



THE COUNTDOWN

THINGS TO DO: GETTING THROUGH THE FINAL PUSH OF WINTER

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(Photo from Shutterstock.com)

scene weekly

A PREVIEW OF
WHAT'S GOING ON
IN NORTHERN COLORADO

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Entertainment & Lifestyle Magazine

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Matt Braunger

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Stepping into Spring!



Snow on March 10, 2021 in Red Feather Lakes (Photo by Blaine Howerton)

My annual spring fever is kicking in. Snow on, snow off. Welcome to mid-winter in Colorado! As I write this, some forecasters say that we will get 3 inches, the National Weather Service says 6 to 8 inches, and some websites report up to 12 possible inches. All we can do is anticipate snow and then get ready for it.

Last year, during spring break in March, we got nailed with a significant snowstorm. I was fortunate enough to be in the desert with 70-degree weather at the time.

According to the National Weather Service, the most moisture in our area comes in May. On average, over the past ten years, Fort Collins has seen an average of 2.7 inches of precipitation in May. I wondered, how much snow does that equal? A quick search on the internet brought me to a snow depth calculator. According to omnicalculator.com, that's equivalent to 27 inches of snow! So, I'm not complaining. Bring it on. We need the moisture for our crops, drinking reservoirs, and forests.

In my experience (as a Colorado native), April and May are the craziest weather months. I NEVER plant my outdoor garden before mother's day. But by now, I'm almost desperate to see some plant life, so I resort to my indoor Aerogarden and put outdoor plants in pots, so I can move them inside if it freezes.

I hope the bitter cold is behind us. The bone-chilling sub-zero temperatures make me want to take off on a flight to a warm place like Nevada. Oh wait -- I'm doing that this weekend! Thanks to Avelo airlines, you can now take a 1-hour flight direct from Fort Collins / Loveland Regional airport to Las Vegas without the hassle and time consumption of the madness at Denver International Airport.

Annie, our new VP of Community Engagement, took off for the desert. She has been "taunting" me with pictures of the desert near Lake Mead.

All this leads us to our cover story. Hopefully, it gives some of our readers some ideas to keep yourself "stepping" right into spring.

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Larimer County Master Gardeners Put Tomatoes on Trial

NORTH FORTY NEWS

Members of the Colorado State University Extension Master Gardener program in Larimer County tested a total of 15 varieties of tomatoes to help home gardeners.

The project was split into two "tomato trials" as they are called. One trial consisted of 12 early maturing in-ground varieties -- conducted in 2019 & 2021. The second trial conducted in 2020 & 2021 featured 3 small-fruited varieties for containers.

"Many residents of Larimer County have limited space to grow vegetables," said Jon Weiss, a Master Gardener in Larimer County and coordinator of the two trials. "Not all tomato varieties will work well in a container or in a small space" according to Weiss.

The larger in-ground tomato trial was planted at the CSU ARDEC-South research farm while the container trial was planted at the CSU Annual Flower Trial Garden. Over the course of the study, maturity, fruit yield, and fruit size were collected.

After evaluating two years of data, Hybrid New Girl was the earliest maturing and had the highest fruit yield in the field trials. Blind taste tests were utilized to determine what varieties had the best flavor. Hybrid New Girl was rated as having the best flavor for 2019 and 2021.

For the container varieties tested, Hybrid Patio Choice Yellow stood out as an early, high-yielding, large cherry size variety whose compact plant habit cascaded over the container.

"Over the pandemic, many people took up gardening as a hobby," said Alison O'Connor, Ph.D. and Horticulture Agent for Larimer County Extension. "We're hopeful these results will offer the home gardener valuable information to help determine what varieties to grow in Northern Colorado". All the varieties tested are commercially available and can be considered for 2022 gardens.

Full results, including methodology, can be found at larimer.extension.colostate.edu.

Larimer County Extension provides practical education you can trust, to help people, businesses and communities solve problems, develop skills and build a better future.

North Forty News

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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Planting 'For the Birds'

BRYAN FISCHER | Gardens on Spring Creek



Crabapples (Photo by Gardens on Spring Creek)

A childhood friend of mine once told me about a bird that flew into her window repeatedly each morning, shortly before her alarm was set to go off. A superbly irritating way to start the day, this ballistic behavior seemed to be seasonal and coincided with the bird-eating berries from a nearby shrub in late winter or early spring. I found the situation hilarious! I suspected the berries had fermented a bit; could this be the wake of chaos left behind a birdie bender? Regardless, a flock of waxwings gobbling up crabapples in my neighborhood recently reminded me of the story and got me thinking.

Winter can be a tough time of year for birds. With fewer insects available and little active vegetation, those that do not migrate must scrounge around for what food remains. Bird feeders can help bridge this lean time of year but can also contribute to disease spread among birds and can be messy and

expensive. A cleaner option (that attracts far fewer squirrels) is to plant with birds in mind.

Gardens with a diversity of types of bird food (seeds, berries and more) can provide year-long food sources for birds, and a serene outdoor space for you, with fewer of the drawbacks of feeders.

If a plant produces berries, particularly if it is regionally native, it will likely be very attractive to birds. Ideally, these berries are small enough for birds to eat in a single bite and persistent, meaning they hang onto the plant into winter when birds are searching for them. Personally, I look to crabapples (*Malus*), hawthorn (*Crataegus*), sumac (*Rhus*), serviceberry (*Amelanchier*), chokeberries (*Aronia* spp.), grape hollies (*Mahonia repens* and others) and Colorado barberry (*Berberis fendleri*). Desert olive (*Forestiera*), can be a great addition as well, but be sure to shop when plants are in fruit; plants are either male or female (only females bear fruit), and females must be pollinated by a male to set fruit. Because birds do pass seeds and are very mobile, I avoid planting species that could be aggressive or adventive in our area, like cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster*) and privets (*Ligustrum*).

A plethora of herbaceous plants appeals to birds in winter. Those with many or large seeds, sturdy enough to provide a good perch while feeding tend to be well-liked. Look to natives in the aster family, like sunflowers (*Helianthus*), coneflowers (*Echinacea*, *Rudbeckia*, and *Ratibida*), asters (*Symphotrichum*), *Gaillardia*, *Coreopsis*, and *Liatris*, and native grasses (like *Panicum*), bee balm (*Monarda*), anise hyssop (*Agastache foeniculum*) and mountain mints (*Pycnanthemum*).

Not only do the above-mentioned plants all provide seasonal interest but they are well suited to our region's gardens, and most tolerate drought. In the interest of your well-being as much as theirs, just keep them away from your bedroom windows.

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Investigation Findings of Officer Involved Shooting

ANNIE LINDGREN | NorthFortyNews.com

January 10, 2022, was a busy day for Wellington, from high-speed chases to helicopters landing downtown. Many heard of the officer-involved shooting that started at the Family Dollar store in Wellington and ended after a high-speed chase to Mulberry and I-25.

At 2:07 pm, a phone call alerted law enforcement to suspicious circumstances regarding an agitated man. When law enforcement contacted the man, he would not comply with the officer's requests and instead left in his vehicle, driving 95-97 miles per hour southbound on I-25 towards Fort Collins, crossing back and forth to Frontage road. Law enforcement tried a PIT (Pursuit Immobilization Technique) to get the driver to stop, but it was unsuccessful due to the driver's dangerous behaviors. Next, they used spikes near Vine and I-25, and this worked. The chase ended near the Mulberry exit. The driver continued to refuse compliance with law enforcement, and enough safety concerns piled into the equation that shots were fired. Once injured, the driver was pulled from the vehicle, arrested, and was taken to the hospital to treat non-life-threatening injuries of bullet wounds to his shoulder and side and a fractured clavicle.

Anytime there is an officer-involved shooting,

there are protocols for a multi-agency team review of the incident. This means that agencies outside of the agency involved in the shooting will review all the evidence to confirm that the shooting was justified. Law Enforcement representatives from Fort Collins, Loveland, Windsor, Larimer, Timnath, Colorado State University, and the District Attorney's office participate in this investigation.

A report from the District Attorney's office, dated February 10, shares a message from Sheriff Justin Smith. "I conclude that Sergeant Jackie Stimac was legally justified in her use of physical force to defend herself, other officers, and the public from the threat posed by Dustin Bartles on January 10, 2022. Because I have concluded that Sergeant Stimac was legally justified in her use of physical force, no criminal charges will be filed. My determination necessarily includes the assessment that there is no reasonable likelihood that any criminal charges could be proven unanimously beyond a reasonable doubt."

The investigation is still pending regarding Mr. Bartles, but the report paints a picture of a man struggling with his desire to live and hoping the police would give him an easy way out. The good news is that he survived, as did everyone else involved.

WHY JOIN?



Happening in Wellington: Updates from the Chamber of Commerce

ANNIE LINDGREN | NorthFortyNews.com

The Wellington Area Chamber of Commerce has a busy year ahead. Wellington residents and Chamber members can expect to see the annual Chamber Directory in the mail in April. Here is what else is happening.

