



"BILL THE PILOT"

THE INSPIRATIONAL STORY OF A MAN WHO DIDN'T GIVE UP

See Page 14



Dog Bailey and Pilot Bill Snodgrass out for an evening stroll in Wellington (Photo by Laura Snodgrass)

new
scene
weekly

A PREVIEW OF
WHAT'S GOING ON
IN NORTHERN COLORADO

Powered by Northern Colorado's
Entertainment & Lifestyle Magazine

Treasures in Our Backyard:

Cool Colorado Experiences

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Colorado Welcome Center at Fort Collins
(Photo by Tim Van Schmidt)

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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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MAKING AN IMPACT

United Way of Larimer County



United Way's Larimer Child Care Fund Launches New Scholarships

UNITED WAY OF LARIMER COUNTY | Uwaylc.org

United Way of Larimer County and the Early Childhood Council of Larimer County are offering a one-stop shop for local families to access both childcare providers and financial scholarships through the integration of the Larimer Child Care Fund and the Larimer Child Care Connect platform. United Way will provide ongoing funding for the scholarships and \$350,000 will be available during the current application process, which closes on April 25. The site is mobile friendly and applications will be available in both English and Spanish. Awards are determined on a first-come, first-served basis for all eligible applicants.

"Access to quality early child care directly intersects our key priority areas of youth and education and financial stability and is vital to a healthy community, stable workforce, and thriving economy," said Deirdre Sullivan, President, and CEO of United Way of Larimer County. "The expansion of our Larimer Child Care Fund is our latest effort to not only provide financial support but also to help increase families' choice in accessing affordable care in Larimer County."

The average cost of center-based care for children ages 0-5 is nearly \$1,200 per month per child in Larimer County, making this an issue that affects every family. United Way's expansion of the Larimer Child Care Fund supports families who do not currently receive or qualify for the

Colorado Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) and still need assistance with the high cost of quality, licensed care for their children. Scholarships will be paid directly to childcare providers on behalf of the family each month for one year with the opportunity for families to reapply annually. Scholarship recipients will be limited to paying up to 15% of their income on childcare.

"The Fort Collins Area Chamber has had the honor of working alongside business and community partners to tackle the challenges of accessible and affordable childcare. This is a tremendous step in the right direction to bridge the financial gap so many workers and their families face," said Ann Hutchison, President & CEO of the Fort Collins Area Chamber of Commerce. "We are thrilled to see the United Way take an important leadership role on this issue."

Through generous community donations, United Way of Larimer County has more than quadrupled its investment in childcare access and affordability over the last five years. All donations made to the Larimer Child Care Fund are eligible for the Colorado Child Care Contribution Tax Credit. This credit allows individuals and businesses to claim a 50% state income tax credit for qualified contributions.

Visit uwaylc.org/ChildcareFund to learn more, including how to apply for scholarships and donate to the fund.

United Way of Larimer County



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Ways to Incorporate Vertical Space



ALEX TISTHAMMER | Fort Collins Nursery



(Photo provided by Fort Collins Nursery)

Perhaps you are a gardener with a small yard or a collector who is a little plant crazy, but regardless, you know that space is valuable and you want to use it to the best of its advantage. Taking advantage of vertical space is a wonderful way to help utilize areas practically as well as make your garden look attractive and visually interesting.

First things first, figure out what you want to use as your support. A chain-link fence is perfect for supporting a large vine for privacy screening. Engelmann Ivy or Trumpet Vine are ideal for this and one plant can cover ample space. Engelmann Ivy has lovely fall color and the bees adore the small flowers, while Trumpet Vine has a large red, orange, or yellow flowers the hummingbirds enjoy. If you don't have a fence that the tendrils can twirl around, you can build support or buy a trellis to go along a fence or anywhere that you would like a vertical screen. If you have an entrance that you would like to spruce up, use an arch or

arbor. They can make any pathway or garden entrance look enchanting. Wisteria and hops vines that have dangling flowers and fruit will make it even more magical.

If you've ever grown cucumber, squash or pumpkins you know these monstrous plants can take up a lot of space. Using vertical supports can save space and can solve some common problems at the same time. Training the plants to grow vertically increases air movement and exposes the leaves to more sunshine. This increases yields and helps combat diseases and pests. Harvesting is a breeze when the fruit is at eye level and you can see it clearly. This can help you avoid the common monster squash, that one you didn't see and now it's the size of a small child! Cucumbers, cantaloupes and other muskmelons, peas, pole beans, certain squashes, and even tomatoes are all crops you can grow vertically. Cattle fencing is cheap and a great support for your vegetable garden. Attach it to the back of raised beds or bend it into an arch to create a tunnel between beds.

Want a fruit tree but don't have the space for it? If you have a fence or wall that gets a good amount of sun, an espalier is a perfect solution! Espaliered trees have been pruned so that their branches run horizontally to grow along a flat surface. Espaliered apple trees are very common and are often grafted to have multiple varieties on one plant so they can all cross-pollinate. While you can espalier a tree yourself it takes years to form. Buying one that is already properly pruned from a local garden center is a faster option.

Vertical space is an underutilized aspect of gardening, but when used correctly it can make a huge difference. Whether you're creating a private personal getaway, creating a welcoming and visually interesting walkways, or maximizing your household food production, you can transform your yard and garden by growing up this year!

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WELLINGTON

Wellington, Here are the Candidates for the Fire Board Election

ANNIE LINDGREN | NorthFortyNews.com

As we digest the results from the Mayor and Trustee candidate election, we must not forget about the upcoming Wellington Fire Protection District Board of Directors Election on May 3, 2022.

This election is for three directors. The candidates for these three positions, and their bios, are listed below.

Carol Story



"I have lived in Fort Collins since I was three years old and in Waverly for 18 years. My most prized accomplishments are my four grown children and eight grandchildren.

Growing up, I learned my value system from a strong Christian education, my parents, and from my Grandfather, a County Attorney and one of the most honorable people I have ever known. I learned to always tell the truth, even if it got me in trouble, and always do the right thing, even if it was the hardest thing. Those values have served me well throughout life and as the owner of several businesses such as a livestock auction company, a large cattle and hay ranch, a gift store, a professional horse trainer/instructor, a horse show judge, a medical transcriptionist, and certified EMT. I have been a Colorado licensed Realtor for the past 26 years.

I believe in giving back to my community. I've volunteered as a 4-H leader, and I've sat on two Citizen Advisory Boards and the WFPD board. As the Board works through the challenges involving the retirement of our former Chief, hiring an Interim Chief, and the search and selection process of hiring a new Chief, I firmly believe the District will benefit by retaining an experienced Board member who understands the issues and is familiar with the State Statutes governing us as a Colorado Special District."

Christine Gaiter



"I'm a conservative Christian and an active member of my church in Loveland. I'm a married mother of 6, and I own an accounting business,

so I know how to look at budgets and financial reports. I'm actively involved in Wellington by serving on 2 citizen boards, Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and the Board of Adjustments.

I am running for the Wellington Fire Protection District Board of Directors because I can bring a new and objective perspective to their finances and operations. With my accounting background, I will make sure your taxpayer money is spent wisely, and the Fire District is not overspending. From the operations perspective, I want to support our firefighters and keep our response times quick in order to protect our community. I'm not afraid to ask the hard questions and find creative solutions. I believe in planning ahead for big projects such as building the new fire station by saving now so we don't have to take out debt or ask the taxpayers for more money later.

