



North Forty News

Week of February 14, 2022 | Volume 29 | Number 45

NorthFortyNews.com

NORTHERN COLORADO'S WEEKLY INDEPENDENT LOCAL NEWS

TIPS UP!

COLORADO SENDS 24 ATHLETES TO 2022 WINTER OLYMPIC GAMES

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(Photo by Todd Trapani from Pexels)



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IN NORTHERN COLORADO

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LETTER FROM THE PUBLISHER



Do a Grouch a Favor Be Kind!



(File Photo)

It seems like there is a "National Day" for everything. I decided to do a little research. After a quick Google Search, nationaldaycalendar.com came up.

I was right! According to the website, there is a National Day every day of the week! And many days have more than one.

February 13th, for instance, is Cheddar Day, Tortellini Day, and Pork Rind Day. That sounds like a bellyache, but I might participate.

February 16th is National Do a Grouch a Favor Day (that's more my speed, haha). I wish that were on a Monday; ask anyone on the North Forty Staff; I'm a grouch on Mondays.

February 17th stuck out. That's National Random Acts of Kindness Day. When I thought more about it, I remembered at least three instances where I received a random act of kindness in recent years.

One year, I was in line for coffee, and when I went to pay, the cashier told me the person in front of me had already paid. When I went to say thank you, they had already left. There were no expectations of receiving a Thank You. I was intrigued, and I later bought coffee four separate times for four other people.

Random Acts of Kindness create a ripple effect. One act of kindness turns into many more. And it just feels good.

I suggest trying to do it every day. Even just once a day. Can you imagine if everyone did that? I believe we would all feel like we live in a better world.

The Random Acts of Kindness Foundation has a nifty feature on their website at randomactsofkindness.org. You can sign up for a text message every day to "help make kindness the norm."

I have said it before; North Forty News is a solution-driven publication. So, maybe one solution to make our area a better place would be to publish a Random Act of Kindness calendar every week! I'm

doing it.

It could be simple things, like handing a stranger change out of your pocket for part of their groceries. Or knock on a neighbor's door (to say hi) or take them some cookies. Another idea I saw was to hand a stranger a \$5 gift card to your favorite local store or give it to a friend and ask them to give it to someone else. The key is to be random. Random Acts of Kindness are memorable.

I make it a point to hold the door open for people when I'm at a store, especially at the post office. Someone almost always has packages, and how awesome is it to have someone hold the door for you, so you aren't dropping things.

Do you have ideas or stories about Random Acts of Kindness? If you do, email them to info@northfortynews.com. We might publish them!

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Animal Friends Alliance Sets New Dog Adoption and Community Cat Records Two Years in a Row

NORTH FORTY NEWS

Animal Friends Alliance has broken records for dog adoptions and community cat assistance for two consecutive years, despite ongoing challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic. This year, Animal Friends Alliance will expand with a new shelter building at its Taft Hill Campus to increase its capacity to help even more homeless animals and pet families across Northern Colorado.

Animal Friends Alliance found homes for 1,132 dogs in 2021, breaking the previous record of 1,080 dog adoptions set in 2020. "We're so fortunate to be a part of such an animal-loving community," said Executive Director Sarah Swanty, "and we're proud that we've been able to unite more homeless dogs with loving families than ever before." Despite concern about "pandemic pets," Animal Friends Alliance has not experienced a significant increase in animals returned to its shelter over the last two years. "We have found that our community is full of families eager to commit to a new four-legged family member, and we're privileged to be a part of that special experience," said Swanty.

Community cats also had a banner year at Animal Friends Alliance. The organization's Community Cat Program uses a trap-neuter-vaccinate-return process to help keep the population of local feral and unowned cats under control. The program also brings in friendly community cats and kittens for adoption. In 2021, the program helped 1,124 felines, breaking the previous year's record of 813 cats helped. "As more community cat caretakers learn about our program, the demand for help has grown consistently," said Swanty. "Spaying and neutering community cats not only prevents homeless pets but also protects native wildlife and keeps domestic animals healthier by reducing community cat populations. We want to continue to serve our community as far as our resources allow."

Animal Friends Alliance's Taft Hill Campus will be expanded and renovated to include a new cat shelter.

For more information on the new shelter, please visit BringingPawsTogether.org.