Events

Wellington Area Chamber of Commerce presents **Vegas in Wellington Al Capone style!**

March 10 at Sparge Brewing from 6-9 pm for a night at the Casino. 1920's Mafia attire is encouraged but not required. They feature Blackjack, Roulette, and Craps on true-style casino-grade tables.

Cost: \$45 includes cash bar with one complimentary drink, \$200 in play money (you can donate to earn more), wine, and appetizers from Slurpz food truck. Tickets are limited, so get signed up. :<https://www.eventbrite.com/.../al-capone-a-night-with-the...>

For sponsorship opportunities, email the Chamber at info@wellingtoncoloradochamber.net or visit the website at wellingtoncoloradochamber.net and click on the "Casino Night" tab.

Bonus to the evening is a few of Wellington's celebrities dealing some blackjack!

The Chamber is hosting **local election candidate forums.**

For Board of Trustees and Mayor:

Wed., March 2 from 6-8 pm at the Leeper Center
Thurs., March 24 from 6-8 pm at the Leeper Center

For the Wellington Fire Board of Director positions:

Thurs., April 21 from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm at the Leeper Center

The Wellington Chamber of Commerce hosts an **18 hole Golf Tournament** fundraising event on June 25 at 7:30 am shotgun at Mountain Vista Golf Course. Reach out for sponsorship opportunities and stay tuned for more details.

The Chamber hosts a **monthly Networking Breakfast.** These events feature guest speakers, start at 7:30 am, and are held at Sprage Brewing.

March 1: Troy Hamman, updates from the Mayor
April 5: Tyler Hensen with Northwestern Mutual

May 2: Chief Mike Patterson with the Wellington Fire Department

Women of Wellington (WOW) is a monthly event featuring a guest speaker and opportunities to network. The next event is March 16, when Hilarie Bartling, athletic director at Wellington Middle School, will be the guest speaker. The location is to be determined.

Business After Hours is a monthly networking

(See "Happening in Wellington" on page 8)

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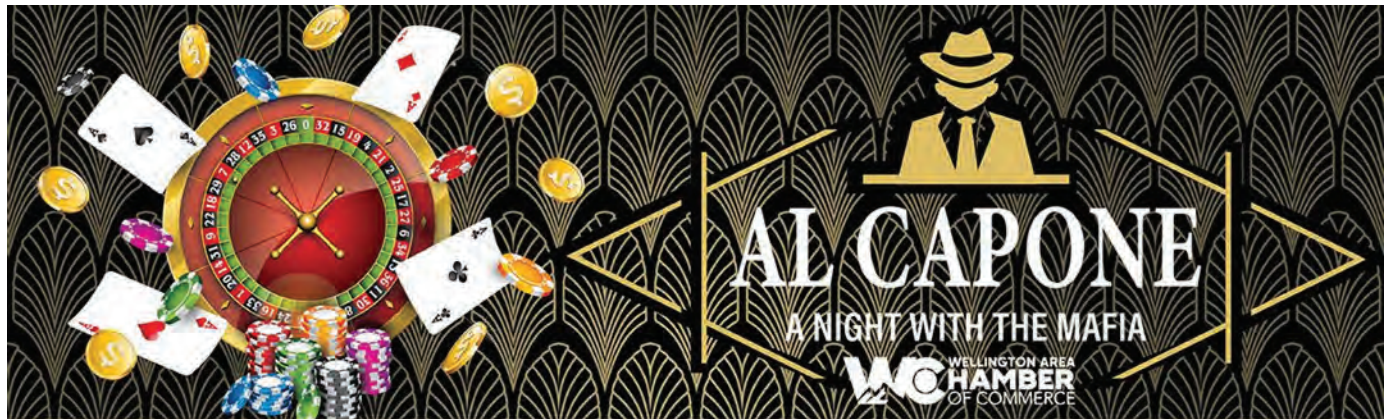


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REPORT OF 2021 SALARY INFORMATION FOR PAPER COUNTY EMPLOYEES FOR ALL EMPLOYEES

The Colorado Revised Statutes, under CRS 30-25-111 (1.5), require Counties to publish salary information for their employees twice annually. This publication lists each job title, along with the total amount of wages paid to the employee during the year of 2021. In addition to wages listed for all employees, all Law and limited term employees are provided mandatory benefits (workers compensation unemployment insurance and Social Security taxes) which equal approximately 11% of wages; regular and limited term status employees are also provided at their election non-mandatory benefits medical, dental, life and long-term disability insurances and a retirement plan) which equal another approximately 16% of wages.

Table with 4 columns: Job Title, Salary, Job Title, Salary. Lists various roles such as Accountant, Child Support Tech, Court Services Spec, Deputy Certified, Equipment Operator, Income Maint Tech, Nurse Practitioner, Senior Budget Analyst, Social Caseworker, etc., with corresponding salary values.

FORT COLLINS

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City of Fort Collins Seeks Public Input on 1041 Regulations

NORTH FORTY NEWS | NorthFortyNews.com

The City of Fort Collins is seeking public input on the proposed development of 1041 Regulations for the City.

The purpose of 1041 Regulations is to give local jurisdictions regulatory authority over particular development projects occurring within their jurisdictions, even when a project has statewide impact.

In October 2021, City Council directed staff to develop 1041 Regulations for water and highway projects.

Members of the Fort Collins community are invited to provide feedback and input as City staff work to develop potential regulations. Topics being explored include the types of projects to be regulated, project thresholds that would trigger a permit, environmental impacts, and application

approval processes.

Two public meetings have been scheduled and will be held:

- Wednesday, Feb. 23, from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. on Zoom.
- Wednesday, Feb. 23, from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Zoom.

To learn more about this effort, visit <https://ourcity.fcgov.com/1041-regulations>. Zoom links will also be posted on that website prior to the meetings.

Additional information about 1041 Regulations as they apply to the City is available at www.fcgov.com/1041.

Questions about this project should be directed to Kelly Smith (ksmith@fcgov.com).

Human Bean Northern Colorado and Colorado Eagles Partner to Raise \$2,500 for Local Cancer Fund

NORTH FORTY NEWS | NorthFortyNews.com

Human Bean Northern Colorado has made it a long-standing tradition to support cancer fighters in northern Colorado. During the month of January, the Human Bean partnered with the Colorado Eagles to raise funds for the UHealth Northern Colorado Foundation Oncology Patient Assistance Fund. The partnership raised \$2,500. A check for that amount was presented to the UHealth Northern Colorado Foundation on February 4.

From January 8 through January 23, 100% of proceeds from the Human Bean's new Honey Lavender Latte was donated to the Foundation's fund. During the promotion, the Human Bean also displayed clings at each of their locations promoting the

Colorado Eagles Fight Cancer game on January 22. The clings featured a QR code customers could use to purchase tickets. Five dollars from ticket purchases made through scanning that QR code also went to the UHealth Northern Colorado Foundation Oncology Patient Assistance Fund.

About the Human Bean Northern Colorado: The Human Bean Northern Colorado has been locally owned and operated since 2004. Now with nine separate locations and one mobile coffee truck, The Human Bean has become known as the leading coffee drive-thru in northern Colorado.

For more information on The Human Bean's community involvement, visit humanbeannortherncolorado.com.

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Scambuster Corner: Tips to Protect Yourself from Identity Theft

BARBARA EJ BENNETT | Larimer County Sheriff's Office



(Photo by Anna Shvets from Pexels)

ID THEFT

If you see accounts you don't recognize on your credit report, strange transactions on your credit card or bank card or the IRS lets you know they received more than one tax return from you --- these are red flags that someone is using your ID!

Use all ID Theft protection recommendations to safeguard your identity.

Frequently change passwords

Opt-out of the pre-screened credit card offers. Shred all documents/mail with any personal information on them.

Review your bank and credit card statements regularly for any unauthorized activity (even a small amount).

Freeze your credit so your credit report is not available for others to see, no one can open an account in your name (including you), apply for a loan, or credit card in your name.

Use 2-factor authentication for devices and accounts.

Before donating or discarding any

device – wipe everything off.

Install anti-virus software.

If you are out of town, have your mail picked up daily rather than stacking up in your mailbox.

Annually check your credit report. This credit report can give early signs that someone may have been using your identity. A free copy is available at "annualcreditreport.com". Watch for new or unusual activity or even some negative information that surprises you. Report these irregularities immediately.

Credit Freeze or Fraud Alert?

Credit freeze – identity thieves cannot open a new account in your name. It prevents creditors from accessing your credit report which in turn stops the opening of an account. You can lift the freeze when you need to.

Fraud Alert – this alerts a business to check with you before opening a new account in your name.

Read more about scams at larimer.org/sheriff.

HEALTH



PRESENTED BY: SUMMITSTONE

Supporting Local Veterans

ANNIE LINDGREN | NorthFortyNews.com

The Alliance for Suicide Prevention of Larimer County addresses the needs of populations most at risk for suicide, by having dedicated Peer Outreach Coordinators who work directly with those populations. One such program is for veterans, designed to bring awareness and education to veterans serving organizations and connect veterans to supportive services in the community.

