

Rodeo Returns

PRCA ACTION HEADLINES LARIMER COUNTY FAIR



(Photo courtesy the Ranch Events Complex)



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week of
July 31, 2026

**ASTERS BRING LATE-SUMMER COLOR TO
NORTHERN COLORADO GARDENS**

Clusters of lavender asters burst into bloom as summer begins its transition toward fall. These hardy perennials are among the season's most valuable nectar sources, attracting bees and butterflies while adding vibrant color to Northern Colorado landscapes well into autumn.

(Photo by Mehmet Turgut via Pexels)



PUBLISHER'S LETTER



■ (Photo from shutterstock)

A Milestone Worth Celebrating

Northern Colorado is full of stories that remind us meaningful progress rarely happens overnight.

This week, one of those stories comes from the Colorado River Basin, where the razorback sucker has been reclassified from endangered to threatened after more than three decades of recovery work. The achievement reflects years of cooperation among wildlife agencies, Tribes, water users, conservation organizations, educators and communities.

It is an encouraging reminder that conservation works when people remain committed for the long haul.

The razorback sucker still faces challenges, particularly during drought years, and the work is far from finished. But progress deserves recognition. Habitat restoration, improved river management, fish stocking and public education have helped move a native species away from the brink.

That same spirit of persistence appears throughout this week's issue.

Downtown Loveland has reopened another section of Fourth Street after months of construction. Cancer survivors in Wellington recently walked the runway during an event

celebrating courage, resilience and community. The Larimer County Fair and PRCA Rodeo return with traditions that connect today's families with Northern Colorado's agricultural heritage.

These stories may seem unrelated, but each reflects what can happen when people invest time, energy and care into something larger than themselves.

Whether restoring a native fish population, rebuilding a downtown street or supporting neighbors facing cancer, lasting change begins with people who refuse to give up.

Progress is not always immediate, and it is rarely easy. But this week's stories show that patient, steady work can make a real difference.

— Blaine Howerton
Publisher & Executive Editor
North Forty News



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LOCAL NEWS



WEATHER



EVENTS

start here
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Fort Collins

Fort Collins, at the foothills of the Rockies, is Northern Colorado's vibrant heart. Known for its historic Old Town, craft beer scene, and outdoor recreation, it blends urban energy with small-town charm.

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Loveland

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Northern Colorado Weekend Forecast

Triple-Digit Heat Returns Sunday



(Photo from Pixabay)

Saturday: Sunny with a high near 95 degrees. Light north winds become southeast during the afternoon.

Saturday Night: Mostly clear with a low around 63 degrees. Light southeast winds shift north after midnight.

Sunday: Mostly sunny and hot with a high near 101 degrees. Southeast winds increase during the afternoon, with gusts up to 20 mph.

Sunday Night: Mostly clear with a low near 68 degrees. South winds become northwest after midnight, with gusts up to 18 mph. Limit strenuous outdoor activities during the hottest part of the day and stay hydrated.

Content



Greeley

Greeley, a dynamic city in Northern Colorado, is rich in agricultural heritage and cultural diversity.

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Wellington

Wellington, a charming town located just north of Fort Collins, offers a close-knit community, scenic views of the Rocky Mountains, and a growing hub for local businesses and outdoor enthusiasts

**CANCER SURVIVOR STRONG
FASHION SHOW CELEBRATES
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12-13

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REACH

The Region



• Fort Collins • Loveland • Windsor • Greeley • Timnath •

• Estes Park • Berthoud • Livermore •

• Masonville • Nunn • Berthoud •



Coneflower (Photo by Fort Collins Nursery)

BEAT THE AUGUST SLUMP: KEEP YOUR GARDEN BLOOMING INTO FALL

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EDITORIAL:

Blaine Howerton | NorthFortyNews.com

FORT COLLINS — By the time August arrives, many Northern Colorado gardens begin to look a little tired. Weeks of intense sunshine, afternoon heat and occasional dry spells can leave flower beds looking faded just when homeowners want to spend the most time outdoors.

