



Coming Together in Crisis

Blood Donations Dropping Amid Coronavirus Concerns.
UCHealth Urges Healthy People to **DONATE BLOOD**. PAGE 6



SOMEONE GIVING BLOOD (FILE PHOTO)



A PREVIEW OF WHAT'S GOING ON
IN NORTHERN COLORADO

Powered by Northern Colorado's
Entertainment & Lifestyle Magazine

Saja Butler is Healing Through Music

Saja Butler is finding ways
to spread good vibrations

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PHOTO BY KIT CHALBERG

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Response Team Formed

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Preparing for Spring

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"Physical" NOT Social Isolation



Prior to this pandemic, for most of us the first in our lifetime, we had all the freedom in the world to engage with our neighbors and friends in person. But sadly, in the midst of our otherwise busy lives, so often, we did not make the time to do so.

Now that we have been strongly advised against spending any time (apart from our immediate families) in close proximity to other people, coupled with the fact that we now have more time than we ever anticipated, finally, we are seeking ways to connect with our neighbors.

In Italy, where to date 10,000 people have died, people are serenading their neighbors with operatic voices from balconies and playing classical music on violins.

Closer to home, some neighbors have reported coming out to their driveways every day at 5 pm for a physically separated yet socially connected Happy Hour. One FoCo resident described himself as a

longtime introvert. But as a professional photographer with a home nearby the entrance to a nature trail, he decided to overcome his shyness and introduce himself to his neighbors, asking if he could take their picture as they headed out for a walk -- check out David Fanning's website to see "My Neighborhood." <https://davidfanningphoto.com/my-neighborhood>

Sometimes it takes dire circumstances to shake people up to assess "What's important here?" At a time when any of us could succumb to a virus that has felled so many throughout the world, we are perhaps forced to think about our existence and what creates meaning in the time at hand.

At an unprecedented time like this, one of the questions we may ask is how can we be engaged in something that truly matters?

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Be. H.
Blaine Howerton



OUR MISSION

As Northern Colorado's only independently-owned, regional weekly, we connect communities and the people who live in them by providing news of hyper-local events and of businesses, nonprofits, government leaders, and individuals who are working hard to make a difference while successfully meeting the challenges of our time.

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Homeward Alliance—Alleviating Homelessness

LIBBY JAMES | NorthFortyNews.com

In a time of upheaval, Dave Rout, executive director of Homeward Alliance, is inspired by local and county leaders who have stepped up to respond. “Because we were so woefully unprepared (for a pandemic) as a nation, we are at the mercy of our community’s willingness to help,” he said. He is aware that not all communities have acted so swiftly and so well.

Homeward Alliance, housed in the Murphy Center for Hope at 242 Conifer Street in Fort Collins, evolved from Homeless Gear, a non-profit founded by Ken John in 2008 at the time of his retirement from the business world. His goal was to outfit the homeless population in Fort Collins with survival gear appropriate for Colorado’s harsh winters.

Homeless Gear expanded over time, growing to provide programs designed to empower individuals and families to escape homelessness and move forward in their lives. From a small operation with a single mission and a budget of \$40,000, the non-profit now sponsors 11 different programs and initiatives and has a budget of two million dollars. Their stated mission is to make homelessness “rare, short-lived and non-recurring” in the community.

The name change occurred in 2018 in celebration of the organization’s tenth anniversary. Today Homeward Alliance operates the Murphy Center for Hope where 20 agencies are based that offer as many as 40 different services. “The idea was to create a place where people can get it all,” Rout said.

Rout arrived at Homeward Alliance through the back door. A journalism major and native of New Jersey, he was working in his field in Fort Collins and wanted to get involved in the community. He began volunteering and became so involved that he enrolled in Colorado State University where he earned a degree in social work. He volunteered for Street Outreach in 2011, then served an internship and later took over management of Hand Up, an employment program, now part of Homeward Alliance. He has been executive director of Homeward Alliance for the last eight years.

Programs available at the Murphy Center range from basic survival needs to job programs, re-entry assistance for people as they return to society after incarceration, and a Dedicated Navigator program to help people make an application for benefits available to them. In 2019 participants received nearly a million dollars in benefits.

The list of programs and initiatives is long and varied, ranging from bike repair and bus passes to eyeglass vouchers, a food pantry, lockers, a mobile laundry service, showers, a notary, pet food, vaccinations and services for veterans, all geared toward establishing and maintaining permanent housing.

In 2019 the One Village One Family initiative helped 19 families with 40 children escape homelessness. Street Outreach engaged more than 500 people n the streets, more than a million

dollars’ worth of life-sustaining supplies were distributed, 70 percent of participants were helped to obtain employment, and 550 bike repairs were done free of charge.

In 2017 Homeward Alliance and Homeward 2020 launched the Housing First Initiative and since then 140 people, homeless for six months or longer have been housed. More than 90 percent of them remained housed after six months.

Because of the COVID-19 scare, Murphy Center, which routinely serves 200 people a day, is closed for the duration. Working with Catholic Charities and Fort Collins Rescue Mission, Homeward Alliance has been providing overnight housing at Northside Aztlan Community Center. A day center is also open at the location. Keeping people separated according to the status of their health has created a challenge at the facility.


“The pandemic has upended everything we do, causing closures and major adjustments. Ninety percent of our volunteers, most of them older people,



PHOTOS COURTESY OF HOMEWARD ALLIANCE: David Rout, Executive Director, Homeward Alliance




are temporarily gone,” Rout said. “We’re currently in a hiring frenzy.” Rout is encouraged by some younger people who have stepped up to volunteer their services and encourages anyone willing to help to contact phil@homewardalliance.org. Additional information about services under the auspices of Homeward Alliance can be found at their website – www.homewardalliance.org

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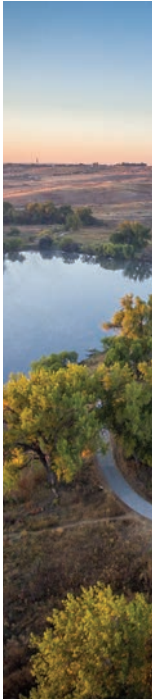



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HACH CENTER
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Northern Colorado faces far-reaching challenges that influence the future of our region. Successfully navigating these issues requires a shared vision, collaborative funding, and committed individuals and organizations. The Hach Center for Regional Engagement represents the diverse citizens of Larimer and Weld counties and is driven by the desire to preserve the enviable quality of life we enjoy today for future generations.

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Building unity by convening Northern Colorado mayors, mayors pro tem, and city managers to focus on bold ideas for the region.

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Destination Downtown Loveland

Energizing downtown revitalization by convening national experts and invested citizens.

Sky Corral Ranch

Providing youth groups, businesses and nonprofits with a place to gather and connect.

CiviCO Leadership Academy

Building a statewide community of leaders.

Array and Stitches Acute Care Center Announce New Telemedicine App for Wyoming and Colorado

NORTH FORTY NEWS | NorthFortyNews.com

The Array School of Technology and Design and Stitches Acute Care Center have launched a new telemedicine application that will allow patients in Wyoming and Colorado an easy way to access telemedicine. This application can be found in the Apple or Android App store under Stitches Acute Care Center. Once a telemedicine visit is initiated, the patient is connected with local medical providers. Most cases can be taken care of during that visit and if a prescription is needed it will be sent electronically to the pharmacy of choice. If an in-person evaluation is needed, patients will be directed to the nearest location for this to be performed. If patients are not near Laramie, Cheyenne, or Wellington, Stitches providers will help patients navigate where they should go in their community to seek in-person care and possible further testing if needed.

Per Eric Trowbridge, CEO of Array, “in this time of crisis, we wanted to help in any way that we could. Creating a tool that helps patients have easier access to healthcare was something we were capable of doing. So we did it.” Eric envisions this application advancing in the near future.

Dr. Dan Surdam states, “telemedicine improves access to quality health care, and is a critical way for people to receive care, especially now during this pandemic. We can care for people in their homes and in the most rural parts of our communities across geographical or physical limitations virtually. We urge patients to utilize telemedicine when possible. If additional evaluation or testing is needed, we will help the patients achieve this is their communities in Wyoming and Colorado.”

Stitches Acute Care Center has had



telemedicine in place since 2017. Owners, Dan and Amy Surdam originally partnered with Array in 2018 as an effort to leverage technology to advance health care. Health care providers around Wyoming and Colorado who would like to partner with Stitches Acute Care Center on this endeavor are urged to contact Stitches by emailing amy.surdam@stitchescare.com.

