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Colorado Rodeos

The Centennial State has long and storied history of rodeos entertaining spectators from all walks of life, and local rodeos such as the Greeley and Elizabeth stampedes work tirelessly to see these cultural traditions endure.

By Lexi Marshall

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PHOTO: BY ANNA MILLS

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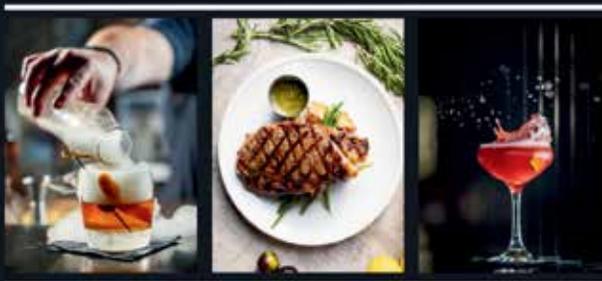


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TALK OF THE TOWN

KNOW SOMEONE who should be featured in AvidLifestyle?

Tell me about them at heather@avidlifestyle.com



GIDDY UP!

SADDLE UP, FRIENDS—summer in Colorado is kicking into high gear, and we're bringing you a fresh issue packed with sunshine, style and a touch of Wild West charm.

Rodeo season is in full swing, and whether you're a seasoned spectator or just looking for an excuse to wear your best boots, there's no better time to experience the community spirit that makes these hometown events so iconic. Writer Lexi Marshall introduces three of the state's top rodeos (Colorado Rodeos, page 42).

On the home front, we're moseying into a stunning Castle Pines property where ranch style meets refined design. It's got all the warmth of the West—think leather, wood and wide-open spaces—along with the comforts of modern luxury. It's the kind of home that makes you want to kick off your boots and stay awhile (Down Home Style, page 32).

And because summer is made for outdoor living, writer Jay McKinney serves up a guide to the south metro's best al fresco dining spots (Open Air Eats, page 18). Whether you're sipping cocktails on a city rooftop or digging into a hearty brunch with a mountain view, we've got your patio plans covered.

This month, we're celebrating Dad—check out On the Agenda (page 59) for a month's worth of activities sure to keep him happy—plus the activities and events that make Colorado feel like home.

Giddy up and enjoy the ride!

Heather Shoning

WRITERS WANTED

AvidLifestyle is a 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 with basic info about yourself and at least three published clips (links are fine).



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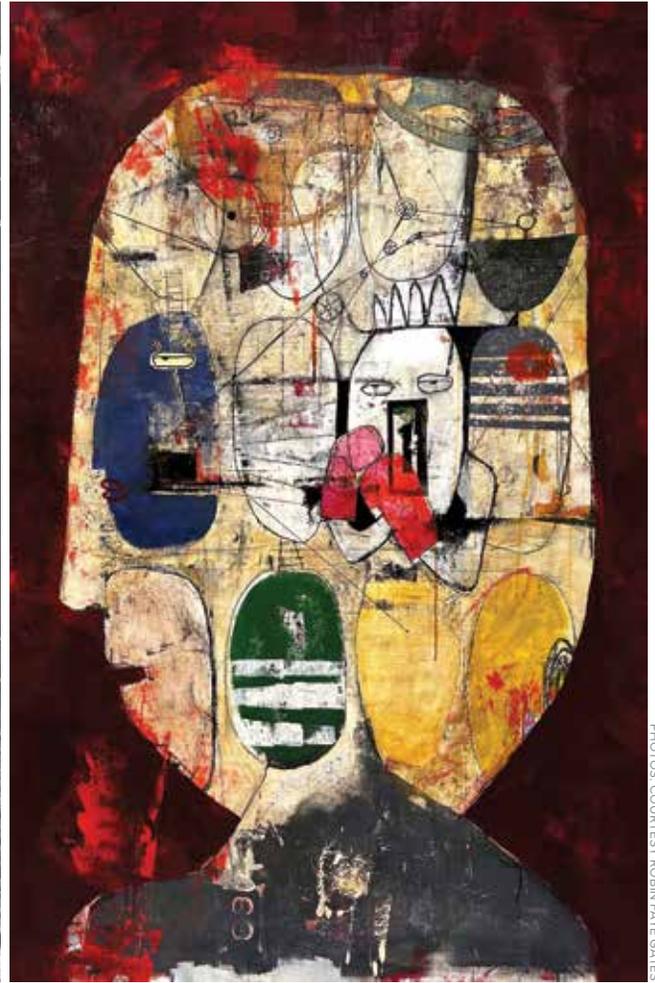
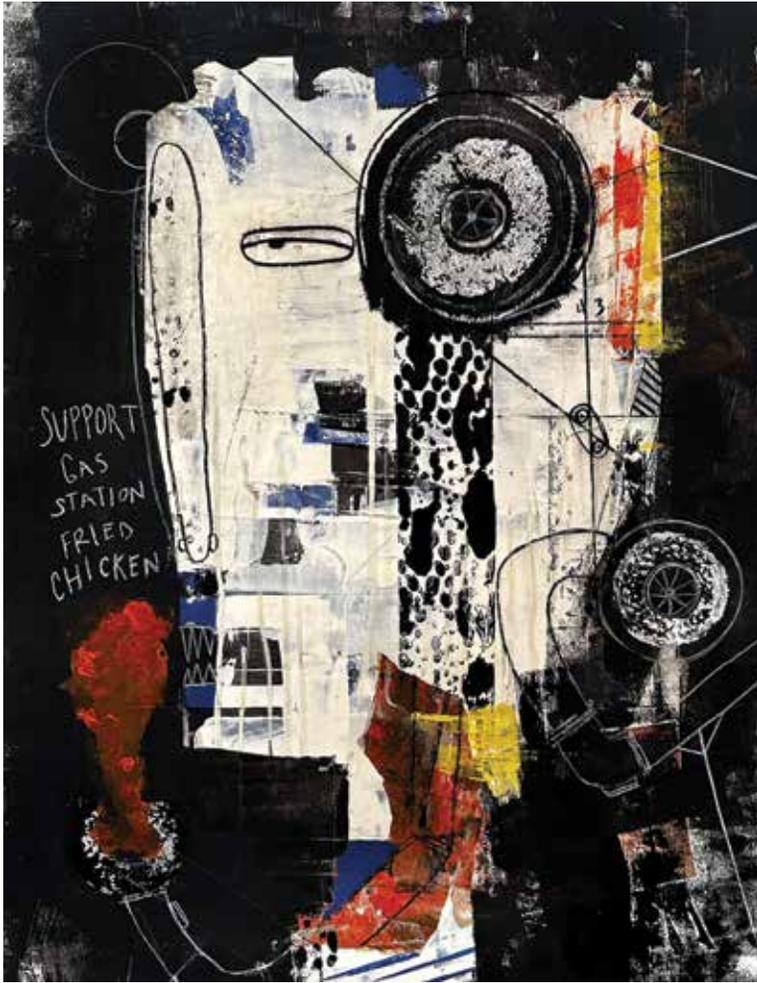
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PHOTOS: COURTESY ROBIN FAYE GATES

Three Pieces

Artist **ROBIN FAYE GATES** talks about the inspiration behind her work

By *Kastle Waserman*

QUIRKY, WHIMSICAL, GRAFFITI-STYLE is the best way to describe the art of Robin Faye Gates, who says it's often a turn of phrase she overhears or simply the bizarreness of everyday things that inspires her work.

The Texas-born artist came to Denver to pursue a career in hotel restaurant management, but after a stint with the Cherry Creek Arts Festival, she realized art was her true calling. She began working as a graphic designer and creating art projects with residential developer Peter Kudla, who encouraged her to think outside the box. "He's a massive art lover, and we got to do all these crazy projects. He's been a big mentor for me."

When Gates's husband passed away unexpectedly in 2020, she boldly committed to pursue art full-time.

"When something like that happens, you must figure out what's next. I started thinking:

I'm so fortunate to be here. How do I want to spend that time?"

She became a member of Denver's D'Art Gallery in 2023 and began showing her work. We asked her to describe three of her favorite pieces.

FAST EDDIE SLOWED DOWN

"I was working on this piece, and nothing was coming. I ran a brayer roller with black paint up the center. Suddenly, it looks like a tire mark. That made me think of a story when my niece, Jessica, said, 'Did you know the gas station on the corner sells fried chicken?'"

She was so excited about this chicken and told me she had some. So, this piece became the idea of gas station chicken!

