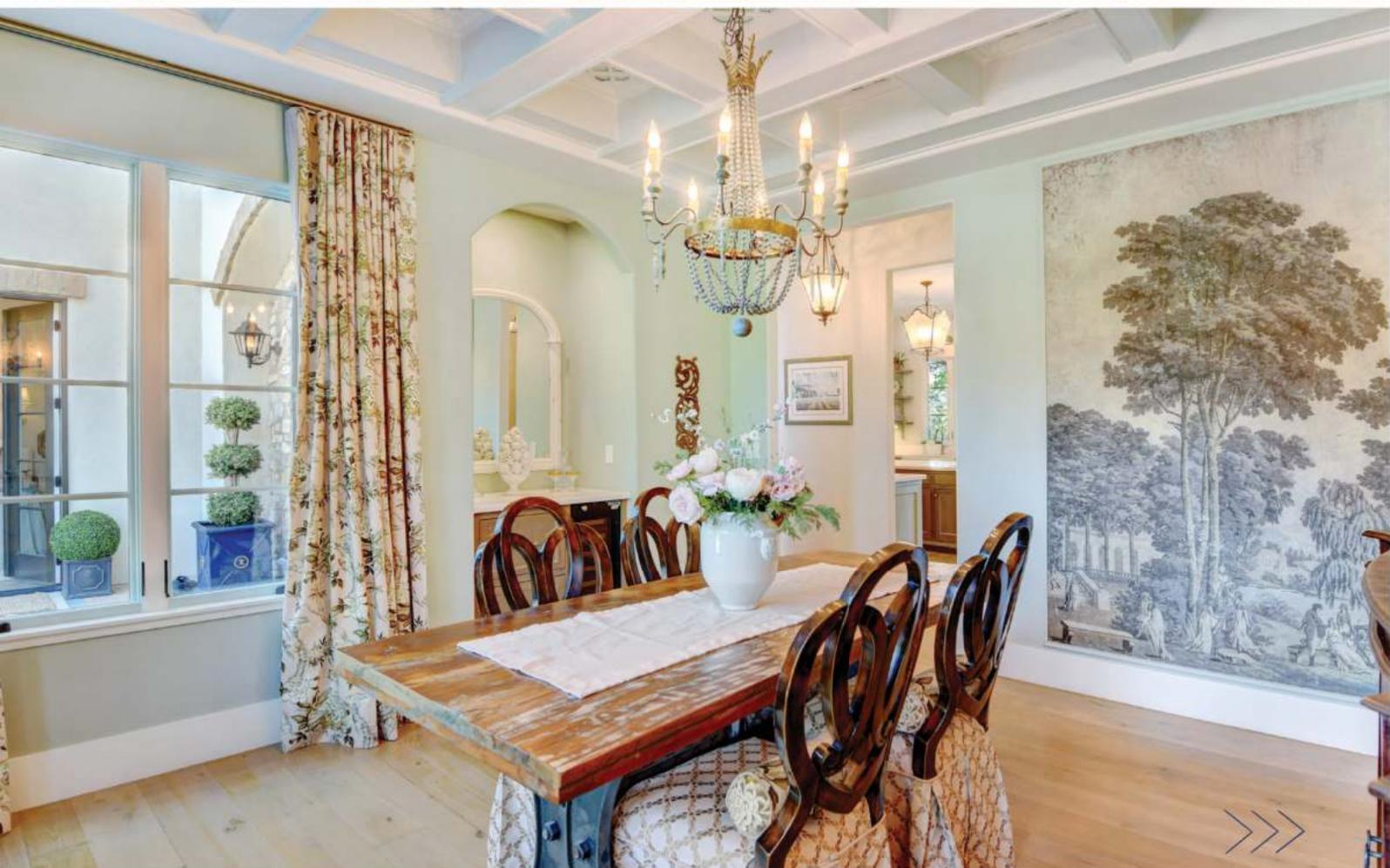
Typical of a French-style home, you’re ushered into a small-scale space when you enter. “The concept is that you don’t see the entire home at once,” Ridgway says. “It’s not until you go down the hall and take a turn that you come into this open concept great hall.” This area, where the family would spend most of its time, consists of the kitchen, dining room and family areas, which have ample connection to the backyard. The kitchen was a special space for Chavanu Gilbert to design. A longtime love affair with Lacanche Range company from Burgundy, France, was finally consummated here in striking royal blue. Special touches in this space include the stonework that gives it

a country home feel and the fireback Chavanu Gilbert found from a dealer in Amsterdam. Once placed in the back of a fireplace to protect the wall and reflect heat, this one features the House of Bourbon seal and is dated 1737.

Other “found” items appear throughout the house, nods to Chavanu Gilbert’s curating prowess. The dining room ceiling boasts patterned plaster ceiling molds, which she stumbled upon and later discovered had been made in Denver. Although she never uncovered the manufacturer information, she knew they were the perfect inserts for a coffered ceiling. No stranger to DIY projects, she cleaned and painted them, then hired a carpenter to retrofit them into the ceiling.

Ridgway says the homeowners came to her with solid ideas about the way they wanted the home to live, and one request was to have a sizeable primary suite that could act almost as a standalone apartment, something she says she hasn’t before designed. “In most modern situations, we go for a really big primary bedroom and then a really large bathroom and maybe a closet or two,” she says. “The concept here was a private suite that you







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enter through a beautiful arched hallway with beautiful handpainted art murals on the side and cove lighting.”

The bedroom is small compared to Ridgway’s aforementioned modern situation—it’s a sleeping room with a fireplace and reading chair with French doors that open to a Juliet balcony. The primary bathroom is another area where Chavanu Gilbert expressed her DIY creativity. She had an antique tile design she’d taken a photo of printed onto standard 6-inch tiles for the feature wall tile in the shower. This creative venture is something she plans to employ in future projects using tile, fabrics and more.

The surprising element of the primary suite is the lounge space. Chavanu Gilbert found a pair of handpainted watercolor koi artworks in a thrift store in Ridgway, Colorado, and she used them as a jumping-off point for the color palette of the room, including the dark charcoal walls that create a cozy space for an escape at the end of the day. It connects to a large upper balcony overlooking the backyard and pool area. Another example of Chavanu Gilbert’s penchant for sustainability and re-using design elements is evident in the basement wine room. When the Olive Garden in Boulder went out of business, it held an auction, and Chavanu Gilbert and her husband procured windows. “I wanted a sense of looking into a space to see the wine,” she says



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of yet another DIY project. The handy couple took their talents outdoors, too. In fact, Chavanu Gilbert's husband dug the pool himself, and they both embarked on the landscaping, creating planter beds and even planting grape vines. "Given the backyard's size, we aimed to minimize watering by incorporating planting beds and even a miniature vineyard to reduce the open grassy area," she says. "We preserved the natural habitat along the property's perimeter by the lake, offering an organic backdrop to the reflecting pool's formal elements." You can't get more French provincial than that.