North Forty News

OUR MISSION

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

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North Forty News LLC

2601 Lemay, Ste 7, PMB 227, Fort Collins, CO 80525
970-221-0213 (phone) • 970-221-0213 (fax)
email: info@northfortynews.com
website: www.northfortynews.com
facebook: [northfortynews](https://www.facebook.com/northfortynews) • twitter: [@northfortynews](https://twitter.com/northfortynews)

Publisher

Blaine Howerton
bhowerton@northfortynews.com

Social Media

Leslie Carol Botha, Matrix Media Marketing

VP Sales & Marketing

Matthew Dierlam
mdierlam@northfortynews.com

Advertising

Matthew Dierlam
Debra Davis
ddavis@northfortynews.com
Blaine Howerton

VP Community Engagement

Annie Lindgren
alindgren@northfortynews.com

Art Director/Page Layout

Blaine Howerton

Journalist

Jonson Kuhn
jkuhn@northfortynews.com

Graphic Design/Advertising

Kacey Lobato, KC Graphics

Contributors

Tim Van Schmidt

Distribution

Jeff Brownrigg

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Conifers: Pining for Something Different

BRYAN FISCHER | Gardens on Spring Creek

Evolving considerably earlier than flowering plants (angiosperms), conifers represent a long-lived and successful lineage of trees classified as gymnosperms. Gymnosperms were among the first true seed-bearing plants and evolved before specialized pollinators existed, so they are typically wind-pollinated. Seeds on these plants are produced between or on scale-like structures (think pine cone scales), rather than in fully enclosed structures, like tomato fruits. Gymnosperm, in fact, is Greek for “naked seeds,” so just imagine what that might imply for the origin of the word “gymnasium” ...

Long-lived, adaptable and attractive year-round, conifers represent a silver bullet of sorts for our Colorado gardens. Sadly, the overuse of just a few species and cultivars of these plants has given them a bad name. Don't be put off – judicious use of conifers makes perennial plantings “pop” and provides structural bones during the fall and winter months. Below, find a selection of underused, adapted, and attractive conifers appropriate for gardens in our region:

With bark that exfoliates in camouflage-patterned chunks of metallic greens, browns, and ambers, *Pinus bungeana* makes an exceptionally interesting bed anchor. Slow growing, these trees form rounded specimens growing to 15 – 30 feet tall over decades. I like to skirt them with vivid perennials, like light purple *Salvia ringens*. A dark backdrop makes the *Salvia*'s flowers more visible, and the herbaceous foliage can be cut back before winter to show off the tree's one-of-a-kind bark. Pruning from a young age is the best way to ensure their bark remains visible later in life.

Narrower spaces can easily be accommodated with the upright forms of 'Slim Whitey' Bosnian pine (now *Pinus heldreichii*; formerly *Pinus leucodermis*), or 'Chalet' Swiss stone pine (*Pinus cembra*). Both remain less than six feet wide and attain modest heights. After over a decade in our Rock Garden, neither has exceeded 15 feet. *P. cembra* 'Chalet' remains a personal favorite of mine, with dense, richly textured foliage.

For small spaces, or to preserve a vista, dwarf conifers represent the best option of the group. Diversity can be found at local nurseries, but origin matters: locally grafted trees are more likely to succeed. Large growers, often on the West Coast, graft onto rootstocks that aren't well-adapted to our region, so ask for regionally-produced stock at your local nursery.

Absolutely smitten with *Pinus densiflora* 'Low Glow', I managed to score one for my new yard this year. With needles that are perpetually spring-green, this plant brightens my garden. I'm excited to try apricot-orange *Papaver spicatum* in front for



(Photo by Gardens on Spring Creek)

an eye-popping color duo. Slow growing, *P. 'Low Glow'*, put on only a few inches of growth annually. They end up wider than they are tall (up to five feet across). Equally tidy and more petite, single-needle piñon (*Pinus monophylla*) is a small cousin to the two-needle piñon we are all familiar with. *P. monophylla* comes in a variety of colors and shapes, from forest green to dusty blue and round to teardrop.

Requiring minimal care after establishment and tolerating periodic drought, conifers make wise additions to our gardens, imbuing them with structure, winter interest, and texture that herbaceous perennials just can't match. Just be sure to branch out from junipers and spruce!

HIGH PLAINS LANDSCAPE WORKSHOP

Inspiring Hope: Planning for Tomorrow's Garden

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This year's virtual workshop focuses on filling our gardens with hope and botanical inspiration, featuring presentations and Q&A from plantsman, curator and author, Kelly Norris and Denver Botanic Garden's Curator of Alpine Collections, Mike Kintgen.

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Wellington Makes a Decision on Water and Wastewater Rates

ANNIE LINDGREN | NorthFortyNews.com



Wellington's wastewater plant (Photo courtesy of Town of Wellington)

The Town of Wellington Water and Wastewater conversations found resolution at the February 8, 2022 Board of Trustees Meeting. After months of serious consideration on behalf of staff, trustees, and community participants, a plan is in place for 2022.

Wellington residents and business owners will not be seeing an increase in water rates at this time. The Town has decided to maintain the current rates and tiers established in October of 2020 and January of 2021. They accomplished this through a General Fund transfer of \$653,000 to the Water fund, through 2021 Water fund operational savings of \$400,000, and through continuing to identify operational efficiencies and cost-saving opportunities. They also decided to use the available \$2.6 million American Rescue Fund Act (ARPA) Tranche II funds towards the water fund.

While many are struggling with the significant base rate increase we experienced in 2021, there is relief in knowing it won't be increasing anymore at this time. Huge thanks to everyone involved for finding solutions that lessen the impact on our water bills.

Folks will start seeing changes in sewer rates, beginning with the May billing statements.