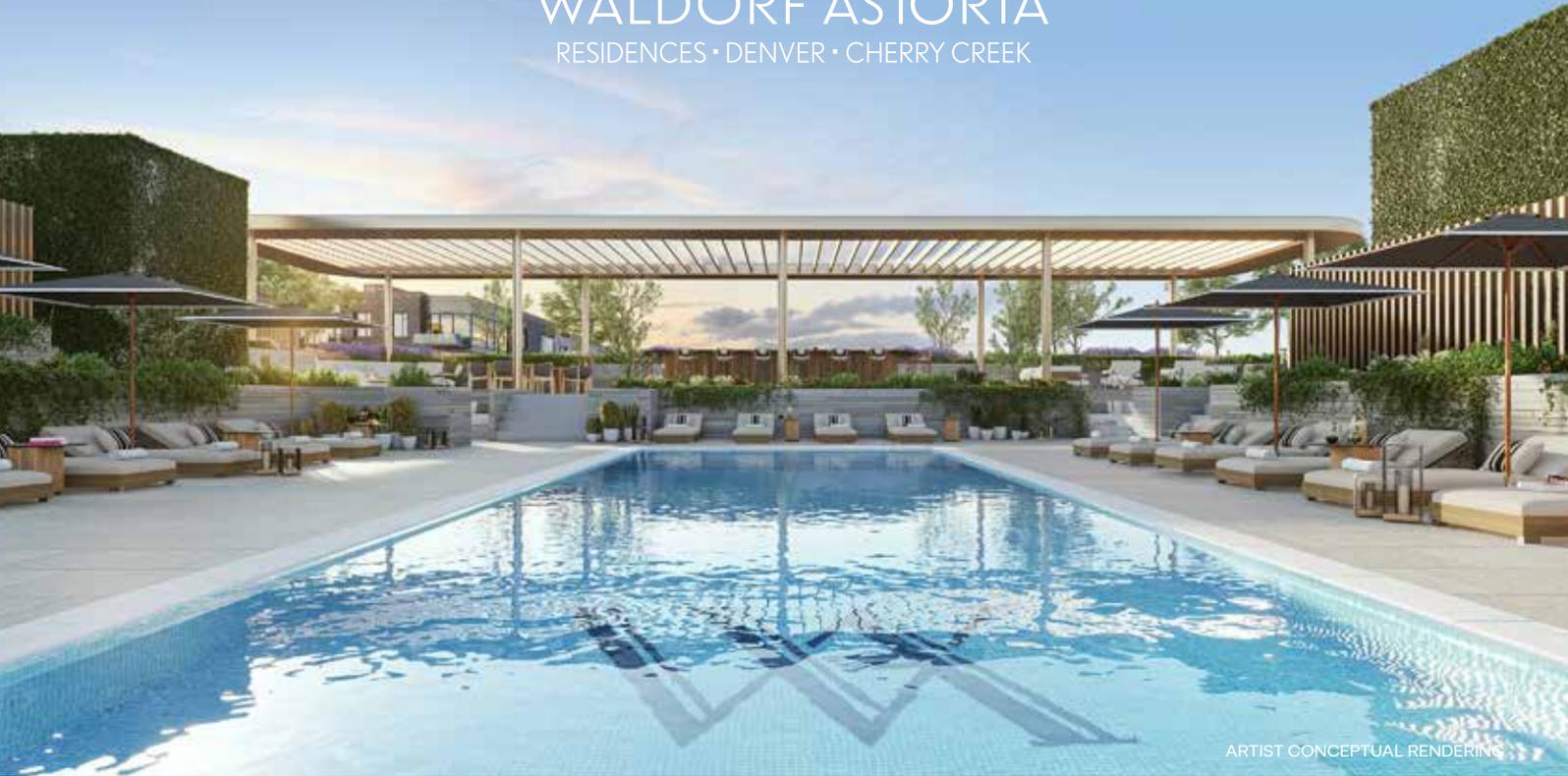
I told my niece, "You are the inspiration for this."

SHE HAD A FIGHTER WITHIN

"Most of my stuff has humor or sarcasm. This



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PHOTOS: COURTESY ROBIN FAYE GATES

is probably my only serious piece. It came about after my husband passed away. I was thinking about all the characters you have inside and your different personalities.

I put in a lot of faces that are not complete. They're impressions of the different things everyone is.

When you lose someone, there's so much to think about after. Your head is so full of all these different thoughts. I'm an introvert, but the gears in my mind are constantly going and observing.

I realized, in the center, I was more of a fighter than I thought I was."

CALL FOR ARTISTS

"I bought a pay phone off eBay. I didn't know what I was going to do with it, but I just liked it. I put it aside for about a year, and every once in a while, I'd glance at it.

It got on my nerves, so I put masking tape on it one day. And that was all I did that day. I made a step. I started it. Then, I decided to make a big move and sawed the receiver in half. Then I wished I hadn't done that. So, I glued it back together, put tape around it, and wrote, 'I wish I had not sawed this in half, but that is risk, and that is vital to art.'

That turned out to be one of my favorite things about this piece.

Then I glued on erasers, old supplies and my broken Apple pencil. I wrote my childhood phone number on it. I drilled a big hole for something, but that didn't work, so I covered it with an old paint tube.

Then I wrote 'soul' on it because my heart and soul went into this.

It's a reminder to take risks."

Learn more about Gates' art at robinfayegatesart.com



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MY NEIGHBOR FELIX is celebrating summer with an island-inspired patio pop-up at its Centennial location. Through Thursday, July 31, enjoy unique activations and creative cocktails—including handcrafted tiki cocktails—perfect for sipping on the outdoor patio.

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GRAND OPENING

WE'RE WATCHING the progress at 9155 Park Meadows Drive in anticipation of Jack's Modern American Steak and Seafood's grand opening. It will offer composed steak dishes, dry-aged fish and sashimi, aiming to be a flagship dining destination in the former Mimi's Cafe spot. Jack's opened in March 2022 in Denver, operating for a handful of years before closing at the onset of the pandemic. While that eatery was more of a boutique, small restaurant, the new iteration aims to be a destination steakhouse, including a dedicated events space.



PHOTO: NASIM REZA - STOCK ADOBE.COM

LATE NIGHT TO EARLY MORNING

OWNERS OF THE LIVELY Wide Open Saloon in Sedalia will be pulling late nights (at the saloon) and early mornings with their new venture in Castle Rock—Wide Awake Eatery. The venue in the former location of Tribe at Riverwalk will focus on breakfast and brunch but will be open for dinner, too. Expect eggs Benny, chicken and waffles, plus American grill-style dinners. The corner spot with ample outdoor dining space will be the perfect spot to start or end a day.

PHOTO: COURTESY COURTESY OF MY NEIGHBOR FELIX



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Open Air Eats

PATIO SEASON is in full swing at these local restaurants

By Jay McKinney





Postino



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Pindustry



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IF THERE'S ONE THING that winter lovers must concede when it comes to which seasons are best, it's the ability to dine and drink outside. Just like trees getting their first buds in spring, patios and rooftops that were shuttered over the winter slowly come back to life when umbrellas replace piles of icy snow every spring. The long days and warm summer nights are essential for outdoor dining, and Colorado has plenty of restaurants and bars that embrace them.

For those seeking a night out complete with games and entertainment, consider visiting Pindustry. The 20,000-square-foot Skydeck has a putting green, cornhole, ping-pong, and giant chess and checkers to play. Nothing beats a little friendly competition while sipping a cocktail and looking out at the Rocky Mountains. Pindustry's frozen drinks are available exclusively on its Skydeck, and they go down easy while eating wings served with the signature duckpin devil sauce. Located in

the same vicinity as Pindustry is the Rouge Wine & Bourbon Bistro, which is under the same ownership.

"The Rouge Wine and Bourbon Bistro, located just two doors down from Pindustry, offers a unique and fun Roaring Twenties energy in its ambiance as well as a large patio, also with a scenic and beautiful view of the Rocky Mountains," says executive director, Christine Gill. "Enjoy our sunset DJ event on the patio at

The Rouge



PHOTO: COURTESY THE ROUGE

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Courtyard Social

PHOTO: COURTESY/COURTYARD SOCIAL

Every item on the menu is delicious and will likely induce an afternoon food coma.

The Rouge Bistro every Thursday night while sipping wine or savoring one of our exclusive bourbons. The soft seating around the fire pits creates the perfect setting for a romantic or chill Colorado-style evening.”

While The Rouge is undoubtedly an excellent destination for wine lovers, it’s not the only wine bar with outdoor seating. Postino WineCafe has three locations across Denver, and since the Highlands Ranch location opened in 2022, it’s become a staple in the community. It has an intimate sunken patio complete with lush succulents, plenty of seating and Postino’s signature yellow umbrellas.

“We’d already welcomed many Highlands Ranch residents at our Denver locations, so bringing a spot closer to home felt natural,” says Lauren Bailey, CEO and co-founder of the restaurant group Upward Projects. “From day one, we’ve seen a fantastic mix of guests—whether it’s friends catching up over happy hour, families gathering for a casual night out, or couples sharing a late-night board and bottle.”

You can’t go wrong with a classy wine bar for a date night, but if you’re seeking live music, Lansdowne Arms bistro and pub should be on your radar. Irish pubs may be stereotyped as dingy bars with a constant flow of Guinness and locals who know

the bartender better than their own family, but Lansdowne Arms is challenging this notion. Yes, there is still a steady flow of Guinness, and the menu features classic Irish fare like sirloin shepherd’s pie and bangers and mash. Still, the dining space is charming, and the rooftop patio is the antithesis of the stereotypical dingy pub.