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# CENTENNIAL STATE ADVENTURES

9 FUN(KY) COLORADO Things to Do This Summer

By Lexi Reich

PHOTO BY SEAN MCBRIDE - LEADVILLE RAILROAD





PHOTO BY HARRY WALTERS, MARKETING COORDINATOR & PHOTOGRAPHER FOR LITTLE MAN ICE CREAM

**SUMMER IN COLORADO** is a season of endless adventure, filled with activities that capture the state's vibrant spirit. From quirky attractions to breathtaking natural wonders, there's something for everyone. Here are nine fun and funky things for every Coloradan to experience this summer.

**1. GRAB A SCOOP AT LITTLE MAN ICE CREAM'S NEW GREENWOOD VILLAGE LOCATION**

Little Man Ice Cream, a Denver favorite known for its inventive flavors and iconic milk can-shaped building, has opened a new location in Greenwood Village. Beyond serving up delightful scoops (salted Oreo is a must), Little Man Ice Cream is dedicated to giving back through its Scoop for Scoop program. Launched in 2008, the company started with donating a scoop of rice, beans or other essentials to communities in need around the world. As they grew, the program adapted to focus more locally while maintaining global ties. Now, a portion of each scoop funds organizations supporting education, child welfare, hunger relief, agriculture and sustainability. Some examples include international initiatives such as Far

Away Friends in Uganda, as well as local organizations like Childhelp Colorado, dedicated to ending child abuse and neglect, and Dry Bones, and organization that serves houseless youth and young adults.

**2. ATTEND A ROCKIES GAME AT COORS FIELD**

At Coors Field, the ballpark atmosphere, combined with stunning views of the Rocky Mountains, creates a perfect setting for a fun outing with friends or family. Grab a hot dog, cheer on the Colorado Rockies and soak in the quintessential American pastime. As a Rockies representative shares, "There's no better place in Denver than Coors Field to enjoy a summer night with your friends or family." Plus, this season the team held a highly recognized winning streak against some of the MLB's best teams, so fandom and hype are at a high.

**3. EXPLORE PALISADE WINE COUNTRY**

Nestled in the heart of Colorado's Western Slope, Palisade is renowned for its beautiful vineyards and award-winning wines. This summer, don't miss the Sunday farmers market in downtown Palisade, recently listed in USA Today's Top 10 Best Farmers Markets.

Local vendors offer fresh produce and unique artisan products like clothing, purses, lotions, soaps, gifts, jewelry and flowers. Grab a bite from rotating food trucks or new restaurant parklets. Local musicians perform weekly, setting the vibe at the Town Plaza or while you shop. "The community really comes together to create this event," says Seraphina Hunter, Palisade farmers market coordinator. "It is a great place to spend a Sunday morning where you can find one-of-a-kind gifts, enjoy the local fare and sample local wines, if that's your thing." Additionally, local winery Sauvage Spectrum's new Bubbles Brunch, which launched in May, promises a high-energy experience with guest DJs and rotating food purveyors, adding a vibrant twist to the traditional wine-tasting experience.

**4. SEE A SHOW AT RED ROCKS AMPHITHEATRE**

Red Rocks Amphitheatre, located in Morrison, is a world-famous concert venue that offers an unparalleled experience. Carved into the natural rock formations, the venue provides stunning acoustics and views of the surrounding landscape. Whether you're catching a rock concert or a movie night



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PHOTO COURTESY OF COLORADO ROCKIES



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*This lifestyle community* also features tennis, trails, pools, and year-round neighborhood events. On-site, staffed security gate and emergency services. It is surrounded by vast open spaces, wildlife, and spectacular mountain views.

The Village at Castle Pines is home to The Country Club at Castle Pines.

It is also home to the Castle Pines Golf Club, the host of the  
**2024 BMW Championship.**

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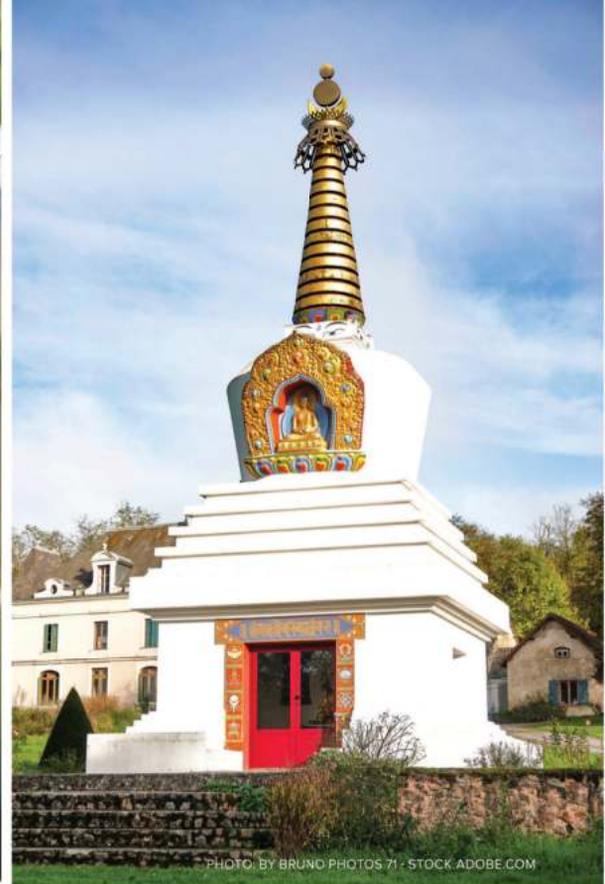


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PHOTO: COURTESY OF GLENWOOD HOT SPRINGS RESORT

under the stars, Red Rocks is a must-visit destination. This year's headliners include Mt. Joy, Dierks Bentley, Gregory Alan Isakov, Imagine Dragons and more. Summer movie showings include "Shrek," "The Wizard of Oz," "Ferris Bueller's Day Off" and more. For the fitness enthusiasts, there's also a Yoga on the Rocks series with multiple sessions throughout the season.

#### 5. VISIT THE UFO WATCHTOWER IN THE SAN LUIS VALLEY

For an out-of-this-world experience, head to the UFO Watchtower in Hooper. This quirky attraction has become a hotspot for UFO enthusiasts and curious travelers alike. Since its inception in 2000, there have been more than 300 documented UFO sightings, according to owner Judy Messoline. Don't forget to learn about Snippy the Horse, whose death raised suspicion of an alien attack in 1967, which adds an extra layer of intrigue to this already mysterious location. Plus, nearby is Great Sand Dunes National Park, recognized as an International Dark Sky Park due to its exceptional conditions for stargazing, offers a prime vantage point for observing the night sky and possibly spotting a UFO.

#### 6. CATCH A MOVIE AT A DRIVE-IN THEATER

The 88 Drive-In Theatre in Commerce City reopened in May, offering a nostalgic throwback to the golden age of drive-ins. Watching a movie under the stars from the comfort of your car is a unique experience

that's perfect for a summer evening. If you're further afield, consider the Star Drive-In Theatre in Montrose, which recently celebrated its 75<sup>th</sup> season and is the oldest drive-in in the state still owned by its founding family. Recognized as a historic site by the county in 2021, the theater continues to uphold nostalgic traditions, such as hosting a "Back to the '60s Night," where awards are presented for categories like most impressive vintage automobile and best pin-up model.