Sewer base rates and usage rates have remained the same since 2016. That is \$20.63 for up to 3,000 gallons and an additional \$6.50 per thousand gallons over that. Starting in April of 2022, that base rate will go up to \$31, with the additional usage rate of \$10 per thousand gallons over 3,000 gallons. An example bill for an average resident using 4,000 gallons of water shows a change from \$122.70 a month to \$136.57 a month, including water, sewer, and storm fees.

The plan is for a stepped base and usage rate increase with a 5% annual increase to base and tier rates for the subsequent three years. In 2023 folks can expect another increase to \$44 for the base rate and \$13 for the amount per thousand gallons over 3,000. However, a utility rate study will happen before this Year 2 projection is finalized. This plan included a \$390,000 General Fund transfer to the Sewer Fund, and there will be a shortfall in the Town fund balance reserve that will remedy with time and should be back above the red line in 2026.

Construction on the Wastewater plant will begin mid-2022. The goals for this project are that the capacity for the Wastewater treatment plant expansion must align with the Water Treatment Plant expansion, and the new Wastewater plant will meet the more stringent compliance standards. The project is set for completion in mid-2024 when the new plant should be ready for processing our sewage.

The next steps are for the Town is to engage in a comprehensive rate study happening in 2022. Water and Sewer usage rates, impact fees, and indirect costs will be evaluated. The goal is to ensure an equitable impact on residential and non-residential customers and plan annual reviews and updates into the future. In addition, the Town is continuing

to support and promote the Hardship Utility Grant (HUG) and the Water Efficiency Program and is looking into other financial solutions.

Of the above action items, seven came as recommendations from the Resident Roundtable. As a reminder, the Town utilized a Resident Roundtable committee comprised of local citizens, business owners, community organization representatives, and Town staff to help find solutions to this wastewater conundrum. Committee members attended the trustee meeting Tuesday night. They shared feedback of 'thanks' to the Town Board and assurance to citizens in the audience that the Town is genuinely listening.

Trustees and Town staff faced many difficult decisions throughout this process, and almost all came to a consensus that this decision was the best of the worst-case scenarios. As a result, all of the trustees and mayor voted 'yes,' except for Jon Gaiter, who voted 'no,' and John Jerome, absent from the meeting.

Trustee Ashley Macdonald shared a big thanks to the board, staff, and community, "It was all hands on deck, everyone contributed, and we touched on goals in all corners of the strategic plan. We have set a great example for communities around us to handle these complex issues collaboratively. Addressing water rates are just a small piece of the Town's water challenges, and it will take the same team effort to get them worked out."

The Rate study will look at regional trends and provide a holistic review of the water and wastewater rate needs and implications. It will answer the equity question of how to handle commercial vs. residential rates and share options on how best to proceed with future rate changes. It seems that the affordability of water and utilities is affecting Colorado in general, and it is a hot topic currently with the Colorado Municipal League. This discussion topic is far from over, so stay tuned for further details on the progression.

These water and wastewater discussions have been a hot-button topic in the Wellington community for quite some time. As an engaged citizen of this community with a close eye on all things happening, I am impressed with how the Town has handled things. I highly encourage folks to sign up for the Town's newsletters, follow them on social media, and attend trustee meetings for facts and resources.

For those struggling to make ends meet with their utility bills, look into the Hardship Utility Grant (HUG) resources. Wellington households can receive \$300 a year to help with their utility bills. For more information on the HUG grant and other local resources, visit wellingtoncolorado.gov.

This is a follow-up story to one published on January 23, 2022. Find that story at northfortynews.com/category/news/resident-roundtable-helps-wellington-solve-wastewater-problem/

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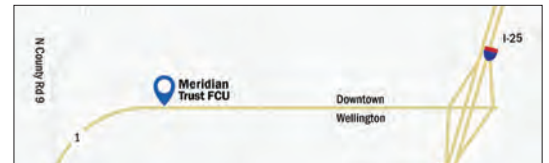


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Phase 2 of Linden Street Project Begins

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The second and final phase of the Linden Street Renovation project in Fort Collins began construction on Monday, February 7, resulting in modified access to Linden Street over the next few months.

This phase of the project builds on work completed last year and will involve the entirety of Linden Street from building front to building front. During construction, Linden Street will be closed to vehicles. Businesses on Linden Street will be open, and pedestrian access will be available to all businesses.

Patrons can park on nearby streets or in the Firehouse Alley Parking Structure, located a short walk down Old Firehouse Alley from Linden Street. Rates at all three of the City's parking structures are free for the first hour and then \$1 for each

subsequent hour.

"We want to make sure everyone who wants to come to Linden Street is able to do so during this project," said Dillon Willett, the project manager. "Although we realize this will be disruptive for the next few months, the finished product is going to be something the community will be proud of."

When complete, the Linden Street Renovation project will transform Linden Street into a "convertible street," which is a roadway that can be closed to vehicular and bicycle traffic and transformed into a pedestrian gathering space during special events. The renovations also include new aesthetic features and landscaping.