“We have one of the largest rooftop patios around,” general manager Steven Gregory says. “There’s a beautiful view of the mountains, and we have live music and a lot of fun, including a variety of events.”

After a late Saturday night, nothing beats Sunday morning brunch. Courtyard Social in Castle Rock has a picturesque patio and dishes that look as good as they taste. From the seasonal French toast to the carne asada skillet, every item on the menu is delicious and will likely induce an afternoon food coma.

“Brunch has become one of our best day parts, and as the patio really spins into season, it’s awesome to enjoy a drink on the patio along with one of the signature brunch items that we offer as you soak up the sun and relax to the waterfall in our courtyard,” says Gary Mantelli who owns Courtyard Social with his wife, Leah. “We are also super dog friendly, so having the pup with you on the patio is also a win.”

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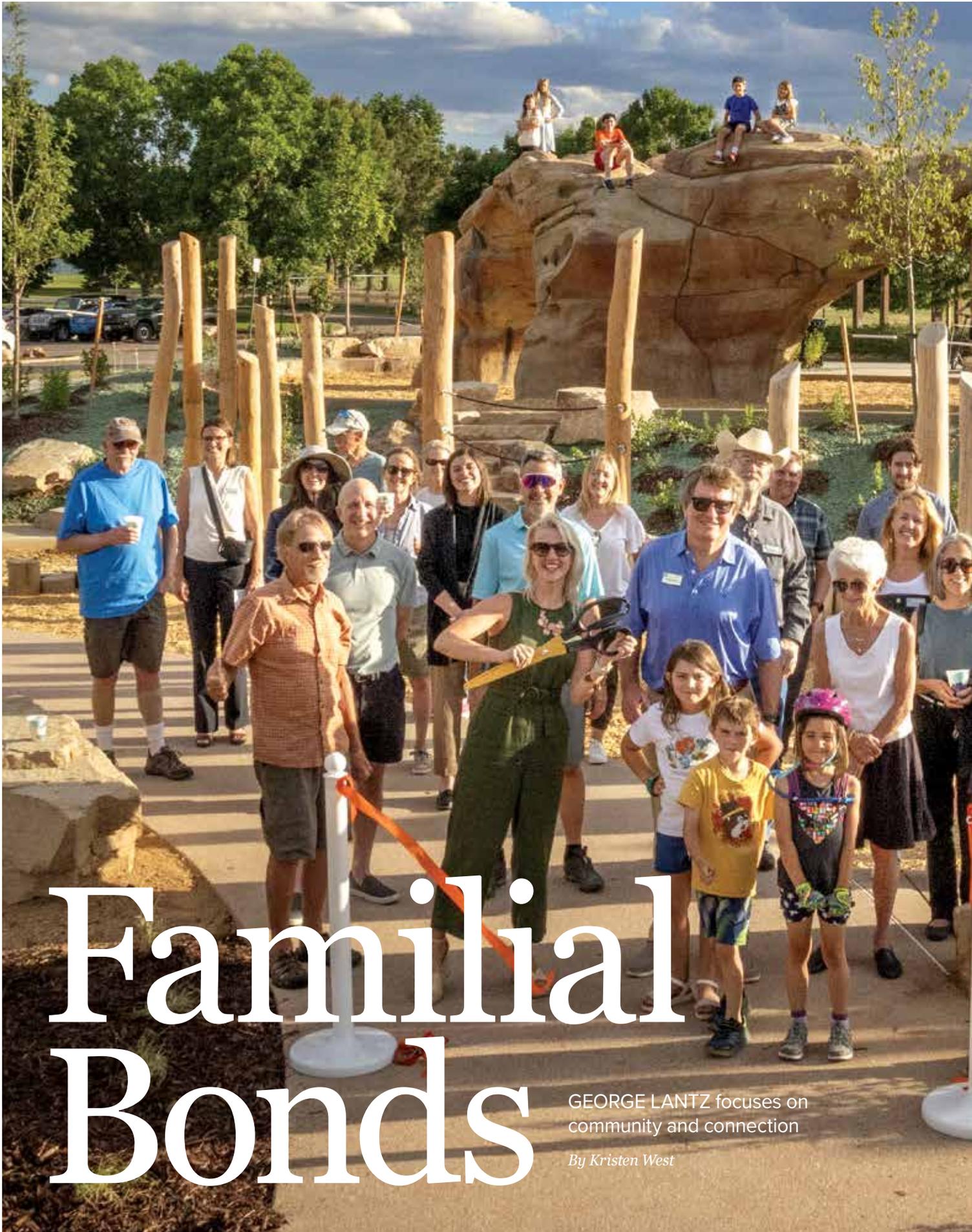
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Familial Bonds

GEORGE LANTZ focuses on community and connection

By Kristen West

Village Greens North Phase V
Grand Opening

PHOTO: COURTESY GEORGE LANTZ



MAYOR GEORGE LANTZ of Greenwood Village can recall when the nurses let him and his wife, Debbie Lantz, leave the hospital with their first-born son more than 30 years ago. “I said, ‘What do you mean, you’re letting me out of the hospital with this little thing?’ We had no clue what to do with him,” he jokes. But, like most parents, they figured it out one day at a time. Lantz’s journey to mayor was like parenthood, full of small steppingstones and gradual wisdom. In both roles, he thrives by focusing on his “why.”

When Lantz and his family moved to Greenwood Village in 1989, his neighbor approached him while he was doing yard work with a casual request to help the city. “As any neighbor would, I said, ‘Sure, Charlie, I’m happy to help you,’” Lantz says. He didn’t know that would be the beginning of a nearly three-decades-long journey in public service.

Lantz served a 12-year tenure on the Greenwood Village Board of Adjustment and Appeals, and then, in addition to running his own full-time telecommunications company, he followed his newly inspired drive to help the city by serving on the planning and zoning commission for 8 years, the city council, then mayor pro tempore and finally as elected and reelected mayor. In each role, Lantz says he learned and developed a deeper appreciation for the city, its people and their needs.

The fact that the role is non-partisan has been a blessing, he says, allowing him and his colleagues to focus on taking care of the city rather than politics. “We have to keep people safe, keep the roads clean and in good shape and plowed, and keep the parks nice and pretty and available,” he says. “So, as long as we do that, we end up with a good city.”

And that is precisely what he’s been known for; just ask the local kids who run to thank him at the opening of a new playground, which he says is one of his favorite types of memories so far as mayor. He also credits the quality staff in Greenwood Village for making his job more fulfilling. Many have been working or volunteering for more than 30 years and have deep ties and love for the town. “You’ll see a truck or a police car, and they’ll wave at each other, creating a hometown feeling.”

Being mayor, business owner, father, husband and friend can be a lot to juggle. However, Lantz has always found ways to stay grounded and make time for what he values. In addition to his family, he loves fly fishing, exercising and golfing. “I’m miserable at it, but I go out there with my friends, and we just have fun,” he says.

His top priorities, though, are his wife and children. Reflecting on that day when they took their first baby home, Lantz can appreciate the wild but gratifying ride it’s been now that their two boys are grown. “They live three blocks apart in West Village in New York. They do things together, and they truly like each



George Lantz, right

PHOTOS: COURTESY GEORGE LANTZ



Greenwood Village City Hall

other,” Lantz says. And while he says that the boys visit frequently, he and his wife hope they might return to their hometown one day. “Do we wish that they were here in town somewhere so we could see them more regularly? Absolutely. But we want them to spread their wings, too.”

Lantz still has two more years in his term as mayor and plans to make the most of it. “I got into this to help the city,” he says. “In a way, I’m helping myself too because I like to live here. I like the environment. I like the people. And so, I’m caring for my neighbors and friends.”



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Down Home *Style*

PHOTOS BY SHANNON HARRIS



A **CASTLE PINES** home embraces the owner's ranching history

By Heather Shoning

Photos S. Brenner Photography

IN THE ROLLING HILLS of Castle Pines, a newly built home stood as a blank canvas: white-on-white finishes and builder-grade basics begging for personality. But for the homeowner—an urban professional with deep roots in cattle ranching—it wasn't just about filling space. It was about creating a refined yet rugged home that spoke to his Western heritage without falling into the trap of kitschy cowboy clichés.





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“We had these caramel-colored leather bar stools, and we used that color as a thread to tie everything together.”

—TENNILLE WOOD

Enter Tennille Wood, principal designer and founder of Beautiful Habitat, who was tapped to bring this vision to life. The client had first tried to go it alone—purchasing a few leather bar stools, a modern dining table and some live-edge wood furniture—but quickly realized he was out of his depth. “He got to the point where he said if he made one more purchase, he was going to ruin the house,” Wood says, laughing.

The homeowner connected with Wood through a designer matchmaker, drawn to her portfolio that featured a modern take on taxidermy. “It wasn’t real taxidermy, but a nod to it,” Wood explains. “That resonated with him and the aesthetic he wanted, even if he didn’t know how to articulate it.”

Wood dubbed the style “mountain modern meets sophisticated ranch,” and from that moment on, every decision—every fixture, fabric and finish—was chosen to walk the line between Western grit and modern polish.