#### 7. RELAX AT THE NEW YAMPAH MINERAL BATHS AT GLENWOOD HOT SPRINGS RESORT

Glenwood Hot Springs Resort, already a popular destination for its rejuvenating hot springs, has unveiled its new Yampah Mineral Baths. These mineral-rich baths offer therapeutic benefits, helping visitors unwind and revitalize. It's an ideal way to relax after a day of exploring the Rockies. "It's also fun to see the actual Yampah Source Spring that supplies our pools with geothermal waters and fill a water bottle at the drinking spring," says Kevin Flohr, president and CEO of Glenwood Hot Springs Resort.

#### 8. VISIT THE GREAT STUPA OF DHARMAKAYA AT DRALA MOUNTAIN CENTER

Located an hour from Fort Collins at Red Feather Lakes, The Great Stupa of Dharmakaya is one of the most significant examples of sacred Buddhist architecture in North America. This serene and spiritually enriching site offers visitors a chance to

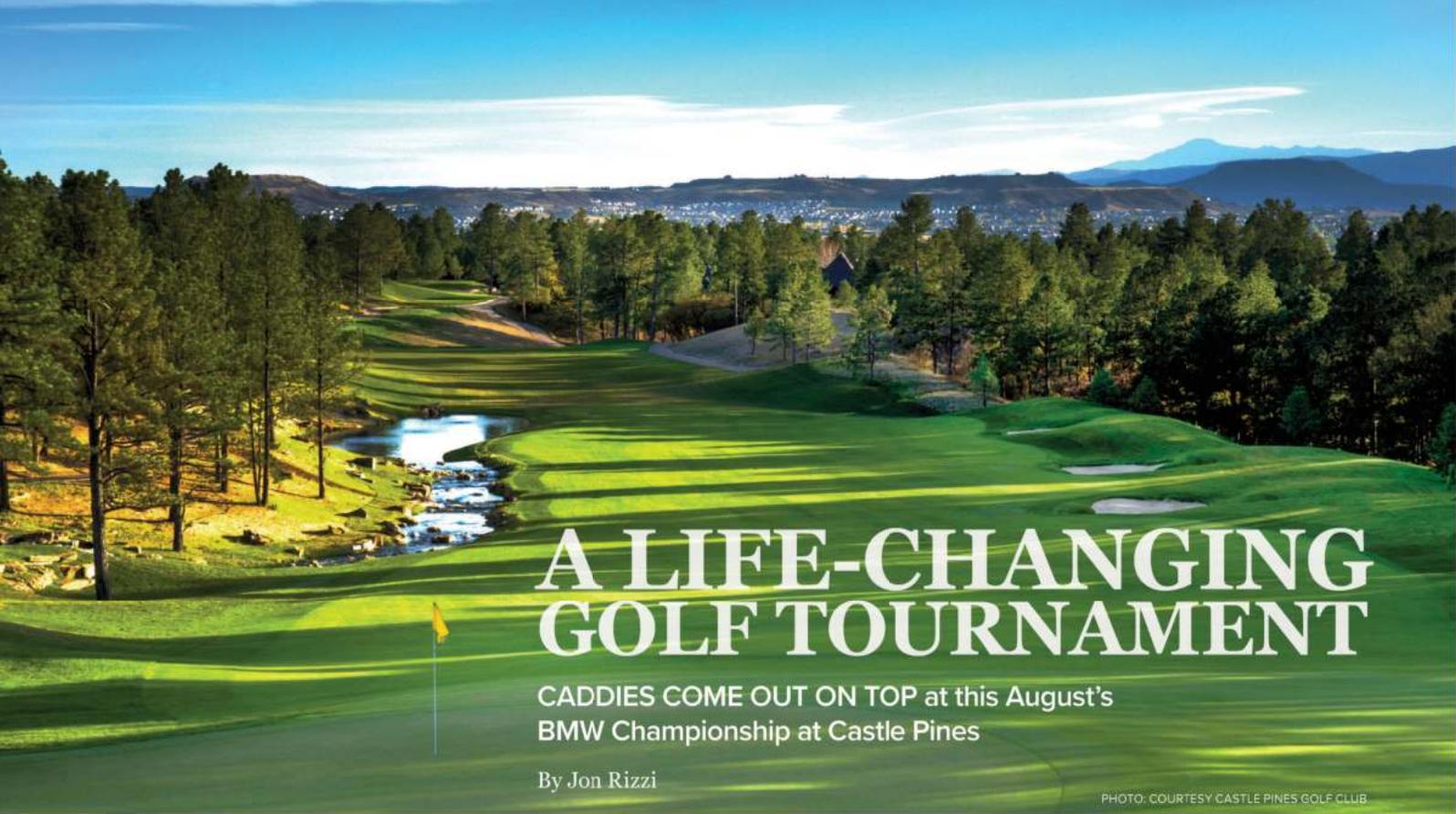
connect with Buddhist teachings and enjoy the peaceful surroundings of Drala Mountain Center. It's a unique cultural experience that provides a tranquil escape from the hustle and bustle of daily life. Expect a short walk over small bridges and past prayer flags, and make sure to remove your shoes before entering the Stupa.

#### 9. RIDE THE SCENIC LEADVILLE RAILROAD

Take a scenic journey through the San Isabel National Forest on the Leadville Railroad. Starting in the historic town of Leadville, the highest incorporated city in North America, this train ride reaches almost 11,000 feet, showcasing the stunning beauty of Colorado's tallest peaks and evergreen forests. According to Claire Berger, sales and marketing assistant, "The Leadville Railroad is the perfect place to connect with the whole family—including the dog!—on a relaxing scenic journey through the San Isabel National Forest." Tickets start at \$30, dogs ride free.

With so many unique and exciting activities to choose from, Colorado offers endless possibilities for summer fun. So, gather your friends and family and get ready to explore the fun and funky side of Colorado!





# A LIFE-CHANGING GOLF TOURNAMENT

CADDIES COME OUT ON TOP at this August's BMW Championship at Castle Pines

By Jon Rizzi

PHOTO: COURTESY CASTLE PINES GOLF CLUB



PHOTO: BY CHARLES CHERNEY



PHOTO: COURTESY OF GEORGIA MEYSMAN-SHARPE

LEFT TO RIGHT: GEORGE SOLICH, DUFFY SOLICH AND GEORGIA MEYSMAN-SHARPE

WHEN THE PGA TOUR'S top 50 golfers descend on Castle Pines Golf Club for this August's BMW Championship, it will no doubt stir memories of The International—the pioneering tournament that for 21 glorious weekends between 1986 and 2006 transformed the exclusive club into the epicenter of the golf universe.

"The community is really going to miss this tournament," club founder and chairman Jack A. Vickers understated when The International's run—and its \$20 million annual impact on the Denver metro economy—ended. Little did he know 18 years would pass before another professional golf championship would return to his club.

This time the impact will be even greater. One might even describe it as life changing.

That's because the BMW Championship's sole charitable beneficiary is the Chicago-based Evans Scholars Foundation, which provides full tuition and housing college scholarships to high-achieving youth caddies with limited financial means.

This fall alone, 340 caddies from around the nation—including 11 Coloradans—will enter college on a full-ride scholarship (valued at more than \$125,000 for four years) at the University of Colorado or one of 23 other participating universities. Roughly 40 percent of the recipients are the first in their families to attend college.