The Peer Outreach program started in 2019, and Marshall Spring was brought on as the Veteran Outreach Coordinator to lead the efforts. He is a combat veteran and Purple Heart recipient with the Marine Corp. He also brings with him a preponderance of lived experience on the topic of suicide.

Marshall shares an adage “Veterans don’t fight the war, they fight for the guy next to them.” Veterans joined the military because there was a problem, and they stepped up to help fix it. Marshall uses veteran’s innate altruism as a path to prevent suicide by tapping into the person’s interests and finding out how they want to be involved through opportunities to help others.

“The mechanism that makes you want to survive, and makes you want to fight for your life, is not broken, it is overwhelmed,” says Marshall. It is impossible to pour from an empty cup. Having emotional distress and instability doesn’t allow the bandwidth to help others. Getting a veteran into a place of helping, facilitates the conversation about pouring from an empty cup. If more support is needed, there are resources available.

Economic instability and isolation are two leading factors of suicide and depression, and these are both on the rise right now due to the COVID-19 situation. Because of this, more people are accessing crisis resources, which Marshall says is ultimately good, “we want people to get help.”

There are a variety of factors that lead to struggle. Employment, education, housing, transportation, mental health services, physical health care, food, nutrition, safety, clothing, resume building, and life-skills are commonly used resources. Marshall helps identify the needs and then sets the individual up with an appointment with an expert in that field. He serves as a resource broker and connector and often takes veterans to appointments to avoid transportation barriers.

The Veteran Outreach Program offers a variety of peer support groups. These groups are not just for veterans but also for their families and supports. There are veteran groups, men’s groups, survivors

of suicide loss groups, and various others based on the interests and needs of the participants. Anyone can be a part of these groups, and they are taking place amid pandemic, observing proper social distancing by spacing chairs out. Some are on virtual platforms.

The Veterans Outreach program, guided by a Leadership Committee, meets quarterly. They provide input on activities and programs that will be most effective in the community. The Alliance currently offers veteran-serving organizations training, helping to prepare them for how best to work with Veterans. This program also identifies service projects that provide a sense of purpose for Veterans that have not established community connections.

“We know veterans are much more likely to die by suicide than other populations,” explains Marshall. Veteran suicides are not well tracked due to inconsistencies in reporting causes of death. Additionally, no organization keeps track of how many veterans live in an area. Larimer County’s suicide rates were within the highest ten counties in Colorado, which is within the top ten states across the nation for suicide in general. Larimer County has many veterans who live in the area and a lot of resources that can help with recovery.

“We have a real opportunity to support people here,” says Marshall. Larimer County is resource-rich; we just need to do a better job of connecting people to those resources, which is why this peer model is so promising. “I want people to know they aren’t alone, and there are plenty of things we can do to get help and help others.”

If you, or a loved one, are struggling, below are the numbers to call for the next steps. The Veterans Crisis Line offers confidential 24/7 support by trained responders for veterans. The assistance applies to all service members, National Guard and Reserve, and their family members and friends. For non-crisis help, reach out to Marshall with Alliance for Suicide Prevention Veteran Outreach Program.

For Non-Crisis Support, and to get in touch with Marshall:

Email amps@suicideprevent.org or call 970-482-2209

For the Veteran Crisis Line:

Call: 1-800-273-8255 and press 1.

Text: 838255

Support for deaf and hard hearing:

1-800-799-4889

Connect online: veteranscrisisline.net

Put Your Wheels in Motion

NORTH FORTY NEWS

Qualified Listeners, a Colorado-based Veteran & Family Resource Hub, is looking for additional volunteers to transport Veterans to medical appointments, VA meetings, or other necessary errands.

Qualified Listeners is also asking for volunteers with a pickup truck to assist in moving mobility devices, furniture, and other larger items to Veterans in need. This would be scheduled on an as-needed basis and mileage would be reimbursed.

Your availability, your schedule, your territory, your way to give back.

If you have some extra time to have a huge impact in helping Veterans, they would like to talk to you. Call 720-600-0860 or email Resource@QualifiedListeners.org, or visit the website at QualifiedListeners.org.



80% of Eligible Coloradans Have Received at Least One Dose of COVID-19 Vaccine

NORTH FORTY NEWS

Recently, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPE) updated its COVID-19 vaccination reporting to incorporate more accurate vaccination data from federal agencies. Based on this change and the most recent vaccine administration data, 80% of all Coloradans ages 5 and up have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine.

“We are thrilled that 80% of Colorado kids and adults over the age of five have received the doctor-approved, safe, and effective vaccine. The vaccine is delivering much-needed protection and peace of mind to Colorado parents and families. We are all eager for life to get back to normal, and the safe and effective vaccine is helping us move forward,” said Governor Polis.

“We are grateful for every Coloradan who has chosen to get vaccinated to help end the pandemic. This milestone is significant, but we must keep pressing forward. To get the greatest protection against severe illness, we need Coloradans to stay up to date on their COVID-19 vaccine series,” said Jill Hunsaker Ryan, executive director, CDPHE. “The virus continues to evolve every day, but one thing that has remained a constant is that the vaccine is lifesaving.”

Stay up to date by visiting covid19.colorado.gov.

If you or a loved one are in crisis, **SummitStone Health Partners** is here to support you anytime, day or night.

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Larimer County and Loveland Pulse to Provide Broadband to More Rural Areas

NORTH FORTY NEWS | NorthFortyNews.com



An amendment to an existing intergovernmental agreement [IGA] to expand broadband service in areas of Larimer County was approved by the Board of Larimer County Commissioners.

The IGA is a partnership currently underway between Larimer County and the City of Loveland Pulse to provide broadband service to underserved areas in Larimer County.

Loveland Pulse was established in 2018 to provide broadband service in Loveland and is part of the Loveland Water and Power Department. Expanding broadband in unincorporated areas is included in Goal 1, Objective 3 of Larimer County's 2019-2023 Strategic Plan, Rural Infrastructure.

"I am super-excited about this partnership and again thank the City of Loveland and Pulse for your continued

collaboration and partnership; we really appreciate the partnerships we have, and it shows how when we work together, we can do great things," said Larimer County Commissioner Jody-Shaddock McNally.

The amendment will increase financial support from recovery fund dollars of up to \$500,000 to complete grant projects already started in Drake and Lago Vista and to expand the project to provide service to an additional underserved 82 properties in Sylvan Dale and Ellis Ranch areas of Larimer County.

The IGA expansion will provide services into the Sylvan Dale Ranch area, and Ellis Ranch area which will cover an additional 82 homes and complete other broadband work underway in the Drake and Lago Vista neighborhood.

GREELEY

Does Your Community Need Improvements?

NORTH FORTY NEWS | NorthFortyNews.com

If you could improve one thing in your community, what would it be?

Does your town need more accessible sidewalks?

What about a better transportation system?

Are some older residents needing better access or repairs to their homes?

The Weld County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program is giving residents a chance to address these and other issues.

This past year, funds were granted to three projects that improve access to services, public infrastructure, and housing restoration in two communities within the county.

Representatives of the program want to hear your thoughts on these types of improvement projects. Public feedback gathered during this process helps CDBG program staff decide which projects to complete based on improvement recommendations of the community.

Share your ideas by emailing Don Sandoval, Weld County CDBG Program Manager, at dosandoval@weldgov.com by 5 pm on February 22. Your email should include the following:

- Your name.
- What town you live in.
- What community improvements are needed.
- If the need was met, how would this improve your community?
- What do you think about the community improvement projects currently being completed?

Or visit the Weld County Board of Commissioners meeting on Wednesday, February 23, at 9 am in the Centennial Hearing Room of the Weld County Administration Building, located at 11500 O Street in Greeley.

"Residents letting us know what they want to see occur in their community is a big help to not only our CDBG program but the county as a whole," Weld County Commissioner Chair Scott James said.

Comments made will be included in the 2022 Annual Action Plan

These objectives, defined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), include principally benefitting low- and moderate-income persons, preventing and/or eliminating blight, and addressing an urgent need.

For more information about Weld County's CDBG program, go to weldgov.com.

RED FEATHER LAKES & MOUNTAINS

The Poudre Wilderness Volunteers are Looking for Riders

JEFF RANDA | Poudre Wilderness Volunteers

Photos courtesy Poudre Wilderness Volunteers

The Poudre Wilderness Volunteers (PWV), a wilderness trail stewardship organization, is looking to expand our Ride With A Purpose program, as part of our trail restoration volunteer efforts. Join us as we serve as wilderness rangers and host riding trails in support of the Canyon Lakes Ranger District of the United States Forest Service. Our riders assist the Forest Service in educating the public about managing and protecting the wilderness and backcountry areas. The riders also provide support in accessing hard-to-reach areas when rebuilding trails, reconstructing bridges, removing dangerous trees all of which were impacted by the Cameron Peak fire.