The project is expected to be complete by June, weather permitting. For more information about the Linden Street project, visit fcgov.com/lindenstreet.

New Director Brings Experience in Tech, Startup, and Nonprofit Sectors to Larimer SBDC

NORTH FORTY NEWS | NorthFortyNews.com

Local business development expert Hope Hartman has been named the new Executive Director of the Larimer Small Business Development Center (SBDC), which provides an array of technical assistance and training to small businesses and aspiring entrepreneurs in northern Colorado.

Hartman is passionate about helping entrepreneurs and small businesses learn, grow and succeed. "I cannot think of a more exciting place to be to have a positive impact and at such a critical time in our country's history," said Hartman.

"There is an increase in the number of small

businesses on a national level and I want to do my part at the local level to continue that trend. By making positive contributions at the SBDC, we can build a strong foundation to help our companies thrive within the community."

The Larimer SBDC works in collaboration with several strategic partners and dedicated sponsors to provide Larimer County entrepreneurs with street-smart business education and connections to useful resources.

For more information about the Larimer Small Business Development Center at Front Range Community College, visit larimersbdc.org. Or call 970-204-8600.

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Drunk Driving Crashes Spike on Superbowl Sunday

NORTH FORTY NEWS | NorthFortyNews.com

On Superbowl Sunday, occurrences of drunk driving are 22% higher than any other typical Sunday. This serves to highlight why the Superbowl is an excellent time to remind everyone of safe driving practices surrounding alcohol and celebrations.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), the average DUI costs an individual around \$10,000 – typically just for court and legal expenses, not counting any medical expenses if injury occurs.

No DUI Larimer is focusing on prevention efforts – education, tools, and messaging for groups and individuals who tend to risk driving regularly with elevated BAC's, and who are involved in a higher number of alcohol-related crashes.

Studies have shown that males, ages 21-34, tend to have the highest number of drivers involved in DUI/DWI crashes with a BAC at or above legal intoxication levels. The goal of the next arm of the No DUI campaign is to reduce the number of DUI/DWI-related crashes with this age group at the wheel.

No DUI encourages all citizens to remain vigilant and to plan ahead when consuming alcohol. There are many rideshare options available via SmartPhone apps and local cab companies. No DUI Larimer has partnered with zTrip to make sure safe rides are more accessible to everyone. If you are the designated driver, make a

commitment to 100% sobriety to keep you, your friends, and your family safe.

The DRUID app applies neuroscience to assess a user's level of cognitive and motor impairment due to any cause, including alcohol intoxication, marijuana use, fatigue, and injury. Built like a video game, the app records hundreds of indicators to detect impairment in under three minutes.

BACtrack is a personal, portable breathalyzer that has been designed and marketed to help individuals make smarter and safer decisions while drinking. BACtrack allows one to receive a BAC estimate in seconds. Research suggests that education about BAC contributes to fewer incidences of impaired driving.

These tools are available for purchase for as little as \$39.99.

If you see an impaired driver on the road, please "Make the Call" and contact local law enforcement (911) immediately.

Remember if you feel different, you drive different.

The No DUI Larimer coalition and campaign was born out of the need to address the problem of impaired driving in our community. The goal is to prevent driving under the influence of alcohol or other substances by increasing community responsibility for safe and responsible driving.

For more information visit poweredbypartners.org/no-dui-larimer.

HEALTH



PRESENTED BY: SUMMITSTONE

On Valentine's Day (and always) Be Sure to Remember to Celebrate Yourself

ANNAH RICHARDS AND BETH ALLEN
SummitStone Health Partners & Colorado Spirit Counselors

Valentine's day is a day to celebrate love. It can be a stressful and maybe even upsetting holiday but only if you let it. Do things to help feel love and build joy.

Celebrate your most important Valentine, YOU, with self-love!

The most important relationship in your life, the one that will always be there, is your relationship with yourself. Plan your own time to indulge in self-care and show yourself love! Take time to do activities to re-energize like a spa night or buy yourself flowers and chocolates.

Invest time into all your relationships

A day celebrating love does not have to just be about romantic love! Send cards or reach out to friends and family to show the people in your life your love for them. Make a day out of spreading love of all kinds.

Minimize society's pressure

Society and social media might make it seem there is one right way to celebrate Valentine's Day. Remember social media often shows the "highlight

reel" and is not worth comparing to your day.

Seek support if necessary

If you are struggling this Valentine's day or any other day, speak to a trusted family member, friend, or use local resources like Colorado Spirit.

Colorado Spirit is your local COVID-19 support team to help you understand and cope with the pandemic. Check out the website for free tools, tips, and our contact info.

SummitStoneHealth.org/ColoSpirit

Colorado Spirit is funded through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) with oversight by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) and SummitStone Health Partners. Crisis counselors, working closely with community organizations, are able to distribute available resources and refer survivors to behavioral health treatment and other services in the community. Services are provided at no cost and are available to anyone impacted by the COVID-19 crisis. The support line is available Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. by calling (970) 494-9941.