The home’s architectural palette leaned toward stark minimalism—white walls, white cabinetry, white tile. To combat the sterile feel, Wood worked with the client’s existing leather elements as a jumping-off point. “We had these caramel-colored leather bar stools, and we used that color as a thread to tie everything together,” she says. She selected a leather bench for the bedroom and a lounge chair in the living room, all in matching tones. >>>



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That attention to material detail extended even to the light fixtures, including a leather-wrapped light fixture for above the dining table and a chandelier with stirrup-inspired elements and leather straps for the primary bedroom, adding a literal and symbolic nod to the client's equestrian lifestyle. "It looks custom, but I found it retail—just a perfect fit," Wood says.

To break up the sea of white and add richness, Wood introduced texture and contrast through wallcoverings. A faux barn wood wallpaper lines the primary bedroom wall and vanity area, offering a subtle rustic vibe without feeling overdone. Grasscloth wallcovering appears strategically: above the stairway, in the dining room and—unexpectedly—on the entryway ceiling, adding layers of visual warmth and character.

Color was another key move. A deep green paint in the foyer and stairwell wall provides a moody contrast to the lightness elsewhere and acts as a backdrop for oversized artwork.

The powder room offered an opportunity to crank the personality up a notch. "Powder rooms are where I like to go bold—it's a small space with big impact," Wood says. Here, she installed a cheeky horse-print wallpaper. A leather strap mirror and matching hand towel holder reinforce the leather motif throughout the home.

Lighting played a transformative role. The home was built with capped electrical boxes but no fixtures. That gave her free rein to incorporate statement pieces. In the kitchen, small yet impactful black pendants harken to a black woven rattan chandelier in the living room, which draws the eye upward while adding organic texture and a hint of edginess.

Window treatments also played double duty: aesthetic and functional. The homeowner had already installed roller shades, but they lacked softness. Draperies in the dining and living rooms feature bold black-and-white patterns harmonizing with the artwork and furniture, softening the spaces while reinforcing the design's modern edge. Wood specified room-darkening drapery in the bedroom with a midcentury modern print on the bottom—another strategic blend of rugged utility and curated design.

"Everything in this house is about balance—between masculine and modern, Western roots and urban sophistication," Wood says. "We didn't want it to look like a themed ranch house. That was the biggest design challenge—and also the most fun."

Today, the homeowner is surrounded by thoughtful design elements that reflect his lifestyle, history and taste. "This was a home that needed soul," Wood says. "And we gave it one—layer by layer, leather by leather." 

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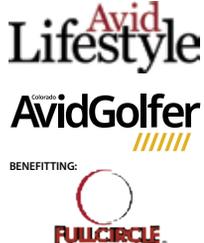
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THE THUNDER of hooves against packed dirt echoes through the arena as a hush falls over the crowd. A gate swings open, and for eight seconds that stretch like an eternity, man and beast engage in a primal dance of determination and raw power. This is Colorado rodeo—where the spirit of the American West isn't just remembered, it's lived.

On a summer evening in Elizabeth, Colorado, spectators from all walks of life gather for a tradition that has defined this community for generations. Urban professionals sit shoulder-to-shoulder with ranch hands, all united by

the spectacle and a shared connection to something authentic in an increasingly virtual world.

"It's the greatest sport in America, and we want to see that endure," says Lea Anne Russell, vice president of the board of directors for the Elizabeth Stampede. Her voice carries the passion of someone who hasn't just worked in rodeo but has lived it to her core.

THE ELIZABETH STAMPEDE: A COMMUNITY LEGACY

What began as an informal gathering of cowboys competing by car headlights has

evolved into a Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA) member event that draws national talent while maintaining its small-town charm. For the past 37 years as a PRCA rodeo, the Elizabeth Stampede has become a cornerstone of community identity, earning the title of Mountain States Circuit Rodeo of the Year an impressive 17 times.

"We run the entire thing with two to three hundred volunteers every year," Russell explains. "That enthusiasm is noticeable."

This year's event offers a weekend of themed



RODEOS

Preserving WESTERN HERITAGE in the modern era

By Lexi Marshall

PHOTO: ANNA MILLIS

performances, kicking off Friday night with the high-adrenaline bulls and broncs Chute Out. Saturday brings the fan favorite Tough Enough to Wear Pink performance in the afternoon, supporting the organization's foundation and its community initiatives, followed by a Saturday evening celebration of Colorado agriculture. The festivities conclude Sunday with the Red, White and Blue Rodeo, honoring veterans and first responders. Country star Chase Rice will headline the opening concert on Thursday, June 5.

Russell herself embodies the personal

connection many have to the rodeo tradition. Growing up competing in junior rodeos on the West Slope, she later moved to Elizabeth specifically because the town had a professional rodeo. Her daughter followed in her footsteps, competing through high school and college, and now serves as the 2025 Elizabeth Stampede queen.

GREELEY STAMPEDE: A CENTURY OF CELEBRATION

Colorado's rodeo tradition runs deep, woven into the very fabric of the state's history. June and July mark the height of rodeo season when

arenas across Colorado come alive with the sights and sounds of bucking broncs, cheering crowds and community celebration. One of the season's crown jewels is the Greeley Stampede, held each year from June 25 to July 6. Drawing more than 250,000 fans annually, it stands as the second-largest rodeo in Colorado—surpassed only by the legendary National Western Stock Show each January.

“What makes the Greeley Stampede stand out is our commitment to preserving our western heritage and celebrating our community,” says Kevin McFarling, Greeley Stampede marketing



PHOTO: ANNA MILLIS

manager. “It’s more than rodeos, concerts and entertainment. The Greeley Stampede is cherished memories, family gatherings and reunions.”

What began in the late 1800s as a local celebration honoring potato farmers officially took shape in 1922 as the Greeley Spud Rodeo. That inaugural event featured bronc riding, roping contests, pie-eating, Model-T races and more, drawing approximately 2,500 attendees. As the decades progressed, the event embraced the “Go West with Greeley” motto—a nod to the city’s namesake, Horace Greeley—and re-branded in 1972 as the Greeley Independence Stampede.

Today, the 12-day celebration is a hallmark of summer, showcasing PRCA-sanctioned rodeos, country and rock concerts, a demolition derby, carnival midway, western art shows, and a televised Fourth of July parade. More than just a festival, it’s a living tradition embodying cowboy grit, small-town pride and the enduring spirit of the American West.

NATIONAL WESTERN STOCK SHOW: THE SUPER BOWL OF LIVESTOCK SHOWS

The Elizabeth Stampede captures the charm of community-based rodeo; the Greeley Stampede showcases how a small-town tradition can grow into a major event; and the National Western Stock Show (NWSS) stands

as the pinnacle of rodeo in Colorado. As one of the top five rodeos in the United States, NWSS boasts 29 performances, with 19 selling out completely—an impressive feat for events that often run on weeknights. Held annually in Denver since 1906, it generates \$171 million in economic impact across Colorado in just 16 days, according to a 2023 report.

“We’re one of the few major rodeos that do not provide music as a follow-up to the rodeo,” says Leon Vick, vice president of Rodeo & Horse Show Operations at NWSS. Instead, the focus remains on the action, which begins immediately after the national anthem and prayer.

Vick brings a unique perspective to his role, having competed professionally in rodeo for 21 years before transitioning to management. “I feel like I have a leg up on a lot of rodeo management teams because I can see it from both sides—from the production team as well as the contestant side,” he explains. Before joining the NWSS, he also served as president of the PRCA’s Mountain States Circuit for several years.

What might surprise many is Colorado’s prominence in the rodeo world. “Colorado has probably as many or more rodeos than the state of Texas does,” Vick reveals. “Many of the contestants in Texas spend their summers in

Colorado, where many of the better rodeos are.”

One highlight of the NWSS is its annual “Colorado Versus the World” event on opening day, where winners from Colorado rodeos like Elizabeth, Loveland, Pueblo, Greeley and Colorado Springs compete tournament-style against champions from outside the state.

A RICH RODEO HERITAGE

Colorado has produced some of the sport’s most legendary figures, perhaps none more iconic than Lane Frost, born in La Junta, Colorado. Raised in the tiny town of Kim before moving to Oklahoma, Frost’s passion for bull riding began in early childhood when he rode his first calf at the age of five. By 10, he was already turning heads in youth rodeos, and under the mentorship of champion Freckles Brown, Frost grew into a rodeo icon known for his talent and humility. In 1987, he won the PRCA World Championship in bull riding.

However, Frost’s life was tragically cut short at just 25 during a competition at the Cheyenne Frontier Days in Wyoming, when a bull named Takin’ Care of Business struck him after a successful ride. His sudden passing stunned the rodeo world but ignited a legacy. Immortalized in the film “8 Seconds” and posthumously inducted into the ProRodeo Hall of Fame, Frost remains a symbol of everything rodeo stands for: resilience, courage and unshakable passion.