PHOTO FROM FACEBOOK.COM/STITCHESCARE



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Wellington COVID-19 Community Response Team

RACHAEL GONZALES | Wellington Fire Protection District

The Town of Wellington and Wellington Fire Protection District partner with residents and business owners to create a COVID-19 Community Response Team helping those affected by COVID-19 in the Town of Wellington and surrounding communities.

We know the COVID-19 situation has put some of our friends, families and neighbors at greater risk. If you are someone or know someone who needs help with daily tasks, such as grocery shopping and delivery, picking up medications or basic errands, please fill out the Resource Request form at bit.ly/WellingtonResourceRequest.

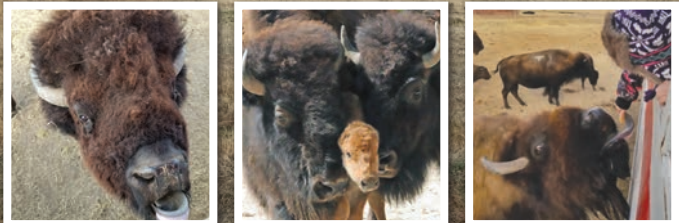
Even with all the uncertainty, we have the chance to show the world that we are a community that

knows how to come together and overcome any challenge that comes our way. Let's show the world that we are Wellington strong and will get through this together!



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COVID-19 COMMUNITY RESPONSE TEAM

DO YOU NEED ASSISTANCE DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC?

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Notice

TREASURER'S REPORT

Check Register

Check Issue Dates: 2/15/2020 - 3/15/2020

<div>February 26, 2020</div> <div> <div>BENNETT PREMIUM LIGHT-ING, Holiday Light & Decor Removal, \$450.00</div> <div>BUFFALO CREEK SUBDIVI-SION AT WELLINGTON, Buffalo Creek Pump House Electricity, \$181.57</div> <div>BUSINESS CARD FACTORY OF COLORADO, Election Ballots and Envelopes, \$8,824.40</div> <div>CINTAS, 2020 Blanket PO for WWTP First Aid Restock, \$89.20</div> <div>CIVICPLUS, WENSITE& SSL CERTIFICATE ANNUAL FEE, \$5,074.81</div> <div>CLEAN SLATE DUSTLESS BLASTING LLC, Emergency Cleaning of Galvanized Bracket at WWTP, \$150.00</div> <div>COLORADO ANALYTICAL LAB, 2020 Blanket PO WWTP Testing, \$1,303.00</div> <div>COLORADOAN, STATEMENT CREDITS, \$1,031.99</div> <div>DANA KEPNER, Water Tap for Service Lines, \$2,800.00</div> <div>DPC INDUSTRIES, INC, 2020 Blanket PO for WWTP Chemi-cals, \$918.75</div> <div>DYNAMIC IMAGE, New Recre-ation Dept registration banners., \$1,225.00</div> </div>	<div>EMPLOYERS COUNCIL SERVICES, INC., Employers Council Annual Dues: march 1, 2020- February 28, 2021, \$6,401.64</div> <div>EON OFFICE, 2020 UB ENVE-LOPES BLANKET PO, \$402.50</div> <div>FARNSWORTH GROUP, INC., Clarifier Rehab Project, \$744.00</div> <div>FINISH LINE AWARDS, AWARDS FOR MAYOR NIGHT, \$38.00</div> <div>FOOTHILLS FIRE EXTIN-GUISHER SERVICE, Fire Extinguisher R&M for Fleet Vehicles, \$1,560.00</div> <div>GOJO SPORTS, Adult softballs., \$6,591.00</div> <div>HUMANE SOCIETY, January License Fees, \$39.00</div> <div>KACY GRAPHICS, BLANKET PO FOR CONTRACT WORK, \$1,815.00</div> <div>MARCH & OLIVE, LLC, GEN-ERAL BUSINESS, \$5,645.50</div> <div>MCDONALD FARMS ENTER-PRISES, INC., 2020 Blanket PO for WWTP Sludge Removal, \$1,226.00</div> <div>NORTH FRONT RANGE WATER QUALITY PLAN-NING, 2020 Membership Dues, \$1,241.00</div> <div>NORTH POUDRE IRRIGA-TION, 2020 SHARE ASSES-SMENT (31), \$5,580.00</div>	<div>NORTHERN COLORADO SPORTS OFFICIALS, Blanket PO-Official Fees, \$310.00</div> <div>POUDRE SCHOOL DISTRICT, BLANKET PO -- Gym Rental feels/Poudre School District, \$1,026.00</div> <div>QUALITY WELL AND PUMP, LLC, Wilson Wells Improve-ments, \$49,439.66</div> <div>RICHARD BACON, REIMB FOR CHAMBER BUCKS, \$100.00</div> <div>SAFEBUILT COLORADO, LLC, January Permit Activity, \$38,042.11</div> <div>SAFEWARE, INC., Securi-ty Strobe Light Housings, \$2,953.12</div> <div>SEACREST GROUP, 2020 Blanket WTP WET Testing, \$2,233.00</div> <div>TEAM PETROLEUM, 2020 Blanket for WWTP Diesel Fuel, \$849.19</div> <div>TREE TOP INC., Tree Purning & Thining for Parks, \$9,900.00</div> <div>TROPHY CREATIVE LLC, PW Annual Uniforms, \$9,716.45</div> <div>UNITED MAILING, BLANKET PO FOR 2020 UTILITY BILL-ING, \$2,864.96</div> <div>VERIZON WIRELESS, TOWN CELL PHONES, \$1,634.38</div> <div>WELLINGTON VETERINARY CLINIC, Boarding 2/3/2020 Invoice #136259, \$204.00</div>	<div>February 27, 2020</div> <div> <div>FIRST NATIONAL BANK OMAHA, P Card Purchases 01-01-2020 to 01-15-2020, \$6,763.18</div> </div>	<div>COMPENSATION STUDIO LLC, Invoice #2: March 1, 2020 \$1531.80, \$1,531.80</div> <div>DELLENBACH MOTORS, New Fleet Vehicle, \$28,663.00</div> <div>DPC INDUSTRIES, INC, 2020 Blanket PO for WTP Chemi-cals, \$3,466.73</div> <div>ELWOOD STAFFING SER-VICES, INC, Invoice: 2293854. Baird - 627.75; Yarbrough - 918.00., \$3,470.51</div> <div>GOVCONNECTION, INC., In-voices: 57356900, and 57359919, \$910.34</div> <div>HARCROS CHECMICALS INC, 2020 Blanket PO for WTP Chemicals, \$679.25</div> <div>HARRELL'S, INC., Impact XP field marking paint for 2020., \$2,880.00</div> <div>JACOBS ENGINEERING C/O BANK OF AMERICA, WWTP Master Plan, \$11,661.11</div> <div>KELLY L. CARROLL, Boxing FightCamp Instructor fees, Jan/ Feb 2020, \$400.00</div> <div>L.C. SALES TAX ADMINISTRA-TOR, Less 3 1/3% Vendor Fee, \$24,853.15</div> <div>LC UNDERGROUND WATER USERS ASSOCIATION, Pump-ing Fees - 400 Shares, \$1,983.00</div> <div>MCDONALD FARMS ENTER-PRISES, INC., 2020 Blanket PO for WWTP Sludge Removal, \$2,416.00</div>	<div>MUNICIPAL TREATMENT EQUIP. INC, PH Probes for Depolox 3 Plus Meters, \$820.36</div> <div>NORTHERN COLORADO SPORTS OFFICIALS, BLAN-KET PO -- NCSO monthly administration fees, \$1,035.00</div> <div>PATRICK REEVES, REIMB FOR SKATE PARK, \$168.79</div> <div>QUANTUM PUMP AND CONTROLS LLC, Wilson Wells VFD, \$27,412.29</div> <div>RH WATER & WASTEWATER, INC, WTP Monthly Monitor-ing, \$700.00</div> <div>STANEK CONSTRUCTORS INC, Clarifier Rehab Project, \$56,525.00</div> <div>TROPHY CREATIVE LLC, PW Coat Embroidery for Uniforms, \$140.61</div> <div>UNCC, Line Locate, \$195.19</div> <div>UNITED MAILING, BLANKET PO FOR 2020 UTILITY BILL-ING, \$1,765.42</div> <div>UTILITY TECHNICAL SER-VICES, LD-12 Water Leak Detector, \$35,730.00</div> <div>WEX BANK, SENIOR BUS, \$2,619.00</div>									
<div> <div>March 10, 2020</div> <div> <div>FIRST NATIONAL BANK OMAHA, P Card Purchases 01-15-2020 to 02-13-2020, \$40,631.97</div> </div> </div>					<div> <div>March 11, 2020</div> <div> <div>ABLAO LAW LLC, 2020 MU-NICIPAL COURT BLANKET PO, \$750.00</div> <div>AIR COMFORT, INC., Exhaust Vent for WTP Heaters, \$4,534.02</div> <div>BOXELDER BASIN REGION-AL STORMWATER AUTH, 2019 RESIDENTIAL SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT FEES, \$389,722.69</div> <div>BRYAN EHRLICH, 2020 80% DEPOSIT FOR 7/4 PYRO-MU-SICAL, \$29,600.00</div> <div>CHEER CENTRAL INC, Cheer Central Suns Instructor fees, Jan/Feb 2020, \$260.00</div> <div>CHEMTRADE CHEMICALS US LLC, 2020 Blanket PO for WTP Chemicals, \$5,291.93</div> <div>COLORADO ANALYTICAL LAB, 2020 Blanket PO WWTP Testing, \$350.00</div> </div> </div>					<div> <div>Total \$888,233.57</div> </div>				