"We are ambassadors on a horse," said Fred Allen, co-chair, of the Stock Committee. "What better way to engage with the public, as people like to pet a horse, which leads to great conversations about enjoying our public trails," said Allen.

Matt Cowan, Wilderness and Trails Manager of the Canyon Lakes Ranger District provides guidance and priorities for the PWV patrol and restoration efforts. "The PWV stock program is an excellent complement to those who patrol on foot. It's great to have a blend of patrol methods as we continue to educate a wide variety of different trail users," said Cowan. "The stock program is also important to our efforts in maintaining and repairing the trails, as we can utilize these volunteers to pack in supplies and tools to our trail crews in the more remote parts of our Wilderness Areas," continued Cowan.

For those interested in joining as stock or hiking patrollers, details on volunteering and registration can be found on pwv.org. To help answer any stock questions, Fred Allen can be reached at allen7558@bajabb.com.

About Poudre Wilderness Volunteers
Poudre Wilderness Volunteers is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation. PWV has over

twenty-five years of experience working with the U.S. Forest Service, specifically the Canyon Lakes Ranger District in Fort Collins, CO. The organization is comprised of over 300 individuals who live primarily in northern Colorado and who range in age from 18 to 80 years old. The group consists of retirees as well as people still actively working in such fields as medicine, education, public and private administration, and business. Since 2005, PWV has donated a total of over 371,000 volunteer hours, worth \$10,594,989 to the USFS.

- Tasks include:
- Serve as volunteer Rangers for the USFS
 - Launch patrols to survey trail conditions
 - Remove dangerous and fallen trees
 - Repair bridges
 - Recruit members of the local communities to safely assist our crews in trail building

For more information, visit www.pwv.org.



Happening in Wellington (from page 4)

event hosted by different businesses around town. Below is a list of what is currently scheduled. Reach out to the Chamber if you are interested in hosting one of the open dates.

March 10th-Casino Night Fundraiser at Sparge

April 14th-Member Social/annual meeting-Location to be determined

May 12th-Zions Lutheran Church

June 9th-Wellington Grill

July 7- Align Medical Center

August 11th-open

Sept 8th-Mordini's

Nov 10th-open

Dec 8th-open

Save the date for the annual Chamber

gala scheduled for September 30 at Anheuser-Busch Tour Center & Biergarten.

On the Administrative Side

Mary McCaffrey is the Executive Director, and Naomi Russo was hired as an administrative assistant. Naomi will be assisting with administrative work and covering the office on days that Mary is not in the office. The goal is to have someone at the office five days a week.

Stay tuned for a press release about new board members and officers for 2022.

For more information on the Wellington Area Chamber of Commerce, visit their website at wellingtoncoloradochamber.net or find them on social media.

Summer Youth Employment Nights

NORTH FORTY NEWS | NorthFortyNews.com

Two virtual youth employment events to be held in early March could help Larimer County youth decide their summer job plans.

Summer Employment Nights are two virtual events hosted by Larimer County Economic and Workforce Development CareerRise to connect teens, ages 14-18 business information and job opportunities.

Youth will hear from a local employment panel about how to search for jobs and job opportunities. They'll also learn about paid internships, summer job opportunities,

and more. Youth who are 18-25 years old will also be able to apply for positions with the Larimer County Conservation Corps.

Summer Employment Nights are scheduled for:

Loveland: 5:30 pm - 7 pm, March 1. Current panelists are the City of Loveland, Culver's, JAX Outdoor Gear, Farm & Ranch, and MetroLux 14. Fort Collins: 5:30 pm - March 9. Current panelists are Chick-Fil-A, Chipper's Lanes, the City of Fort Collins, and the Holiday Drive-In.

For more information call 970-498-6608 or email careerrise@larimer.org.

the new scene weekly

Matt Braunger Live and Vaccinated from The Comedy Fort!

JONSON KUHN | SceneNOCO.com

Do you like comedy? Well, then you're in luck because in case you didn't know this already, Fort Collins has constructed an entire FORT filled with comedy on College Ave at a little place they're calling The Comedy Fort. From time to time they'll even host comedians inside the fort, true-life speakers of comedy will actually come to the stage and speak hilarious nothings into the microphone for your listening pleasure.

And speaking of pleasure, I had plenty of that while recently getting a chance to speak with famed comedian Matt Braunger. I guess maybe that sounded a little weird, I'm just trying to say I enjoyed talking to the guy, okay? He's coming to The Comedy Fort at the end of this month for not 1, not 2, not even 3, but 4 performances! That's right, so if you catch one show and you hear the funniest joke ever in your life, hang out for a couple of hours and catch the next show cuz he'll be there all again! Friday, February 25 at 7 pm and 9:30 pm AND THEN you can catch him the following day on Saturday, February 26 at 7 pm and 9:30 pm, as well.

A lot of people "think" they know Matt Braunger, but like I actually know him, okay? Like I spoke to him on the phone AND I read through his entire Wikipedia page, so I feel as though I can confidently say at this point, I know him better than his own mother, Ms. Braunger. Matt was raised in Portland, Oregon by wolves, (I'm still checking on the part about the wolves, but I'm definitely certain about the Portland part).

He eventually moved to New York and Chicago to begin his transformation as the funniest person on the planet and he's been running strong ever since. Matt's been featured on literally every television show ever made, to the point that it would be easier to just list off the shows he hasn't been on, like Cheers or Matlock. Most notably he's been featured on late-night shows with Conan O'Brien and David Letterman, along with an endless list of other credits.

His debut album Soak Up The Night was released by Comedy Central and was one of the iTunes Top 20 Comedy Albums for 2009; he has since released two other specials: Big, Dumb Animal and most recently Finally Live in Portland. Matt was nice enough to give me a little of his

time to talk about comedy specials, life on the road, his new family, and all the drugs he at least "potentially" could have done with Artie Lang at MADtv. Join us, won't you?

JONSON: So, is this your first time in Colorado and/or Fort Collins?

MATT: No, Fort Collins I've played...if I'm not mistaken you have a University of Colorado there?

JONSON: Yikes, that's blasphemy! (sort of) The University of Colorado is in Boulder and then Fort Collins has Colorado State University; their two football teams are pretty friendly with each other, they hang out a lot.

MATT: Okay, so I'm pretty sure I've played CSU, like a student center, like a college gig. But never for like the general public in an actual venue, so I'm psyched; opening the Comedy Fort gave us all a route to sort of do so.

JONSON: For sure, I mean, you would obviously know better than me but the thing I always hear from comics is that college gigs are a little more challenging these days what with woke culture being more prevalent on campuses, so having an actual venue to perform in I would imagine has got to be more comforting to comedians.

MATT: Yeah, it's just a different ballgame, it's a different gig than clubs which are generally a bar culture; it's almost like comparing a college cafeteria to a bar that's open until 2 am, and what do you think is going to be more rowdy? So yeah, there have been bigger names I've heard say, "oh, I don't play colleges anymore, they're way too woke," But I'm kind of like, yeah, but weren't they always different? Was there ever a college that was like, "oh man, we just love your borderline racist material"? Not that these comics are racists; I don't know, my thing is it's just a different scene.

JONSON: This most recent special of yours, Finally Live from Portland, I'm assuming that had something to do with the pandemic postponing the show, or am I way off on that?

MATT: No, so, I actually recorded that a couple of years before the pandemic; it was kind of just a play on words because I'm from there, I've played Portland more times than I can count, so it's sort of just a dumb double entendre that maybe only

I would understand. It wasn't as interesting as saying, "oh, we can finally do live events again..." that would have been better, for sure. I feel like nowadays with maybe just a few exceptions you don't really have to focus as much on special names.

JONSON: That's actually a really fair point, I see a lot of comedy specials pop up on like Youtube of all places and they'll get millions of views and I won't even necessarily know what the name of it is, I just know to find it on Youtube; so yeah, the title doesn't seem to be as important as days in the past.

MATT: Yeah, it's funny, I actually just shot another special in Nashville in October and I had this big closer that sort of centered around one of the worst dudes I've ever met while I was on vacation, and the closer just sort of talks about how I think we as men need good examples in our lives but we also need bad examples so we can be like, "I could never be you, dude. You suck so bad." And this guy, his name just happened to be Doug, so I was like, "what if I just call the special Doug? And my producers were like, "love it, great!" I just kind of like that it's a random name, it's could have worked just as well if it was Mike or Dennis, it doesn't matter.

JONSON: Well, and I'm sure that Doug himself might even enjoy it to some extent.

MATT: He might, man, you never know. He was a hard-drinking man in his 50's who hated his kids, so...

JONSON: So, average American it sounds like maybe.

MATT: Ha! Sure, it's definitely a demographic for sure, absolutely.

JONSON: So, I understand you and your wife here somewhat recently had a baby and so I'm just curious with a family, how do you manage the road with the family now? Is that just like a constant balancing act?

MATT: Yeah, I mean I think Journey said it best when they said, "The road ain't no place to start a family." Sorry, that was stupid, I'd understand if you just hung up on me right now.

JONSON: No way, man, Journey rules!