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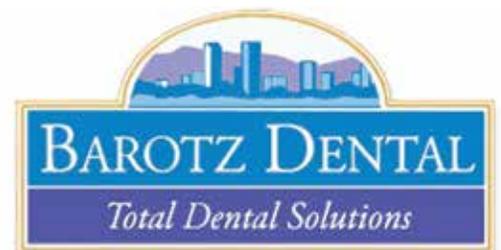
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RISEING STARS AND LEGENDARY PERFORMANCES

Colorado rodeos have launched the careers of many champions. The Elizabeth Stampede proudly notes it was the first professional rodeo victory for barrel racing superstar Hailey Kinsel, who won multiple world championships.

“National Western has had every top rodeo contestant in the country here performing,” Vick says, “from Ty Murray to J.B. Mauney, Stetson Wright, Trevor Brazile and Joe Beaver. The best of the best have all performed here.”

Colorado’s rodeo legacy isn’t just preserved in pro arenas—it’s also thriving at the collegiate level. Colorado State University pioneered collegiate rodeo, hosting one of the earliest intercollegiate rodeos and being among the first universities to establish a college rodeo program and organize official competitions. Colorado Mesa University’s women’s rodeo team held the number one national ranking in the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association for multiple weeks during the 2024 season. They earned a coveted qualification for the College National Finals Rodeo and have remained a top contender in the Rocky Mountain Region, showcasing their strength on both regional and national stages.

PRESERVING AGRICULTURAL HERITAGE + BREAKING STEREOTYPES

Both Russell and Vick emphasize rodeo’s role in keeping agricultural traditions alive in an increasingly urbanized society.



PHOTO: ROBERT L. WANN

“As long as agriculture is in the conversation, people will understand where their food comes from,” Russell says, pointing to the educational aspect of rodeo events. She describes herself as an “advocate for agriculture,” encouraging others to become informed about the industry.

Vick echoes this sentiment: “It keeps us all grounded and reminded what rural America provides—the food we eat, the clothes we wear. I think these events are very necessary just to keep us in that reminding stage.”

The modern rodeo athlete defies old stereotypes. According to Vick, “People think rodeo contestants are all ranch-raised kids that did

not have another avenue. The reality is very few contestants are ranch-raised kids. Many come from cities, especially in the riding events, and probably 90 percent have a college education.”

The Elizabeth Stampede has embraced this evolution while maintaining traditions. It was among the first rodeos to add women’s break-away roping when it became an official event and ensured equal prize money for women’s events compared to similar men’s competitions.

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PHOTO: RIC ANDERSON

experience that combines athleticism, tradition and community. At the NWSS, “fans are right next to the fence—the front row fans are sitting there with their knees almost against the fence of the arena,” Vick describes. “It’s an up-close and personal event.”

The Elizabeth Stampede similarly focuses on the spectator experience, recently beginning a process to replace grandstands with new aluminum seating and making other improvements to the facility.

For those interested in experiencing rodeo culture, both Russell and Vick recommend attending a local event, regardless of size.

“The best thing is to search out your local rodeo on the internet,” Vick suggests. “Take a kid with you. Help build a generation that sees what yesteryear looked like. Give them a taste of the West.”

Russell believes the best way to understand the culture is simply to be present: “By being there, you see the camaraderie, the atmosphere, the love of the sport. It’s one of the most patriotic events you’ll ever attend.”

As Colorado continues to grow and change, its rodeos remain a vital connection to the state’s roots—bringing together rural and urban residents alike to celebrate Western heritage in an authentic, community-focused way.

“It’s a celebration of all that has been good in our tradition and our history,” Russell says. “It allows people to come together—and that’s the key word: together.”



DON'T MISS THIS SEASON'S RODEO ACTION!

ELIZABETH STAMPEDE RODEO

Dates: June 5–8
Location: Casey Jones Park, Elizabeth
Highlights: A four-day PRCA-sanctioned rodeo featuring top-tier bull riding, barrel racing and a Thursday night concert with artists Chase Rice and Jake Worthington. elizabethstampede.com

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS PRO RODEO SERIES

Dates: Fridays and Saturdays, June 20–August 23 (including July 4)
Location: Brent Romick Rodeo Arena, Steamboat Springs
Highlights: A historic rodeo series dating back to the late 1800s, offering weekly rodeo action in the heart of Steamboat Springs. steamboatprorodeo.com

GREELEY STAMPEDE

Dates: June 25–July 6
Location: Island Grove Regional Park, Greeley

Highlights: One of Colorado’s largest rodeos, featuring traditional events, a carnival, concerts and a 4th of July parade. greeleystampede.org

HIGH COUNTRY STAMPEDE RODEO

Dates: Every Saturday from July 5 to August 16
Location: High Country Stampede Grounds, Fraser
Highlights: Expect thrilling events like bull riding, barrel racing and mutton busting. Guests enjoy themed nights, Saturday specials, BBQ by SMOKE and a special ice cream shop. highcountrystampederodeo.com

ROOFTOP RODEO

Dates: July 5–10
Location: Estes Park Events Complex, Estes Park
Highlights: Known as “The Rodeo with Altitude,” this PRCA event offers nightly rodeo action, a Monday parade and family-friendly

activities with mountain scenery. rooftoprodeo.com

PIKES PEAK OR BUST RODEO

Dates: July 8–12
Location: Norris-Penrose Event Center, Colorado Springs
Highlights: Featuring over \$1 million in payouts, this NFR Open event attracts top rodeo talent from the U.S., Canada and Mexico. pikespeakorbust.org

DOUGLAS COUNTY FAIR & RODEO

Dates: July 25–August 3
Location: Douglas County Fairgrounds, Castle Rock
Highlights: An award-winning event featuring PRCA rodeo performances, a carnival, concerts and mouthwatering fair food. There’s even a farm-to-table brunch on Sunday, July 27. douglascountyfairandrodeo.com

AND NEXT YEAR'S BIG ONE!

NATIONAL WESTERN STOCK SHOW

Dates: January 10-25, 2026
Location: National Western Complex, Denver
Highlights: Family entertainment, including petting farms, pony rides, and dog shows, plus rodeos, livestock shows and the Coors Western Art Exhibit & Sale. And don’t miss the kick-off to the event: the stock show parade with more than 30 Longhorn cattle walking through the streets of downtown Denver.



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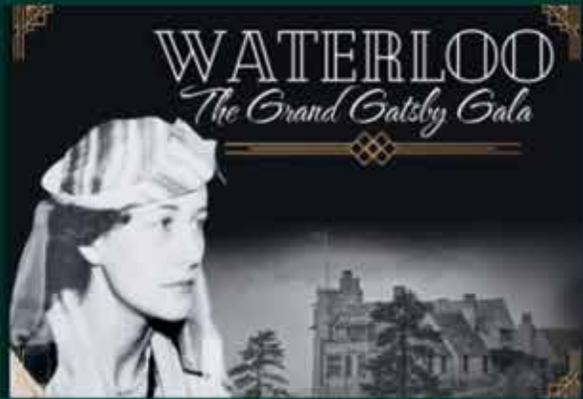
Yumi Hwang Williams Michelle DeYoung

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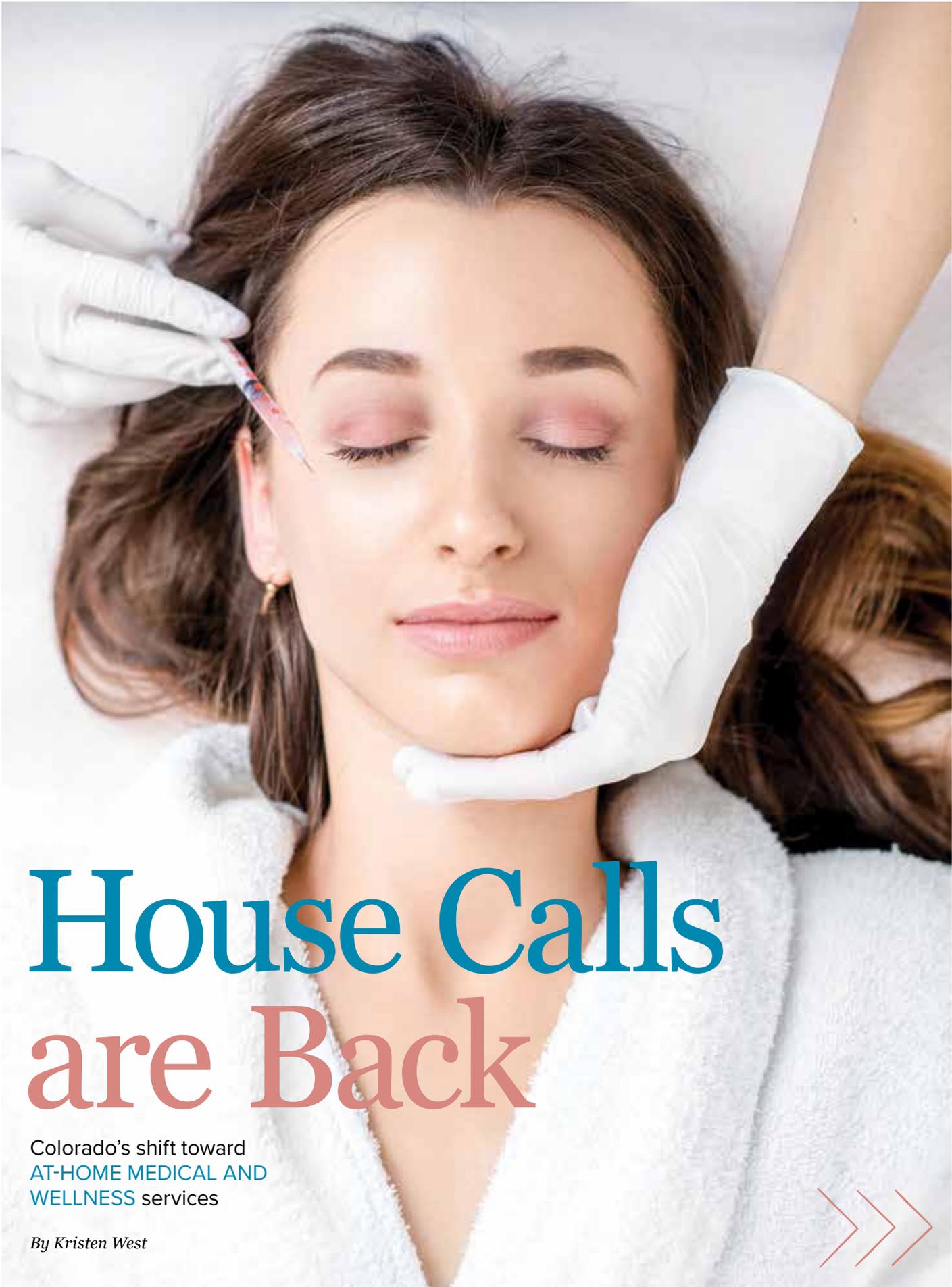
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House Calls are Back