Statewide Community Comes Together to Help

NORTH FORTY NEWS | NorthFortyNews.com

Governor Jared Polis has launched Help CO Now: a coordinated statewide effort to make sure no one falls through the cracks during this crisis. Any dollar you contribute, any supplies you send, any drop of blood you donate will save lives in Colorado.

The following was put together by Polis to coordinate statewide resources and giving in relation to COVID-19.

Here's how you can help statewide (and additional resources):

Health Care Volunteers. We are specifically seeking former or retired health care workers to help at hospitals, testing sites, or care facilities. Sign up here to volunteer: www.northfortynews.com/3cy4

Contribute. We must make sure we have the resources available to combat this outbreak. If you are unable to volunteer, we greatly appreciate any contribution you can make to the response effort. Every dollar will go to helping your neighbors and saving lives in Colorado. Donate Here - www.northfortynews.com/2cwe

Donate blood. Colorado is experiencing an urgent shortage of blood. While not necessarily needed for coronavirus patients, blood donations are essential for saving the lives of Coloradans experiencing other illnesses or injury. Sign up here to give blood. www.northfortynews.com/ofbe

Involve your organization. If you are an organization, government agency, or



nonprofit that needs volunteer assistance, please sign up here - www.northfortynews.com/jki4

Childcare Services for First Responders. If you're an emergency first responder or health care worker that needs assistance finding childcare visit the site here- www.northfortynews.com/dvxu

Innovation Response Team. If you are a private sector company who wants to partner with the Innovation Response Team on acquiring testing, critically constrained medical supplies, technology, or support services for people who are isolated, please click here - www.northfortynews.com/g2bn

Organization in Need of Funding. If your organization is in need of emergency funding to mitigate the effects of COVID-19 in Colorado, please click here-www.northfortynews.com/kuow



PHOTO FROM FREEPIK.COM

UCHealth Blood Centers Urge the Public to Donate Blood

NORTH FORTY NEWS | NorthFortyNews.com

Local blood supplies are in danger of getting low soon, and the novel coronavirus could be to blame. So, officials at UCHealth Garth Englund Blood Centers are urging the public to consider donating blood to help save lives.

Blood supplies typically drop a bit this time of year nationally because cold and flu season keep some regular donors from being able to come in. But an additional decline in donations related to coronavirus concerns is starting to hit right as hospitals are standing ready to care for an increasing number of patients with COVID-19, according to Kaitlin Zobel the recruiter for the blood centers in northern Colorado.

"It is the blood already on the shelves that saves lives, so we need to stay ahead of this," Zobel said.

That's why UCHealth officials are calling on healthy people in northern Colorado who are able to schedule an appointment to donate blood sometime in the next three weeks.

"So many people are wondering how they can help others who are being affected by the coronavirus outbreak and giving blood is a great way to make a difference. An hour of one person's time could save up to two lives," Zobel said.

Donations of all blood types are needed and important at this time.

Donations can be scheduled at Garth Englund's blood donor center at 1025 Pennock Place in Fort Collins. Officials expect the need will be ongoing for the several weeks. Interested donors should call 970.680.8053 to schedule the appointment.

To donate, a person must be at least 18 years old (or 17 with a parent's permission) and show photo identification. New donors must weigh at least 120 pounds and be in good health. Prior donors must weigh at least 110 pounds. Donors also should eat a good meal before their appointment and drink plenty of water the day before and day of the drive. Whole blood donations take 30-40 minutes.

The blood centers are also in need of new platelet donors. Platelet donations take



PHOTO FROM FREEPIK.COM: Nurse using a stethoscope on the forearm of a patient.

anywhere from 90-120 minutes. Platelets are continuously in high demand in northern Colorado, Zobel said. The year-round need for blood products exists mostly for those with chronic diseases, especially cancer patients, who often need platelet transfusions.

More information about eligibility requirements, the donation process and donation center hours is posted at bit.ly/uchealthblood.

All blood donated through UCHealth's Garth Englund Blood Donation Centers stays local. It helps patients at Poudre Valley Hospital in Fort Collins, Medical Center of the Rockies in Loveland, Greeley Hospital, Greeley Emergency and Surgery Center, Longs Peak Hospital in Longmont and Estes Park Health.

Please visit www.uchealth.org/coronavirus for more announcements and stories on the novel coronavirus outbreak and what you can do to protect yourself and others. For the most up-to-date information about the COVID-19 in Colorado, visit the CDPHE's web site at <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/2019-novel-coronavirus>.

Poudre School District Announces Closures

POUDRE SCHOOL DISTRICT

After Colorado Gov. Jared Polis announced Wednesday that the statewide school closure is extended through April 30, Poudre School District staff conferred with officials at the Larimer County Department of Health and Environment. With the safety of staff, students and families top of mind, Dr. Smyser made the difficult decision to continue remote learning through the remainder of the school year and not re-open schools and buildings.

Larimer County Department of Health and Environment statement of support

Larimer County currently has data that predict the last week of April to be the peak of COVID-19 in Colorado. While these models change and more data becomes available daily, at this time it seems unlikely Colorado schools will reopen for in-person learning

this school year. While the governor extended his ban of in-person learning through April 30th, the Larimer County Department of Health and Environment fully expects that to be extended through the end of the school year.

Larimer County is recommending school districts consider closing for in-person learning through the end of the year. "As we urge our community to take the stay-at-home orders seriously, it is unlikely we will see a re-opening of in-person learning for this school year," says Tom Gonzales, Public Health Director. "All of us want our students to go back to school, including me, but we have to minimize the spread of COVID-19 and that means keeping students out of schools and continuing with the virtual learning options our school districts have in place."



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OP ED: By The Fort Collins Homeless Coalition

Legal Action Filed for Immediate Housing to Help Fight COVID-19

THE FORT COLLINS HOMELESS COALITION | NorthFortyNews.com

The Fort Collins Homeless Coalition (FCHC), alongside other homeless advocacy groups across the state, has filed an Extraordinary Petition to require the State of Colorado to provide immediate housing to everyone as part of its emergency response to COVID-19.

If everyone needs to stay home, then everyone needs a home to stay in. We are all being ordered by the State to avoid gathering in groups of more than ten people and to maintain at least six feet of distance between us when sharing spaces. But every day, thousands of people across Colorado have no choice but to share shelter services – using the same buildings, eating in the same facilities, sharing the same bathrooms, standing in the same lines, touching the same surfaces, sleeping in the same rooms, unable to follow public health guidelines no matter how hard they try. Every night, people in our communities must try to decide whether they are safer sleeping in a shelter filled with sick and coughing people, or facing a night outside in cold and often dangerous conditions.

As of press time, at least ten homeless persons in Colorado shelters have tested positive for COVID-19, and there are at

least five people who are "presumed positive" in Fort Collins shelters. The number is almost certainly much higher as testing has been widely unavailable.

The State of Colorado must fulfill its obligations with regard to public health and take steps immediately to provide housing to unhoused people. People experiencing homelessness are more susceptible to catching this virus due to ongoing systemic injustices such as inadequate sleep, overcrowded shelters, and lack of hand-washing facilities. Unhoused people are also much more likely to get seriously ill if they do catch this virus because they are mostly elderly, disabled, and more likely to have underlying medical conditions and lack of access to healthcare. It is imperative to direct significant emergency resources to prevent infections, illnesses, and deaths.