Established in 1930 by the amateur champion Charles "Chick" Evans and administered by the Western Golf Association (WGA), the Evans Scholarship has produced 12,340

alumni and counts 1,130 students currently enrolled. Qualifying recipients must meet requirements in academics, caddying, character, leadership and financial need. Funding comes from more than 38,000 private individuals and proceeds from the BMW Championship—the corporate-sponsored version of the WGA's 125-year-old Western Open.

Since becoming the BMW Championship in 2007, the tournament has contributed \$50 million to the Evans Scholars Foundation, helping more than 3,300 caddies during that time.

CU boasts 57 current Evans Scholars and 548 alumni. Two of those alums, energy-industry magnates George and Geoff "Duffy" Solich—brothers from Colorado Springs who caddied at The Broadmoor Golf Club—co-founded the



Solich Caddie & Leadership Academy in 2012 at CommonGround Golf Course in Aurora. To date, the innovative program, which combines life and caddie skills, has expanded to clubs across the state and produced 45 Evans Scholars.

Ten years ago, at Cherry Hills, George Solich chaired the first-ever BMW Championship in Colorado, raising \$3.5 million for the Evans Scholarship. Becoming chairman and president of Castle Pines Golf Club after Jack Vickers' death in 2018, George Solich helped attract the 2024 tournament, with Duffy Solich as the event's chairman.

"We've packed the calendar with events at Castle Pines," Duffy Solich says. Those include performances by country music artists Luke Bryant and Jordan Davis, a tribute to The International featuring past champions, and

special appearances by, among others, ceremonial chairman Jack Nicklaus.

The championship, Duffy Solich promises, will also provide "touchpoints with the Scholars"—the "high-dollar" Evans Scholars Invitational on August 17 features Scholar caddies, and a Scholar will loop for every pro in the Gardner Heidrick Pro-Am on August 21.

In addition to eliminating the financial burden on her immigrant parents, current Scholar Ellie Rodriguez says pursuing a scholarship through caddying taught her the value of networking. An integrated physiology and dance major, the aspiring physical therapist happened to caddie for Gil Boggs, the artistic director of the Colorado Ballet. One loop led to another—and to a shadowing

arrangement with the ballet company's physical therapist.

Evans Scholar Jovaun Salcido—a Solich Academy alumnus who caddied at Meridian and Castle Pines golf clubs—wants to carry for fellow Valor Christian graduate and 2023 U.S. Open champion Wyndham Clark in the Pro-Am. Salcido, a finance and commercial real estate major at CU's Leeds School of Business, is the son of single mom and brother to an autistic sister. As his family's first collegian, he says, "This opportunity is greater than me—I'll be changing the future generations of my family."

His classmate at the Evans Scholars House, Georgia Meysman-Sharpe, echoes similar sentiments. "I probably wouldn't be in college

if it wasn't for the scholarship," the ecology and evolutionary biology major admits. "And knowing that so many people contributed to my academic journey motivates me to go out and do something in the world."

The BMW Championship is clearly about more than golf, and the Soliches know it.

"I'm completely honored to be the chairman," Duffy Solich says, calling the beneficiaries-to-benefactors story of him and his kid brother, "like a fairytale."

"The scholarship has been the most impactful thing in my life," George Solich says. "It's meant everything, and there's no doubt that I

want to keep doing the things I need to do to provide this opportunity for more kids that need it."

The BMW Championship takes place August 19-25, with the competitive rounds beginning August 22. For information and tickets, visit [bmwchampionship.com](http://bmwchampionship.com).



GEORGIA MEYSMAN-SHARPE (LEFT) AND ELLIE RODRIGUEZ (RIGHT)

PHOTO: COURTESY OF GEORGIA MEYSMAN-SHARPE

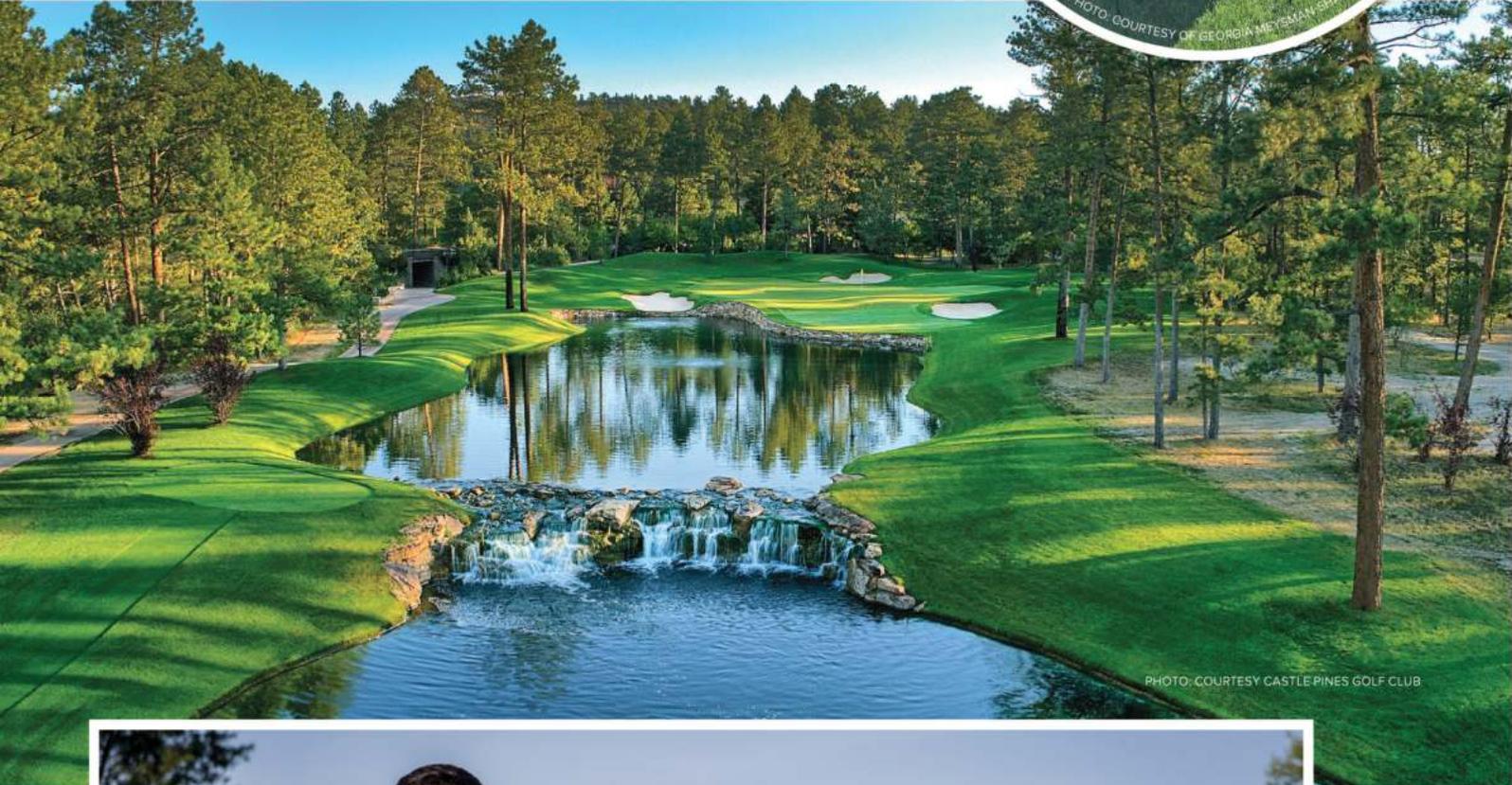


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# HAT TRICK



TAKE A CREATIVE EXCURSION to LoHi and build a one-of-a-kind custom hat

By Jamie Lynn Miller

Photography By Tatiana Alexandra

THROUGH THE ALLEYWAY and up the back stairs, a welcoming patio overlooks 32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue. Inside the side door, **Gem Hats** awaits. “Time to make you a hat person!” blinks a bright pink sign in the foyer, and hats in many colors form an arch across the front wall.