The good news is that August doesn't have to signal the end of the gardening season. With a few simple maintenance practices—and by relying on plants that naturally peak later in the summer—you can keep your landscape colorful well into September and even October.

Late-season flowers also provide an important food source for bees, butterflies and hummingbirds as they prepare for the changing seasons.

CONTINUED ON THE NEXT PAGE.



■ Sunflower (Photo from Pexels.com)

GIVE PLANTS A SECOND WIND

One of the easiest ways to refresh a perennial garden is deadheading, or removing spent blossoms. Many flowering plants respond by producing another round of blooms instead of putting energy into seed production.

Black-eyed Susans, blanket flowers, salvias and many coneflowers will continue flowering longer with occasional cleanup. Just don't remove every seed head—birds such as goldfinches depend on those seeds later in the season.

WATER DEEPLY, NOT DAILY

Colorado's dry climate often tempts gardeners to water every day, but shallow watering encourages shallow roots.

Instead, water deeply once or twice a week, depending on rainfall and soil conditions. Early morning irrigation reduces evaporation and gives plants time to dry before evening, helping prevent disease.

A two- to three-inch layer of mulch also makes a noticeable difference by keeping roots cooler, reducing evaporation and suppressing weeds.

ADD PLANTS THAT PEAK LATE

While spring flowers receive most of the attention, many of the season's best performers don't reach full color until August.

Reliable late-season bloomers include:

- Coneflowers
- Black-eyed Susans
- Russian sage
- Sedum 'Autumn Joy'
- Asters
- Blanket flower
- Joe-Pye weed
- Native sunflowers

Many of these thrive in Colorado's climate once established and require relatively little supplemental water.

THINK BEYOND FLOWERS

Late summer is also when ornamental grasses begin adding movement and texture to the landscape. Feather reed grass, little bluestem and switchgrass provide attractive seed heads that remain beautiful through winter while offering shelter for birds and beneficial insects.

Shrubs with colorful berries and plants with interesting foliage can also help carry a garden after flowers begin to fade.

SUPPORT POLLINATORS THROUGH THE SEASON

Pollinators don't disappear after spring. In fact, late-season nectar sources are especially valuable as bees build winter reserves and monarch butterflies continue their migration.

By maintaining continuous blooms from spring through fall, gardeners help create healthier habitat while enjoying a landscape that's constantly changing with the seasons.

PLAN NOW FOR NEXT YEAR

August is also an excellent time to evaluate your landscape. Notice where flower beds seem empty or where color fades too early. Those observations can help guide fall planting, one of the best times to establish new perennials in Northern Colorado.

Cooler temperatures and warm soil allow roots to develop before winter, giving plants a head start the following spring.

A successful Colorado garden isn't defined by one spectacular month. With thoughtful planning and a little midseason attention, your yard can provide color, wildlife habitat and enjoyment from the first signs of spring until the first autumn frost.



■ (Photo courtesy the Ranch Events Complex)

RODEO RETURNS PRCA ACTION HEADLINES LARIMER COUNTY FAIR

EDITORIAL:

Blaine Howerton | NorthFortyNews.com

THREE NIGHTS OF PROFESSIONAL RODEO, FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT AND COLORADO TRADITION TAKE CENTER STAGE AT BLUE ARENA BEGINNING SUNDAY

LOVELAND — The chutes are about to swing open on one of Northern Colorado's signature summer traditions as the Larimer County Fair PRCA Rodeo returns to Blue Arena beginning Sunday, August 2, bringing three nights of world-class rodeo competition, hometown pride and family entertainment to The Ranch Events Complex.

The Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association-sanctioned event begins at 7 p.m. Sunday, with arena doors opening at

6 p.m. The action continues Monday and Tuesday, August 3 and 4, making the rodeo one of the marquee attractions of the 2026 Larimer County Fair.