We understand that all our communities are responding to the epidemic, and we stand with all of Colorado in demanding that we receive all the resources we need. The Fort Collins Homeless Coalition has joined with Denver Homeless Out Loud, Boulder Rights Watch, Grand Junction Solidarity Not Charity, and others to file legal action that asks the State of Colorado



PHOTO FROM RAWPIXEL.COM

to fulfill its duty to keep us all safe.

It should not take a dangerous pandemic to teach us this fact, but if it does, may we all learn this now: Every human being deserves a home, and we are collectively healthier and better off when all of us are housed. Together, we must build a

healthier community with more justice, more safety, and more care.

The Fort Collins Community Action Network is a not for profit organization that has a 501(c)(3) classification from the internal revenue service. Your gift is tax deductible as provided by law.

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Fort Collins Temporarily Allows Occupancy of RV's in City Limits

NORTH FORTY NEWS | NorthFortyNews.com



The City of Fort Collins will temporarily allow people to occupy recreational vehicles parked on private property for living, working, or sleeping purposes in order to provide more options for social distancing and physical quarantine during the COVID-19 outbreak.

City Manager Darin Atteberry signed an order allowing the change on March 25. The order is effective immediately until further notice and a copy is included with this press release.

Under the order, people may:

Occupy a recreational vehicle on private property for living, working, or sleeping purposes as long as they have written permission from the property owner.

Park a recreational vehicle on a private street next to the vehicle owner's residential unit, as long as the vehicle is not obstructing pedestrian and vehicular traffic and is not blocking view of an intersection or traffic control device.

Park a recreational vehicle in the yard of any residential lot, as long as the vehicle is not obstructing pedestrian and vehicular traffic and is not blocking view of an intersection

or traffic control device.

Individuals may not occupy a recreational vehicle on public property, park a vehicle on private property without the written permission of the property owner, or violate other existing camping regulations.

Homeowners associations are not allowed to enforce declarations or covenants restricting the parking, occupancy, or use of a recreational vehicle on private streets or private property for working, living, or sleeping purposes to promote social distancing or quarantine, as long as:

- 1) The recreational vehicle is owned by the owner or occupant of the residential unit, or
- 2) The vehicle is parked on the portion of a private lot that provides direct access to a garage from the street, such as a driveway, or
- 3) The vehicle is parked on a privately-owned street next to the vehicle owner's residential unit, or
- 4) The vehicle is parked on a defined section of a privately owned lot covered by asphalt, concrete, rocks, or other inorganic material, or
- 5) The vehicle is parked in a sideyard or backyard as long as the vehicle is placed behind sufficient screening (such as a wall, fence, or shrubbery) that is no less than six feet high.

For questions about the order, contact Neighborhood Services at 970-416-2200.



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Fort Collins to Allow Drive Up Religious Services

NORTH FORTY NEWS | NorthFortyNews.com

The City of Fort Collins will allow religious organizations to hold drive up religious services on their property, provided that attendees remain in their enclosed passenger vehicles and watch the service on an outdoor screen or display. Parking must be within existing approved parking areas and emergency access areas must remain unobstructed.

City Manager Darin Atteberry signed the order allowing such services on April 2. The order is meant to promote the spiritual health and well-being of residents while also adhering to social distancing regulations.

Under the order, those attending a drive-up service would park on the religious organization's property to watch a live service. Audio may not be broadcast from speakers, but those attending can listen on

the radio or other electronic device.

Worshippers must close windows and other vehicle openings unless the next car is six feet or more away.

The order does not allow worshippers to congregate inside buildings. The religious service conducted for outdoor viewing may be performed inside, but only by the fewest number of people possible and no more than 10 people in the building at any one time.

The City's order does not supersede public health regulations. All religious organizations that wish to conduct drive-up services must first confer with state and/or county health departments to ensure a service does not violate a stay at home order.

To contact the Larimer County EOC, call 970-498-5500, text at 970-999-1770 or submit a question via internet at <https://form.jotform.com/200847443591054>.

A copy of the City's order is included with this press release.

For more information about the City's response to COVID-19, visit fcgov.com/

Saying Good-Bye to Beqa:

A Fort Collins Woman Comes Home Early from Her Peace Corps Service

LIBBY JAMES | NorthFortyNews.com

There is no school bus on Beqa.

That is because there are no mechanized vehicles at all on this tiny Fiji Island of 14 square miles and containing nine small villages. Instead of a school bus, the children who live too far away to walk get to school on the school boat.

Audrey Moreng of Fort Collins was just past the halfway mark of her second year of Peace Corps service on the island when her life changed suddenly and radically. She was helping a couple of students get familiar with a new computer when she received an email from Peace Corps headquarters. It was short and simple and told her that she was to return home, that because of the COVID-19 threat, her Peace Corps service had ended. She became one of seven-thousand Peace Corps volunteers serving all over the world who got the same notice. Their service had been closed with no guarantee that it would resume.

Moreng was stunned. She had been home for 10 days at the time of this writing. “I’m okay,” she said. “It’s getting a little easier.”

A graduate of Centre College in Danville, Kentucky where the emphasis is on becoming part of the global community, Moreng majored in international studies and got a taste of what Peace Corps service would be like when she spent time in Ghana working on a water filtration project during her college days. Right after she graduated, she entered the Peace Corps.

As the time came to begin the first term of school during her second year in Beqa, she felt prepared and confident. “I had a plan for literacy and reading,” she explained. “I developed a reading

tracker that had the kids writing small book reports after every book they read. Comprehension is a big issue here. The student with the most verified book reports was to be rewarded.” On a recent visit her dad had brought chocolate which she stashed away to give as the prize at the end of the term. But that never happened. When Moreng left, she gave the chocolate to a neighbor.

She had become deeply involved with the village she served. In addition to teaching in the kindergarten through eighth-grade school which served 60 students from two villages, she worked in the library, worked with a youth group, and conducted an island-wide women’s health workshop.

“It’s a patriarchal society,” Moreng said. “I became interested in empowering the women.” At the time of her departure, she was on the verge of getting a grant to support Pretty Taledi, (translates as talents) a group of single and young mothers, ages 17-52 she had formed. The grant was to establish an outlet for marketing their handmade crafts in Suva, the capital of the Fiji Islands.

Physically helping to reverse the erosion of the local seawall, damage related to climate change, was another of Moreng’s projects. Through all these efforts she endeared herself to the people of Beqa.

Moreng had come a long way from her first days on the island when, as the only Peace Corps volunteer on Beqa, she felt lonely. “Learning the language helped,” she said. Fijians speak three languages, Fijian, English and Fiji Hindi. At one time the islands were a British colony, accounting for the English language. As the days went by,



PHOTO COURTESY AUDREY MORENG: Audrey’s last night in the village. Audrey and her boyfriend Bilo, are second and third from the left

Moreng began to feel at home on the island.

Her experience on New Year’s Day let her know for certain that she had become an accepted member of the community. Her friends shared drinks with her, then drenched her with water, then flour and water again, fulfilling an unlikely New Year’s tradition among them. Even more meaningful, Millah, her good friend and the wife of a teacher she worked with named her newborn daughter after her. “I now have a yaca, someone named after me,” she wrote home, expressing her pride in the honor she had received.

Moreng was so attached to the community that twice when cyclones were predicted and the Peace Corps ordered that she move to the safety of a hotel room on another island, she felt guilty. “It’s a terrible feeling to ditch your village when you hear a storm is coming,” she said.

Today she is grateful that she had a place and a family to come home to. She’s enjoying her family and little things like hot showers and catching up on favorite television programs. And soap. “It was not always accessible where I lived and that was a reminder to me to be thankful for it,” she said. These days she makes daily phone calls to her boyfriend Bilo, the person who took her under his wing and helped her to acclimate during her first days on the island.

Future plans are on hold for now. She remains passionate about empowering women and hopes to contribute to that effort in some meaningful way. While it doesn’t look likely that she will return to Beqa to complete her Peace Corps assignment, she will never forget her time there and the people she came to know and love on the little island.

Fort Collins In Pictures:

Old Town Fort Collins Resembles a Ghost Town

NORTH FORTY NEWS | NorthFortyNews.com

Photographer Dewey Chapman is documenting (in pictures) the state of Old Town Fort Collins during the current crisis. Parking lots are empty. Sidewalks don't carry patrons. What was a bustling Fort Collins Old Town only a few weeks ago now sometimes resembles a ghost town.



the new scene weekly

// COVER //

Saja Butler is Healing Through Music

NORTH FORTY NEWS | NorthFortyNews.com

Musician, bandmate, teacher, and studio owner, Saja Butler is finding ways to spread good vibrations to the community and lift people's spirits at all times through the gift of music.