Tender Gifts Midwifery & Birth Center Celebrates 1-Year Anniversary

NORTH FORTY NEWS | NorthFortyNews.com

Organization Also to Celebrate the Opening of a New Community Center in Spring 2022



Tender Gifts Midwifery Team

Tender Gifts Midwifery & Birth Center is excited to celebrate its one-year anniversary of opening Northern Colorado's first full-service, freestanding birth center. Tender Gifts Birth Center, located at Jessup Farm, is a state-of-the-art facility with a team of midwives, doulas, and nurses offering prenatal care, labor & birth support, ultrasounds, newborn care, postpartum services, bereavement care, and women and family wellness in a caring, safe, and home-like environment.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic began, Tender Gifts Midwifery & Birth Center has seen an increase in the number of women now considering out-of-hospital births, and their modern birth center is uniquely situated to serve clients looking for a safe birthing experience in a non-hospital setting; serving clients with flexible birthing options that are not available in a hospital setting.

Since the birth center opened, Tender Gifts Midwifery & Birth Center has assisted in the delivery of 130 babies and added 19 new team members.

Over the past year, Tender Gifts has been able to continue offering in-person events for both clients and non-clients, including a breastfeeding support group and prenatal classes. During a time when most hospital systems have either eliminated or switched to digital classes - Tender Gifts has been able to support the needs of women and the

local community.

While doing so, owner, Althea Hrdlichka, found the need for this service and community support is significant - which led her to start the construction on a second Tender Gifts building, located across the street from their current location.

Owner Althea Hrdlichka said, "In a time that has been so crazy, we have discovered that the need for community has never been more important than now. That is why we are so excited about the opening of our new building. We plan to use the space for group meetings, classes, and to open it up to the community to offer their specialty classes. It's our goal to use the space to create relationships in our Northern Colorado community."

As Tender Gifts Midwifery & Birth Center heads into its second year of business, the construction of its second space in Northern Colorado is nearing completion. Tender Gifts Midwifery & Birth Center's new building will serve as community space for classes, prenatal groups, an IV bar, and community meet-ups.

To celebrate their 1-year anniversary and the opening of this second space, Tender Gifts Midwifery & Birth Center hosted a celebratory event on Saturday, January 22nd, from 4-6 pm. Attendees were able to tour the Birth Center, talk to their staff, and enjoy free drinks and snacks. The general public was welcome to attend.

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

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GREELEY

Greeley Considering Shelter and Housing Alternatives

NORTH FORTY NEWS | NorthFortyNews.com

City of Greeley officials are exploring ideas to address homelessness and affordable housing issues facing the community.

Residents are invited to join the conversation by sharing, their perceptions of homelessness and housing insecurity, how it may impact their life and how the community might work together to address the growing need in Greeley.

The first of several public community conversations are scheduled for 6-7:30 pm Wednesday, February 16, and the same time Thursday, February 17. The February 16 meeting will take place virtually via Zoom; the meeting on February 17 will be in-person at the Greeley Recreation Center, 651 10th Avenue. Officials ask residents to RSVP to attend either or both conversations at bit.ly/homeless-housing.

"Our non-profit partners, neighboring municipalities, the county, and city are currently providing programs and facilities to address homelessness in Greeley, but we need to engage the community on more long-term solutions," said Greeley City Manager Raymond Lee. People unable to attend are encouraged

by the project team to visit greeleygov.com/homelessandhousingservices. A video recording, presentation materials, and an opportunity to provide input will be available on the website after February 23.

The City of Greeley contracted with Urbanity Advisors to complete an assessment for possible sheltering and housing alternatives in Greeley. This work includes:

- Evaluating existing sources of information
- Analyzing what might be driving demand locally and regionally
- Evaluating best practices
- Providing opportunities for engagement and public involvement
- Estimating costs of potential solutions and recommendations
- Outlining financial feasibility, funding options, and key next steps.

Officials anticipate the scoping and assessment of possible sheltering and housing alternatives to take approximately six months.

Find out more by visiting greeleygov.com/homelessandhousingservices.

LOVELAND

Larimer County Natural Resources Announces \$21,419 in Small Grants to Support Community Projects

NORTH FORTY NEWS | NorthFortyNews.com

Larimer County Department of Natural Resources (LCDNR) has announced \$21,419 in grants to support eight community and neighborhood projects.

The awards were given to a wide range of organizations across Larimer County through the LCDNR's Small Grants for Community Partnering program.

To-date, Larimer County has awarded \$369,354 for 222 community and neighborhood projects.