To sum it all up, I want to put the safety of the firefighters and residents FIRST while staying in budget."

For more info, check out GaiterforFireBoard.com

David Pierson



"My name is David Pierson, and I am running for Wellington Fire Protection District board. I currently work for Black Hills Gas Company and have worked for the previous gas companies in Wellington for the past 37 years.

I am a third-generation Wellington resident,

with my mother and father graduating from Wellington High School, my father graduating as All American Athletic.

I have served with the Wellington Fire Protection District for 30 years. Have held a variety of offices, including Fire Chief. Growing up in the area, I have watched the town grow and as "the gas man" I've been all over the town.

As a past board member, we accomplished quite a bit. As a re-elected board member, my priorities would be firefighter safety, public safety, protecting property within the approximate 300 miles of the District, and being fiscally responsible with tax payors' property tax dollars. I would like to serve again, if you will have me, to improve on previous accomplishments."

Linda Knaack



"My name is Linda Knaack. I am a Wellington Native and a local business owner.

I have worked with both non-profit and for-profit organizations throughout my professional career. I have earned a Bachelors's in Accounting and have deep roots in finance and management.

Before opening and running our local automotive repair shop, I worked helping small businesses with their Simple IRA's and 401k retirement accounts. In addition, I have held jobs in Human Resources and benefit planning. I currently serve on the Planning Commission with the Town of Wellington.

Personally and professionally, I have witnessed the Fire Department's impact on our community. I have seen the fantastic staff in action at my home with loved ones and as a witness of the recent house fire in our community. I'm grateful for our first responders' work and would be honored to give back to our team.

My husband, John, and I have two adult children, Sara and Will. Sara helps us manage our business, and Will serves as a Marine in the United States Marine Corps."

Jason Meyers



"My name is Jason Meyers, and I am running for Wellington Fire Protection District board. I currently work for Platte River Power Authority as a

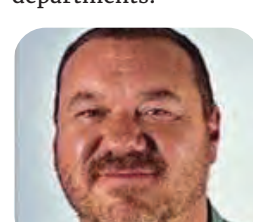
mechanical maintenance planner. I am a captain and an EMT for the fire department on sight. I have been with Platte River Power Authority for 16 years and have worked with Wellington Fire for 20 years.

I moved to Wellington in 1997, where I purchased my first house. Becky and I started our family. We have two girls, and they were all involved in the fire department up until I retired from the fire department.

I have served with the Wellington Fire Protection District for 15 years. I have held the offices of Firefighter, EMT, Driver Operator, Fire training officer Lieutenant, and Captain.

As a board member, I understand the responsibility that comes with this position. Protecting life and property for the town of Wellington and being responsible with their tax dollars. My goal is to make Wellington one of Colorado's best and most efficient fire departments."

Joshua Dreher



"Joshua Dreher moved to Wellington, CO, in March 2002 and started a family in this beautiful town while working as a Deputy with

(See "Candidates" on page 5)

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Invitation to Wellington's Town Hall

NORTH FORTY NEWS | NorthFortyNews.com

TOWN HALL
STRATEGIC PLAN
APRIL 27
6 P.M.

Leeper Center, 3800 Wilson Ave.
wellingtoncolorado.gov

The Town of Wellington is hosting a quarterly Town Hall Series where folks are invited to attend in-person and provide feedback on current topics. The April event will focus on Strategic Planning.

Attendees will participate in small group community conversations to prioritize their desires for the town. Since this information focuses on

strategic planning, feedback could be anything from capital improvement projects to engagement and everything in between. They will have dot voting, comment cards, and notetakers to record the feedback.

This event is Wednesday, April 27 at 6 PM in-person at the Leeper Center (3800 Wilson Ave. Wellington, CO).

FORT COLLINS

Calling All 35th Annual Bike to Work-Day Station Hosts and Co-Hosts!

NORTH FORTY NEWS | NorthForttyNews.com

Bike to Work (or Wherever) Day will be here soon. On Wednesday, June 22, Fort Collins will celebrate 35 years of bicycling and pedestrian mobility as an integral part of our community culture. We will see nearly 6,000 total participants this year who will hop on two wheels, skateboards, or out walking/jogging on the lookout for free breakfast and camaraderie between 6:30 and 9:30 am at breakfast stations located all around town.

If your business or organization is committed to hosting or co-hosting a free breakfast station, sign up online by Wednesday, May 4 at 5 pm at: survey.alchemer.com/s3/6777683/2022-BTWD-Breakfast-Station-Host-Sign-Up-Form-copy.

Dates to remember:

- Call issued: April 1
- Call ends: May 4 at 5 pm
- Final location confirmation: May 11
- Drop-in packet pick-up: June 16 (more details to come)
- Bike to Work (or Wherever) Day: June 22 between 6:30 am and 9:30 am (always the 4th Wednesday in June)

Please feel free to reach out with any questions, especially if you are a first-time station host or co-host. Remember that station locations are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Rocky Mountain Young Marines of Fort Collins Honored as Division 4 Unit of the Year

NORTH FORTY NEWS | NorthForttyNews.com

The Young Marines, a national youth organization, has named the Rocky Mountain Young Marines the Division 4 Unit of the Year. The unit meets in Fort Collins, and the Unit Commander is Scott McKenna.

The Young Marines is a youth education and service program for boys and girls, ages 8 through high school graduation. The Young Marines promote the mental, moral, and physical development of their members. The program focuses on character building, and leadership, and it promotes a healthy, drug-free lifestyle.

The Rocky Mountain Young Marines is comprised of 26 youth members. The unit meets at 2013 Topanga Court, Fort Collins. Each Young Marine unit is guided by adult volunteers. Two of the adult volunteers are former Young Marines, one currently serves in the Marines, the other serves in the Navy.

“Receiving this honor never crossed our minds;

it was so unexpected,” said Unit Commander Scott McKenna. “We keep our heads down and work really hard, Young Marines and staff alike. We feel there is nothing more fulfilling than watching a Young Marine do something he or she thought they couldn’t.”

The Rocky Mountain Young Marines forged great relationships with several local non-profits that serve veterans. In this year alone, the youth members and adult volunteers have served 3,557 hours in the community. Members provided many flag retirement ceremonies for multiple non-profits such as providing chair set-up to building the fire, folding the flags, playing taps, and providing commentary and prayer. The unit also sponsored the ongoing clean-up of Twin Silos Park in Ft Collins.

For more information, visit the official website at youngmarines.org.

LOCAL SPORTS

Poudre High Soccer

PATRICK GILLEN



Poudre High Girls Varsity soccer team (Photo by Patrick Gillen)

The Poudre Girls’ Varsity Soccer team is led by seven seniors this season who bring heart, energy, and great skill to the table. Sofia Blanco (F), Eva Jane Brewer (F), Lexie Christopher (M), Haley Christopher (M), Grace Fisher (D), Ellie Toll (D), and Emily Schuett (GK) haven’t had the normal high school soccer experience.

The pandemic completely canceled their sophomore year season, and last year they played a shortened season with plenty of obstacles along the way. They are excited to take on this final year with enthusiasm and a deep love for the game as they finish their high school careers. We wish them all the best of luck on the pitch and in the classroom! Upcoming games 12th VS Monarch (home), 14th VS Mountain Range (away), 16th VS Longmont (home)

Hammers Rugby Splits Double Header

NORTH FORTY NEWS

Hammers Rugby High School Boys team played a doubleheader earlier this month at the University of Northern Colorado.