Owner Caroline Hafele has created a choose-your-own millinery adventure. It’s about personalizing the experience, says Hafele, and at a good price point. At Gem Hats, the all-inclusive \$225 buys the hat of your choice plus various and sundry accoutrements. Clients

pick a carefully crafted wool, suede or straw hat, enjoy a fitting session, and then decorate their new chapeau with umpteen points of flair: feathers, etchings, and upcycled fabric and scraps taken from saris, belts and old gems. “There’s so much fabric in the world. So much beauty,” Hafele says with a smile. “When you see a cool belt doubling as a hatband, you know it’s one-of-a-kind. You won’t ever see it on another hat.”

Originally from Louisville, Kentucky, Hafele recalls her early fascination with hats. “It was

always about the Derby and bonnets,” she says. “Looking back, my sisters and I were always wearing hats. And I was always trying to find ways to repurpose clothes. My sister would say, ‘Is that my old shirt on your hat?’”

An avid traveler, Hafele lived around the world, from Jordan to Spain to Mexico City, where she worked for a fashion startup. “There’s a big hat culture in Mexico,” she says. For her Panama straws, she works with a Mexican family from the Yucatan that she met along her way. “They have generational



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family caves," she explains, a sort of hat-making workshop in a town known for the milliner trade. "There's a hat statue in the center of town," she says.

In the summer of 2020, Hafele moved to Denver. Hat-making became a hobby, she recalls. Three years later, Gem Hats was born.

From upcycled sari scraps to ornate furnishings in the foyer, hints of her travels are everywhere. "I furnished my first apartment ever in Mexico City and had to bring some

of those pieces with me," she says.

The shop hosts all sorts of occasions, from individual fashionistas and birthday parties to bridal and corporate events. "It's fun to do a bridal party," Hafele says. "The bride might bring a piece of her mom's wedding gown or a gem from her grandma. We incorporate that onto her hat." Men join in too, she says, upcycling ties or pieces of suspenders.

Her favorite, however, are corporate events. Out of office begets out of the box, something

she loves to facilitate. "People get to see their co-workers' style," says Hafele, which can differ from the workplace setting. "It's a different side of their personality."

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FOR MORE INFO & TICKETS: [coloradoavidgolfer.com/events/wheels-of-dreams-2024](https://coloradoavidgolfer.com/events/wheels-of-dreams-2024)

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To date, the Wheels of Dreams Charity Experience has raised more than \$238,000 for Bags of Fun! Thank you!

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# summer sizzle

STAY SAFE WHILE EXERCISING in Colorado's heat

By Lexi Reich

PHOTO: BY JOSH RESNICK/ADOBE STOCK.COM

**EXERCISING DURING** the summer can be challenging anywhere, but Colorado's high altitudes add an extra layer of difficulty. From timing your workouts to monitoring hydration, experts advise making several adjustments to ensure safety and effectiveness when you workout outdoors in the heat.

"Extreme heat can cause various conditions, ranging from simple dehydration to more serious issues like heat exhaustion or even heat stroke," warns Dr. Nate Williams, chiropractor and co-owner of **Performance Sports Medical Center** in Greenwood Village. He says it's crucial to watch for signs such as a rapid heartbeat, difficulty breathing, excessive sweating, dizziness, fainting, nausea, vomiting, muscle cramps, confusion, delirium or unconsciousness.

#### TIMING IS EVERYTHING

One key strategy to avoid the heat is to schedule your workouts wisely. "During the summer months, it's best to exercise early in the morning or later in the evening when temperatures are lower," Williams recommends. This can help you avoid the day's peak heat and reduce the risk of overheating.

#### ACCLIMATIZATION AND PREPARATION

"We have a lot of people who come to Colorado in the summer to visit, and even relatively simple things for locals like walking the stairs at Red Rocks can be exhausting to many who haven't allowed their bodies time to acclimate to the elevation change that occurs when traveling to the Mile High City," Williams says.

Lea Klein, physical therapist and owner of **Klein Physical Therapy** in south Denver, also emphasizes the importance

of acclimatization. "Before exercising in hot weather and at high altitude, ensure you've been preparing in the prior weeks by gradually training in the heat," she advises. This helps your body adjust to the increased demands placed on it by the temperature and altitude.

#### HYDRATION IS KEY

Proper hydration is crucial when exercising in the heat. "Hydrating is one of the biggest precautions because of the increase in blood volume and the amount of fluid lost through sweating," Klein explains.

"Being properly hydrated in the twenty-four hours prior to activity is very important," she adds. "Make sure you have plenty of water and even bring an electrolyte drink to replenish depletion during the activity."

#### ADJUSTING INTENSITY AND DURATION

It's also important to adjust workout intensity and duration based on the heat. "When you are in the heat and high altitude, your heart rate will be higher with less effort," Klein explains.

Klein recommends determining your heart rate max prior to the activity and aim for 71 to 83 percent during most of the workout, with short periods at 84 to 91 percent.

#### LISTEN TO YOUR BODY

Williams emphasizes the importance of self-awareness. "I think the most important thing is just recognizing your fitness level and listening to your body," he says. "Sometimes people think they shouldn't take a break, or they will mess up their workout, but that couldn't be further from the truth. Your body will give you signs and warnings when it is in

need of a rest, or in need of more hydration, and those warnings should be heeded."

#### ADDITIONAL TIPS FOR SAFE SUMMER WORKOUTS

- Wear breathable clothing: This helps with sweat evaporation.
- Use sunscreen: Protect your skin from harmful UV rays.
- Wear a hat and sunglasses: These provide additional protection from the sun.
- Consider indoor workouts: During peak heat times, indoor workouts might be a safer option. "If it's mid-day in the hot parts of July and August, working out indoors can sometimes be the better choice," Williams says.

By following these expert tips and paying attention to your body's signals, you can safely enjoy exercising in Colorado's summer heat. Stay hydrated, watch for warning signs and adjust your workout as needed to stay safe and healthy. 

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If your family or your children need help dealing with the loss of a loved one, contact Judi's House at 720.941.033 or visit [judishouse.org](http://judishouse.org) for more information.