The 2022 grantees, projects, amounts and locations include:

- Loveland Youth Gardeners, Solar Demo Plot, \$2,920, Loveland
- Neighbor to Neighbor, Garden Expansion & Irrigation Project, \$3,000, Fort Collins
- Northern Colorado Wildlife Center, No-Charge Community Wildlife Education and Humane Solutions Classes, \$1,817, Northern Colorado
- Northern Colorado, Rocky Mountain Wild, Community Bat Monitoring in Larimer County, \$2,861, Northern Colorado
- Northern Colorado, Terry Lake Recreation Association, Terry Point Erosion Control & Education Project,

\$2,856, Fort Collins

- Trappers Point Homeowner's Association, Trappers Point Wildlife Restoration Area, \$1,965.50, Fort Collins
 - Waterglen Owners Association, Trees for Birds, \$2,999.50, Fort Collins
 - YMCA of the Rockies, Enger Family Nature Trail, \$3,000, Estes Park
- Small Grants for Community Partnering is an initiative of Larimer County Natural Resources to disperse a portion of Help Preserve Open Spaces sales tax dollars for projects that:
- Enhance natural areas
 - Create public linkages with existing open lands and parks
 - Offer opportunities for environmental education, outdoor recreation or nature interpretation
 - Provide opportunities for people to connect with the land through agriculture or increased access to open spaces and natural areas
 - Develop new research on Larimer County open spaces

For more information about the program, visit larimer.org/small-grants or call (970) 619-4569.

RURAL LARIMER COUNTY

Community-Driven Team Works to Ensure Survival of Rare Mouse Species

NORTH FORTY NEWS | NorthFortyNews.com

A multidisciplinary team has been established to ensure the survival of the Preble's meadow jumping mouse, a threatened mammal listed under the Endangered Species Act, in the North Fork of the Cache la Poudre River watershed. The team was established following the release of a recovery plan published in 2018 by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The team — including Colorado State University conservation experts — known as the Poudre River Site Conservation

Team, is the first of its kind and designed to give a voice to local communities in the process of recovering the Preble's mouse.

"The Preble's mouse is important as an indicator of healthy riparian ecosystems," said George Seidel, a past and key member of the team, a landowner in the watershed, and University Distinguished Professor Emeritus at CSU.

The species is only found below 7,600 feet in dense, streamside vegetation consisting of shrubs, grasses, and

flowering plants along the Front Range of Colorado and southeastern Wyoming. Heather Knight, SCT member, and landowner added "meeting recovery goals for the Preble's mouse will be a team effort among stakeholders and will reflect good land management that benefits private landowners and public lands."

"Working collaboratively with community members for its recovery is the main goal of the team," Knight added.

The recovery goal for the Preble's mouse in the North Fork of the Cache la Poudre watershed is a minimum of 57 miles of healthy, connected habitat.

The team has invited private landowners and public land managers will help with this effort by participating in a program to provide protection or restoration of Preble's mouse habitat. The team's members are pursuing financial opportunities to support future projects. Community members are invited

to participate in a virtual webinar on February 23, from 5 pm-6.30 pm. To register for this free webinar please visit the website at collaborativeconservation.org.

The Site Conservation Team is partnering with the US Fish and Wildlife Service to engage with local communities and form partnerships among stakeholders in conservation and restoration efforts in the Poudre River's North Fork watershed.



Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse
(Photo courtesy Center for Biological Diversity)

WINDSOR

Third Grade Students Learn to Swim with Free Pilot Program

NORTH FORTY NEWS | NorthFortyNews.com

Windsor's Parks, Recreation & Culture Department will offer free swimming lessons at Windsor High School to third graders living inside the Windsor town limits beginning Saturday, February 26.

A partnership between the Parks, Recreation & Culture Department and the Windsor High School swim team has made it possible to launch the water safety program targeting a specific age group.

"This partnership allows members of the Windsor High School swim team a chance to earn money for their swimming program while sharing their skills with the community," said Kendra Martin, Parks, Recreation & Culture operations and facilities manager. "The goal of

this program is to give third graders an opportunity to learn basic water safety skills for free."

The pilot program, one of the few in Northern Colorado offering free valuable swimming skills, is a four-week program scheduled on Saturday mornings between February 26 to April 30.

Residents of Windsor interested in registering their child must sign up in advance either online at recreationliveshere.com/recreg, in-person at the Windsor Community Recreation Center, 250 11th St., or by calling 970-674-3500. To speed the registration process, reference activity number 110107. Proof of Windsor residency will be required at the time of registration.

TIMNATH

Timnath Town Council Updates

NORTH FORTY NEWS | NorthFortyNews.com

The Timnath Town Council acted upon the following matters at the Tuesday, January 25 meeting:

Council passed a resolution promoting Alternate Planning Commissioner Robert Axmacher to a regular commissioner's seat assuming Christina Bickley's vacated term. Bickley resigned, leaving a vacancy on the board, and Axmacher has been serving on the planning commission since 2021.

Council approved an ordinance amending multiple sections of the Land Use Code, to provide greater clarity on items relating to Administration, Use Regulations, Development Standards, Land Subdivision, and Annexation Procedures.

Council passed a resolution approving a Final Plat proposal to create 57 single-family detached lots in the Timnath Landing Subdivision with the intent to create alley-loaded single-family homes. The single-family lots will range from 3,600 square feet to 5,700 square feet. The development includes 20 percent open space, fronts a park, and will connect to open space.