In their first match, the Hammers put together an impressive all-around performance against Dakota Ridge. The forwards produced a steady stream of quick ball, and the backs created frequent line breaks. Scores came at regular intervals for the Hammers, who ended with a 57-0 win.

The second match against a well-drilled Summit County team proved a different proposition. Slick handling by the Summit backline, finding runners taking passes at pace, led to 3 early tries for them. The Hammers showed resilience to bounce back, scoring two tries of their own, while controlling play for long stretches of the second half. But a late, length of the field, breakaway try for Summit sealed a 12-29 loss for the Hammers.

Hammers Rugby has players from Fort Collins, Loveland, Windsor, and the surrounding areas. The boys and girls teams are always looking for new players. The Boys High School Team practices on Mondays and Wednesdays at 5 pm at McGraw Elementary in Fort Collins.

More info: hammersrugby.com.

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Bills to Address Colorado's Behavioral Health Crisis Win Committee Approval

NORTH FORTY NEWS | NorthFortyNews.com

The House Public & Behavioral Health & Human Services Committee recently unanimously passed two bills to expand access to behavioral health services for adults and youth. These bills were developed based on recommendations from the state's Behavioral Health Transformational Task Force and will invest \$140 million to build a healthier Colorado.

"We've made it a top priority to expand access to behavioral health care, and that's what this transformational bill will do," said Rep. Serena Gonzales-Gutierrez, D-Denver. "With these federal funds, we have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to significantly expand behavioral health care and address the cries our state is facing. This legislation provides \$90 million directly to local governments, nonprofits, and community-based programs to expand access to behavioral health care and fill critical gaps across the state so that more Coloradans can seek the care they need to thrive."

"This transformational \$90 million investment will lay the foundation for a more accessible, affordable, and inclusive system of behavioral health care in our state," said Rep. Naquetta Ricks, D-Aurora. "Our behavioral health care crisis will not be solved overnight, but with these funds, we have a unique opportunity to address some of the most pressing concerns in our state. Every community is different and has different circumstances and different needs. This bill encourages collaboration, uplifts local solutions, and ensures that funding reaches every corner of Colorado and that no community is left behind."

Community Behavioral Health Continuum of Care Gap Grants: HB22-1281 sponsored by Representatives Gonzales-Gutierrez and Naquetta Ricks, will ensure Coloradans across the state —

including children, youth, and families — have access to the behavioral health care they need. This bill will invest \$90 million in grant funds for local governments and nonprofit organizations to implement innovative, community-based programs with the goal of filling regional gaps across the continuum of care and transforming behavioral health outcomes for families, children, and youth living in Colorado. The bill passed unanimously.

"Colorado doesn't have nearly enough long-term mental health residential bed capacity, leading many families to send their children out of state for care. This situation doesn't meet the needs of our state's children or our families, which is why we are investing \$54 million to increase youth and family residential and outpatient care in Colorado," said Rep. Dafna Michaelson Jenet, D-Commerce City. "This bill will expand mental health and substance use disorder treatment services for Colorado's youth and families to help address our state's youth mental health crisis, which we know was exacerbated by the pandemic."

Youth and Family Residential Behavioral Health Care: HB22-1283 sponsored by Representative Dafna Michaelson Jenet and Mary Bradfield, will make it easier for families and youth to access residential and outpatient care in Colorado. Right now, Colorado does not have adequate capacity to serve children and youth with complex behavioral health needs. As a result, too many children are sent out of state to access treatment, far away from their families and support network. This bill will invest \$54M to support intensive youth and family residential and outpatient care, ensuring that children, youth, and families can access behavioral health treatment and services they need right here in Colorado.

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

NORTH FORTY NEWS | NorthFortyNews.com

WELD COUNTY, CO — This year, Weld County recognizes April as Child Abuse Prevention Month and reaffirms its dedication to preventing child abuse and improving the quality of life for all children and families in Weld County.

At a recent board meeting, the Board of County Commissioners proclaimed April as Child Abuse Prevention Month in Weld County, stating that all children deserve safe, loving, nurturing homes and communities to foster their healthy growth and development.

Staff from the family prevention and resource and child welfare divisions and community partners, such as Life Stories Child and Family Advocacy, attended.

"We appreciate the county's efforts in assisting us (Life Stories) for so many years and our services to kids. Unfortunately, we are still doing it, and hopefully, we learn every day how to provide even better services for kids. Still, we appreciate our partnerships and couldn't do it alone," said Gwen Schooley, Life Stories Executive Director.

When children and families need assistance, the Weld County Department of Human Services is

there to provide a level of support to prevent family breakdown and ensure the safety of children.

This month and throughout the year, Weld County Government encourages all individuals and organizations to play a role in making Weld County a better place for children and families. By ensuring that parents have the knowledge, skills, and resources to care for their children, we can help promote children and youth's social and emotional well-being and prevent child abuse within families and communities.

"In Weld County, we are grateful to have strong and enduring community collaborations and partnerships, which allow us to leverage programs and resources and create strong and thriving children and families by working together." Said Jamie Ulrich, Director of the Weld County Department of Human Services. "The future prosperity of our community depends on our ability to foster the health and well-being of the next generation."

For more information about Weld County Department of Human Services and the prevention division, please visit weldgov.com.

Robert B. Williams to Become New Health District Executive Director

NORTH FORTY NEWS | NorthFortyNews.com

Robert B. Williams is the new Executive Director of the Health District of Northern Larimer County. He was appointed by the Health District Board of Directors in March.

Williams replaces founding Health District Executive Director Carol Plock who retired this month. He has more than two decades of experience leading health, housing, and human services programs in local and state government.

Williams previously served as the Executive Director of Boulder County's Housing and Human Services Department.

"We are grateful for Carol Plock's many years of service to the community that has given the Health District a solid foundation upon which to build for the future," said Michael Liggett, President of the Health District Board of Directors.

SummitStone Health Partners logo

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WINDSOR

Windsor Police are Looking for Witnesses of Traffic Fatality

NORTH FORTY NEWS | NorthFortyNews.com

On April 2, 2022, at approximately 6:35 pm, the Windsor Police Department responded to the 9600 block of Eastman Park Drive to a report of a motor vehicle crash with injuries. Three adults were injured, including 39-year-old Jessica Evans, who was pronounced deceased at the scene. The others involved sustained non-life-threatening injuries.

During the initial investigation, officers determined that a group of approximately 13 individuals had gathered on the shoulder of the two-lane roadway to commemorate a person that had died one year earlier from a crash in the same area. The involved driver is a 23-year-old female who has been cooperative with

the investigation. Driver impairment is not suspected to be a factor in this incident. No charges have been filed in this case and the investigation remains ongoing.

The Windsor Police Department is still seeking information from any witnesses who may have been in the area before, or at the time of, this incident. Seemingly minor details can provide very valuable investigative clues.

Anyone with information pertaining to this incident who has not already spoken to law enforcement is asked to please contact Sergeant Aaron McConnaughey at 970-674-6433 or amcconnaughey@windsorgov.com.

Arbor Day Foundation Recognizes Windsor as a Tree City USA

NORTH FORTY NEWS | NorthFortyNews.com

Windsor was named a 2021 Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation to honor its commitment to effective urban forest management.