Colorado's shift toward
**AT-HOME MEDICAL AND
WELLNESS** services

By Kristen West





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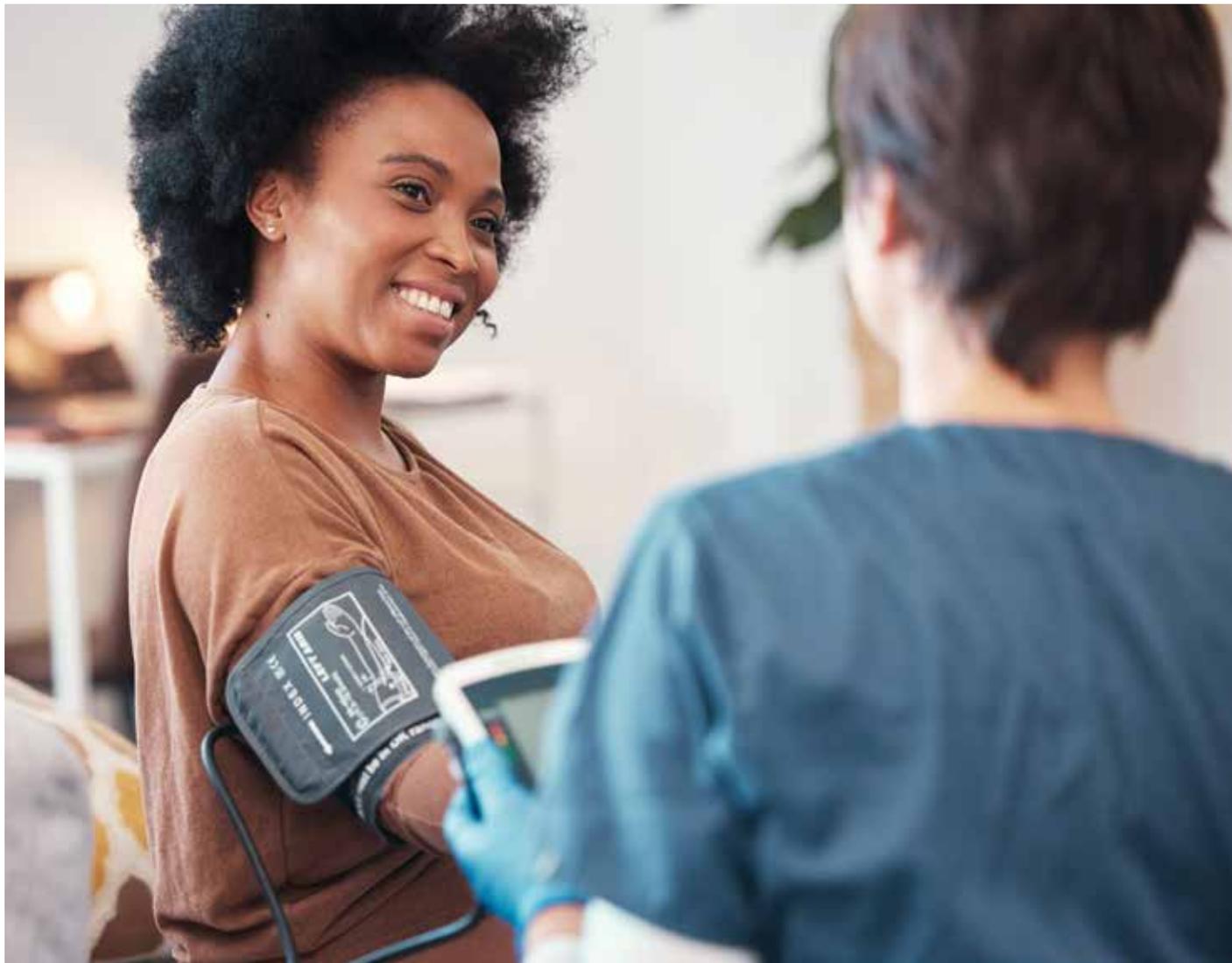


PHOTO: STOCK ADOBE.COM

BALANCING HEALTH CARE needs with daily responsibilities can be challenging in today's fast-paced world. Conflicts like packed schedules, family obligations and transportation issues can deter people from seeking timely medical attention. Thankfully, like most other industries, the health care industry is evolving to offer more convenient ways to do things from home.

Nurse practitioner Georgina Segura opened her own mobile clinic when she recognized a need for at-home medical care. Her business, Animas Sanitas Primary Care and Aesthetics, is a Colorado-based service that brings medical and wellness options directly to patients' homes, offices or hotels, reducing the need for traditional clinic visits.

Segura wanted to offer more than the traditional medical services in her practice, so she expanded her business model to include more holistic care as well. "Self-care often takes a backseat to daily responsibilities," Segura says. "I wanted to provide high-quality, accessible care that fits into my patients' lives, rather than adding to their stress." Medical professionals are finding that patients are not as interested in relying on pharmaceuticals

and are instead seeking holistic and proactive approaches to achieve a more natural state of health. Popular wellness services at Animas Sanitas include weight loss therapies, hormone replacement, IV hydration, vitamin boosts and aesthetic treatments.

Animas Sanitas also addresses aesthetic needs through laser services. As the only completely mobile dermatology and aesthetics laser service in Colorado, they offer treatments for skin rejuvenation, acne, sunspots, rosacea and other conditions.

Getting treated at home has its major perks. Studies show that patients experience reduced stress, shorter recovery times and a lower risk of hospital-acquired infection when receiving care in familiar surroundings. It also supports greater independence, allowing people to maintain their daily routines and quality of life. For seniors, receiving treatment at home can be life-changing, as many people over the age of 65 experience challenges with transportation or mobility, making it difficult to leave home for basic medical or wellness appointments. Of the nearly 12 million Americans who receive home health care services annually, 86 percent are 65 and older.

Building a trusting relationship is at the heart of Segura's practice, which is easier when you provide more personable care in the patient's home. "The best medical care comes from a provider who is truly invested in your health and well-being," Segura says. "I am someone who takes the time to understand each patient as an individual."

When it comes to insurance coverage, many at-home services are opting out. Segura explains that insurance providers impose restrictions on medical care, pushing them toward services or care that may not align with the patient's best interests. While they aim to keep it affordable, payment plans are available to help patients cover the costs.

As the health care landscape evolves, services like Animas Sanitas exemplify the shift toward patient-centered care, meeting individuals where they are and tailoring services to their unique needs.

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Glossy lips are making a comeback, with celebrities like Zendaya showcasing '90s-inspired lip looks using products like Charlotte Tilbury's Super Nudes collection.