Born in Virginia and raised in South Carolina for the majority of her life, Butler grew up listening to gospel, country, blues, funk, hip hop and a lot of reggae. Describing the music she creates as southern soul, Butler has been performing music since the fifth grade and was classically trained on the clarinet before that, playing in orchestra and marching band.

Wanting to get away from the orchestrated scene of music, it was not until her college years at the University of Tennessee in 1999 when Butler found her true calling; the banjo. "I picked up a banjo and fell in love with it," said Butler.

Today, Butler sings and plays the banjo as her own act and she is also a member in an all-female four-piece string band called Lois and the Lantern. Performing at festivals across Colorado from New West Fest to Arise, Butler's band has been writing and performing music for five years now and are all very good friends.

Butler also works part-time at the Music District, a gathering place centered around music that cultivates and supports musical talent and appreciation in everyone. She was one of the original employees on staff when the Music District opened in 2016 and has made her mark there over time. "I designed the instructor program that has now moved to

arts and development," said Butler. "I help people interested in music from beginner to pro and host beginner jams," she said. "I love doing it, really fun."

"Music is healing energy and no matter who you are on earth or in existence when you hear the music you love, you are uplifted,"

In addition, Butler is the owner of Urban Monk Studios in Fort Collins where she has been leading classes and private lessons teaching guitar, voice, and banjo for the past twelve years. "I teach mostly adults now due to the fact that I am keyed into the needs of the music industry meaning anybody is capable of learning music at any time, being viral at any time, so my demographic is actually 30 - 65," said Butler.

Unfortunately, the studio is closed until the end of April due to the current Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Also, as a result of COVID-19, the shows Butler had been booked for through May have been canceled. Though a majority of Butler's income comes from students through the courses she teaches, many musicians like herself are being effected financially by concert cancellations, considering they do not have consistent paychecks.

They put hours into practicing and depend on receiving financial gain and that income is gone immediately when there are cancellations. Nevertheless, Butler remains positive, performing covers and originals with her banjo online via her Facebook page hoping to spread happiness through sound.

"Music is healing energy and no matter who you are on earth or in existence when you hear the music you love, you are uplifted," said Butler. "It is the most effectual tool we have, especially in these times and we need to remember that,"she said.





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// MUSIC SCENE //

THE RIALTO THEATER POSTPONES CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION UNTIL SPRING 2021

NORTH FORTY NEWS | NorthFortyNews.com



FILE PHOTO: Rialto Theater Loveland

After extensive consideration, the Rialto Theater and the City of Loveland is taking precautionary measures to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 by postponing the Centennial Celebration that was originally scheduled for May 15-16, 2020.

Given the overwhelming response and anticipated large turnout for the event, Theater staff feel it is in the best interests of the community to reschedule the celebration until the spring of 2021. Please check the Rialto Theater’s website for more details, coming soon: www.RialtoTheaterCenter.org.

“While we are extremely disappointed that we will be unable to celebrate the Rialto turning 100-years- old in May, it is vitally important that we each do our part to slow the spread of the coronavirus. As such, we will postpone the event for a year and then throw the best 101-year birthday bash Loveland has ever seen,” said Rialto Theater Manager Steve Lemmon.

The Centennial Celebration is presented by the Rialto Theater and the Community Foundation of Northern Colorado. The Community Foundation of Northern Colorado serves as a community think tank, a catalyst for community projects, and a service provider to

philanthropists and nonprofit organizations. Additional sponsors include the Sethre Family Fund, Jorgensen Labs, rez.church, Sertoma Group, and Bank of Colorado.

For more information about the Rialto or the Centennial Celebration, please contact Theater Manager, Steve Lemmon at Steve.Lemmon@cityofloveland.org.

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About The Rialto Theater Center: The Rialto Theater Center opened as a silent movie theater in 1920 and is currently Loveland’s premier performing arts venue, welcoming nationally touring musicians, comedians, and performers as well as local performing arts groups. The mission of the Rialto Theater is to serve as a center for the cultural arts, enriching the community by offering the opportunity for all ages and backgrounds to experience high quality, diverse, affordable performing arts, films and educational activities. The Rialto Theater Center is located at 228 E 4th Street in Loveland. Fall box office hours are 12:30 pm to 5:30 pm, Tuesday through Friday. Summer box office hours are 12:30 pm to 5:30 pm, Tuesday through Thursday. For more information on the Rialto Theater Center and upcoming events, please call 970-962-2120 or visit www.RialtoTheaterCenter.org.



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As a small(ish) business, this is an extremely difficult decision, as it is and will be with every-one else affected by this.
We can't thank you enough for the love and support during this pandemic! Once things start to normalize, we will keep you all posted!
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CITY BUZZ

FIDDLE MASTER CHARLIE WALDEN BROADCASTS LIVE DAILY WITH PATT PLUNKETT

NORTH FORTY NEWS | NorthFortyNews.com

Patt Plunkett & Charlie Walden (a.k.a. Patt & Possum) have previously performed at the Central Rocky Mountain Old Time Music Festival. They have toured internationally with their music. The Duo has taken to broadcasting on Youtube in a live show every night at 9pm Mountain for 30 minutes.

There'll be fiddlin' and singing and piano plunketting and puns and bad jokes. They interact with the comments during the live show.

There are two ways to find the show:

1) **Subscribe to the YouTube channel** at www.youtube.com/c/charliewalden.

When you subscribe be sure to click the little "bell" icon by the subscribe button so you'll receive notification by email when the show is posted and about to go live.

You'll get a message whenever they post a new video to the channel.

2) **LIKE & FOLLOW** Possum's Big Fiddle Show on Facebook. www.facebook.com/bigfiddleshow/

Each evening's program will be posted on the page and you'll get a notification on Facebook. Just click the link to YouTube to see the show.

3) **If you miss a program** it is available for viewing on YouTube as a regular video just a few minutes after the program ends.

4) It's free entertainment so even if it stinks you'll still like it.

More information: bigfiddleshow@gmail.com



PHOTO COURTESY OF: Fiddler Charlie Walden

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SPONSORSHIP OF ROCKY MOUNTAIN VIRTUAL MUSIC FESTIVAL AND EARTH SPIRIT FESTIVAL SCHEDULED WITH SERIES OF ONLINE PERFORMANCES

BLAINE HOWERTON | NorthFortyNews.com

At a time when supporting a sense of community is severely hindered, Arise Music Festival has risen to the occasion locally, globally and from a new angle: virtually. Boulder-based Arise has forged strategic alliances with Rocky Mountain Virtual Music Festival of Denver and Earth Spirit Festival 2020 out of New Zealand to help keep our community both engaged and supported.

In the wake of event closures due to COVID-19, Arise immediately sought to find and create alternative ways to orchestrate music venues for audiences across the globe. Harnessing technol-

ogy, Arise Music Festival’s collaborations with Rocky Mountain Virtual Music Festival and Earth Spirit Festival provide a solution that promotes community in this time of social distancing. “During times of crisis, we need art the most to keep our souls alive and help us express the best parts of our nature,” said Arise producer and owner Luke Comer. “With great excitement, we want to announce this opportunity to be able to support the music community on a local and global scale.”

Both festivals support musicians, artists and other creatives impacted by COVID-19 fall-out while offering positive experiences for viewers. Events feature musicians, bands and artists, as well as workshops, yoga sessions and related educational activities online. The virtual platforms serve as vehicles to build and strengthen community, facilitate interactive engagement and celebrate life while group gatherings are restricted. “At a time when distancing is our current reality, we recognize the opportunity for music to connect and unify from across the street to around the world,” stated Comer.

Presented by Arise Music Festival, Rocky Mountain Virtual Music Festival is already underway with live



PHOTO COURTESY OF ERIC ALLEN

performances every Friday from 10 a.m.-10:15 p.m. MDT. As a live-streaming event, the ongoing festival spotlights Colorado-based bands and artists, premieres music videos, and offers interactive activities. The festival advocates for safe practices as mandated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention rules and local governing authorities. For more information about Rocky Mountain Virtual Music Festival, visit www.facebook.com/rmvirtualmusicfestival/.

For more information about Arise Music Festival, visit www.arisefestival.com or www.facebook.com/arisemusicfestival/.