Windsor achieved Tree City USA recognition by meeting the program's four requirements: forming a tree board or department, creating a tree-care ordinance, having an annual community forestry budget of at least \$2 per capita, and an Arbor Day observance and

proclamation. The Tree City USA program is sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation, in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters.

This is Windsor's 41st year as a Tree City USA. The town's Forestry Division maintains over 5600 trees in public areas.

For more information about Windsor's Forestry Division, visit recreationliveshere.com/Forestry.

Gotham Greens Selects Windsor for Expansion: \$15 Million in Local Revenue Expected

NORTH FORTY NEWS | NorthFortyNews.com

Gotham Greens operates year-round commercial-scale agricultural greenhouses, providing local cultivation and regional distribution of nutritionally dense and long-lasting produce, focusing on taste, quality, and sustainability in the food production industry. Announced recently, Gotham Greens will be breaking ground on a 120,000 square foot greenhouse facility in the rail-served Great Western Industrial Park in Windsor, Colorado, with the goal of expanding the facility to over 400,000 square feet throughout the next 3-5 years.

Through the public-private collaboration between Gotham Greens, the Town of Windsor, Weld County, and Upstate Colorado Economic Development, the facility projects to create more than \$15 million in economic impact for the town. The new facility will bring 55 permanent full-time jobs to Northern Colorado with a phase one anticipated building completion date later this year.

"All of our partners at the County and local level along with our private sector, have been working to bring this project to fruition. It is the coordinated efforts of these partnerships that create successful economic development projects that support companies like Gotham Greens" said Rich Werner, President at Upstate Colorado.

As water sustainability continues to be a key topic in the agricultural landscape of rural Colorado, Gotham Greens' data-driven, climate-controlled facilities prove to be some of the highest-yielding farms in existence, using 95% less water than

conventional farms through a recirculated hydroponic advanced irrigation system. Gotham Greens' 500,000 square feet greenhouses prove to produce the same yield as an equivalent 400-acre conventional farm, a 97% reduction in land use.

Gotham Greens is a welcome addition to the agriculture and food production industry's rampant growth, whose innovation secures additional food delivery in the supply chain, reduces food waste, and protects water resources for the future of farming in Weld County.

"Over the past decade, Gotham Greens has helped to pioneer and popularize the greenhouse-grown produce category among retailers and consumers alike, as well as advance innovative greenhouse development throughout the U.S. We are excited to expand our presence in Colorado and the Mountain West region at GWIP," said Eric Haley, Co-Founder and CFO of Gotham Greens and a Denver-area native.

"We are excited to help Gotham Greens bring new jobs, new investment, and new sustainable agricultural practices to Weld County. The collaboration on this project between Windsor, Weld County, and the Great Western Industrial Park reflects the strong partnerships and work being done in the region. We also want to thank Upstate Colorado Economic Development for their work with our public and private sector partners to bring Gotham Greens to Northern Colorado," said Scott James, Chair of the Weld Board of County Commissioners.



Hello Spring



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Treasures in Our Backyard

You're Welcome: Not Just for Visitors

TIM VAN SCHMIDT | SceneNOCO.com



Western culture sculpture in Fort Collins

I went shopping -- for cool Colorado experiences, that is.

On a recent walk through Running Deer Natural Area, a friend and I decided to also visit the Colorado Welcome Center at Fort Collins, which is located between Running Deer and I25, at 3745 E. Prospect Road.

Inside the Welcome Center -- housed in an angular, eye-catching building -- we found a treasure trove of information about our state.

First of all, there's a huge wall-sized map inside that colorfully introduces the many different regions in Colorado: Denver & Cities of the Rockies, Rockies Playground, Pike's Peak Wonders, Mystic San Luis Valley, Mountains & Mesas, and The Great West.

Then the rest of the space is devoted to racks and racks and racks of tourist information from all over the state: Fort Collins, Boulder, Denver, Steamboat Springs, Pueblo, Creede, Colorado Springs, and so many more. It's like a supermarket of various kinds of thrills -- and that's where I went shopping.

Colorado tourist sites, parks, and recreation areas have plenty to offer. There's natural history (dinosaurs), ancient history (Chimney Rock, Mesa Verde), and pioneer history (mining, rails, and trails).

There's women's history, Buffalo Bill's grave, beer tours, wild animals, skiing, hiking, river rafting, and more. What about Tiny Town, ghost towns, Bent's Old Fort, scenic and historic byways, the Santa Fe Trail, national heritage areas, South Park City, Baby Doe's Cabin, the Poudre River, and the South Platte River Trail?

I walked away with a bag full of ideas

that will serve me well for years to come.

And my visit to the Welcome Center paid off immediately.

One of the flyers I picked up in Fort Collins was for the Overland Trail Museum in Sterling.

As it happened to be on the way during a recent trek to Kearney, Nebraska, to experience the sandhill crane migration through that area, my companions and I stopped at the museum, thinking it would be just a quick visit and then we'd be on our way.

But it turned out to be a full project to take in everything this delightful museum had to offer. From old dioramas of prairie history to collections of minerals, buttons, musical instruments and so much more, there was a lot to look at.

But more, there were full-scale replicas of an old schoolhouse, a tannery, and a typical old-time home. Displays included a miniature beet factory as well as full-sized stage carriages. Kachinas, Victrolas, military uniforms, toys, figurines, fossils, a barbershop, a windmill, a dollhouse, and a big bison sculpture out front -- the Overland Trail Museum was a pleasant surprise for sure.

I can easily recommend that you visit this museum in Sterling -- it's a captivating experience, really. But I wouldn't have known about it if not for my visit to the Colorado Welcome Center in our town.

Although maybe I would have known about the Overland Trail Museum anyway -- the rest area right across the highway from the museum in Sterling also had a Welcome Center, also full of information.

Outside the Colorado Welcome Center in Fort Collins, there's a sculpture of a horse, reared up and wild-looking. Images of ranch life are painted on its sides and the whole thing gleams brightly in the sun.

Colorado is like that sculpture -- a land painted with a rich history, a vibrant culture, natural beauty, and people who like to have fun. The Colorado Welcome Centers are here to let you know that "You're welcome", whether you're a visitor or not.

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

Spring in Windsor: A Perfect Afternoon

TIM VAN SCHMIDT | SceneNOCO.com



The past and present intersect in Boardwalk Park

Seeking family-friendly adventure recently, my wife and I took our 3-year-old grandson to downtown Windsor for some fun -- and were rewarded with a delightful surprise.

It was a perfectly beautiful Colorado spring day -- the sun was high and puffy white clouds were scooting across the blue sky. Our first destination was the playground at Boardwalk Park, located at 100 N. 5th Street in Windsor.

Boardwalk Park is nestled in between downtown Windsor and Windsor Lake -- and it was busy that day thanks to the gorgeous weather. Birds were feeding out on the lake, runners and walkers streamed by as they traced the 2.25-mile trail, the playground was getting a healthy workout, and people were just generally soaking up the afternoon.

I noticed that to the west of the park was the Town of Windsor Museum, which was closed at the time -- they open on weekends starting on May 28 -- and a number of historic buildings helping tell the story of Windsor's past.

After exploring these, we headed to check out the caboose on the western side of the building and ran across a very cool museum that was open -- and perfect for our three-year-old charge.