Council passed a resolution approving the purchase of a 2022 HV513 truck with an added equipment package. The equipment package includes a plow and combination box spreader. The new truck will allow Public Works staff to perform higher-level snow plowing operations and general town maintenance functions.

the new scene weekly

Pancakes Make the World Go Around

TIM VAN SCHMIDT | SceneNOCO.com

(Photos by Tim Van Schmidt)

So, the challenge came down recently from a regular reader of North Forty News to write a column about cooking. OK, here's my best shot:

One of the things that has helped me get through the pandemic is comfort food.

Well, just about any food, really, but on the top of the list, at least for me, is pancakes.

I love pancakes. I love melted butter spreading across the cakes and maple syrup dripping all over the things.

This has been going on throughout my entire life. I can clearly remember my mom making pancakes at our house in Illinois when I was just a little boy. She watched me spread on the butter and pour on the syrup and then asked, "Which part of that do you love so much?"

I said, "All of it". I still have and use the pancake flipper she was holding that morning.

My favorite restaurant in Illinois was The Cock-a-Doodle, a Midwest chain with the tagline "North, South, East, West, Cock-a-Doodle is the Best." Their specialty was "silver dollar" pancakes and I could eat twenty bucks worth even as a youngster.

In the Wisconsin Dells, there was a restaurant called Paul Bunyan's with huge picnic tables for seating. The servers would continually bring out steaming plates piled with food -- including as many pancakes as you can eat. I took advantage.

Now, at our house, my wife is the main cook. In fact, I'm not much of a cook at all -- I'm more or less a one-trick pony. (I'm a very good cleaner-upper, though.) But my trick is pretty good.

I've developed my skill over many Sunday mornings -- an

unofficial time for dads across the nation to take over the kitchen and deliver something hot and tasty. You can guess what I wholeheartedly make for my family.

It started with just a simple, straightforward pancake recipe. But over the years I have made refinements.

In a cup of flour, for instance, I include about a quarter cup of cornmeal, giving a little extra texture. In the dry mix I put in some cinnamon and in the wet mix, I stir in a little vanilla extract. For filler I use small wild blueberries, usually frozen then thawed -- this will turn the batter blue, but the taste is excellent -- and crunched almonds, walnuts, pecans, or all three. I usually use buttermilk. And this is key: real maple syrup.

My wife, admittedly, has said she really doesn't like pancakes -- we have stayed together anyway. Even so, she has found some more exotic recipes for pancakes and she makes some excellent ones. Those include cottage cheese pancakes -- no, really, they're very light and tasty -- an apple "Dutch Baby" pancake made in the skillet and cooked in the oven, and sourdough cakes that keep me satisfied all day.

I usually make my own cakes, especially during the pandemic, but I have had some great cakes at area restaurants, including perfect diner cakes at The Silver Grill, some creative cakes, with various filling combinations and sauces, at Snooze, and, my very favorite, the banana walnut pancakes at The Rainbow.

This isn't just my thing. I am proud to say the love of pancakes has been passed down to my two grandsons -- they gobble them

up, almost as much as Mac and Cheese. I know other pancake lovers too.

And we're not alone in the world.

The Denver Post just published an article on pancakes.

Go ahead and look up pancakes on Wikipedia. It's all there -- history, their various forms around the world, and lots of photos. I'll just give you one eye-popping quote: "Archaeological evidence suggests that pancakes were probably the earliest and most widespread cereal food eaten in prehistoric societies."

With that said, I would like to suggest something outrageous. That is, I think that pancakes are politically neutral. In the US, I think that huge numbers of both Republicans and Democrats love pancakes.

It's possible that members of Congress would find more success in reaching across the aisle if they would all just get together in the morning and have a pancake breakfast. They all need to start out on the same foot, get a good breakfast and then get down to work, don't you think?

I know. That's pretty silly. But to The Senate and The House of Representatives, and to everyone who needs some tasty comfort food -- which is just about everybody these days -- I say: "Let them eat pancakes".

By the way, I make pretty good nachos too -- but that's another story.

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



Blue Plate Special 2022



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SHOUT OUT!

Blaine's Fort Collins Shout Out:

The Crooked Cup, in Old Town (147 W Oak St, Fort Collins), has one of the best Kolache's I have ever had. If you like spicy, be sure to get the ham and jalapeno! The owner, Gabe, says these are one of his most popular sellers. Paired with their original coffee blend, it's a great breakfast on the go, for less than \$10!

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CITY BUZZ

DRINK LOCAL ALL WEEK WITH VALENTINE'S DAY AND NATIONAL DRINK WINE DAY!

NEW SCENE | SceneNOCO.com

As if we need an excuse to drink wine – coming up next week is both Valentine's Day and also National Drink Wine Day on Friday, February 18.

The Colorado Wine Board is encouraging Coloradans to seek out local Colorado wines and celebrate all week long – whether visiting a tasting room, ordering Colorado wine in a restaurant, or shopping locally in liquor stores

For those unfamiliar with Colorado Wine, the winners of the 2021 Governor's Cup Competition are a great place to start. With winning wines from wineries in Boulder, Denver, Littleton, Fairplay, Gunnison, and the Western Slope, there is no shortage of great Colorado wines across the state.