Presented by Pedersen Toyota, the rodeo showcases the athleticism and skill that have made PRCA competition a staple of the American West. Spectators can expect fast-paced action across seven classic rodeo events, including bull riding, bareback riding, saddle bronc riding, tie-down roping, steer wrestling, team roping and barrel racing. Award-winning bullfighters will provide protection inside the arena, while the ever-popular Mutton Bustin' competition gives young riders their own chance to steal the spotlight.

CONTINUED ON THE NEXT PAGE.



■ (Photo courtesy the Ranch Events Complex)

For many families, the PRCA Rodeo has become an annual tradition that blends championship-level competition with the community atmosphere of the county fair. The event draws competitors from across the region while celebrating the agricultural heritage that continues to shape Larimer County.

This year's rodeo is part of the 2026 Larimer County Fair, which runs July 31 through August 4 under the patriotic theme "Colorado & Country," honoring both the nation's 250th anniversary and Colorado's 150th anniversary.

Beyond the rodeo arena, fairgoers will find a full schedule of attractions, including carnival rides, 4-H and livestock exhibitions, youth activities, live entertainment, agricultural displays, food vendors and community exhibits. The combination of professional rodeo and traditional fair experiences makes The Ranch one of the

busiest destinations in Northern Colorado during the first week of August.

Sunday attendees can extend the evening after the final ride, as the fair carnival remains open until midnight, giving visitors additional time to enjoy rides, games and food throughout the grounds.

Blue Arena, located at 5290 Arena Circle in Loveland, has become a premier indoor venue for PRCA competition, offering spectators an up-close experience regardless of weather conditions.

With three consecutive nights of rodeo action, organizers expect large crowds as competitors vie for prize money and valuable PRCA standings points while fans celebrate a tradition that continues to connect Northern Colorado's ranching heritage with today's community.



CANCER SURVIVORS TAKE THE RUNWAY IN WELLINGTON

A cancer survivor walks the runway during the inaugural Cancer Survivor Strong event at Wellington Manor on July 18 as family, friends, and fellow attendees applaud in celebration. The community fundraiser honored survivors, raised awareness for Hope Lives, and highlighted the strength and resilience of women across Northern Colorado. (Photo by Brian Graves Photography)



Cancer Survivor Strong Fashion Show (Photo submitted by Kristi Cannon, Wellington Manor)

Cancer Survivor Strong Fashion Show Celebrates Resilience in Wellington

EDITORIAL

By North Forty News Staff | NorthFortyNews.com

WELLINGTON, Colo. – More than a fashion show, the inaugural Cancer Survivor Strong event turned Wellington Manor into a celebration of courage and community as cancer survivors from across Northern Colorado walked the runway before an enthusiastic audience on July 18.

The event featured more than 20 local vendors, a catered luncheon, silent auction, signature cocktails, and a fashion show honoring women whose lives have been shaped—but not defined—by cancer. Each participant shared her story while highlighting the many roles she fills beyond her diagnosis.

"Our vision was to honor these incredible women while bringing our community together in support of those currently fighting cancer," said organizer Kristi Cannon, owner of Wellington Manor.

Runway fashions were provided by JB Elliot of Fort Collins, Thistle of Wellington, and Lilah Blue Boutique of Windsor, while Old Town Hair Company donated wigs for several participants.

The event also raised awareness for Hope Lives, a Northern Colorado nonprofit supporting women in active breast cancer treatment.

Presenting sponsors included Tabby Road Animal Hospital of Wellington and Justin Markley of Markley Motors. Organizers also thanked Brian Graves Photography, student volunteers, local stylists, participating boutiques, vendors, and community volunteers.

Following the event's strong response, organizers hope Cancer Survivor Strong will become an annual Northern Colorado tradition.

"This day proved what can happen when a community comes together," Cannon said. "We left inspired because of the remarkable women who reminded us what courage, hope, and resilience truly look like."



