

WIN TICKETS TO
1964 THE TRIBUTE
AT RED ROCKS

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JON GRAY HAS POTENTIAL
TO BE ACE OF ROCKIES »1C

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Voice of the Rocky Mountain Empire

THE SUNDAY DENVER POST



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★★

PERSPECTIVE

FOURTH OF JULY
TRAUMATIC FOR
SOME VETS

Many people are unaware that Fourth of July fireworks bursting in air and rockets' red glare can evoke battlefield horrors among veterans. »1D

LIFE &
CULTURE



NINE DECADES
OF FEMALE
COMICS HEROES

From the 1934 debut of Sally the Sleuth to last month's Gal Gadot-starring "Wonder Woman" movie, which has raked in nearly \$350 million at the domestic box office, female comic-book characters have come a long way in popular culture. »1E

BUSINESS

MOE'S GOES
FROM ONE TO
56 LOCATIONS

Fifteen years ago, Jeff Kennedy joined his former University of Alabama buddies Mike Fernandez and Ben Gilbert to convert a 40-foot hay trailer into a kitchen — the "Pig Rig" — and started smoking brisket, pork butt, ribs and yard birds. »1K

NATION
& WORLD

28 INJURED AS
GUNSHOTS FILL
NIGHTCLUB

Gunshots ring out during a concert in Little Rock, Ark., leaving 28 people injured from an 11-second melee that police said may be gang-related. »2A

EMPLOYMENT

Blueprint for
building crisis

Colorado has massive shortage of construction workers



Students at the Colorado Homebuilding Academy listen June 14 to instructor Mark Babcock during an eight-week course on construction. The construction skills "boot camp" meets two nights a week for three hours to hone the talent the industry needs. John Leyba, The Denver Post

By Erin Douglas
The Denver Post

In a 25,000-square-foot warehouse that smells of freshly cut wood in north Denver, 20 adults — including a refugee family from Somalia, a math teacher and a laid-off retail worker — gather in the unfinished frame of a house to take notes on the Pythagorean theorem.

They are hoping that the equation, along with other basic measuring principles, will help them find work at the end of an eight-week construction course.

"When the market crashed in 2008, a lot of people were forced to do something else. Now that the industry is booming, there's really not that quality craftsmanship anymore," said Tim Reyna, who enrolled in the class at the Colorado Homebuilding Academy after he lost his retail job. "I definitely think there's a ton of opportunity."

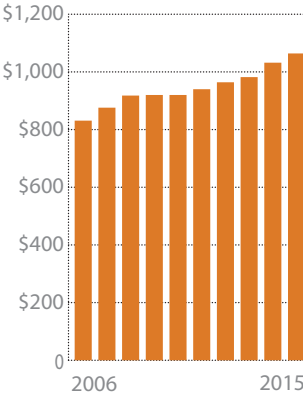
As far as the construction industry is concerned, Reyna and his classmates can't hit the job market quickly enough. Industry officials in Colorado say the shortage of skilled laborers is at a crisis level. They need people now — to build homes, malls, office buildings and roads.

BUILD » 19A

Construction crisis

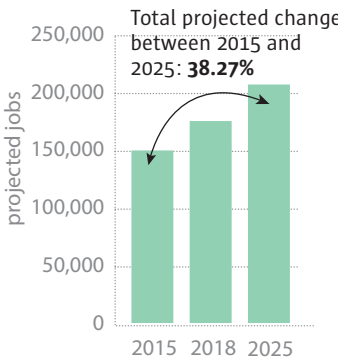
Colorado's construction industry is facing a significant labor shortage due to record low unemployment, an aging workforce and huge demand. The shortage is impacting everyone from homebuyers reeling from sticker shock to commuters fed up with prolonged work-zone traffic. Officials are focusing on education, training and apprenticeship programs, but say it will take time.

CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGES

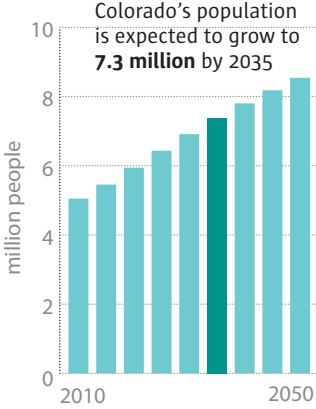


Source: Economic Impact Study — Department of Construction Management at Colorado State University, Colorado Department of Local Affairs

COLORADO CONSTRUCTION
EMPLOYMENT FORECAST



COLORADO POPULATION
FORECAST



Kayla Robertson, The Denver Post

AMERICAN CIVICS

Ideals
in focus
near the
Fourth

U.S. democracy has
evolved for 241 years,
now faces scrutiny

By Hillel Italie
The Associated Press

NEW YORK» In his 4½ years as a state senator from Manhattan, Brad Holyman has handed out everything from flashlights to T-shirts at political rallies. But for a gathering held soon after President Donald Trump's inauguration, he decided on something more substantial:

Copies of the Constitution. "My constituents had been asking me, 'What can I do to help?' 'How do I prepare myself?' " says Holyman, a Democrat in his third term who has since distributed thousands of copies. "A year ago, who would have imagined that giving away the Constitution would be seen as an act of resistance?"

Americans have disagreed about government and civic life since the country's founding, about who should vote, who should run for office and the risks of political factions. But as the U.S. nears its 241st birthday, on the Fourth of July, many say democracy itself is in the dock.

Trump, with his labeling the mainstream press the "enemy of the people" and his disparagement of "so-called" judges and other traditional checks on executive power, has critics anxious about not just a given policy but the fate of self-rule — at the same time that his supporters view his rise as the kind of anti-elitist triumph democracy is supposed to represent.

The debate extends from classrooms and policy institutes to popular culture, to the Trump-influenced staging of Shakespeare's "Julius Caesar" at Manhattan's Public Theater and the wave of

DEMOCRACY » 8A

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Downtown Denver's popular Commons Park is blossoming, and one of its best-known features is part of that area's much-needed and widely applauded improvement. »1B



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