It was the Windsor Severance Fire Rescue -- WSFR -- Fire Museum, located at 121 N 6th Street. It's a very clean, smartly organized collection of vintage firefighting gear -- from old, man-powered carts to shiny vintage trucks. It's all there, from hoses to protective gear to communication devices to uniform patches and more.

We got to meet Fireman Dan, a gregarious host at the museum, who showed us around. And even better -- we got to ride around the neighborhood and right down Main Street in an antique fire truck. It was a hoot -- certainly not something we were expecting to do that day.

To cap off the afternoon, we went to the old-fashioned "soda fountain" in town -- Windsor Lake Coffee, at 430 Main Street -- where we thoroughly enjoyed the Little Man Ice Cream. They were busy -- it's right on the corner of 5th and Main and the whole town seemed to be buzzing from such a fine day.

The above activities were all within a very short walking distance in total -- only a few blocks. But the adventure was big. On an excellent spring day, downtown Windsor had it going on for full family fun.

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



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CITY BUZZ

LIVE AT THE GARDENS SUMMER CONCERT SERIES TO FEATURE SEVEN NATIONAL ACTS

NEW SCENE | SceneNOCO.com



The Fort Collins Symphony performing at the Gardens at Spring Creek in August 2020 (Photo courtesy of the Fort Collins Symphony)

The Gardens on Spring Creek (The Gardens) will partner with The Lincoln Center to present seven national acts as part of its first full Live at The Gardens Summer Concert Series. Shows will take place at The Gardens' Everitt Pavilion with seating on the Great Lawn from June through September.

The series will kick off in June with country music legend and five-time Grammy® Winner Marty Stuart with his band, The Fabulous Superlatives, followed by Grammy and Emmy® award-nominated jazz saxophonist Kamasi Washington later that month.

July will feature trumpeter Chris Botti, the largest-selling American instrumental artist in America. The Wood Brothers, dubbed "masters of soulful folk" by Paste magazine, will also perform in July.

Vocal Group Hall of Fame inductee Three Dog Night will be the only performance in August, followed by Stewart Copeland of the Police in September. Copeland will be joined by the Fort Collins Symphony for "The Police Deranged."

Four-time Grammy Award winner and one of the greatest artists in international music today Angélique Kidjo will close the season in September.

Tickets will go on sale for Gardens Members and Lincoln Center Subscribers on Tuesday, April 19 at noon. General public sales will begin at noon on Thursday, April 21. Official and authentic tickets for the Live at The Gardens Summer Series are only available through The Lincoln Center Box Office. Tickets are not available at the Gardens

on Spring Creek. Tickets can be ordered online any time after 12 pm on April 21 at LCTix.com. Starting ticket prices will range from \$30 to \$60+, depending on the artist.

"We are delighted to be able to offer a season of full-capacity shows in our botanic garden," said Gardens on Spring Creek Executive Director, Michelle Provaznik. "We are grateful to our partners at The Lincoln Center for curating a wide range of talented artists so our community can enjoy the sounds of summer in the most beautiful spot in town."

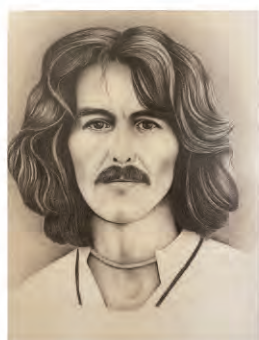
Live at The Gardens Summer Concert Series:

- Saturday, June 18 | Marty Stuart and his Fabulous Superlatives
- Sunday, June 26 | Kamasi Washington
- Saturday, July 9 | Chris Botti
- Sunday, July 17 | The Wood Brothers
- Sunday, August 7 | Three Dog Night
- Saturday, September 17 | Stewart Copeland: The Police Deranged with the Fort Collins Symphony
- Sunday, September 25 | Angélique Kidjo

The Gardens on Spring Creek is the community botanic garden of Fort Collins, Colorado. The 18-acre site opened in 2004 as part of an important partnership between the City of Fort Collins and the Friends of the Gardens on Spring Creek.

The Lincoln Center is one of Colorado's largest and most diverse presenters of professional theatre, dance, music, visual arts, and children's programs. It features two performing art spaces art gallery and an outdoor sculpture garden.

Please visit fcgov.com/gardens/concerts for more information.



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T.I. AND COLLECTIVE SOUL TO HEADLINE 26TH ANNUAL TASTE OF FORT COLLINS

NEW SCENE | SceneNOCO.com

Townsquare Media has announced the 26th annual Taste of Fort Collins community-focused event will take place - live in Old Town Fort Collins, Colorado at the iconic Washington Park on June 11 & 12, as a follow-up to last summer's sold-out in person celebration featuring Nelly and Spin Doctors.

"Townsquare Media is thrilled to announce the return Taste of Fort Collins, NoCo's largest summer party, a celebration of music we all know and love with T.I. & Collective Soul, local food, artisans, and all things NoCo. Now that the masks are off, it's time to rally around our local businesses, with family, friends, and neighbors" said Evan Harrison, Market President at Townsquare Media.

"With dozens of local restaurants and food

trucks featured as well as our hometown breweries and a local distillery, we'll have something for all of NoCo to enjoy."

Taste of Fort Collins is a community celebration with family-friendly activities, perfect for the Northern Coloradans' active lifestyle.

The festival offers attendees incredible food from local and national restaurants, entertainment from local and national superstars, and an eclectic display of artisan work as well as the region's most talented crafters.

More information on how to buy tickets is available on our station apps and at tasteoffortcollins.com/tickets or follow Taste of Fort Collins on Facebook and Instagram.

CITY BUZZ

PHOTO OF THE WEEK: "OSPREY DIVES INTO CITY PARK LAKE"



The photo of the week this week is from Rawlin Davidson. Rawlin captured the photo after an osprey dove into City Park lake. It is flying away with a big fish. Nice action shot, and composition, Rawlin!

Sanderosa Art Gallery in Laporte is our 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.

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Submit your photos to:
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ARTIST OF THE WEEK

Gary Raham
Author, Illustrator, Graphic Designer
Book signing April 23, 2022 at Gallery

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Wednesday, April 20

Blast N Bowl w/ Trash., Big Aluminum, & Defeats the Porpoise, 2454 West, 7 pm
FREE: Electronic Wenzdaze at 830 North ft. MIDICINAL, Don Hyphy, Revibe, 830 North, 8 pm
Interweave Yarn Fest, Embassy Suites Loveland
Joshua Ray Walker @ Moxi Theater, Moxi Theater, 8 pm -11:30 pm
Luna Shade "Bake Em Up" Bash w/ Pipin' Hot // Inside The Mind, The Lyric, 5 pm
Songwriting Circle, Roots Music Project, 7:15 pm -9:30 pm

Thursday, April 21

Johnny Johnston @ Maxline Brewing, Maxline Brewing, 6 pm -8 pm
Mindz Eye + Wolfblitzer with Copper Teeth, xdeadbeatx, Screwtape, Aggie Theatre, 8 pm
Neon Steve, 830 North, 8 pm
RFC Networking Luncheon located at Scheels, Scheels (Johnstown, CO), 11:30 am -1 pm
Secrets of Space, Union Colony Civic Center, 6:30 pm
UNC Greeley Jazz Festival SHEILA JORDAN with UNC Jazz Lab Band I & KINGS RETURN, University of Northern Colorado, 4:30 & 7:30 pm