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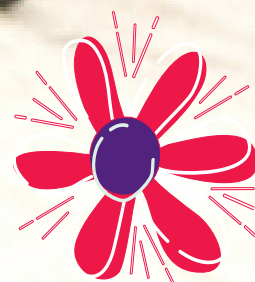
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Annie on Assignment: Two Weeks With that Texas Sun

ANNIE LINDGREN | NorthFortyNews.com

This article is a follow up to ‘Annie on Assignment: Texas, a Comforting Surprise in an Act of Resilience’ published on March 24, 2020

When I set out to explore the great state of Texas, I didn’t consider all the treasures I would find in a varied landscape. I also didn’t realize how the pandemic would impact my trip, leading to an eventual need to move on from this beautiful state. Check out Texas, a Comforting Surprise in an Act of Resilience for more on the first week of my trip, and the events that led up to it.

After visiting north and eastern Texas, I traveled down the coast, starting in Port Arthur, and leaving in Corpus Christi. The weather was beautiful, I mostly camped for free along the beach, with a hotel stop in Bay City, and ending in a two day stay in a campground on Padre Island. I played in the ocean, had no problem finding spaces with no humans, and got lots of sun. Each day started with a beautiful sunrise and warm air. The coast was stunning, filled with plants and wildlife I had never seen before. I drove countless miles of beach, with windows down, taking in the warm salty air. It was heaven compared to winter in Colorado. But not perfect. It was windy, and ocean air was wet with saltwater making everything damp, the terrain covered in fine sand that attached to all surfaces. I spent hours cleaning it out and off of the car. Things were rusting, I was sunburned, and my hair had reached a new level of frizzy.

Mid trip, as news of constant changes in rules and restrictions filled my head through radio and social media, I struggled with guilt, anxiety, and worry. I didn’t feel as negatively impacted as many of my close and distant connections had been. I already work from home, my child is grown, and on his own, my business and life are mobile and flexible. I saw many face business closures and job losses, complete changes in life as they knew it, and children in the midst. I let go of the guilt, found a new way to help, decided to continue my trip, and made a plan to move forward with purpose.

Traveling alongside my handsome people-loving golden retriever companion regularly leads to conversations with others. I enjoy these moments and often learn as much as I pass on. People are kind, helpful, and looking for connection, and I am grateful for these refreshing reminders of the good in humans. Maverick, my dog, is always thankful for a belly run, even the dainty kind from tiny hands. I also meet people who travel full-time, or much of it, as I do. I enjoy learning what works for them, their ingredients for success, and what they have learned from others. These people are easy for me to connect with, and I felt saddened by how social distancing kept me from spending more time hearing their stories. Conversations steadily included more talk about the virus, the impact, and what the future may hold.

I left the ocean coast the day rain was to move in. I decided to head over to Big Bend National Park. I had heard National Parks were closing, and that it was in the process having stopped taking fees for park entrance. I had a successful resupply in Corpus Christi, finding my favorite Sprouts grocery store, and a store that carried Maverick’s dog food, the one brand that doesn’t aggravate his many allergies. I had a meeting at work that left me feeling



PHOTO BY ANNIE LINDGREN: Rio Grande River in Big Bend National Park

hopeful and energized for the story I had to share, and I got a hotel room in Uvalde to get caught up on work.

I heard about what was happening in Colorado with hoarding and closures. I began experiencing similar empty shelves during resupplies, grabbing the last bag of lettuce on two occasions. I saw lines in toilet paper and cleaning product aisles, where store clerks had to assure moderation. Signs proclaimed how many of an item you could purchase. I had trouble finding sanitizing products. State parks were closing, which meant no entrance fees. Signs posted at gas stations, about how many were allowed inside.

I arrived at Big Bend on a Saturday afternoon. The signs at the park entrance said all campgrounds were full, but the park offices were closed, and I doubted the signs were updated. I found camping at the first campground I came to, and a sign up stating that sites could only be inhabited for one night because the campground was closing at noon on Monday, March 25. A park volunteer confirmed, adding that the county was closing down all lodging. I stayed at a different campground in the park the following night.

I had two days to explore Big Bend National Park, which was enough considering my dog was not allowed on trails. It was an absolutely beautiful area, with an interesting history, and plants and wildlife that I had never seen before. The Rio Grande River runs through the park, separating the United States from Mexico. There was border patrol all along my drive across

southern Texas. It made me wonder what this beautiful terrain would be like with a wall erected cutting off the river from the US side.

I moved west to the next county towards Big Bend State Park and found it already closed, as was all lodging in the county. I saw similar beautiful terrain following the Rio Grande River. I headed north to the next county, where I found Davis Mnt. State Park, and a perfect campsite where I could wash and hang some clothes, and shower. That night a Park Ranger came around, letting everyone know that the county was closing all lodging by noon the following day, and everyone needed to be out. This part of Texas is rural, and only has one hospital serving the three counties I had just visited. It has a limited number of beds, and the counties were being proactive in avoiding a future crisis. There were no COVID-19 cases in this part of Texas yet, but it was anticipated as cases around the US increased rapidly.

I am grateful for the two weeks I had in Texas. It was time to move on to New Mexico. A state that had already closed its State and National Parks, and was initiating stay orders, but had a low number of cases. I was up for the challenge of finding resources under these conditions and was excited to explore more of southern New Mexico.

You can find photos of my trip through Texas on Sunshine Ink’s Facebook and Instagram page. Check out my travel blog at www.SunshineInkLLC.com. Stay tuned for more pictures and updates, shared via North Forty News.



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IN SEARCH OF CABIN TO RENT

I’m looking for a 1bdr. cabin to rent in the Red Feather Lakes area by 4/1/20. Looking in the \$500 to \$600 price range. Late '50s, Retired on Disability, Have 2 neutered male cats. Have no problems with mice! Lol. I helped my parents rent and care for their apartment houses back in Illinois. I Will be the perfect renter! I do have references. Lived in RFL since 2003, want to stay! Really do need the rent to be at \$500. I know this is a low amount, so is my SSDI check! I Just hope and pray that somebody out there will be kind, give me a break, please call Nick @ 970-881-2301.



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Mountain Communities Come Together to Open Food Pantry Each Friday

LARIMER COUNTY FOOD BANK

North 40 Food Pantry The North 40 Mountain Alliance is joining forces with local organizations to offer a food pantry for the greater North 40 Mountain communities.

Free food, toiletries, basic medical, and cleaning supplies will be available for everyone. Open to all. No screening or restrictions. You can pick up for a neighbor too.

If you have an emergency, call 911.

Where to pick food up: Morning Star Community Church 23628 W County Rd 74E Red Feather Lakes, CO 80545

When: Starting Friday April 3rd 10:00 am to 12:00 pm. Our tentative schedule is to operate every Friday at this time.

Need help with delivery or something else? Help us out and let us know what you need.

How can you reach us? You have 3 options:

1. Email rflcovid19@gmail.com with your details
2. Complete this online form: www.n4oalliance.org/covid-19-help/
3. Call (970) 425-6678 (you must include the area code), and leave a voice message

Want to donate? Due to the risk from COVID-19 we will not be able to take food donations at this time. We are happy to accept cash or checks. Email rflcovid19@gmail.com for more information.

Want to Volunteer? Fill out and submit this simple form: www.n4oalliance.org/want-to-help/. You can also email us at rflcovid19@gmail.com with your contact information, how you want to help, and when you are available.

Additional Funders and Partners Larimer County Office on Aging, Partnership for Age Friendly Communities, Senior Access Points, Morning Star Community Church, Chapel in the Pines, Red Feather Lakes Library, Gordon Creek Farm, DaLonna Mae's Cafe, Food Bank for Larimer County, Girl Scout of Colorado @ Magic Sky Ranch

Gaia Grows: Sustainable Shrooms

KATHLEEN MILLER | Gaia's Farm and Gardens



PHOTO FROM FREEPIK.COM: Reishi mushroom and green moss growing on driftwood in nature

Sustainable living, gardening and farming is based on an understanding of ecosystems, and the study of relationships between organisms and their environment. It has been defined as an integrated system of plant and animal production practices that will last over time. Having a harmonious relationship with Gaia (Mother Earth) provides food for people enhances the natural environment upon which the community depends, makes efficient use of resources and integrates natural cycles that sustain economic viability as well as enhances the quality of life for the community as a whole.

When growing mushrooms biological diversity and sustainable agricultural practices create environments through the interdependence of natural ecosystems and recycling of by-products from farming and forest activities, species diversity and biological succession.

Fungi transform wood and other carbon material into amazing soil. In sustainable mushroom farming gourmet and medicinal mushrooms are involved as key organisms in the recycling of agricultural and forest by-products, creating an environment that produces intensive levels of productivity.

Mushrooms are a protein-rich food source and the by-products of mushroom cultivation provide nutrients for other members of the ecological community in the ecosystem. Recycling nutrients back into the ecosystem boosts the soil and makes mushroom farming very sustainable for plants, animals, insects and soil microorganisms that consume the recycled nutrients.