## SONYA COURTNEY publishes book on how a puppy carried her family through grief

By Kristin West

Photography Courtesy of Sonya Courtney

**SONYA AND SHAWN COURTNEY** and their two young children, Reed and Rachel, were enjoying life as a typical busy family in 2005 when Shawn caught a mild virus. Instead of recovering, Shawn felt increasingly tired. He dismissed it as normal fatigue due to their busy lifestyle, but then one morning Shawn didn't wake up. Doctors believed the virus settled in his heart, causing heart failure.

Grief hit Sonya and her children, ages four and six, each differently as they struggled to process their devastating loss. Family, friends and neighbors rallied around them in support, and the family sought out counseling. But the loss still left a void that they couldn't quite name.

"My husband was so happy; he made everything fun," Sonya says. "If we did the dishes, he'd crank up the music and he just wanted us to have fun because that was his personality." The family's therapist suggested they bring something into their lives that would initiate that joy again.

Sonya decided to get a puppy. "I wanted to give my kids permission to feel happiness," she says. "I know that's what Shawn would have wanted."

Dodger, a mild-mannered golden retriever, not only gave the family a reason to laugh and feel joy, but he also sensed when they simply needed a loving presence. "Dodger would give me the greatest gift of just being there and allowing me to grieve and cry without judgement," Rachel says.

Reed, who admits that he hid his grief from others, says the family dog gave him an outlet. "I would bottle things up, which would lead to waves of uncontrollable sadness and feeling like I did something wrong to make this happen," he says. "I felt like my friends wouldn't understand or want to talk about something serious. With Dodger, I knew no matter what I told him, he would love me and be judgment free."

Watching Dodger gently guide her family through the grief inspired Sonya to write a children's book to help other families. "A Best Friend to Love: A story of how a puppy helped a family heal after a terrible loss" is written from the dog's perspective and focuses on supporting common emotions that children feel when dealing with loss. "There were a lot of grief books about what happened, where did that person go, or a lot of religious books," Sonya says. "I wanted this book to be something

that talked about the kids' feelings instead."

Sonya plans to publish a workbook to accompany the story later this summer, which will provide caretakers with additional questions and tools. The writing process brought the Courtney family a new level of healing, even after so many years had passed.

"It brought a lot of feelings to the surface again," Reed says. "It was healthy for us, as a family, to take a deep dive into how we felt and realize how far we've come. It makes me tear up just thinking about how strong my mom is. I think this book helped her to realize her own strength as well."

Sonya says the book's intention is not to suggest that every grieving family get a dog, and they can find similar comfort in a stuffed animal or another person or pet with whom they feel comfortable. "For us, it was Dodger," Sonya says. "When we looked into his eyes, we felt better. Relaxed, loved. To have this thing you can love and pour your sadness and emotions into, it's so healing."

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# Cowboy Up!

We know it's not your first rodeo, but **CHEYENNE FRONTIER DAYS** could be your next one

*By Jon Rizzi*

*Photography Courtesy of  
Cheyenne Frontier Days*







**TO QUOTE ONE OF** George Strait's countless No. 1 country hits, you "can still make it to Cheyenne." And two hours in the car will get you there from Denver.

The 128<sup>th</sup> edition of Cheyenne Frontier Days (CFD) takes place July 19–28. Each of those 10 days bursts with colorful pageantry, a vibrant midway, Native dancers, eclectic concerts and, of course, a historic rodeo known as "the Daddy of 'Em All."

Every CFD has a theme. This year's is "The Year of the Cowgirl," which pays tribute to "the resilience and fortitude of Western women throughout our history," general chairman John Contos explains. "We follow in their footsteps. They worked alongside the men and were very independent. They were, in lot of ways, the backbone of frontier society."

Keeping with the theme, check out "How 'bout Them Cowgirls," a 12-foot-tall bronze rendering of woman rodeo rider, which now stands near an existing statue honoring the late rodeo champion and musician Chris LeDoux. Then head to the memorabilia-packed Cheyenne Frontier Days Old West Museum to learn about Kristie Peterson, Lorena Trickey and the more than two dozen other women enshrined alongside the likes of LeDoux and Lane Frost in the Cheyenne Frontier Days Hall of Fame. You'll also see and banners sporting

the faces of every Miss Frontier since 1931—and the white buckskin outfits most of them wore.

It's worth getting to the arena one morning to take the free Behind the Chutes tour, which introduces you to some of the animal athletes—and lets you see how they are treated. Afterwards, spend an afternoon appreciating them as men and women compete in multiple events in the world's largest outdoor rodeo arena, working towards Championship Sunday, when finalists in every category vie for the golden buckle.

For hard-core rodeo excitement, try to get a ticket to either the Monday or Tuesday night edition of Last Cowboy Standing. Over the course of five rounds, members of the elite Professional Bull Riders compete in a gladiatorial survive-and-advance format. On other nights, a couple of tractors drag in a giant stage and turn the arena into a concert venue. While famous for spotlighting country stars like Strait, LeDoux, Charlie Daniels and Johnny Cash, CFD has also attracted rock bands such as Aerosmith, Journey, Kiss and ZZ Top. This year not only will Jason Aldean, Lainey Wilson and Thomas Rhett headline, but so will Jelly Roll, Machine Gun Kelly, T-Pain and Ludacris.

"Diversity," Contos says when asked about the lineup, sharing that CFD has 10 days to make

a year's worth of revenue. "You've got to move and shake with what the spectators expect, what the athletes and vendors want, and what the community will support."

Increased spectator demand for enhanced VIP experiences has recently resulted in Tunes on the Terrace—roped off areas for eight people with chairs and table service during Frontier Nights concerts—as well as the Party Zone Upgrade, which gets early-admission, up-close, standing-room-only access to the stage. The 3,600-square-foot rooftop deck atop the new events center provides up to 64 people with adult-beverage service and unprecedented views into the rodeo or concert—as well as feeds from the action on multiple HDTVs.

These options represent the latest change in an event that has evolved dramatically since 1897, and the operation still runs as smoothly as the horse-drawn carriages, wagons, marching bands and floats that parade from the State Capitol to the Frontier Park every other morning.

While finding a hotel room during Frontier Days once was dang-near impossible, a range of Marriotts, Hiltons, Wyndham and Microtel franchises have recently sprouted, and the Chamber of Commerce website, regularly updates the number of rooms available. More refined accommodations await downtown,



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two miles south of Frontier Park, at the stately Nagle Warren Mansion B&B, an authentically appointed 12-bedroom Victorian home constructed in 1888 and now run by Scotsman Jas Barbé, a two-star Michelin chef who serves an over-the-top breakfast, afternoon high tea and the occasional six-course gourmet meal.

But if a free pancake breakfast sounds just as attractive—and appropriate to the festivities—then head over to the Cheyenne Depot Plaza July 22, 24 and 26 from 7 to 9 a.m., where volunteers will flip and serve more than 100,000 flapjacks.

When the cakes aren't on the griddle, the Accomplice Beer Company in the repurposed Union Station Depot building, pulls double-duty as a breakfast spot until 2 p.m. After that, it's mostly pilsners, porters, IPAs and pub food.

You won't go wrong with dinner at The Albany, Paris West or The Metropolitan Downtown. But don't turn your nose up at the food on the midway. Stands like Spud Ranch, Texas Steak Out and Get Fried will surprise you with their enhanced fair fare—and make you glad you made it to Cheyenne.