Friday, April 22

Boulder International Folk Dancers Spring Workshop, Avalon Ballroom, 7:30 pm -11 pm
Cumbia Night Volume 2: Ritmo Casabel y Don Chicharrón, Hi-Dive, 9 pm -12 am
Mozart's Die Zauberflöte (The Magic Flute), Fort Collins Masonic Temple, 7 pm -9:30 pm

Red-Handed Otter, Bas Bleu Theatre, 7:30 pm
Rock Bottom String Band @ The Black Buzzard, The Black Buzzard, 8 pm -11:30 pm
Sense and Sensibility Presented by OpenStage Theatre, Lincoln Center Magnolia Theatre, 7:30 pm
Spring Sip & Shop, The Windsor Gardener, 5 pm -7 pm
The Rocky Horror Show by Richard O'Brien , UCA University Center for the Arts, 7:30 pm -9:30 pm
UNC Greeley Jazz Festival LATIN JAZZ EXPLOSION! BOBBY SANABRIA with UNC Jazz Lab Band I & THE PEDRITO MARTINEZ GROUP, University of Northern Colorado, Campus Commons Performance Hall, 4:30 & 7:30 pm
What Were You Wearing?, Front Range Community College-Longs Peak Student Center, 5 pm

Saturday, April 23

2022 Colorado Governor's Art Show, Loveland Museum and Gallery
A Different Drum- a tribute to Linda Ronstadt, The Louisville Underground, 8 pm -11 pm
An Intimate Evening w/ The Far Side (formerly of The Pharcyde), Your Mom's House, 8 pm -3 am
Boulder International Folk Dancers Spring Workshop, Avalon Ballroom, 9:30 am
Dirty Date Night: Adult Wheel-Throwing Class 4/23, Flingin Pots, 7 pm -9 pm
Dokken / ACDC / Aerosmith Tribute

WEEKLY SNEAK PEEK



Stella's Stand Up Underground Comedy Showcase, Stella's Pinball Arcade & Lounge (Greeley), 9 pm, **April 23 - 24**
 Stella's Stand Up Underground Comedy featuring Dorell Green, Ben Kissam and Linus Leas. Hosted by Rudy Garcia.

Night, At Cheers, 7 pm -12 am
eTown Presents: Big Richard, eTown Hall, 7 pm -9:30 pm
John Primer & The Delta Sonics with Ken Saydak @ Moxi Theater, Moxi Theater, 8 pm -11:30 pm
Mozart's Die Zauberflöte (The Magic Flute), Fort Collins Masonic Temple, 2 pm -4:30 pm
Red-Handed Otter, Bas Bleu Theatre, 7:30 pm
Rose Clas, The Windsor Gardener, 10:30 am -12 pm
Sense and Sensibility Presented by OpenStage Theatre, Lincoln Center Magnolia Theatre, 7:30 pm
Spring Used Book Sale, The Ranch, 10 am -4 pm
Stella's Stand Up Underground Comedy Showcase, Stella's Pinball Arcade & Lounge, 9 pm
The Rocky Horror Show by Richard O'Brien , UCA University Center for the Arts, 7:30 pm -9:30 pm
UNC Greeley Jazz Festival THE ZAREMBA JAZZ FELLOWSHIP WITH WAYNE BERGERON, University of Northern Colorado, Campus Commons Performance Hall, 5 pm
Wendy Clark Band w/ Wendy Woo Band, 100 Nickel, 8 pm

Sunday, April 24

All Ages/Abilities Wheel-Throwing Class 4/24, Flingin Pots, 11 am -1 pm
Boulder International Folk Dancers Spring Workshop, Avalon Ballroom, 10 am -12 pm
eTown Presents: Madi Diaz, eTown Hall, 7 pm -9:30 pm
Firehouse 5k @ Station 26 Brewing | 2022 CO Brewery Running Series, Station 26 Brewing Co., 10 am -1 pm
Guest Artist: Sympatico Percussion Group / FREE , UCA University Center for the Arts, 7 pm -9 pm
Red-Handed Otter, Bas Bleu Theatre, 2:30 pm
Sunday Morning Toast and Jams, Soul Squared Tap house, 11 am -2 pm
The Rocky Horror Show by Richard O'Brien , UCA University Center for the Arts, 2 pm -4 pm

Monday, April 25

Pikes Peak Safe at Schools Coalition, Online, 4 pm -5:30 pm
System Exclusive/ DEBR4H/ Hex Cassette, Hi-Dive, 8 pm -11 pm

Tuesday, April 26

CSU Jazz Ensembles Concert , UCA University Center for the Arts, 7:30 pm -9:30 pm

Wednesday, April 27

Blast N Bowl w/ Inspidus, Addict Suunshine & Helga Pataki, 100 Nickel, 8 pm
FREE: Co-Stanza - "Indie Night" at 830 North: Presented by KCSU FM, HearHere Concerts & Mishawaka, 830 North, 8 pm
Grateful Shred - Go East III Tour 2022 - Presented by Grateful Shred Industries, Relix & PHILM, Aggie Theatre, 8 pm

Thursday, April 28

90s/00s Dance Party with TwoScoops & Jimeni, 2454 West, 8 pm
Cactus Cat w/ Muck Luck, 830 North, 8 pm
High Lonesome with Ain't From Here @ Moxi Theater, Moxi Theater, 8 pm -11:30 pm
Melanin MagiQ, Online, 5:30 pm -6:30 pm
The Rocky Horror Show by Richard O'Brien , UCA University Center for the Arts, 7:30 pm -9:30 pm

Friday, April 29

40oz to Freedom w/ Sublime, 2454 West, 8 pm
Alice in Wonderland, The Lincoln Center, 7 pm -9 pm
Amorphic w/ Sqwerv, Dreamspace Database, Aggie Theatre, 8 pm
Comedy Underground with Host Luke Gaston, The Louisville Underground, 7 pm -10 pm
DEBR4H at Stella's Pinball & Arcade Lounge, Stella's Pinball Arcade & Lounge, 9 pm -11:30 pm
Dirty Date Night: Adult Wheel-Throwing Class 4/29, Flingin Pots, 7 pm -9 pm
Gary Allan, Budweiser Events Center, 7:30 pm
Quinn Ayers with Cnote + Carti Ferrari + Alannah Cruz & more @ Moxi Theater, Moxi Theater, 8:30 pm -11:30 pm
Red-Handed Otter, Bas Bleu Theatre, 7:30 pm
Ronan Andrews "EP Release Show" with Ellsworth + Verena @ The Black Buzzard, The Black Buzzard, 8 pm -11:30 pm
Rosalee Walsh: Something Old, New, Borrowed and Blue, eTown Hall, 7 pm -9:30 pm
Schema Things w/ Moonradish, 100 Nickel, 8 pm
Slopes, Shapes, and Landscapes, The Lincoln Center, 12 pm -6 pm
The Rocky Horror Show by Richard O'Brien , UCA University Center for the Arts, 7:30 pm -9:30 pm

Trevor Hall + Citizen Cope with Rising Appalachia, Red Rocks Amphitheater, 6 pm
Voctave, Union Colony Civic Center, 7:30 pm