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EVENTS IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

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Business owners on 4th Street stand on their newly paved sidewalk, celebrating the completion of their block as part of the Heart Improvement Plan's 4th Street Revitalization Project. From left to right: Chris and his dog, Downtown Resident, Lauren Miller, Lucky Dog Spa, Mathew Davis, The Extra Mile, Dan Wiesner, The Extra Mile, Dion Leman, The Extra Mile, Josie Bjorklund, Loveland Aleworks, Dr. Coery Bernhardt, Bernhardt Vision, Kari Klapper, Loveland Aleworks, Nick Callaway, Loveland Aleworks, Margarita Holland, XAAK's Barbershop, James Holland, XAAK's Barbershop.

(Photo provided by the Loveland Downtown Development Authority)

Fourth Street's Heart Returns as Downtown Loveland Reopens Block 3

EDITORIAL

North Forty News Staff | NorthFortyNews.com

LOVELAND, Colo. — Downtown Loveland reached another milestone in its Heart Improvement Plan as Block 3 of the Fourth Street Revitalization Project reopened to vehicle traffic and public parking on July 24.

The block between Lincoln and Cleveland avenues, home to the historic Rialto Theater, is the fourth of five construction phases completed.

"This section of Fourth Street is truly the heart of our downtown," said Downtown Development Authority Director Sean Hawkins. "Each completed block brings new energy, improved accessibility, and stronger support for local businesses."

Construction included major underground utility upgrades, new sidewalks, enhanced crossings,

expanded patios, and other streetscape improvements.

Several downtown landmarks will soon return, including the restored Fourth Street clock and the city's Christmas tree near the Rialto Theater. A public celebration is scheduled for Sept. 12 during Pastels on 5th Street.

Work has now shifted to the project's final block between Cleveland Avenue and north Railroad Avenue, with completion expected by late fall 2026.

The Fourth Street Revitalization Project is the first phase of Loveland's long-term Heart Improvement Plan to revitalize 19 blocks of historic downtown. Construction is funded through utility enterprise funds and certificates of participation, with no General Fund dollars used.



WEEKLY SNEAK PEEK



Estes Park Jazz Fest, Saturday–Sunday, August 1–2, Estes Park

Participants can set up camp in the afternoon before enjoying a campfire, fishing, paddle boats and a movie shown on the big screen at dusk.

Saturday

16th Annual Windsor Optimist Club Duck Race — 17th Street Bridge, Windsor • 10 a.m.

A Celebration of Colorado — Museum of Art Fort Collins • 10 a.m.

The Berthoud Market — Town Park, Berthoud • 9 a.m.–1 p.m.

Fitness on the Plaza — Foundry Plaza, Loveland • 8–10 a.m.

Cultivate Community: BIPOC Family Garden Time — FoCo Café, Fort Collins • 10–11 a.m.

All Ages Storytime Saturday — Longmont Public Library • 11–11:30 a.m.

English Conversation Group — Longmont Public Library • 10:30–11:30 a.m.

Art in the Garden: Painting with Flora — Community Garden at Pioneer Park, Berthoud 10 a.m.

Chuckwagon Pancake Breakfast — 4th Avenue & Kimbark Street, Longmont • 6:30–9:30 a.m.

Boulder County Fair Parade — Roosevelt Park, Longmont • 10 a.m.

Colorado Capsule —

Blue Arena, Loveland • 4 p.m.

Colorado Conservation Film Fest — Windsor • 5–11:30 p.m.

Community Conversations on Trust in Local Government & Senior Issues — Loveland Public Library • 1–2 p.m.

Astronomy Night — Prairie Ridge Natural Area, Loveland • 8:30–10 p.m.

Anthony Green with Geoff Rickly & Keith Goodwin — Aggie Theatre, Fort Collins • 7:30 p.m.

A Human Named David — Longtucky Spirits, Longmont • 6:30 p.m.

Big Love Car Wash — Magic Rat, Fort Collins • 7 p.m.

Award-winning Novelist David Heska Wanbli Weiden — Inkberry Books, Niwot • 7–8 p.m.

Estes Park Jazz Fest — Performance Park, Estes Park • 1–7 p.m.

Contra Dance — Christ United Methodist Church, Fort Collins • 6:15–10 p.m.