MATT: No, honestly, it's tough, and like



Matt Braunger
(Photo courtesy The Comedy Fort)

a lot of other comics, I loaded up the end of last year once things calmed down and people got vaccinated and stuff, it was like "we're back, baby!" But then like a couple months in my wife was like, "you gotta scale back this schedule because it's just me and this kid and I'm working full time." And my reply to her at the time was like, "well, yeah, but I only go away for the weekends" and she was like, "yeah, but I want my f**king weekends!" So, I can't go on the road these days like I used to but in a lot of ways that's probably good because, you know, really what's the point of being alive in a lot of ways if all you're doing is just being the traveling clown.

JONSON: I saw that you were on MADtv for the last season, so I have to ask, are you at liberty to divulge how many drugs you've done with Artie Lang?

MATT: You know, he was actually gone by the time I joined the cast...

JONSON: I kind of figured as much, but once I thought of that question, I couldn't get it out of my head.

MATT: Oh, dude, I have unrepeatably tales from other comics I've known; I've known people from other seasons and yeah, they're crazy. God bless, Artie.

My many thanks to Matt for taking the time to speak with me and answer my fan-fueled questions; I've never had a chance to speak to a real working comedian before, so this was truly nothing short of a thrill for me personally.

Check out Matt at mattbraunger.com or find him at bandsintown.com.

Lastly, tickets for his shows at The Comedy Fort are selling fast, so don't be a fool and swiftly go to comedyfortollins.com for all ticket information.

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CITY BUZZ

START HERE: LIVE AT THE LINCOLN CENTER AND BEYOND

TIM VAN SCHMIDT | SceneNOCO.com

Photos by Tim Van Schmidt



The Queen's Cartoonists 2022



Kronos Quartet 2022

I finally took the plunge. Going out to hear some live music -- inside, that is. I couldn't think of a better venue to dive back into it with than The Lincoln Center in Fort Collins.

The last concert I saw at The Lincoln Center was Joshua Bell in January 2020. Bell is a skilled, expressive violinist and he was playing a very old and beautiful sounding instrument that night.

I bring it up because it points out something I like about The Lincoln Center. For Joshua Bell, I was sitting up in one of the top corners -- and I heard every note coming from that violin. The Lincoln Center has fine sound and good sightlines no matter where you are in the hall.

The Lincoln Center had a hand in providing an excellent outdoor dress rehearsal for my recent sojourn to the indoor performance hall. I'm talking about the excellent Herbie Hancock concert at Spring Creek Gardens last September.

But finally, on February 11, I entered The Lincoln Center itself for a concert by the innovative and hallowed Kronos Quartet.

At this time, The Lincoln Center is continuing to require masks and proof of vaccination. For the Kronos concert, there was a quick ticket check at the door, then a brief visit to some tables set up to verify IDs and vax info. There you receive a wristband to enter the main performance hall.

There's a reason why Kronos is revered -- they simply continue to challenge listeners with innovative sounds, bringing music to the stage by cutting edge composers from around the world -- often specially commissioned just for the group.

I saw Kronos a number of years ago, also at The Lincoln Center. At that time I called them my concert of the year -- they were so very interesting. In 2022, they are still interesting, though under radically different situations. Even the group wore masks.

From painting an abstract musical landscape with a tune titled "Oasis" to covering "The House of the Rising Sun" with flourish and passion, Kronos did not do the same thing twice. They played a beautiful, ethereal lyrical piece and one called "Potassium" with a grating industrial sound that curled my toes.

And it wasn't just about the four musicians on the stage. Recordings were also layered into the mix, including sound effects and various voices sometimes saying not so abstract things. One piece took to task the crimes of history. Another featured the voice of venerable folk music artist Pete Seeger.

Somewhere in there, Seeger said that "folk music" would someday influence composers and be played on stages by orchestras. Kronos Quartet in 2022 is making sure that happens.

The very next night, February 12, I returned to The Lincoln Center to see The Queen's Cartoonists and it was a case of going from the sublime to the silly -- but silly in a good way.

The Queen's Cartoonists -- from Queens, NY -- is an interesting act. They are a crack six-piece band, members sometimes playing multiple

instruments, performing live soundtracks to a variety of vintage cartoons.

It's a kid-friendly show, with some goofy sight gags in between tunes, but there was plenty for adults to enjoy.

Sure, kids-stuff cartoons featuring Porky Pig and Bugs Bunny -- with the music racing along through quick changes and plenty of dynamics -- were just what you would expect. But the "Betty Boop in Snow-White" cartoon, from 1933, was something else again. It's just a very strange and surreal film that may have gone over the heads of younger members of the audience.

While the Queen's Cartoonists stuck mostly to the styles of music in the original cartoons, perhaps the most riveting sequence of the evening was their band-composed piece accompanying a captivating and soothing work of animation about celestial "romance" -- revealing a depth, grace, and expression not so obvious in the rest of the material. I would love to see a whole show of just that kind of stuff.

The bottom line for me, after two shows, was that it felt good to get back to hearing some live music, despite venue restrictions.

I also have tickets to see the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis -- which is sold out -- and Benise. I wish I could report on those shows too, but the North Forty News deadline calls.

Coming up on The Lincoln Center schedule: Choir! Choir! Choir! on February 26, TAKE3 on March 3, Cirque Mechanics on March 6, Colin Hay on March 18, Demetri Martin on March 26, George Lopez on April 2, Rita Rudner on April 9, and the Kenny Wayne Shepherd Band on May 5. That's just a sample. See the full schedule at lctix.com.

A few other notable area concerts that are coming up:

At the Aggie Theater, G. Love and the Juice on March 4, The Reverend Peyton's Big Damn Band on March 25, and Henry Rollins on May 6.

At the Rialto Theater in Loveland, see "On a Winter's Night" featuring four great singer-songwriters -- Cliff Eberhardt, John Gorka, Christine Lavin, and Patty Larkin -- on March 26.

But here's the big one: Weird Al Yankovic, on his "Unfortunate Return of the Ridiculously Self-Indulgent, Ill-Advised Vanity Tour", will play the Union Colony Civic Center in Greeley on September 9.

The point here is that the pandemic has made a mess out of the performing arts in the last couple of years, but performers -- and venues -- are still here, ready and willing to amaze and inspire.

At least now, there's light at the end of the tunnel. Maybe it's time to stock up on tickets again. The Lincoln Center is a great place to start in 2022.

Tim Van Schmidt is a writer and photographer based in Fort Collins. Check out his channel on YouTube at "Time Capsules by Tim Van Schmidt".

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CITY BUZZ

PHOTO OF THE WEEK: PELICAN IN PUERTA VALLARTA

The photo of the week this week isn't actually in Northern Colorado -- it was taken last October in Puerta Vallarta by Mike OConnell. Mike lives in Fort Collins. Now, that's a way to cure a little spring fever! Thank you for submitting Mike, and nice shot!

ALL NEW! Sanderosa Art Gallery in Laporte is our new sponsor. Each Week North Forty News features a photo submitted by one lucky reader. The chosen submitter will receive a \$25 gift certificate to be used for merchandise at the gallery.

Your photo might capture a moment in time of scenery, animals in the wild, a wildfire, your friends or family, or a recent local event.

Send us your best shot!

No purchase is necessary, and multiple submissions are permitted.

One photo per email, please.

Please include a photo caption in the subject line (include your name, phone number, and location), and you could be our next weekly winner!

Sponsored by:

North Forty News and Sanderosa Art Gallery



We reserve the right to use the photo wherever we see fit, including our front page —crediting you as the source of that photo.

Submit your photos to:
yourphotos@northfortynews.com



ARTIST OF THE WEEK

John Tissler
Photographer
Color under the right light, just "Pops"

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sanderosaartgallery@gmail.com

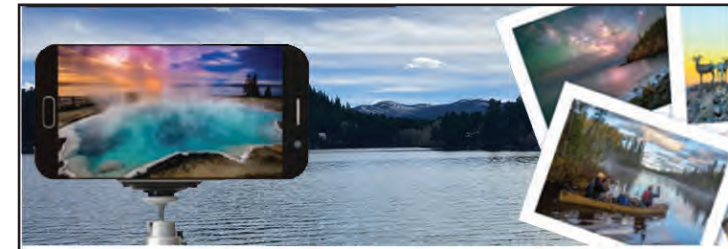


PHOTO CONTEST TAKE YOUR BEST SHOT!

Each Week the North Forty News will feature a photo submitted by one lucky reader. Your photo might capture a moment in time of scenery, animals in the wild, your friends or family, or a recent local event.

Just take your best shot and you could be our next weekly winner to receive a \$25.00 Certificate from Sanderosa Art Gallery in LaPorte.

No purchase necessary and multiple submissions are permitted, one photo per email please.

Just take your best shot and submit your photo to yourphotos@northfortynews.com.

Please include photo caption in subject line (include your name and location) and you could be our next weekly winner!