Fungi facilitate the transmission of nutrition from the soil to a plant's roots and also from plant to plant. There are 10,000 known species of mushrooms but only about 100 are cultivated commercially.

The choice of deciding which mushrooms to grow is probably the hardest part of the process. When starting out in mushroom farming it is best to start with one species and expand from there.

You will have to consider what available space you have access to and also consider if you are going to grow indoors or outdoors. Indoor cultivation provides a more controlled environment, but set up costs can be quite high.

Commercial mushrooms are usually grown in sterile, climate-controlled laboratory-like settings. Growing mushrooms outside is more simple due to it's low set up costs. Outdoor cultivation also allows for more location choices as well as more growing space.

I recommend that beginners start out with a small kit to learn the art of mushroom cultivation before investing in a commercial mushroom operation. Many kits for gourmet and medicinal mushrooms are available from a variety of online shroom suppliers.

Many mushroom species that can be incorporated into the sustainable farm or garden. The addition of mushrooms in a sustainable farm or garden will take you to another level because when fungi is incorporated into sustainable farms or gardens the ecological health of the whole ecosystem benefits immensely.

Shiitakes are the easiest to grow with the highest rate of success. They grow on fresh-cut hardwood logs that you inoculate with spores. These logs can be partially buried or lined up in fence-like rows.

Once the logs have stopped producing, the softened wood can be broken up, sterilized, and re-inoculated. Indoors, these mushrooms can be grown on sterilized substrates or on logs.

Oyster Mushrooms can be grown indoors on pasteurized corn stalks, wheat and a wide range of other materials including paper and pulp by-products. Oyster mushrooms can also be grown on hardwood stumps and logs. The waste substrate from Oyster production is useful as fodder for cows, chickens, & pigs.

The waste straw can be mulched into soils to provide structure and nutrition. Oyster mushrooms are available in several colors, including blue, white, pink and bright yellow. Under ideal conditions, fruiting can occur as quickly as three weeks.

King Stropharia mushrooms are an ideal element in the recycling of complex wood debris and garden wastes, and thrives in complex environments. Vigorously attacking wood (sawdust, chips, twigs, branches), the King Stropharia also grows in wood-free substrates, particularly soils supplemented with chopped straw.

Acclimated to northern latitudes, this mushroom fruits when air temperatures range between 60-90° F which usually translates to ground temperatures of 55-65° F. King Stropharia is an excellent edible mushroom when young, but edibility quickly declines as the mushrooms mature.

Reishi mushrooms are also an excellent choice for the sustainable mushroom farmer. Logs and stumps can be inoculated which provides opportunities for stump culture in regions where hardwoods predominate.

Shaggy Mane mushrooms grow in rich manured soils, disturbed habitats, in and around compost piles, and in grassy and gravel areas. Shaggy Manes are extremely adaptive and tend to wander. Shaggy Mane patches travel great distances from their original site of inoculation in their search for fruiting niches. Morels grow in a variety of habitats, from abandoned apple orchards and diseased elms to gravelly roads and stream beds.

The complex habitat of a compost pile also supports Morel growth. When planting cottonwood trees, you can introduce spawn around the root zones in hopes of creating a perennial Morel patch. Growers should note that Morels are fickle and elusive by nature compared to more predictable species like King Stropharia, Oyster and Shiitake mushrooms.

Mycorrhizal species can be introduced via several techniques. The age-old, proven method of satellite planting is probably the simplest. By planting young seedlings around the bases of trees naturally producing Chanterelles, Truffles or other desirable species, you may establish satellite colonies by replanting the young trees after several years of association.

Sustainable mushroom farming doesn't have to be complicated or expensive. By using spores from reliable sources and following the basic steps, shrooming can be a fun and easy way to make your farm or garden more sustainable.

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Boys & Girls Clubs of Larimer County Open Emergency Childcare for Healthcare Professionals and First Responders

LARIMER COUNTY FOOD BANK

Boys & Girls Clubs of Larimer County (BGCLC) has opened their doors to provide emergency childcare for healthcare professionals and first responders. This service is available at their Loveland and Fort Collins Boys & Girls Club facilities and is open to school-aged youth 5-13 years old. Hours at both sites will be 7:00 AM - 7:00 PM, Monday through Friday.

This has been a collaborative effort between the Boys & Girls Clubs, Larimer County Health Department, Banner Health Systems and many other community partners. These sites will follow local and state mandates to ensure the safety and well being of children and staff.

Kaycee Headrick, CEO for Boys & Girls Clubs of Larimer County said, "Although the situation around COVID-19 remains fluid, our goal is to continue our mission — to serve the kids who need us the most. Right now, the kids who need us most are

those with parents or guardians who are serving on the frontlines of the pandemic. Our community's first responders, health-care workers and others providing critical services cannot choose between staying home with their families and going to work. That is why we have stepped up to give them a safe place to send their kids, so they can head to work knowing their kids are in safe hands."

To learn more about these emergency sites, please contact (970) 223-1709.

About Boys & Girls Clubs of Larimer County

Boys & Girls Clubs of Larimer County consists of a safe place, staffed by trained professionals, offering premiere youth development programs to youth ages 6-18. In Larimer County, BGCLC is the only comprehensive, facility-based, out-of-school program that includes meals, diverse positive youth development programming, and



PHOTO FROM BEGREATLARIMER.ORG

mentoring for only \$20 per school year, per child. BGCLC provides services in Fort Collins, Loveland, Wellington, and Estes Park and serves over 3,000 youth annually.

Bears Are Becoming Active Across Colorado; Time for Residents to Keep Bears Wild

NORTH FORTY NEWS

Colorado Parks and Wildlife has already received reports of bear activity in eight Colorado counties in 2020. With spring upon us, CPW reminds citizens that bears are emerging from their slumber and beginning their search for food.

Early season natural food sources for bears include grasses, aspen buds and other vegetative matter that is beginning to sprout. Those gentle food sources, which are the first crops available to them, help a bear's digestive system and metabolism adjust back to normal after not consuming anything for months.

For the health and well-being of Colorado's black bears, wildlife managers say bears should NOT be eating from trash receptacles, bird feeders or other human-provided food sources around homes.

"Every time a bear gets a treat, a bird feeder, a hummingbird feeder, trash, it teaches the bear that people mean food," said Mark Lamb, CPW's Area Wildlife Man-

ager for South Park and the west Metro Denver area. "People who think that it's one time, no big deal, are totally wrong. It is a big deal when you compound that 'one time' with how many 'one time' they get from your neighbors, too. It adds up."

Some of the early season bear reports have been from simple sightings in Boulder and Morrison, to bears already getting into trash in Steamboat Springs and Silver Plume. Reports also include a bear getting into a vehicle in Snowmass Village, bears with livestock in Delta, and a bear vs. dog encounter under a deck in Colorado Springs.

Though most human-bear interactions occur in the late summer and fall months, a late frost or prolonged dry weather could lead to localized natural food failures, pushing black bears to be more persistent in their search for human-food sources. Being bear aware not only protects your home and property, but it can save a bear's

life.

Tips to prevent human/bear conflicts include:

- Keep garbage in a well-secured enclosure.
- Only put out garbage on the morning of pickup; bring empty cans back inside before dark.
- Use a bear-resistant trash can or dumpster. These are available online or from your trash hauler.
- Clean all garbage cans regularly to keep them odor free. The scent of ammonia can deter bears.
- Take down all bird feeders. Bird feeders are a major source of bear/human conflicts. Birds have naturally available food sources during the spring, summer and fall. Don't let your bird feeder become a bear feeder.
- Don't leave pet food or stock feed outside – never provide food sources for any wildlife.
- Clean all BBQ grills.

- Keep garage doors and windows closed and locked, especially between dusk and dawn.
- Don't leave attractants such as snacks, food wrappers, gum, or even scented hand lotions in your car; and always lock vehicle doors.
- Use bear boxes or bear-proof containers for food and scented items when camping.
- Don't leave food outside while camping. If bear boxes aren't available, leave all food in the trunk of a locked vehicle as your last resort.

Review CPW's Bearproofing Your Home Fact Sheet and conduct a home audit to be sure you are not attracting bears to your property.

Talk to your neighbors and kids about being bear aware.

For more information about Living with Bears in Colorado, visit <https://cpw.state.co.us/bears>.

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North Forty Gardener: Spring Gardening Checklist

THE GARDENS ON SPRING CREEK HORTICULTURE TEAM | NorthFortyNews.com



As we enter another week of social distancing amid the COVID-19 pandemic, we encourage individuals to safely spend time outdoors. Gardening has many mental health benefits and can be a great way to stay active while helping to flatten the curve.