Bonsai Basics Class — Fossil Creek Nursery, Fort Collins • 3:30 p.m.

Distillery Tour — Spirit Hound Distillers, Lyons • 2–3 p.m.

Beginner Crochet Basics — Sky Pond Drive, Loveland • Noon–1 p.m.

FCHS Class of 2001 Reunion —

The Agave Room at The Rio, Fort Collins • 6–11 p.m.

Sunday

Larimer County Fair PRCA Rodeo — Blue Arena, Loveland • 7 p.m.

Colorado Capsule — Blue Arena, Loveland • 4 p.m.

Country Sunday Line Dancing — Little Man Ice Cream Old Town Churn, Fort Collins • 6–8 p.m.

Estes Park Jazz Fest — Performance Park, Estes Park • Noon–7 p.m.

Boulder County Fair — Boulder County Fairgrounds, Longmont • All day.

Sunday Yoga — Foothills Unitarian Church, Fort Collins • 9 a.m.

Open Studio —

Artworks Center for Contemporary Art, Loveland • 1–4 p.m.

Sunday Live Music — Sweet Heart Winery, Loveland • Afternoon.

Community Farmers Market — Longmont • Morning.

Museum Admission Day — Museum of Art Fort Collins • 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

Nature Walk — River Bluffs Open Space, Windsor • Morning.

Sunday Garden Tour —

The Gardens on Spring Creek, Fort Collins • 10 a.m.

Family Fun at the Fair — Boulder County Fairgrounds, Longmont • All day.

CONTINUED ON
THE NEXT PAGE.

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CALENDAR



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new scene weekly

Live Music on the Patio — Verboten Brewing, Loveland • Afternoon.
Sunday Trivia — Grimm Brothers Brew-house, Loveland • 4 p.m.
Community Worship Concert — Fort Collins • Evening.
Acoustic Sunday Sessions — Bootstrap Brewing, Longmont Afternoon.
Sunset Concert — Chapungu Sculpture Park, Loveland • Evening.

Monday

Aims Summer Recital — Ed Beaty Hall Theater, Greeley • 4:30 p.m.
All Ages Stay & Play Monday — Longmont Public Library • 10:30–11 a.m.
Larimer County Fair PRCA Rodeo — Blue Arena, Loveland • 7 p.m.
Open Studio — Artworks Center for Contemporary Art, Loveland 1–4 p.m.
MFA Thesis Exhibition 2026 — Gregory Allicar Museum, Fort Collins 10 a.m.–6 p.m.
Boulder County Fair — Boulder County Fairgrounds, Longmont • All day.
Colorado Capsule — Blue Arena, Loveland • 4 p.m.
Summer Reading Activities — Longmont Public Library • Various times.

Community Recreation Programs — Berthoud Recreation Center Various times.

Tuesday

Larimer County Fair PRCA Rodeo — Blue Arena, Loveland • 7 p.m.
Adult Open Gym — Airborne Dance, Longmont • 7:45–9 p.m.
Animation and Comics Art Camp — Waggener Farm Park, Berthoud • 1–3 p.m.
Colorado Capsule — Blue Arena, Loveland • 4 p.m.
MFA Thesis Exhibition 2026 — Gregory Allicar Museum, Fort Collins 10 a.m.–6 p.m.
Boulder County Fair — Boulder County Fairgrounds, Longmont • All day.
Summer Reading Activities — Longmont Public Library • Various times.
Open Studio — Artworks Center for Contemporary Art, Loveland 1–4 p.m.
Community Recreation Programs — Berthoud Recreation Center Various times.
Evening Recreation Activities — Northern Colorado venues • Evening.