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CANYON CONCERT BALLET HIRES NEW ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

NEW SCENE | SceneNOCO.com



Michael Pappalardo

Canyon Concert Ballet (CCB) has announced a new Artistic Director, Michael Pappalardo. Michael began his classical training with Janice Heale School of Dance in Brisbane, Queensland before being accepted to study with Queensland Dance School of Excellence. In 2002 Michael was accepted into the New Zealand School of Dance where he completed his dance training. Michael worked with the Royal New Zealand Ballet during his time in New Zealand and was privileged to perform in works by Val Caniparoli, Jiri Kylian, Frederick Ashton, Stanton Welch, and George Balanchine.

"As a creator, I believe that original choreography or content is important for all performing arts companies. It is important to me that the movement fits the company, its style, the dancers, and what the community wants to see," said Pappalardo.

Recognizing his talent for choreography and Artistic Direction, Melbourne City Ballet

appointed Michael as Artistic Director in 2013. The organization became Australia's largest classical touring company, performing over 100 shows across Australia, New Zealand, and Japan annually.

"We are elated for Michael's vast experience and unique vision to join Canyon Concert Ballet. His enthusiasm will elevate our performances and inspire our dancers, while his love of dance is certain to ignite the community. We're looking forward to Michael's first production, Snow White in May at the Lincoln Center and many more to follow," said Abby Behm, Board President of Canyon Concert Ballet.

"I'm thrilled to be joining CCB and to bring exciting new work to this great organization. I can't wait to share my passion for the art of dance and make Colorado my new home," said Pappalardo.

Canyon Concert Ballet's mission is to expand, nourish, and enrich the artistic opportunities in classical dance through training, performance, and community outreach in service to the Northern Colorado region. Learn more at CCBallet.org



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BENEFIT CONCERT WILL PROVIDE RELIEF FOR MARSHALL FIRE DISASTER SURVIVORS

JONSON KUHN | SceneNOCO.com

Recently, Governor Jared Polis joined AEG Presents chairman emeritus Chuck Morris, Community Foundation Boulder County CEO Tatiana Hernandez, and Nathaniel Rateliff of Colorado-based band The Night Sweats to announce the Boulder Fire Recovery Benefit Concert to support disaster survivors of the Marshall Fire. The pre-recorded concert will go live online for virtual audiences on Monday, February 28 at 7 pm MT with performances from more than a dozen Colorado-based artists and popular national musical acts.

The Marshall Fire broke out on December 30, 2021, destroying more than 1,000 homes, damaging numerous businesses, and has been recorded as

the most destructive fire in Colorado's history. In the month since the disaster, the Polis-Primavera administration has worked hand-in-hand with local organizations, state and federal agencies to provide much-needed relief for impacted individuals and families as they navigate the process of filing insurance claims, accessing unemployment assistance, and getting tax relief.

Headlining sponsors of the benefit concert include MDC/Richmond American Foundation, contributing \$250,000, Amazon contributed \$50,000, the Tuchman Family Foundation contributed \$50,000, and the Colorado Lottery signed on for \$10,000.

The benefit concert's star-studded lineup includes:

- Lake Street Dive
- Sarah Jarosz
- Ryan Tedder
- Dave Matthews
- Michael Franti
- The Avett Brothers
- Trey Anastasio
- Jim James of My Morning Jacket
- Old Crow Medicine Show
- Yonder Mountain String Band
- Amos Lee
- Brittany Howard
- Lyle Lovett
- Steve Miller
- Nathaniel Rateliff

- The Motet
- The String Cheese Incident
- Rob Drabkin
- Wynnona Judd and Cactus Moser
- Leftover Salmon
- Raquel Garcia

"We're grateful for the tens of thousands of donors to our fund, and Governor Polis team and AEG for putting together an event that reminds us that Boulder County still needs your help to ease the burden that so many people are feeling right now," said Community Foundation Boulder County CEO Tatiana Hernandez.

Tickets can be purchased at marshallfirebenefit.veeps.com.

new scene weekly

WEEKLY SNEAK PEEK



Evanoff w/ Amorphic, 830 North, 8 pm, 2/26

Wednesday, February 23
Colorado Fires Benefit Event 2, Your Mom's House, 7:30 pm -12:30 am
Fire in the Belly - Zoom Chakra Mandala Drawing Class, Online, 9 am -11 am
***Free* 'Black Art' Exhibition Reception, Tours, & Film Screening**, Gregory Allicar Museum of Art at Colorado State University, 4 pm -8 pm
****FREE** Electronic Wenzdaze at 2454 West (Greeley) ft. DocFunk w/ Samson, Violet Svnset**, 2454 West, 8 pm
Sparge Veteran and First Responders Beer Club, Sparge Brewing, 6 pm

Thursday, February 24
Beginner Abstract Landscape: Level One, Blue Moose Art Gallery, 1:30 pm -4 pm
Design a Silk Table Topper: This class is so fun and easy!, Blue Moose Art Gallery, 10 am -12 pm
Kiss the Tiger performing live at Bluebird Theater - Denver, CO on Thursday, February 24th - Support for Low Cut Connie, The Bluebird Theater, 7 pm
OtterJ Cruising Party / A Sleazy Underwear Nite, Hi-Dive, 9 pm -2 am
RFC Networking Luncheon - Tilted Barrel Brew Pub, Tilted Barrel Brew Pub, 11:30 am -1 pm
Sports - Get A Good Look World Tour, Aggie Theatre, 8 pm
Women of Bass, Your Mom's House, 8 pm -2 am

Friday, February 25
Greeley Does Drag!, Moxi Theater, 6 pm -11:30 pm
Indigo Jones with Dzirae Gold + Brooklyn + Janae @ The Black Buzzard, The Black Buzzard, 8 pm -11:30 pm
Level Up Rap Battle: Freestyle Rap Battle at Stella's, Stella's Pinball Arcade & Lounge, 8 pm -12 am
Molly Tuttle & Golden Highway with Hanna Doreen, Aggie Theatre, 8 pm -11:45 pm
The Songwriter's Living Room: Writers in the Round, Roots Music Project, 8 pm -10:30 pm
Tribute to the Beatles ft. British Beat, Your Mom's House, 8 pm -12 am

Saturday, February 26
Comedy Night at Lirano Wine Bar, Lirano Wine Bar, 7 pm -9 pm
Evanoff w/ Amorphic, 830 North, 8 pm
Game of Love: Valentine's Speed Dating at Stella's, Stella's Pinball Arcade & Lounge, 8 pm -9 pm
Green Fairy Garden Class, The Windsor Gardener, 10:30 am -12 pm

High Country Hustle w/ Ghost Town Drifters, 100 Nickel, 8 pm
Mardi Gras Celebration, The Louisville Underground, 7 pm -11 pm
Micki Balder at The Gressiwick, The Gressiwick, 7 pm
Soul Food @ The Black Buzzard, Oskar Blues Grill & Brew, 8 pm -12 am

Sunday, February 27
Asha Blaine Band / Stone Beat Invasion / Mr. Steak Fundraiser, At Cheers, 2 pm -6 pm
Pen & Ink with Watercolor: Highly sought after class!, Blue Moose Art Gallery, 10 am -1 pm
Stamped Mandala Coaster & Trivets at Maxline Brewing, Maxline Brewing, 3 pm -5 pm
Sunday Morning Toast and Jams, Soul Squared Tap house, 11 am -2 pm

Monday, February 28
Pikes Peak Safe at Schools Coalition, Online, 4 pm -5:30 pm
Recovery Mondays ft. D3XTR + More, Your Mom's House, 8 pm -1 am
UNC Jazz Funk Lab, Guitar Ensemble & Spectrum Studio Orchestra, University of Northern Colorado, Campus Commons Performance Hall, 5 pm

Tuesday, March 1
FEEL THE MAGIC Super Show, Your Mom's House, 8 pm -10 pm
Rowland Ricketts artist talk, Colorado State University Alumni Center, 5 pm -6:30 pm
The Fat Tuesday Funk Jam (Open Jam) 03/01, Your Mom's House, 9 pm -2 am

Wednesday, March 2
An Evening Inside THE ROOM with Greg Sestero Live Event and Screening, MetroLux 14 Theatres at Centerra, 7 pm -10:30 pm
FREE: Workingman's Wednesdays w/ Tumbledown Shack, 830 North, 8 pm
Fun at The Flipside, The Flipside, 7 pm -9 pm
Songwriters' Workshop - Fort Collins, The Purple Cup Café, 5:45 pm

Thursday, March 3
Diggin Dirt, 830 North, 8 pm
Dragondeer with The Runaway Grooms @ Moxi Theater, Moxi Theater, 8 pm -11:30 pm
Make a Little Glass Dish: Fused glass fun!, Blue Moose Art Gallery, 2 pm -4 pm
Melanin MagiQ, Online, 5:30 pm -6:30 pm
Security of the U.S. Today: Domestic Unrest, Russia & China, Online, 7 pm -8 pm

The Mystical Hot Chocolate Endeavors, Your Mom's House, 8 pm -2 am

Friday, March 4
A LIFETIME OF BLUES with Al Chesis and David Booker, Roots Music Project, 7:30 pm -10:30 pm
An Evening with TAARKA, The Gressiwick, 7 pm