Snapdragons (Antirrhinum spp.)

Wondering what you should be doing in your yard or garden in the upcoming weeks? We made you a list!

If you have supplies already on hand, now is a great time for any hardscaping projects you’ve been planning. Add

depth and dimension to your garden space with rocks, stones or pylons now that the ground has thawed.

This is also a great time to mulch, if you haven’t already. Wood mulch helps retain moisture, suppresses weeds, increases soil organic matter and can help add nutrients to the soil. Feel free to spread it to a depth of two to four inches, depending on your soil texture, taking care not to cover plant crowns which can lead to rot. Fine-textured soils (like clay) require less mulch, while coarse-textured soils, like sand, do best with more.

There is also plenty you can do with supplies that you may already have on hand:

Love Your Perennials: Herbaceous perennials are those that die all the way to the ground in the winter and then grow new foliage, stems and blossoms each year from the same root system. Cut back old growth to make way for the new but hold off on dividing your perennials.

Most perennials are best divided right after they bloom. During the spring, plants are mustering their energy to bud and bloom, so waiting until this period has passed to add the additional stress of dividing will help them flourish.

Waiting until after they bloom to divide can also help you determine which perennials need to be split. Most perennials will perform better if they are divided every three years or so, and you’ll often see a donut effect with vigorous growth around the edges but poor performance in the center of the plant when they are overdue for division. Avoid dividing overgrown grasses until they are actively growing later in spring, but before they begin producing flowers mid-late season.

Prune: In contrast to herbaceous perennials, woody plants like shrubs produce stems that last multiple seasons. To care for these varieties, follow the three D’s of pruning – first cut any dead, diseased or damaged wood before doing any structural pruning. Then prune branches that cross or rub, or those with poor structure. Aim for even distribution of healthy stems of different ages across the plant.

When pruning, pass up spring-flowering shrubs and opt to prune those that won’t bloom until later in the year, so you don’t sacrifice your spring flower display. Consider cutting about a third of the branches off your shrubs a few inches from the base with a sharp pruning saw. Cut the oldest and largest branches to



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE GARDENS ON SPRING CREEK HORTICULTURE TEAM

encourage vigor and thin excessive young growth.

Pull Those Weeds: Weeding is no one’s favorite garden activity, but weeding now can save you time and energy down the line. Early spring weeding helps prevent weed seeds from entering the soil and producing a second crop of weeds later in the year.

Watch It Grow: If you prefer to grow your garden from seed, many vegetables, and annual flowers can be started indoors now. This can also be a great way to engage your kids in your love for gardening.

Hardy annuals, such as pot marigold (*Calendula officinalis*), larkspur (*Delphinium occidentale*), Shirley poppies

(*Papaver rhoeas*) and snapdragons (*Antirrhinum* spp.) can be sown from seed directly into your garden at this time as well. Just be sure to water them often – out of sight; out of mind.


On Edge: While we’re all a little on edge during this challenging time, cleaning up the edges of your landscape can make a dramatic difference quickly. Use a spade to separate grass from your flower beds and create a clear delineation. For stubborn grass, you can add plastic or metal edging to prevent overgrowth.

Whatever you decide to do in your garden, enjoy nature and breathe deeply. Remember that “to plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow.” – Audrey Hepburn

Is this your money?

To members of Poudre Valley REA


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Op Ed: Hickenlooper Calls for Universal Coronavirus Testing Capacity to Restart American Economy

JOHN HICKENLOOPER



We need universal coronavirus testing capacity to get America back to work.

When I opened Colorado's first brewpub, we had to work hard to get people in the door to try something new. Today, in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic, restaurant owners and other small businesses will have a much more difficult burden to bear. Even when restrictions are lifted and officials allow businesses to reopen, people aren't likely to go out to eat, go shopping, or head back to the office without knowing for certain that their

health and the safety of their community isn't at risk. I believe the only way to regain our confidence and restart our economy is having the capacity to either test or vaccinate every American.

It may be many months until a COVID-19 vaccine is found safe and approved for widespread use, despite encouraging early reports from initial testing.

The capacity for universal testing needs to come faster. So far, America has tested fewer than a million people. Tests are still scarce, restricted, and slow. Of course, the available tests must go first to those with the worst symptoms, the most direct exposure, and those doctors, nurses, EMTs and first responders on the front lines.

But with American ingenuity, we will soon create a faster test that is easier and cheaper to mass-produce. Already one company has announced a new test that takes just five minutes to get results, and others are working around the clock to bring down testing times.

To get our economy back on track, we need to begin scaling up our capacity to test every American so each person knows if they are a risk to themselves or others. We provide flu shots on a mass scale. Our public health officials can figure out how to administer COVID-19 tests on a nationwide scale as well.

Without this testing, restaurant owners and other small business owners won't know if the workers they are employing or the customers they so desperately need are contagious. People won't know if the person sitting next to them at the office or standing next to them on the assembly line is a danger to them. Consumer confidence

is essential to reopening America. That's why universal testing capacity is the key to improving our health, stabilizing and strengthening our businesses, and getting people back to work.

In South Korea, vigorous, widespread early testing and tracing slowed the spread of the novel Coronavirus. They isolated and treated those who tested positive and had symptoms. Those who tested positive but were asymptomatic were isolated to prevent them from inadvertently spreading the virus. South Korea didn't just flatten the rate of increase; they're beating back the virus.

And here in Colorado, San Miguel County is showing how it can be done. Two residents who work in biotech have partnered with local government to provide free blood tests to every one of the county's nearly 8,200 residents. The test being administered will work to indicate both whether a person is positive for the virus itself and whether they have antibodies indicating they'd previously had it. This additional data will help public health officials and individuals make the best decisions for the health of their communities.

We have to do the same testing and tracing across America. Universal testing is the key to defeating the Coronavirus and the path to returning our country to work. Our health — and the financial health of our economy — depends on it.

John Hickenlooper is a geologist, brewer, small business owner, former mayor of Denver and governor of Colorado. He is running for U.S. Senate.



PHOTO BY DEWEY CHAPMAN
Vern's in LaPorte is temporarily closed.

CHECK OUT THE WEEKLY
CROSSWORD PUZZLE
ON OUR BACK PAGE
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Red Feather Lakes, Colorado

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CROSSWORD SOLUTION

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- ACROSS
- DOWN
1. Spoil

2. Delivery service

9. Gallup's inquiry

13. Madison Square Garden, e.g.

14. One of the Tudors

15. Pinkerton's gallery member

16. Beneath, to a poet

17. Bird-to-be

18. Not slouching

19. *Koko or Digit

21. *George or Marcel

23. Langley agency

24. Can of worms

25. Pine juice

28. Up to the task

30. Most recent

35. Furnace output

37. Gives a helping hand

39. Veranda in Honolulu

40. *European sea eagle

41. Waterwheel

43. Ladder crosspiece

44. *Valued for its down

46. Steelers's Chuck

47. Genealogical plant?

48. Treat for Dumbo

50. Hoofbeat sound

52. "To _____ is human"

53. Jim Carrey's 1994 disguise

55. Garden cultivator

57. *Roger or Peter

60. *Rocket or Rascal

64. "Random" audience member

65. Mozart's "L'_____ del Cairo"

67. Resin-producing tree

68. Like haunted house

69. Time delay

70. City in Germany

71. Not a bee

72. Pilot's deadline

73. Not those
1. Pirates on a plank?

2. Black and white treat

3. *Papa or Mama

4. Clown act

5. Perennial garden flower

6. Iris holder

7. *Babe or Wilbur

8. Fraternity letter

9. Politician's barrelful

10. Curved molding

11. Famous Australopithecus

12. "_____ the wild rumpus begin!"

15. Hertz offering

20. Labanotation founder

22. Doesn't mix well with water

24. Wilma and Fred's hometown

25. *Dolly

26. Eagle's nest

27. *Giant or Red

29. *Simba or Elsa

31. Queen of Hearts' pastry

32. Accustom

33. Not so crazy

34. *Detroit mascot

36. Not quite an adult

38. Perfect houseplant spot

42. Luau greeting

45. S. E. Hinton's "_____ Fish"

49. Chi precursor

51. Place for a square

54. Furry scarf

56. What's in your e-wallet?

57. Actress Perlman

58. Runs, as on TV

59. Radar flash

60. Indian music

61. Yorkshire river

62. Lode deposits

63. Supreme Court number

64. Make a seam

66. *Tom or Sylveste

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