CHEYENNE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
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# JULY

For more local events, visit [avidlifestyle.com](http://avidlifestyle.com)

## Ongoing Through August 1

### DISCOVERY PARK SUMMER CONCERTS

Warm, sunny days are ahead, and so is Discovery Park's free summer concert series. Get your picnic baskets, lawn chairs and beach blankets, and get ready to enjoy the sounds of summer. Look forward to Devil INXSide (July 11), CW & Twenty Hands High (July 18), and Titonic (August 1). **PARKER**, [parkerarts.org](http://parkerarts.org)

## Ongoing Through October 11

### LEARN TO FLY FISH

Fly Fishing 101 classes are a great way to introduce yourself to the world of fly fishing. Register now at Orvis Park Meadows for these fun and engaging classes. When you're ready for the next step, and once you've completed the Fly Fishing 101 class, you're eligible to participate in the Fly Fishing 201 class, where you'll head out on local waters for the chance to catch your first fish on the fly! **PARK MEADOWS**, [parkmeadows.com](http://parkmeadows.com)

## June 29–August 4

### CENTRAL CITY OPERA 2024 FESTIVAL

This year's festival calendar includes opera performances and other related events, like Lunch & A Song, Short Works, and talkbacks. This season's operas are "The Pirates of Penzance" and "The Girl of the Golden West," plus the iconic opera "Street Scene." Skip driving up to Central City and hop on the convenient Opera Bus, leaving from either Glendale or Lakewood most Sundays and Wednesdays.

**CENTRAL CITY**, [centralcityopera.org](http://centralcityopera.org)

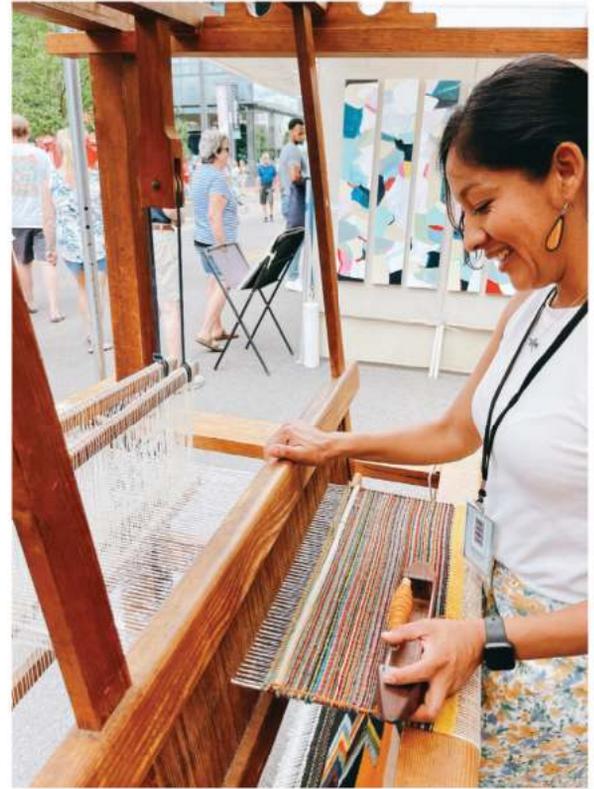


PHOTO: COURTESY OF CHERRY CREEK ARTS FEST BY OH HEY CREATIVE

## July 5–7

### CHERRY CREEK ARTS FESTIVAL

This annual weekend-long festival showcases the works of more than 250 juried artists. Also, it includes art-related activities for the whole family, like Creation Station, where attendees can add their own artistic touch to a vast collaborative mural. The festival features artists in 13 media categories, including ceramics, printmaking, jewelry, metalworks, mixed media, painting, photography, sculpture and more. And did we mention free live music all weekend? This event is free and open to the public.

**CHERRY CREEK NORTH**, [cherryarts.org](http://cherryarts.org)

## SAVE THE DATE! August 3 | Wheels of Dreams

Join AvidLifestyle and Colorado AvidGolfer for a fun-filled evening of hope and compassion at the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Wheels of Dreams Charity Event at Hangar Club on Saturday, August 3 at 6:00 p.m. Immerse yourself in an evening of interactive experiences and great music throughout the club while enjoying exquisite food and drink in the comfort of custom-curated lounges by some of Denver's top interior designers! Additionally, along with a silent auction, there will be opportunities to win great prizes. Join us and together we can give children who are battling long-term and life-threatening illnesses an opportunity of hope. Tickets available now. All proceeds benefit the Bags of Fun charity organization dedicated to helping these children. Wheels of Dreams Charity Experience has raised more than \$238,000. Visit: [bit.ly/wheelsofdreams2024](http://bit.ly/wheelsofdreams2024)



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## JULY 6

### SUMMER SAFARI DINNERS

Prepare yourself for an unforgettable experience at The Wild Animal Sanctuary's highly anticipated fundraising events of 2024—the Summer Safari Dinners! This series will be held at the Sanctuary. They will include a delicious dinner and stimulating conversations about The Wild Animal Sanctuary with several senior sanctuary staff, animal caretakers, and dedicated volunteers. Mark your calendar for July 6, August 17 or September 21, and secure your spot now. Please note that these dinners are exclusively for adults due to the event's location and proximity to animal enclosures. **KEENESBURG**, [wildanimalsanctuary.org](http://wildanimalsanctuary.org)



PHOTO: COURTESY OF BELLA ACOSTA

## July 8 & July 22

### MOVIE NIGHTS AT INFINITY PARK

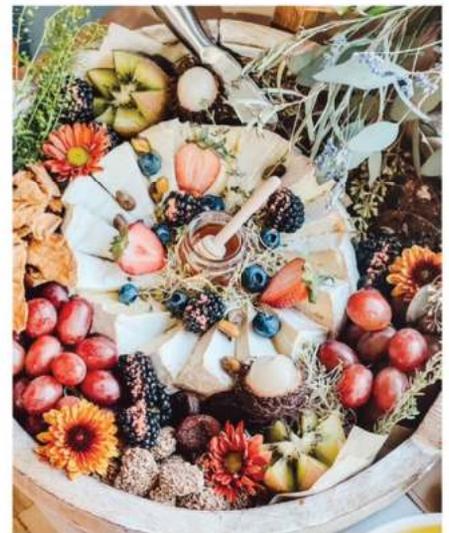
Grab a picnic basket and a blanket and head to Infinity Park in Glendale for free movie nights featuring popular family-friendly movies paired with live entertainment. July 8 is "Trolls Band Together," and July 22 is "Barbie." Pack your cooler with what you may need to enjoy the show, or food will also be available for purchase from an onsite food truck. Gates open at 6:00 p.m., and even your four-legged furry friends are welcome to attend.