Humanesque: Movement Stories for Tarnished Times, The Lincoln Center, 12 am -11:59 pm
Los Lobos, Washington's, 7 pm -9:30 pm
Molly Sweeney, Bas Bleu Theatre Company, 7:30 pm

Paizley Park Live at The Louisville Underground, The Louisville Underground, 8 pm -10 pm
Stories on Stage presents Wildest Women, Su Teatro Cultural and Performing Arts Center

The Ghost Of Joseph Buck @ The Black Buzzard, The Black Buzzard, 8 pm -11:30 pm
The High Kings, Union Colony Civic Center, 7:30 pm

The Runaway Grooms w/ Conscious Pilot, 100 Nickel, 8 pm
UNC Galleries: Little Altars Everywhere: The Goddess Banners of Lydia Ruyle, University of Northern Colorado, Campus Commons Atrium

UNC Galleries Women Artists: Opening Reception, University of Northern Colorado, Campus Commons Gallery, 6 pm -9 pm

Saturday, March 5
An Officer and a Gentleman, Union Colony Civic Center, 7:30 pm
Bad Company / Journey / INXS Tribute Night, At Cheers, 7 pm -12 am
Bass Groove, Your Mom's House, 9:15 pm -2 am
Ben Pu & Crew @ Moxi Theater, Moxi Theater, 8 pm -11:30 pm
Big Brooklyn Live at The Magic Rat, Magic Rat Live Music, 8 pm -10 pm
Cary Morin & Ghost Dog w/ Tyler T, 830 North, 8 pm
Colorado Jazz Repertory Orchestra presents Brazil Calling: Featuring the Music of Antônio Carlos Jobim, Arvada Center, 7:30 pm
Dave Beegle at The Gressiwick, The Gressiwick, 7 pm
Fort Collins Symphony March 5 Concert: Florence Price & Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, The Lincoln Center, 7:30 pm
Intuitive Collage: How to make and use your own collage papers, Blue Moose Art Gallery, 10 am -1 pm
Molly Sweeney, Bas Bleu Theatre Company, 7:30 pm
Precious Metal Clay: Pendants -- this class is so cool!, Blue Moose Art Gallery, 2 pm -6 pm
RMP Rising - Music Benefit for Teen Mental Health, Roots Music Project, 7:30 pm -10 pm
Seed Swap & Giveaway, Old Town Library, 1 pm -3 pm
Stella's Stand Up Underground Comedy Showcase, Stella's Pinball Arcade & Lounge, 9 pm -12 am

Sunday, March 6
Bad Bad Hats w/ The Ophelias, 830 North, 8 pm
Comedy Brewers Improv, Bas Bleu Theatre, 7 pm
DERIS LIVE, Your Mom's House, 8 pm -12 am
Molly Sweeney, Bas Bleu Theatre Company, 2:30 pm

Tuesday, March 8
Your Mom's Funk Jam (Open Jam), Your Mom's House, 7 pm -2 am

Wednesday, March 9
Blast N Bowl Feat. Gone Full Heathen, Violent High, Opposition Agent, and watching people drown, 830 North, 7 pm
FREE: Workingman's Wednesdays w/ Tumbledown Shack, 2454 West, 8 pm
Your Mom's Latin Night, Your Mom's House, 7 pm -12 am

Thursday, March 10
Madeline Hawthorne Band, 830 North, 8 pm
Museum at Twilight, Greeley History Museum, 4 pm -8 pm
Protecting Your Creativity, Larimer SBDC, 2 pm -4 pm
Shwama with Hash Cabbage + Far Out Underground Rain @ The Black Buzzard, The Black Buzzard, 8 pm -11:30 pm

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CROSSWORD SOLUTION

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SODOKU SOLUTION

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NORTHERN COLORADO

Public's Help Sought Locating Suspect

NORTH FORTY NEWS | NorthFortyNews.com



Suspect vehicle
(Photo courtesy Larimer County Sheriff)

The Larimer County Sheriff's Office is asking for the public's help in locating a suspect from a Hit-and-Run Motor Vehicle Accident vs. Pedestrian.

The accident occurred on Sunday, January 23rd, 2022 at approximately 5:40 pm at the intersection of Mountain Ave. and 4th Street, in Berthoud, and left the pedestrian with serious injuries.

The suspect vehicle is described as a white or light tan late 90's or early 2000's, pickup truck possibly a Chevy.

Security Footage shows the vehicle may be an extended cab 4 door pickup with amber cab lights above the windshield as it traveled westbound on Mountain Avenue.

The suspect was described as a white male, approximately 60 years old,

skinny build, with glasses and a long gray beard.

If anyone has any information about the suspect, the suspect vehicle, or was in the area the night of the accident, please contact Deputy Fay at 970-498-5503.



Forest Service Receives Funding for Northern Colorado Fire Restoration

NORTH FORTY NEWS

USDA Forest Service Rocky Mountain Region will receive approximately \$85 million to recover and restore national forests, watersheds, and communities impacted by 2020 and 2021 wildfires.

The funding is a share of the \$1.36 Billion of supplemental appropriations provided to the Forest Service through the Extending Government Funding and Delivering Emergency Assistance Act of 2021.

The act provided a total of \$28.6 billion in new supplemental appropriations for disaster relief recovery to federal agencies.

Approximately \$85 million in disaster funding will be allocated to national forests and grasslands in Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota, and Wyoming, with the majority going to Colorado and Wyoming. Visit www.fs.usda.gov to learn more.

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COVER STORY

Things to Do: Getting through the Final Push of Winter

ANNIE LINDGREN | NorthFortyNews.com

I don't know about you, but this time of year has me itching for adventure and warm outdoor spaces. So, as we slowly creep closer to Spring, here are some ideas for adventurous things you can do this time of year.

Take a day trip through our state's history. Load up the vehicle and head to one of Colorado's many historic mining towns. There is fascinating history to learn about and see, and these communities have cute downtowns with restaurants and shopping. Within a day's drive, several examples include Victor, Cripple Creek, Central City, Leadville, Georgetown, or Idaho Springs. In addition, there are smaller mountain communities close to home that also have a fun history, like West of Lyons or up the canyons. Take a look at a map, plan a route, and make a day of it.

Take a trip to Denver to check out the Denver History Museum, the Van Gogh Exhibit, Meow Wolf, or Denver Botanical Gardens. There are loads of things to learn and experience for all ages and interest levels, and you are guaranteed to find more worthy of a return visit.

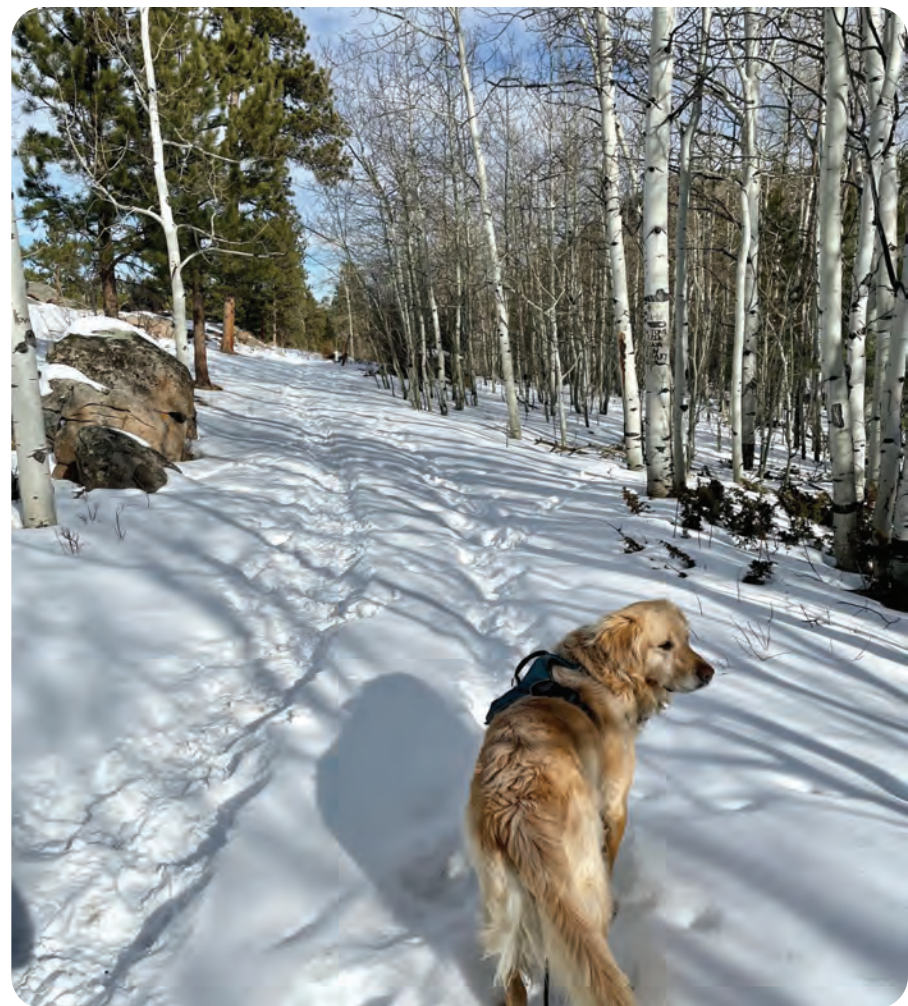
Check out our New Scene Calendar and see where events fit into your calendar. Invite your friends and plan to attend a new event or an old favorite. It is

refreshing attending community events after the last couple of years' worth of cancellations.