Wednesday

A Celebration of Colorado — Museum of Art Fort Collins • 10 a.m.
Americans with Disabilities Act: Beyond the Basics — UNC Campus Commons, Greeley 8:30 a.m.–4:15 p.m.
Airborne's Got Talent Camps — Airborne Dance, Longmont 1–3:30 p.m.
Movie Week #2 Camps — Airborne Dance, Longmont • 1–4:30 p.m.
Morning Edge Networking Group — Fettle & Fire, Longmont • 8:30 a.m.
Watercolor Class with Junghwa — Firehouse Art Center, Longmont Noon–2 p.m.
Gallery Hours — Firehouse Art Center, Longmont • Noon–5 p.m.
Geeks Who Drink Pub Quiz — The Tavern at St. Michael's Square, Greeley 7–9 p.m.
Harvesting Intentions: A Sound Journey into Gratitude — Live Beyond Limit • 5–6:30 p.m.

Thursday

A Celebration of Colorado — Museum of Art Fort Collins • 10 a.m.

THE G.O.A.T. Cheese Class + Goat Visits, Creamery & Farm Tour — The Art of Cheese, Longmont • 10 a.m.–Noon.

Gallery Hours — Firehouse Art Center, Longmont • Noon–5 p.m.

Geeks Who Drink Pub Quiz — The Tavern at St. Michael's Square, Greeley 7–9 p.m.

Miriam Hacksaw with Crispy Watkins Album Release Party — Greyrock Commons Cohousing, Fort Collins 6–8 p.m.

Movie Week #2 Camps — Airborne Dance, Longmont • 1–4:30 p.m.

Community Art Exhibits — Firehouse Art Center, Longmont • Afternoon.

Summer Museum Exhibits — Museum of Art Fort Collins • Daytime.

Friday

First Friday Art Walk — Downtown Fort Collins • 6–9 p.m.
First Friday Art Walk — Downtown Loveland • 6–9 p.m.
Loveland Farmers Market — Fairgrounds Park, Loveland 9 a.m.–1 p.m.
Friday Fest — Chapungu Sculpture Park at Centerra, Loveland • 5–8 p.m.
Food Truck Rally — Fairgrounds Park, Loveland • 5–8 p.m.
Colorado Capsule — Blue Arena, Loveland • 4 p.m.
MFA Thesis Exhibition 2026 — Gregory Allicar Museum, Fort Collins 10 a.m.–6 p.m.
A Celebration of Colorado — Museum of Art Fort Collins • 10 a.m.
Gallery Hours — Firehouse Art Center, Longmont • Noon–5 p.m.
Estes Park Jazz Fest — Performance Park, Estes Park Evening performances.
Live Music Friday — Sweet Heart Winery, Loveland • Evening.
Live at The Mish — Mishawaka Amphitheatre, Bellvue • Evening.
Outdoor Concert Series — Windsor • Evening.
Friday Night Live — Downtown Greeley • Evening.
Sunset Paddle — Boyd Lake State Park, Loveland • Evening.
Community Yoga — The Gardens on Spring Creek, Fort Collins • Morning.
Friday Night Trivia — Grimm Brothers Brewhouse, Loveland • Evening.
Live Music — Verboten Brewing, Loveland • Evening.



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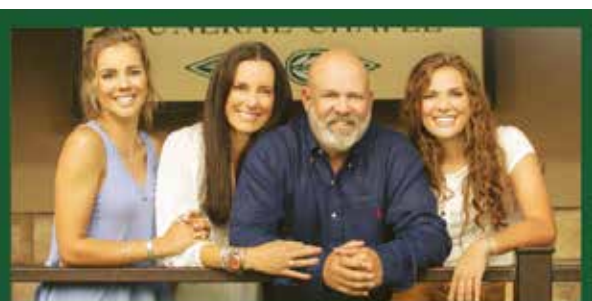
THEME: HAPPY BIRTHDAY

SODOKU SOLUTION

CHECK OUT THE SODOKU PUZZLE ON PAGE 21.

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6	1	2	4	7	5	8	9	3
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8. Patrol
5. Boo-hoos
12. Burn soothing plant
13. "Frat Pack" member
14. Wilson
15. ligation
16. Sound an alarm
17. Marvin, Majors and Greenwood
18. O. Henry's specialty
20. "Marilyn" Monroe: "Happy Birthday, Mr.