**GLENDALE**, [infinityparkatglendale.com](http://infinityparkatglendale.com)

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### July 10

#### JAZZ IN THE PARK

Time for a mid-week break! Each Wednesday of June, July and August, local musicians gather in Festival Park to entertain locals and visitors before they head off to dinner in Downtown Castle Rock or begin their commute home. Music starts at 6:30 p.m. **CASTLE ROCK**, [crgov.com](http://crgov.com)

### July 13

#### OAKED & SMOKED - AMERICAN WHISKEY & BBQ

Immerse yourself in an outdoor afternoon, savoring the opportunity to sample a wide array of whiskeys featuring bourbons, ryes, single barrels and an assortment of other unique styles, all thoughtfully paired with a mouthwatering selection of grilled and barbecued delights. Ticket price includes unlimited half ounce samples of whiskey and one full BBQ meal (additional BBQ will be available for purchase). Advance tickets must be purchased online. If not sold out, tickets will be available at the door. **HIGHLANDS RANCH**, [hrcaonline.org](http://hrcaonline.org)

### July 13

#### YOGA ON THE ROCKS

Yoga is fantastic, but yoga at a spectacular place like Red Rocks, surrounded by hundreds of other yogis, is even better. These sessions happen most Saturdays during the summer through August 10, and August 3 is a unique bilingual session.

Season pass holders get entry into the venue ahead of others to secure the best spots; there are also five packs available for a discount off the single-session price. 7 a.m. start; bring your yoga mat and prepare to namaste the day away!

**RED ROCKS**, [redrocksonline.com](http://redrocksonline.com)

### July 17

#### "BARBIE THE MOVIE: IN CONCERT"

This summer, a whimsical musical adventure will welcome you as the world's most beloved doll comes to life in the most artistic way. "Barbie: The Movie in Concert" tour will stop at Colorado's Fiddler's Green Amphitheater for an evening that will transport you to Barbie Land. In this event, the Academy Award-nominated film will be projected onto a giant LED screen while the full symphony orchestra plays below. The Grammy-winning score from the record-breaking film will be performed by The Barbie Land Sinfonietta, conducted by Tony Award-winner Maey Schmidt. If you are one of the millions of people who have enjoyed watching the movie in theatres, you will undoubtedly enjoy this movie all the more. **FIDDLER'S GREEN AMPHITHEATRE**, [fiddlersgreenamp.com](http://fiddlersgreenamp.com)

### July 19

#### BRIGHT NIGHTS AT FOUR MILE

Bright Nights at Four Mile is a chance for you and your loved ones to experience light come to life. Handcrafted larger-than-life

sculptures will illuminate the night and your imagination as you walk among, and even through, these magnificently radiant displays that come together to create an enormous interactive exhibit. Each year brings a fresh theme, new experiences, and captivating sculptures. This 10-week festival runs July 19–September 29. **GLENDALE**, [fourmilepark.org/brightnights](http://fourmilepark.org/brightnights)

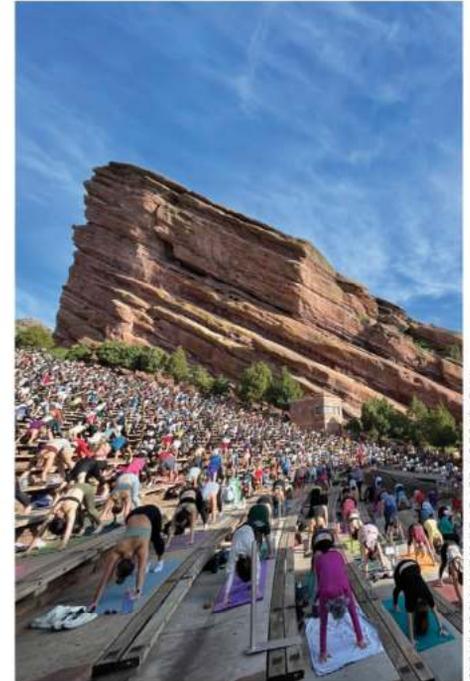


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**July 20 & 21**

**LAVENDER FESTIVAL**

Celebrate lovely lavender at this family-friendly event, with more than 2,000 fragrant lavender plants, lavender products made by local artisans, demonstrations, food and drink vendors, educational sessions about lavender, live music, and tours of Chatfield Farms. Please note tickets must be purchased in advance for a specific time. No on-site ticket sales. **DENVER BOTANIC GARDENS CHATFIELD FARMS**, [botanicgardens.org](http://botanicgardens.org)

**July 24**

**MAJORY PARK UNCORKED**

Marjorie Park Uncorked features wine, beer, yard games and live music, plus performance or comedy! New in 2024, bring a picnic! Limited seating is available, first come, first served, and all are welcome to bring a folding chair, cushions and blankets. This edition of Marjorie Park Uncorked will feature musical guest, High Country Hustle. This bluegrass band brings big smiles and foot-stomping good times to venues and festivals across the U.S. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. \*No outside alcohol; factory-sealed beverages only. Admission is free, but registration is required. **GREENWOOD VILLAGE**, [moaonline.org](http://moaonline.org)

**July 26–28**

**BRECKENRIDGE FOOD & WINE**

The grapes are calling from Breckenridge.

This quintessential mountain-town Main Street bustles with fun during this event, including live music, food demos and, of course, an around-the-world wine festival for the adults set amid the town's spectacular riverside setting. The best part? There will be nearly 300 wines to select from. Ticket options are available for everything from the Saturday Grand Tasting to the All-access pass for the entire weekend, including the vaunted Wine Pairing Dinner on Friday night. **BRECKENRIDGE**, [rockymountainevents.com](http://rockymountainevents.com)

**July 27**

**GREENWOOD VILLAGE DAY**

Calling all locals! Celebrate the city with carnival rides, live entertainment, food trucks, games and more. Festivities take place at Village Greens Park beginning at 4 p.m. and go on until late in the evening. And did we mention this family-friendly event will also include a firework show? \*Resident ticket required. **GREENWOOD VILLAGE**, [greenwoodvillage.com](http://greenwoodvillage.com)

**July 27–28**

**COLORADO DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL**

It's time to prepare for the USA's largest dragon boat festival. The two-day event centers around the spectacular dragon boat competition, as more than 50 teams race across the lake. But there's also so much more, like five performing arts stages (with nearly 100 shows over two days),

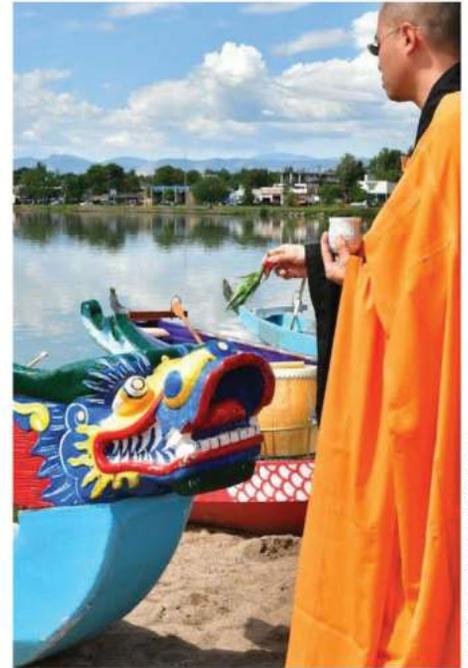


PHOTO: COURTESY OF SARA MOORE

an Asian marketplace, the Taste of Asia food court, an activities area for all ages called Dragonland, a traditional lion dance extravaganza, and unique events like a spicy ramen-eating contest and spring roll-making classes. **SLOAN'S LAKE PARK**, [cdbf.org](http://cdbf.org)



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