Plan a vacation. Even if it isn't happening immediately, vacations are a lot of fun to plan for. You can sign up to be on email lists (like Travel Zoo or Great Value Vacations) where deals on trip packages make it easy to say 'yes.' While travel may still be challenging to some locations, there are a lot of countries that have opened back up to travelers. There are also tons of places to visit within the United States. So make a list and start planning!

Get outside when you can. Whether going for a walk, hike, bike ride, snowshoe, or ski, there are plenty of opportunities to spend time outdoors in the winter. Hiking and snowshoeing are great winter activities, and Red Feather Lakes, Poudre Canyon, Lory State Park, Devils Backbone, Poudre Trail, Rocky Mountain National Park, Pawnee Grasslands, and Horsetooth Mountain, to name a few, all have trails for all seasons. Apps like COTREX and Alltrails show where the trails are.

When you can't get outside, think about inside things you can do that include socializing. Go bowling, play indoor mini-golf, throw axes, play Bingo or do crafts at a brewery, Rock Climbing, Trampoline



Hiking in Red Feather with Maverick the Golden Retriever (Photo by Annie Lindgren)

jumping, catch a movie, visit the library or Fort Collins Museum of Discovery. There are a lot of fun indoor activities in Fort Collins.

Can you work remotely? Consider working remotely from a remote location. This author is typing this article from her camper, parked in the desert in Lake Mead National Park. This is a great time to visit the southern states, from desert to ocean shores. Arizona, New Mexico, Texas,

Florida, and California, the options are endless. Whatever your preferred mode of travel, take it! You can get internet through the hotspot on a cellphone or tablet or in a hotel room.

March brings longer daylight hours, hope for warmer days to come, and spring break. Summer events and Adventures will be right around the next corner. We are almost through another winter in Colorado.

STATE

Colorado's Economic Momentum Expected to Continue into 2022

NORTH FORTY NEWS | NorthFortyNews.com

Colorado's economic momentum is expected to continue into 2022 as the state continues to rebound from the pandemic and emerges from a surge in Omicron cases, according to a report released today by the University of Colorado Boulder and Colorado Secretary of State Jena Griswold.

The Quarterly Business and Economic Indicators report is prepared by the Leeds Business Research Division (BRD) at CU Boulder in conjunction with the Colorado Secretary of State's Office. The latest report for the fourth quarter of 2021 shows that Colorado added 152,000 jobs between December 2020 and December 2021 (5.8% growth), and the state's unemployment rate improved to 4.8%.

New business filings increased year-over-year, but decreased seasonally in the fourth quarter, notching 35,625 new business filings (a 6.8% decline). Business renewals increased slightly (2.6%) in Q4, with 166,435 filings.

"A new year always provides opportunities for renewed hope, and despite the extraordinary and unprecedented challenges our state has faced, today's Quarterly Economic Indicators Report provides some much-needed optimism as we begin 2022. Colorado is ranked above average for GDP, employment, and income growth; and new entity filings and existing entity renewals hit record levels in 2021," said Secretary Griswold.

"Colorado's economy is on the cusp of

returning to pre-pandemic levels in a lot of areas, but we have to keep working to make sure that momentum continues for the weeks, months, and years ahead."

The report also notes the decreased traffic to retail, recreation, and restaurant establishments, according to the Google Mobility Reports, as the Omicron variant weighed on some industries over the last quarter.

Inflation remains a concern

The national consumer price index (CPI) increased 7.1% year-over-year in December 2021, the highest monthly increase since June 1982. Annually, national inflation rose 4.7% in 2021, while prices in the Denver-Aurora-Lakewood region rose 3.5%.

"Inflation continues to be a topic of concern for many businesses across the state," said Rich Wobbekind, senior economist and faculty director of the Leeds Business Research Division.

Home price growth in the state also continues to increase, up 20.8% year-over-year in the third quarter of 2021. That pace is the 14th-fastest in the country. Weekly wages in Colorado increased an average of 5.7% in December, ranking the state 19th. Average weekly wages increased 4.5% in all of 2021 in the state. Colorado's labor force participation rate was 68.3% in December, ranked 4th nationally, but the state's 4.8% unemployment rate ranks 34th.

COUNTY

Larimer County Environmental Stewardship Awards Nominations

JOHN KEFALAS | Larimer County Commissioner



I believe we have shared values, and one of these shared values is environmental stewardship to protect and preserve our environment and natural resources to have clean air, water, and land, now and for future generations.

The Larimer County Commissioners and the Environmental and Science Advisory Board [ESAB] are seeking nominations for the 2022 Environmental Stewardship Awards, and the nomination deadline is March 27. To nominate an organization, business, or individual, please visit, larimer.org/boards/environmental-and-science-advisory-board/awards/nominate.

Projects and activities can also be self-nominated.

The Larimer County Environmental Stewardship Awards began in 1995, and the awards are an expression of our county's commitment to the environment and our community. The awards are meant to exemplify and honor organizations, businesses, or individuals that demonstrate creative, proactive efforts and smart practices for the environment and sustainability.

The ESAB reviews the nominations and makes recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners, and we generally

approve their recommendations. Winners are acknowledged and honored at a special public meeting. Last year, we recognized the Rocky Mountain Raptor Program (RMRP), whose mission is to inspire the protection and appreciation of raptors [birds of prey – eagles, hawks, falcons, owls] and their habitats.

The RMRP provides educational programs to more than 15,000 school children each year, and in response to COVID, the RMRP continued to educate the public virtually. We also recognized the Horse and Dragon Brewery, a community-minded business, that donated its expired beer to gardens and farms to enhance composting. The third award recipient was One Times Everyone, a local nonprofit focusing on addressing climate change through the operation of a giving circle model – individual donations that magnify other donations each month -- to support environmental organizations.

The ESAB is one of 37 advisory boards and commissions, with more than 300 volunteers that offer a valuable public service to our community by providing input and ideas to help the Board of County Commissioners make informed policy decisions. Previous environmental stewardship awardees are listed at larimer.org. Please consider nominating an environmental champion.

John Kefalas is a Larimer County commissioner representing all of Larimer County.

THE BACK PAGE

THE 1940s

SEE THE SOLUTION ON PAGE 12

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- Decree
 - *U.S./U.S.S.R.'s cold one
 - Harry Potter's mark
 - Syrup flavor
 - _____ Khan
 - Bird of prey's nest
 - Lieu
 - H+, e.g.
 - Bashful or Happy
 - *"1984" author George
 - *Best-selling pop artist Bing
 - Writer _____ Monk Kidd
 - Genghis or Kubla
 - Cranberry habitat
 - Not nice
 - Saddle holders
 - *Boris Karloff's movie "The _____," pl.
 - Actress Barrymore
 - Asian goat antelope
 - Supernatural life force
 - Seethes
 - South African antelope
 - Cook from above
 - Rotisserie part
 - Not odd
 - Italy in Italian
 - What snob puts on
 - .0000001 joule
 - Sound of a dropped tome
 - Beer acronym
 - *_____ Doctrine, U.S. foreign policy
 - *"How Green Was My _____"
 - Another word for nutria
 - Ciao in the U.S.
 - Trip guide
 - Surveyor's maps
 - Afflict
 - Will alternative
 - Additionally
 - Nucleic acid
 - Term of endearment

- DOWN
- Emergency acronym
 - *1949 international org.
 - Copycat
 - Chicken feet
 - Christian hymn (2 words)
 - Graveside sound
 - Gone by
 - TV's Yellowstone, e.g.
 - Uses a Singer
 - Underwater hermit
 - Ethereal
 - Gridiron official, for short
 - Apollo Creed's son
 - City in northern England
 - Old towel, e.g.
 - Rollerskater's protector (2 words)
 - *Disney's 1942 orphan
 - Abstractionism using optical illusion
 - Kind of salami
 - Crafts' companion
 - Network of nerves
 - Treasure collection
 - Dreamer?
 - *Popular music style
 - Ship canvas
 - *1939-1945
 - Parallel grooves
 - Acid turns it red
 - "Bingo!"
 - Daryl Hannah's 1984 movie
 - Open up
 - In spite of the fact, arch.
 - Church sound
 - Swedish shag rugs
 - Plotting
 - Velum, pl.
 - Zeal
 - New Haven University
 - IRS employee?
 - Yang's opposite
 - Canny

SEE THE SOLUTION ON PAGE 12

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