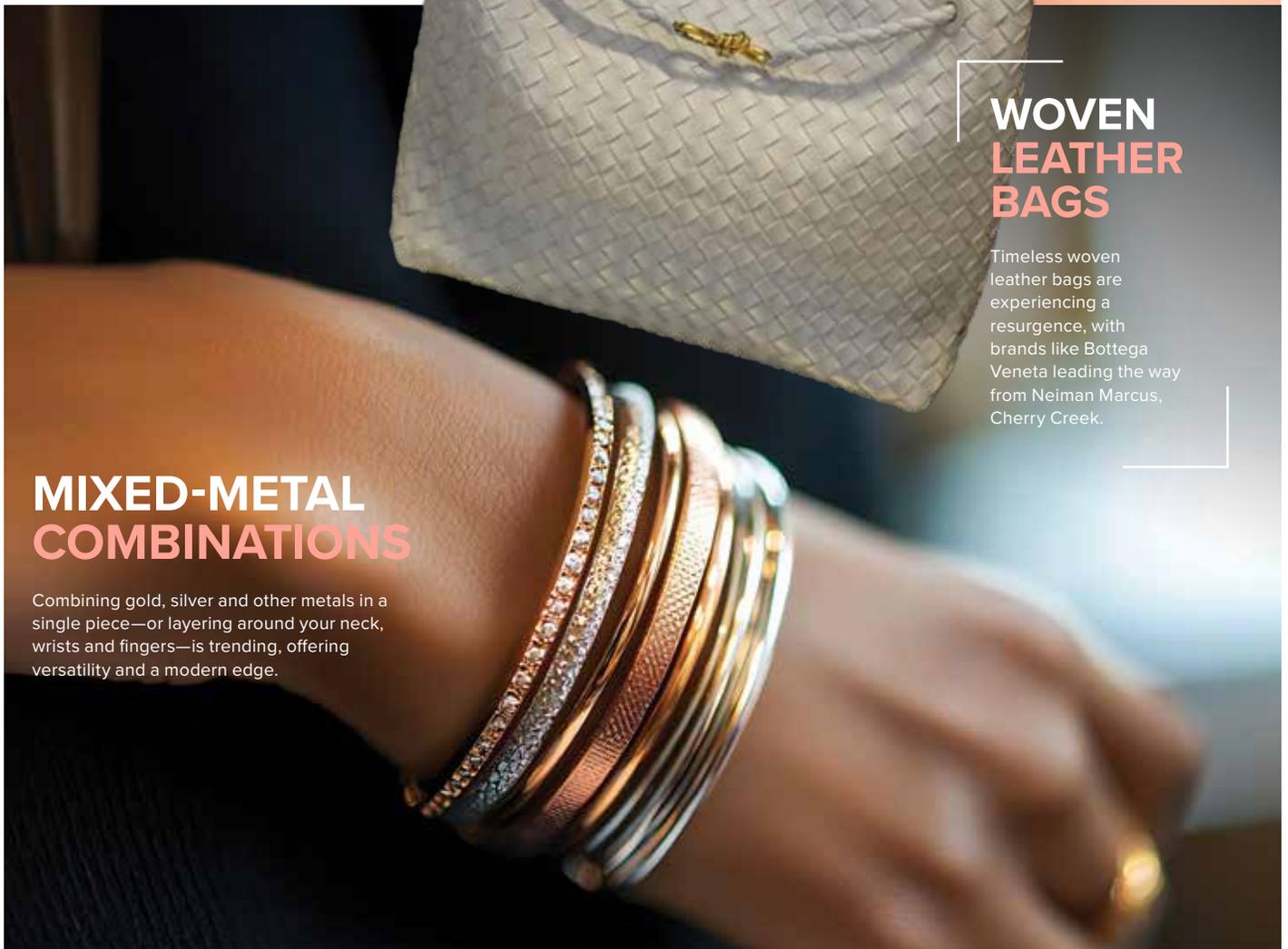
WOVEN LEATHER BAGS

Timeless woven leather bags are experiencing a resurgence, with brands like Bottega Veneta leading the way from Neiman Marcus, Cherry Creek.



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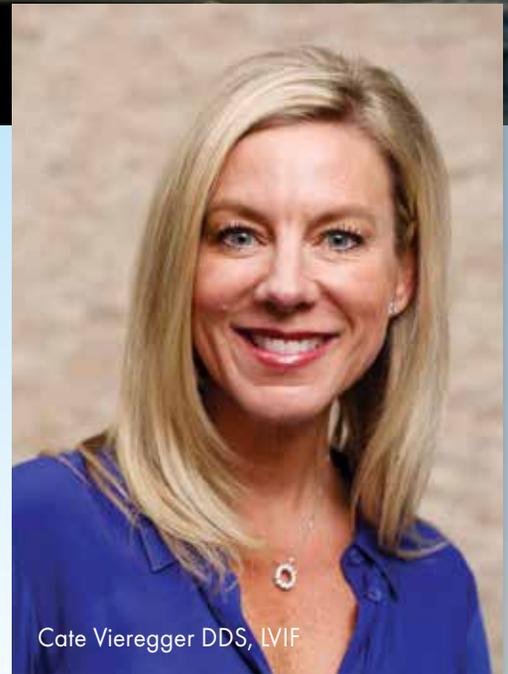


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The Perfect Summer Sandal

Select the right **SANDALS** so your mind, body and soles don't suffer

By Amanda Lacey

IF WE LEARNED anything from Carrie Bradshaw (of the famed "Sex and The City" quartet), it's a woman's right to shoes. You heard it: a woman's right to shoes, especially a pair of Manolo Blahnik strappy sandals, should that be your thing. But let's face it, Manolo's are not for the faint-hearted and not all of us obtain the skill needed to strut around the city as effortlessly as the fashion icon does.

Whether you consider yourself a fashionista or not, the reality is stylish summer sandals are a make-or-break moment. The right pair of shoes can make your outfit, the wrong pair can break your spirit and ruin the day ahead. The key to finding the perfect pair? Consider the occasion, what you'll wear them with, and decide on your non-negotiables like comfort versus fashion.

Depending on the occasion, (think garden party) you may opt for a wedge option over a kitten heel to avoid sinking in the grass. And should you find your day filled with activities, nobody wants to be caught gallivanting with a broken ankle strap, so for a shopping day, gravitate towards a quick and easy slip-on. One thing's for sure, once you've found the perfect style, you'll be reaching for it again and again. Here are some noteworthy options for a variety of activities.

BLOCK-HEELED SANDALS

No matter the occasion, block-heeled sandals instantly elevate an outfit. The added bonus? Perfect heel height that gives just the right amount of lift without compromising comfort. This sandal effortlessly pair well with everything from linen shorts to jeans or dresses.

SLIDES

A day at the lake? Trip to the botanic gardens? A slide-on option will be your go-to without second-guessing it. Lightweight, easy sandals are the steppingstone to a carefree season.

THE BARELY THERE

Who doesn't love a dainty, barely-there sandal. Picture pairing a cage silhouette or flora accented option with a sheath dress for a summer evening on the town.

THE STRAPPY SANDAL

Wedding on the calendar? The strappy sandal is sure to complement your ensemble. Go for a crisscross knotted vamp to ensure stability that will allow you to dance the night away.

WEDGES

Garden party on the horizon requires you to add this silhouette to your summer rotation. Not to mention this casual-chic style can easily take you straight from the office to happy hour.

TOP CHOICES

Check out these perfect sandal silhouettes for your summer wardrobe.

Franco Sarto leather sandal with cork-wrapped platform wedge heel, \$130, Nordstrom at Park Meadows, nordstrom.com

Kendall Louise block heel patent leather slide, \$255, Garbarini, garbarinishop.com

Valentino Garavani strappy satin evening sandals with crisscross knotted vamp, \$920, Neiman Marcus, neimanmarcus.com

Cult Gaia goat leather sandals with calla lily flowers and slingback strap, \$498, Neiman Marcus, neimanmarcus.com

Anine Bing lambskin leather flat sandals with puffy cross-over straps and a padded sole, \$450, A Line Boutique, aline-online.com





THE WORLD IN A CITY AT *Global Fest in Aurora*

Home to residents from more than 160 countries, where 1 in 5 residents are foreign-born, Aurora is one of the most culturally diverse cities in Colorado and has become a place where global traditions, languages, and flavors blend to create a rich, vibrant community. This international spirit is on full display at Global Fest, the city's premier multicultural festival, where visitors can experience the world without ever leaving Colorado.

Each year, Global Fest transforms Aurora into a bustling hub of culture and connection, bringing together live performances, cultural crafts, and international cuisine from around the globe. The family-friendly, one-day event is a feast for the senses, featuring the Parade of Nations, where flags from dozens of countries wave proudly in a colorful display, and a fashion show, where traditional attire from around the world takes center stage. It's also the end of the Global Flavors contest, where the winning restaurants are recognized for having the best international flavors, further highlighting the city's diverse culinary landscape.

Food lovers will find no shortage of delicious discoveries at Global Fest, with food trucks and vendors offering authentic dishes from around the world. The city's renowned Aurora Eats guide makes it easy to continue the journey long after the festival too, with a new interactive map that guides foodies to hidden gems and beloved eateries representing cultures from a wide variety of places.

Whether you come for the music, food, performances, or community spirit, Global Fest is more than just an event, it's a celebration of everything that makes Aurora unique. Mark your calendar and get ready to experience the world in a city at this year's festival on Saturday, June 14, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Aurora Municipal Center.

Learn more at AuroraGlobalFest.org.



