

Brighton window



Owner Anna Verbeek, left, and store manager Mary Beth Kistler delight on Saturday after officially cutting the ribbon at their new business, On Pins & Needles, at 39 N. Main St. The quilting and needlecraft store offers classes and sells supplies, including machine-embroidery patterns created by Verbeek. Photo by Alex Predmore

Our Bridge and Main was Main Street, U.S.A.

By Dick Hodge

As you read this, the southwest corner of Bridge and Main streets (5 and 9 S. Main St.) is beginning its metamorphosis to become an urban oasis park, welcoming visitors to our town.

The original building there served similar purposes. The Wire Building built by D.F. Carmichael in 1888 was the gemstone of Brighton.

It had an opera hall that would seat more folks than lived in the town, and at the time it burned in 1955 it housed 13 businesses and 12 apartments.

After the Wire Building fire, two retail chains and a visionary builder

took on the location. J.C. Penney, under the leadership of Lavern "Mac" McConnell, moved from its location in what is now the back room of Jordinelli's Bar and Restaurant, and F.W. Woolworth came new to town. Builder Royal Judd built several buildings around the state pairing those two retailers.

The original store Mac took on as a returning World War II soldier featured a business loft, where all money

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Two Days

Today

9:30-10 a.m. – Music & Movement, Anythink Brighton: Sing, dance, and learn how to play some basic instruments. Appropriate for kids ages 2-6.

11 a.m.-3 p.m. – Farmers Market, Platte Valley Medical Center Bistro; Kristin's Farm-Stand hosts and will sell organic produce and share the story of their nearby farm.

1:30-3:30 p.m. – Voice Recording 101, Anythink Brighton: Dive into sound with an introduction to voice recording. Learn to get clean voice audio. Recordings can be for podcasting, streaming, scary stories – anything else you can imagine. For ages 12 and older.

4:30-5:30 p.m. – Maker Monday: Story Code, Anythink Brighton: Make 'em laugh, make 'em cry, make 'em scream. Create interactive stories of all kinds using the computer program, Scratch; for ages 5 and up. Adult helpers recommended for children ages 10 and under.

4:30-6 p.m. – Kid's Community Flu Clinics, Platte Valley Medical Center; for children under 10 and their families; call 303-498-3590 for appointment and insurance info; \$25 Quadrivalent Flu Vaccine (4 strains), \$30 High Dose Flu Vaccine (over age 65); Insurances accepted, Medicare Part B, AARP Medicare, Rocky Mountain Health Plan (non-Medicare only), or Blue Cross Blue Shield, no co-pay; bring insurance card to prove coverage. Call 303-498-3590 to check on other insurance plan.

Tuesday

9:30-10:15 a.m. – Baby Bounce, Anythink Brighton; time with your little one with songs, rhymes and stories for babies and caregivers; for ages birth-23 months.

10-11 a.m. – One-on-One Tech Help, Anythink Brighton, by appointment: RSVP online or call 303-405-3230.

4-5 p.m. – STEAM Tuesdays, Anythink Brighton, Learn about a natural facet of Barr Lake; grades K-5. RSVP.

4 p.m. to sunset – Tuesday Evenings on the Eagle Express, Barr Lake State Park: a 2-3-hour excursion on the Express around the lake; seating limited; RSVP at 303-659-6005 and confirm departure time; Dress for the weather. Pack a picnic for dinner stop. Meet at boat ramp.

5:45-6:30 p.m. – Pilates Mat Class, Platte Valley Medical Center; strengthen abdominals, hips, shoulders, increase flexibility, overall fitness and health; certified Pilates instructor, \$9 per class, RSVP 303-498-1840.

6-7:30 p.m. – Learn Guitar with City Strings Guitar, Anythink Brighton: learn to play the guitar, listen to each other as an ensemble, write songs; open to students with good finger strength and dexterity and willing to practice during the week; bring guitar. All ages. RSVP online.

7 p.m. – Bible Study Fellowship, Men's group at Zion Congregational Church on 27th Ave.; Women's group at Brighton United Methodist Church on Eighth Ave.; 7 p.m.; interdenominational, in-depth Bible study. All welcome. To learn more call Kristen at 303-654-0972.

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Reader to Reader

COFFEE WITH THE CANDIDATE!