Saturday, April 30

Alice in Wonderland, The Lincoln Center, 7 pm -9 pm
All Ages/Abilities Wheel-Throwing Class 4/30, Flingin Pots, 10 am -12 pm
Bathing Lagoon + Jackson Harkness + Sincerely Ours @ The Black Buzzard, The Black Buzzard, 8 pm -11:30 pm
Cracka Paul with Special Guests at Moxi Theater, Moxi Theater, 8 pm -11:30 pm
Deathride / Carnal Contempt / Velka Kurva / Till The End Metal Night, At Cheers, 7 pm -12 am
Honor Flight Poker Run, American Legion George Beach Post 4, 8 am
Independent Bookstore Day, Words of Windsor, 10 am
Live Music with Nick Critchlow at The Forge, The Forge Publick House, 8 pm -10 pm
Mystery Skulls w/ Special Guests, Aggie Theatre, 8 pm
Nothing But Nineties, The Louisville Underground, 8 pm -11 pm
Oskar Blues 5k | 2022 CO Brewery Running Series, Oskar Blues, 10 am -1 pm
Phasingfade: Spring with Michal Menert, The Lyric, 9 pm
Red-Handed Otter, Bas Bleu Theatre, 7:30 pm
Run Toward Refuge CSU 5K, Colorado State University, 9 am -12 pm
Sparta Combat League - Army vs Marines 13, Budweiser Events Center, 6 pm
Splendid Blend w/ Orca, 100 Nickel, 8 pm
Steely Dead, 2454 West, 8 pm
Stella's Stand Up Underground Comedy Showcase, Stella's Pinball Arcade & Lounge, 9 pm -11:30 pm
TEMPERS, Hi-Dive, 9 pm -11:30 pm
The HillBenders Present Who Grass, 830 North, 8 pm
The Rocky Horror Show by Richard O'Brien , UCA University Center for the Arts, 7:30 pm -9:30 pm

Sunday, May 1

Alice in Wonderland, The Lincoln Center, 1 pm -3 pm
Comedy Brewers Improv, Bas Bleu Theatre, 7 pm
Red-Handed Otter, Bas Bleu Theatre, 2:30 pm
Stories on Stage - Good Day Sunshine, Su Teatro Cultural and Performing Arts Center, 12 am -11:59 pm

Opera, Fort Collins presents
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NORTHERN COLORADO



CLASSIFIEDS

4/20 Friendly Reminder, Don't Let Pets Get Into Your Stash

NORTH FORTY NEWS | NorthFortyNews.com

With 420 right around the corner, Trupanion, the leader in medical insurance for pets, looked at its database of more than 670,000 cats & dogs to find out how cannabis is impacting our furry friends. Here are 3 essential things pet owners need to know, along with some advice from Trupanion's staff veterinarian, Dr. Caroline Wilde.

1) THC is toxic for pets
With relaxed laws around cannabis in many states, humans may be less concerned with leaving it out. Unfortunately, this means pets are getting into their owners' stashes and the results can be harmful.

• Trupanion sees over five-times the amount of claims that involve cannabis ingestion than that of alcohol.
• THC can cause balance problems, irregular heartbeat, incontinence, or worse.
• Even inhalation through second-hand smoke can be very dangerous to your pet.

2) Pot brownies and other edibles spell double trouble for your pet

Edibles may be a favorite way to get high for some humans, but make sure to keep those infused confections away from your pet.

• Trupanion has found that in the past, nearly 10% of marijuana toxicity claims are paired with chocolate toxicity.
• On their own, substances such as chocolate, butter and oil can be harmful to pets and, when combined with marijuana, the results are far worse and could potentially cause vomiting, diarrhea, or pancreatitis.

"Edible forms of marijuana 'double down' on the toxicity, as the oil or plant is generally combined with something else that can be toxic to the pet," noted Caroline Wilde, staff veterinarian at Trupanion. "For example, a pot brownie

contains THC, which while toxic, is generally less potentially harmful than the chocolate it is combined with. Depending on the amount and type consumed, chocolate can cause heart rhythm disturbances and seizures, and can even be fatal at high enough doses."

3) What should you do if you suspect your dog has ingested marijuana?

- Management of cannabis or THC ingestion will depend on how recently it was consumed, how much was consumed, and what it was combined with.
- If ingestion was recent, your veterinarian may be able to induce vomiting.
- Depending on the amount of time that has passed, your veterinarian can sometimes administer activated charcoal to reduce the amount absorbed in the GI tract.
- If your pet is sedated, your veterinarian can offer supportive care, with fluids and monitoring, and they can manage any of the related adverse effects.

"If you are concerned that your pet ingested marijuana, I recommend seeking immediate veterinary advice so your vet can determine what (if any) next steps should be taken, and so that the absorption of any toxic substance can be minimized," said Dr. Caroline Wilde, staff veterinarian at Trupanion. "I would also note what the form pet ate, as different parts of the plant have different levels of toxicity, and what it is mixed with can also affect the degree of toxicity. As an example, if it was an edible, then we also need to be concerned about chocolate in the case of a pot brownie, as well as GI issues from butter and oils that the THC may have been mixed with."

Letter to the Editor: In Response to Auction of Cannabis-Themed License Plates in Colorado

DIANA BIANCHETTO

Regarding Article (April 8, 2022): "Colorado to Launch Auction of 22 Cannabis-Themed License Plates to Benefit State's Disability Funding Committee"

Dear Editor:
I read the above-referenced article online and feel the need to comment because to me, it does not make sense.

Am I, and your readers, to understand that Governor Polis reminds us that it is never a good idea to mix driving and cannabis, but he supports and is proud of Colorado's official state license plates with cannabis-themed phrases to be auctioned off to benefit the state's disability funding committee? I have read that the rise of vehicle accidents involving cannabis use, as well as other substance abuse and alcohol, are on the rise. How many disabled persons resulted from those accidents? And how many addicts are disabled? It sounds like a contradiction to me.

Would his next official state license plates be alcohol-themed, after all, Colorado is known and proud of its many breweries and distilleries. But he will remind us that it is not a good idea to mix alcohol and driving.

Or maybe, since Governor Polis thinks possession of four milligrams of fentanyl is only a misdemeanor, fentanyl-themed phrases will be his next official state license plate to auction off. But he will remind us that it is not a good idea to mix fentanyl and driving.

Colorado has many attributes to be proud of, why does Governor Polis feel that drugs and alcohol are the only things worthy to be on an official state license plate? Instead of license plates, auction off these cannabis-themed phrases in another non-driving form.

This Letter to the Editor is solely the opinion of its author. It does not reflect the opinion of this newspaper's staff, ownership, or management.

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COVER STORY

Life Lessons from a Plane Crash

ANNIE LINDGREN | NorthFortyNews.com



Laura and Bill Snodgrass, out for a flight

On May 28, 2021, at 10:41 am, a Pipistrel Alpha Trainer, N119JP Light-Sport Airplane crashed after an emergency landing in a field Northeast of Cobb Lake, south of Wellington, CO. The small two-seater plane had flown out of Fort Collins-Loveland Northern Colorado Regional Airport on this beautiful Spring day. William 'Bill' Snodgrass was piloting the plane, assisting another pilot, who happened to be the plane's owner.