21. Sporting sword
22. Blue pencil marks
23. Knight's title
24. *One for every year
25. Custodian
26. Be in debt
27. Stay clear of
28. Accompanies relief
29. #1 Down, pl.
30. Owned
31. Subway in Paris
32. Shore extension
33. Per
34. Even, poetic
35. City in Netherlands
36. Like voice during laryngitis
37. Parents or Laptev, e.g.
38. Noah's passengers
39. Type of code
40. *Astrological sign for those born on New

Year's Eve

56. Black one and white one, for Tchaikovsky
57. Crematorium jars
58. "The Odyssey" e.g.
59. Make this, not waste
60. Let it stand, to proofreader
61. Governmental space agency, acr.
62. The windows to the soul
63. Money in Myanmar
64. Theodora or Dorothea

DOWN

1. Bark or yelp
2. Relating to armpit
3. *...and many _____
4. Defected
5. *Like 16
6. Hiking sandals of a certain brand
7. Of the present month
8. *Greeting to the birthday honoree, sometimes
9. Bassoon cousin
10. Misery cause
11. Canny
12. Dated tunes
13. Make a logical connection (2 words)
14. Runs without moving
15. Lumberjack's tool
16. Another word for nutria
17. Look forward to
18. Not as old
19. George Lucas' warrior-

monk

27. Concentration of a solution lab test
28. Shrek and Fiona, e.g.
29. Cotes du _____, wine region
30. Online room
31. As opposed to mishap
32. *We want your presence, not your
33. New Zealandian minority
34. Cuban dance syllable
35. *Quench it with punch
36. Precedes desist
37. Antonym of descent
38. *Traditional birthday celebration
39. Sleeper's woe
40. Up, up and there
41. Level a building
42. Crescent point
43. Colorful fish
44. Greet the judge, e.g.
45. March Madness org.
46. Pronoun

SEE THE SOLUTION
ON PAGE 21.



CDOT, CSU WEATHER BALLOON IMPROVES COLORADO ROAD FORECASTING

EDITORIAL:

North Forty News Staff | NorthFortyNews.com

FORT COLLINS, Colo. – A new partnership between the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) and Colorado State University is improving weather forecasting to enhance highway safety across Colorado.

On July 23, CDOT meteorologists and CSU graduate students launched a weather balloon near Horsetooth Reservoir to collect upper-air atmospheric data. The information fills a gap in weather observations, helping forecasters better predict changing conditions for road maintenance, traveler alerts, and emergency response.

The balloon measures temperature, humidity, wind speed, air pressure, and other conditions from the ground to jet-stream levels, allowing crews to better time road treatments and prepare for hazardous travel.

"Understanding what is happening in the atmosphere above Colorado's roads gives our crews a critical edge," said Michael Chapman, CDOT's winter operations program

manager and chief meteorologist. "This data helps us get ahead of storms in winter and anticipate severe weather in the summer."

The first launch comes during Colorado's summer monsoon season, when heavy rain can quickly create flooding hazards along mountain highways and burn scars.

CSU Research Scientist Brenda Dolan said the partnership provides valuable observations for both research and forecasting, improving short-term weather predictions in a region with limited upper-air data.

The data will also be shared with the National Weather Service and other forecasting partners, extending its benefits beyond transportation.

More information about Colorado travel conditions is available at <https://www.cotrip.org>.

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BEAR WANDERS INTO LOVELAND HOME

EDITORIAL:

by North Forty News Staff | NorthFortyNews.com

A Loveland resident got an unexpected wake-up call Friday morning when a black bear wandered into a home, as wildlife officials warn bear activity is increasing across Northern Colorado.

The encounter occurred near South Wilson Avenue and Southwest 14th Street. According to the Loveland Police Department, the homeowner discovered the bear inside the residence and remained calm. Before officers arrived, the bear left on its own, with a nearby security camera capturing it walking away.

Police praised the homeowner for keeping a safe distance and reminded residents to avoid approaching bears and contact authorities if assistance is needed.