TODAY, 9-10:30 a.m., Candis' Coffee Table, 236 E. Bridge St.; Dave Rose, candidate for state representative, wants to hear from his future constituents in House District 56. Come share ideas, ask questions, or just have a cup of coffee. Free.

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was handled. Transactions were sent by wire in a leather cup to the balcony where the change was made.

F.W. Woolworth was founded in 1878 in Utica New York and originated the five-and-dime concept. It was literal: stuff cost a nickel or a dime. The 20-cent line was added in 1932. The 1960's Greensboro Civil Rights lunch counter sit-in movement was started in an F.W. Woolworth lunch counter.

At the local level, the stores became mainstays of the local economy. Jim Jaeger was the third Penney's manager, following Dave Farbach. Jim was manager from "April Fool's Day 1970 until 1977," he said.

High-school kids maintained a working presence at Penney's. Such student workers included Ken Kreutzer, Barbara Lambert, Gary Hogan, Kim Lesser, Dick Hodge, Marc McConnell, and a string of DECA students. When Barbara Lambert worked as a sales clerk, Mac tried reopening the rear doors for customers, and she remembers that ended when "A lot of shrinkage went out those doors."

The store offered a variety of products. Women's ready-to-wear was always a major item. The white sales never exceeded 20 percent off and largely featured sheets. The basement housed gift wrapping, fabric and sewing products, returns and catalog sales. Local managers largely guided the ordering and store layout.

YOUR prospective CUSTOMERS are reading this, too!

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The Daily Post™

Ask how: 720-937-6064



The building at the southwest corner of Main and Bridge streets at one time housed Brighton's JC Penney and F.W. Woolworth stores.

Daily Post photo

Two symptoms of the same retail swing then happened together. J.C. Penney Co. changed its pattern from Main Street to malls and Kmart, then Walmart, came around. The store closed in the mid 1980s. There was a succession of retail uses to follow, second-hand, sports-themed, flea market, and none quite had the allure of J.C. Penney in the good days.

Woolworth's sold the standard fare of dry goods, sewing supplies, cards, and business supplies, but might be best remembered for its lunch counter. Lunch counter employees included Naomi Derby, Darlene Lockman, and Dee Sanchez as regulars. The longest serving manager was Joe Anthony. He went on with his wife, Annette, to run Brighton Lock and Key.

The Woolworth's building went on to other uses also, but the most memorable was Pat's Furniture. Mike Bradley bought the store, kept the name and moved across the street. He added carpet and other flooring to the offerings and operated many years.

Those stalwarts of retail served

Brighton well. They were large, open buildings without much character, but the people made them alive. The combination of shopping malls, traffic patterns, corporate policies left us these remnants.

Funeral notices

Laura Lynn Irsik, 55, of Brighton, died Oct. 11. Memorial service, 3 p.m. **Tuesday** at Tabor-Rice Funeral Home. Memorial contributions can be made to Gentle Barn Foundation, 15825 Sierra Highway, Santa Clarita, CA 91390. Arrangements made by Tabor-Rice Funeral Home. [Full obit Tabor-Rice](#)

Shirley R. Jensen, 78, of Brighton, died Oct. 7. Shirley chose to be cremated with no services. Her remains will be transported to St. Paul, Neb., then taken to Elmwood cemetery for burial, next to her husband, Howard Jensen. Shirley was born in Wolbach, Neb., to Alfred and Doris Berney. In 1957, she married Howard Jensen. Later they moved to Lakewood, Colo., where Howard was employed at Keebler Cookie Co. Shirley was a homemaker. They had no children. She enjoyed sewing and cooking. She celebrated holidays, picnics and special occasions with her brother Denny, his wife Marilyn, and their children Matthew, Tim and Sheri. Sheri married Scott Yohe and they have two girls, Makayla and Jozlynn. The family all lived close to each other. Arrangements made by Tabor-Rice Funeral Home. [Full obit Tabor-Rice](#)

Wayne Greenfield, 78, of Brighton, died Oct. 6. Celebration of life, 11 a.m., **Tuesday**, at Tabor-Rice Funeral Home. [Full obit Tabor-Rice](#)

Gas gauge

\$2.64⁹ Lowest unleaded price at 6 p.m. Sunday:

Murphy Express and Agfinity / Cenex on Bromley Lane