Bill decided he wanted to be a pilot during a trip to Alaska. He was an avid mountain climber then, and when the weather changed plans for a mountain summit, he and his friend took a flightseeing tour instead. As he saw the bird's eye view of the Kenai Fjords, grizzlies playing, salmon choked streams, and Exit Glacier seeping into Resurrection Bay, he thought, "I should learn to fly!" So in 2004, he took lessons and began

the various items necessary for the flight review (a standard bi-annual requirement for keeping up on a pilot's license). Bill demonstrated a maneuver and handed the controls over to Jim for him to perform the same maneuver. However, when Jim set up for it, he found the plane's throttle was loose. Bill took back control and found the throttle so loose the cable pulled right out of the engine. The engine kept running at idle, but there was no way to control it.

"In an emergency, you don't rise to the occasion; you default to your best training," shares Bill. So Bill went down the mental checklist from all his training, honed in on a field he thought looked safe for landing, and set course to land. He didn't know the field wasn't flat until he was too close to change course, and the plane flipped over as soon as the wheels touched the ground.

The 20 ton-force and location of impact



Bill Snodgrass at the April 7, 2022 presentation (Photo credit Annie Lindgren)

immediately to get the scoop.

In times of crisis, we do the best we can at the moment with the tools and resources available, but that doesn't stop us from thinking about all the things we could or should have done differently. The audio recording of the accident shares Bill's first words after the crash, apologizing to Jim for wrecking his plane. As Bill sat in the hospital, with a freshly installed titanium rod keeping his right leg together, he was grateful to be alive, but he was also depressed. He felt terrible about the plane, hurting his friend and himself, and was worried about being a burden to his wife, who would have to take care of him.

"You are in the hospital trying to get better for your body, so maybe you should talk with someone who could also help with your mind," Laura nudged. So Bill talked with a social worker and received

on the wing of the Pipi Alpha helped share the story of this event.

Bill's presentation, given to a room full of pilots, students, and others on April 7, talked about what happened, what he could have done differently, and the various factors contributing to that fateful day. He didn't discuss the pieces still under investigation by the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) and FAA.

Bill is a calm and humble man with a great sense of humor and joy for teaching. His peers joked with him as he hobbled to the front of the room with crutches and a walking boot. In January, Bill had to have another round of surgery after his bones were not healing right. By the end of the presentation, he had received two big rounds of applause as his peers congratulated him on a job well done on that fateful day.



'Broker Keg' selfie Bill texted to Laura right after the crash



Plane crash site from ground level (Photo provided by Bill Snodgrass)

left Bill with a broken right leg (tibia, fibula, and broken ankle in three places), a fractured left foot, and a minor cut on the head. It earned him a LifeLine Flight to the hospital, which would be Bill's second life-saving helicopter flight (the prior one was mountain climbing related). Jim walked away with minor scratches and bruises.

Bill said he believes Wellington Firefighters must drive around looking for accidents because one arrived on the scene right after the crash happened. Two other men arrived on the scene as well. All worked quickly to assess the situation and address safety, argue over the exact location of the accident, and make the call for the helicopter that would get Bill to the Medical Center of the Rockies quickly. While lying on the wing in pain, Bill decides to text his wife, who was in Estes Park for the day. Without his glasses lost in the crash, Bill texted, "Emergency Landing! Broker keg!" Laura thought he and Jim had instead gone to the bar and were drinking! So she texted back WTF?!? Bill then sent her a selfie with the airplane upside-down behind him. She called

validation and encouragement to use the experience as a way to look forward. The best advice came not long after, as Bill was sharing the story with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) investigator. The investigator interrupted Bill's self-flogging with a "You did your job. You protected people and property."

According to regulations, the pilot in command is responsible for his passengers, people, and property. Bill had done a great job and was alive to tell about it.

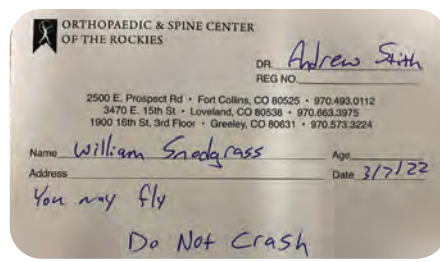
Bill had a long road to recovery, and at age 60, his bones weren't as vibrant as they once were. As his body healed, Bill's mind got busy using the experience as a way to look forward. He prepared a presentation for the pilot community so that others could learn from his experience. He was able to fly again just three months after the accident, showing the testimony of his determination to get back in the air.

In disasters and crises, so many factors contribute to outcomes; any of them tweaked a bit could reveal considerably different results. The presence of a camera

"It is not about being afraid; it is about being aware and paying attention," Bill reiterated. Whether driving a car, climbing a mountain, walking down the street, or flying a plane, you must be aware of what is happening around you and prepare to act if disaster strikes. That 'action' comes through education, practice, remaining calm, and staying focused.

Before the accident, Bill had big aspirations for all he planned to do with Colorado Sport Pilot and the pace at which he would do it. However, the accident gave him a real wake-up call about how short life is. "We spend a lot of time working and doing all these things until we get to the end, do some travel, then die. We have all been taught this is what we are supposed to do. Instead, we should be enjoying life all along, as it is over when life ends."

On March 7, 2022, Bill received written orders from Dr. Stith with Orthopedic & Spine Center of the Rockies, stating, "You may fly. Do not Crash". Bill, grateful to be alive and back pursuing his dreams of being a pilot, promises to follow the doctor's orders.



Doctors orders

THE BACK PAGE

INVENTIONS AND INVENTORS

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ACROSS

- Urban haze
- Da, oui, or si, e.g.
- Drug-induced state
- UK art museum
- Molten rock
- Hip-hop or classical, e.g.
- Sportscaster Andrews
- Angle between branch and offshoot
- Bioweapon
- *Reaper inventor
- Muslim holy man
- Dampish
- *The invention of hand sanitizer centered on alcohol as this
- Stitched again
- Decipherable
- United Nations labor agency, acr.
- Armed robber, on an Indian subcontinent
- Heart of the matter
- Impertinent
- Be in arrears
- Belgian port city
- European erupter
- Popular women's magazine
- Back then
- Make a new sketch
- Canine's coat
- Digital audiotape, acr.
- Corner joint
- _____ crazy
- *Ground beef steak inventor
- Nordic gl,hwein
- Substance abuser
- Kind of testimony
- Soft twilled fabric of silk or rayon
- Casanova, e.g.
- Anger on road
- Flock's affirmation
- Short for ensign
- NBA shot

DOWN

- Flower part
- Painter Chagall
- Ear-related
- DNA sequence
- Vertical coordinate axis
- Put out on a curb
- *Poliomyelitis vaccine inventor
- *Life-saving maneuver inventor
- Machu Picchu group
- Sinister
- Pecking mother
- Thin layer
- Romantic Norwegian composer
- Disturbing public peace
- Acquire
- Early one
- Carry away, in a way
- *Edison invented things for its reproduction
- Stead
- Flesh of fish
- Foot-forward squat
- Glorify
- *First commercial revolver inventor
- Harry Potter's mail carrier
- *Knitted sweater with open front inventor
- #4 Down matter, pl.
- Back of the boat
- Withdraw from working life
- Frustration, in print
- Pergolas
- *Wide-mouth jar inventor
- Intestinal obstruction
- Undesirable location
- Ruptured
- Certainly
- Russia's mountain range
- Indian music
- Big Bang's original matter
- Geological Society of America

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SEE THE SOLUTION ON PAGE 12

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