The incident comes as the U.S. Forest Service urges visitors to the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests

and Pawnee National Grassland to stay alert as bears forage more actively before winter, increasing the likelihood of encounters in neighborhoods and campgrounds.

Officials recommend securing food, garbage, pet food, and other attractants in bear-resistant containers or hard-sided vehicles. At home, residents should secure trash, remove outdoor pet food, and clean barbecue grills. Bears that find easy food often return.

Officials say most bear conflicts can be prevented by removing attractants and giving wildlife plenty of space. If a bear enters a home or poses an immediate threat, contact local law enforcement or Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

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SHERIFF RENEWS SEARCH FOR ANSWERS IN 30-YEAR-OLD WELD COUNTY COLD CASE

EDITORIAL:

by North Forty News Staff | NorthFortyNews.com

WELD COUNTY, Colo. – Thirty years after the homicide of Fort Collins resident Sheryl “Sherry” Parker, the Weld County Sheriff’s Office is asking the public to help bring long-awaited answers to Parker’s family.

According to investigators, Parker, 41, checked into a motel in Del Camino on July 17, 1996, after planning to divorce her husband. She was reported missing in Fort Collins the following day. On July 23, family members located Parker’s vehicle and notified the Weld County Sheriff’s Office. Three days later, on July 26, 1996, Parker’s body was found in the St. Vrain River.

The Weld County Coroner ruled Parker’s death a homicide, determining she died from blunt force trauma.

“Bringing closure to Sherry’s family, her daughters, her sister, and getting answers to unanswered questions,” is what solving the case would mean, according to Weld County Sheriff’s Office Cold Case Detective Travis Peck.

Parker’s daughter, Michelle Diller, remembered her mother as a devoted parent who found joy in creating special family traditions.

“Her main goal in life is just to be a mom,” Diller said. “She just really was a great mom, and she did all the little things of making holidays super special.”

Detective Peck believes someone still holds information that could solve the case.

“Someone out there knows what happened to Sherry,” Peck said. “There’s still a family out there that needs closure. What we need is someone with the courage to come forward and help the family get that closure.”

Anyone with information about Parker’s death is encouraged to contact the Weld County Sheriff’s Office tip line at (970) 304-6464 or email Crimetips@weld.gov.

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■ Razorback Sucker (Photo courtesy of CPW/Rachael Gonzales)

COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE CELEBRATES RAZORBACK SUCKER RECOVERY MILESTONE

EDITORIAL:

by North Forty News Staff | NorthFortyNews.com

GRAND JUNCTION, Colo. – Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) is celebrating a major conservation milestone after the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service downlisted the razorback sucker from endangered to threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

The decision follows more than 30 years of recovery efforts by states, Tribes, federal and state agencies, water users, and conservation partners through the Upper Colorado River and San Juan River recovery programs.

"This milestone is proof that dedicated partnerships, habitat management, and education can reverse the trajectory of our native species," said Jenn Logan, CPW's native aquatic species manager, while noting the fish still faces challenges during drought years.

The razorback sucker, native to the Colorado River

Basin, was listed as endangered in 1991 after dams and invasive fish decimated wild populations.

CPW said recovery work will continue through habitat restoration, maintaining river flows, stocking native fish, and addressing ongoing environmental threats.

Educational programs remain a key part of the effort. Grand Valley students raise and release razorback suckers into the Colorado River each spring, while Palisade High School students have released more than 1,500 native fish through a student-run hatchery.

Officials say the downlisting demonstrates that long-term partnerships, habitat restoration, and public education can successfully recover native wildlife while emphasizing the need for continued conservation.

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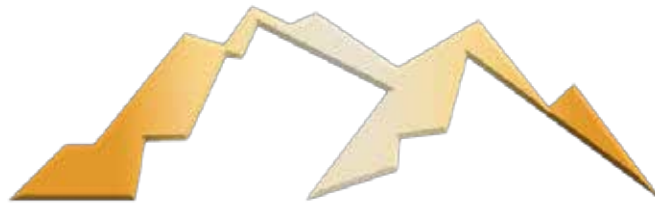


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