JUNE

Sundays in June

MORNING YOGA IN THE PARK

Yoga means “union” and when practiced outside, you can experience union with nature, humanity and the universe. Being outside deepens the yoga experience in many ways and helps focus awareness, breathe deeply and practice stillness. These free classes will be held at the Amphitheater at Philip S. Miller Park on Sunday mornings. Registration is not required but recommended so that you can be notified in case of a weather cancellation. **CASTLE ROCK**, crgov.com

Thursdays in June

GREENWOOD VILLAGE MOBILE CONCERT SERIES

Bring a blanket and chairs and enjoy live music at a different Greenwood Village park every Thursday in June. Enjoy a picnic dinner while you listen to a popular local or regional band. The music begins at 6 p.m. and this year's lineup includes Michael Friedman Band (June 5, Silo Park) and Montage (June 19, Westlands Park); see the full schedule online. **GREENWOOD VILLAGE**, greenwoodvillage.com

June 5

A CLASSICAL SALON: ECHOES OF ITALY

Grammy Award–winning mezzo soprano Michelle DeYoung, concertmaster of the Colorado Symphony, Yumi Hwang-Williams, pianist Jeremy Reger along with renowned strings of the Ensemble Charité will evoke Italy at the Cherokee Ranch & Castle through Tchaikovsky, Stravinsky and stunning Italian songs for mezzo-soprano and piano. Their unparalleled artistry brings this breathtaking repertoire to life creating an unforgettable experience at the Castle. Appetizers served at 6 p.m. and the concert starts at 7 p.m. Includes dessert reception with the artists. **CHEROKEE RANCH & CASTLE**, cherokeeranch.org

June 6–8

TELLURIDE BALLOON FESTIVAL

Returning for its 42nd year and better than ever, this is one of the most beautiful festivals to witness during the summer season, with hot air balloons gently floating above the gorgeous alpine ski town. Witness the massive balloons take flight and join in on other festivities starting in the early morning at Telluride Town Park. The early hours usually provide the best conditions for hot air ballooning. As long as weather conditions permit the ascension, viewers will get a chance to see dozens of hot air balloons gently making their way up in the sky. And the Main Street glow will take place from 6–10 p.m. on Saturday night. **TELLURIDE**, telluride.com

June 7

CLASSIC CAR SHOW

Time for the 25th annual Highlands Ranch Cultural Affairs Association's Classic Car Show. A perfect weekend activity for the whole family.



PHOTO: SCOTT DRESSEL-MARTIN

June 3, 10, 17 and 24

MOMMY AND ME MINDFULNESS

The benefits of meditations designed specifically for children include improving mental health, reducing stress, bolstering coping skills, and enhancing relaxation and sleep. This series will familiarize children with mindfulness and meditation through activities designed to acquaint them with breathing exercises, emotion recognition and self-regulation. Each session has individual registration, and a parent or guardian must be present with their child for the duration of the program. This program will take place entirely outdoors, so dress accordingly and bring a mat or blanket to sit on. **CHATFIELD FARMS BOTANIC GARDENS**, botanicgardens.org

ON THE AGENDA // can't-miss events

Grab lunch from a food truck and chat with the car owners. Show off your classic car or just take a walk around and vote for your favorite, then cheer on the winners at the award ceremony. And don't miss the engine rev at 12 p.m. sharp. **HIGHLANDS RANCH**, hrcaonline.org

June 7-8

DENVER CHALK ART FESTIVAL

The Denver Chalk Art Festival showcases over two hundred artists painting their masterpieces, this year in the Mile High City's Golden Triangle neighborhood. The art is quite temporary, and by the end of the day on Sunday, the streets will be washed of all evidence of the festival. The event features five madonnari (street painters), two of which are Colorado residents. In addition to the pros, there will be more than 150 artists painting and competing. There will be live music, food vendors and beverage booths throughout the festival site. **DENVER**, denverchalk.art

June 8

GARDEN OF THE GODS

10M/10K & TRAIL RACE

It's a physically demanding race, but the scenery is spectacular. This annual event includes awards in several age groups, runner support along the way, a special t-shirt and a post-race celebration. **GARDEN OF THE GODS**, gardenmile.com



PHOTO: RYAN COX / PHOTOGRAPHY

June 13-14

VAIL CRAFT BEER CLASSIC

It doesn't get better than mountains, beer and music. The 2025 festival will return for its 9th year and will feature more than 40 breweries and beverage makers from all over the Centennial State and beyond pouring their best suds set in picturesque Vail. The can't-miss summer event includes seltzer and spirits from beverage makers, food trucks and live music. And as you sip, be sure to vote for your favorite. Breweries will have the chance to win in the "Best Beer of Summer" awards. Schedule and tickets available online. **VAIL**, vailcraftbeerclassic.com



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June 13

HAPPY HOUR HALF K

Have you always wanted to run a half marathon, or maybe just a 5K, but it seems like too much work? You're in luck. Prepare for the 1640-foot Happy Hour Half K benefiting the Highlands Ranch Community Association Therapeutic Recreation Program. After the race, participants can look forward to live music, local beer, seltzer, wine and non-alcoholic beverages for free (2 each). Multiple food trucks will also be on-site for optional food purchases. **CIVIC GREEN PARK**, hrcaonline.org

June 14

CLIMB4CHANGE

This unique racing event offers several timed races on the 200-step Challenge Hill at Philip S. Miller Park in Castle Rock. Participants ascend 178 feet in each of the four challenges. There is also a non-timed fun run/walk that families can enjoy on their own anywhere in the park. Whether you're looking to be a part of something or trying to change things up, Climb4Change is the perfect solution. Proceeds from this event benefit the Town's Therapeutic Recreation program to provide scholarships, purchase adaptive equipment and give access to a wide variety of activities for adults and children with cognitive and physical disabilities. **PHILIP S. MILLER PARK**, crgov.com

June 14-15

COLORADO RENAISSANCE FESTIVAL OPENING WEEKEND

Comedy, juggling, magic ... music, sword swallowers, steak on a stick! The Colorado Renaissance Festival, open for eight weekends each summer, is something you really have to experience to believe. Stroll among costumed merrymakers (you can dress up too), feasting on foods fit for a king (or queen), dancing along to 16th-century music, watching artisans in actions and experiencing "acts that will amaze you, bonk you on the head and make you spew with laughter." Weekends through August 3rd. **LARKSPUR**, coloradorenaissance.com

June 21-22

DENVER CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL

Still going strong and celebrating 51 years, this big festival celebrates Japanese culture and heritage with live entertainment, food and drink (including sake for adults), a vendor marketplace, informative exhibits and demonstrations. It's fun for the whole family, and admission is free. 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday. **SAKURA SQUARE IN DOWNTOWN DENVER**, cherryblossomdenver.org

June 21-22

BACON & BOURBON FESTIVAL

Whether you are a bacon enthusiast or the loved one of a bacon connoisseur, this event is for you. With loads of bacon and bacon-inspired cuisine at your fingertips, you won't want to miss this weekend-long celebration of all things bacon and bourbon. Sizzlin' bacon strips cooked right in River Run Village at Keystone alongside dozens of bourbons with the VIP Bourbon Tour make this weekend a delicious party. Kids of all ages will find all kinds of activities at Camp Bacon making this an event for the whole family. **KEYSTONE**, keystonefestivals.com

June 26

CAT FEST COLORADO

Get ready for the ultimate celebration of cats. With loads of fun for the whole family and all entertainment and activities included in the ticket price—ranging from free face painting, a mystical Egyptian cat temple, creation station for cat crafts, a costume contest and more. Dozens of adoptable cats will also be onsite (all screened, with shots current) and ready to find their forever homes. **COLORADO SPRINGS**, catfestco.com



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PHOTO: ANNIE VALDES

June 27–29

ANNUAL DONKEY DERBY DAYS

Time for an unforgettable experience at the 94th Annual Donkey Derby Days, a cherished tradition that promises fun and excitement for the entire family. This exhilarating 3-day event is packed with activities and entertainment that will delight attendees of all ages. Event highlights include a concert series, parade, silent auction, kid's zone, beer garden and of course live donkey races. **CRIPPLE CREEK**, cityofcripplecreek.com

June 27–July 20

ROCK OF AGES

Coming to the PACE Center mainstage, Tony Award-nominated Broadway musical “Rock of Ages” takes you back to the time of big bands with big egos playing big guitar solos and sporting even bigger hair. Recommended for adults, ages 14+, due to strong adult themes and content. **PACE CENTER**, parkerarts.org

June 28

TUNES ON THE TERRACE:

SIERRA GREEN AND THE GIANTS

Emerging as a vibrant musical force from the bustling streets of New Orleans, Sierra Green embodies a fusion of timeless soul with an irresistible contemporary allure, evoking the depth and grit of the genre's raw essence. Revered as the “Queen of Frenchmen Street,” Sierra's roots delve deep into the rich musical soil of the city's 7th Ward—a historic breeding ground that nurtured legends such as Jelly Roll Morton, Sidney Bechet and Allen Toussaint. Backed by her band of top players, the Giants, Sierra's dynamic performances channel passion and liberation reminiscent of Motown legends with a timeless but modern soulful sound. **LONE TREE ARTS CENTER**, lonetreeartscenter.org



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