- BookCliff Vineyards (Boulder) – 2018 Graciano, Colorado
- BookCliff Vineyards (Boulder) – 2018 Syrah Reserve, Colorado
- Redstone Meadery (Boulder) – 2019 Tupelo Mountain Honey Wine*
- Turquoise Mesa Winery (Broomfield) – 2018 Merlot, Grand Valley AVA
- Continental Divide Winery (Fairplay) – 2019 Gewürztraminer,

- Grand Valley AVA
- Buckel Family Wine (Gunnison) – 2019 Cinsault, Colorado
- Buckel Family Wine (Gunnison) – 2020 Pétillant Naturel Rosé, Colorado
- Carboy Winery (Littleton, Breckenridge and Denver) – 2019 Teroldego, Grand Valley AVA
- Carlson Vineyards (Palisade) – Cherry Wine,
- 100% Grand Valley Montmorency cherries
- Carlson Vineyards (Palisade) – 2019 Tyrannosaurus Red (Lemberger),
- Grand Valley AVA
- Plum Creek Winery (Palisade) – 2020 Palisade Festival
- (Aromella/ Riesling/ Chardonnay), Grand Valley AVA
- Sauvage Spectrum (Palisade) – Sparklet Candy Red (Verona),
- Grand Valley AVA
- The Storm Cellar (Paonia) – 2020 Rosé of St. Vincent, Grand Valley AVA
- Whitewater Hill Vineyards (Grand Junction) – 2019 Chambourcin,
- Grand Valley AVA

BLACK HISTORY MONTH PROGRAM AT CSU

NEW SCENE | SceneNOCO.com

Join Colorado State University's Black/African American Cultural Center, ACT Human Rights Film Festival, and Gregory Allicar Museum of Art for a reception, tours, and film screening on Wednesday, February 23, 2022 from 4–8pm. Masks are required. All events are free and open to the public.

Part of CSU's Black History Month programming, a reception from 4–6pm will celebrate a new exhibition, Black Art at CSU: Building a Presence, with tours of the exhibition available from museum director, Dr. Lynn Boland. Sign-up at <https://bit.ly/blackartfeb23> is required for tour attendance. The reception and tours will take place in the museum, in CSU's University Center for the Arts at 1400 Remington St., Fort Collins. Light refreshments will be served.

The exhibition examines the history of inclusion of works by African-American artists in University

collections, and the efforts of the Gregory Allicar Museum of Art to increase representation by Black artists. Artists include Romare Bearden, Kerry James Marshall, Kara Walker, Kehinde Wiley, Althea Murphy-Price and others.

At 6pm, a free screening of the film Black Art: In the Absence of Light (2021) will take place in the Griffin Concert Hall of the University Center for the Arts. Many of the artists on display at Gregory Allicar Museum of Art are interviewed in the film. Inspired by the late David Driskell's landmark 1976 exhibition, "Two Centuries of Black American Art," the film offers an illuminating introduction to the work of some of the foremost Black visual artists working today. Directed by Sam Pollard, it shines a light on the extraordinary impact of Driskell's exhibit on generations of Black artists who have staked a claim on their rightful place within the 21st-Century art world.

UTILITIES PUBLIC ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE DEADLINE EXTENDED TO FEBRUARY 23

NEW SCENE | SceneNOCO.com



Art in Public Places and Fort Collins Utilities install a recent mural (Photo courtesy City of Fort Collins)

The City of Fort Collins Art in Public Places Program along with the City of Fort Collins Utilities Department are seeking proposals from artists/artist teams for the City's inaugural Public Artist-in-Residence program.

The partners of the program believe that artists offer unique, innovative, and powerful perspectives on telling the story of our Utilities Department.

The intent of the program is to create a 12-month residency in which an artist/artist team collaborates with the City of Fort Collins Utilities Department to help communicate the departmental mission and the vital yet often overlooked essential

services the Utilities Department performs 24/7, 365 days a year.

The selected artist will work with City utility employees to develop artwork that educates the community about the often-unseen services the utilities provide. The artist will spend about 6 months learning firsthand about the utilities and developing the project, and about 6 months implementing the project. The resulting artwork can be anything community focused from a physical work of art, poetry, to a performance.

Artist/artist teams are required to submit a written, general proposal for their approach to the residency on CallforEntry.org.

Their practice should involve strong community engagement and collaboration. The selected artist/artist team will work with the project team to fully develop the final residency plan with more specific outcomes. The artwork budget is \$50,000 and is all-inclusive.

Deadline: February 23.

CITY BUZZ

PHOTO OF THE WEEK: NOKHU CRAGS

The photo of the week comes from Steve Gandy (Steve Gandy Photography). It is a winter view of the Nokhu Craggs in the Colorado State Forest State Park.

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

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

Send us your best shot!

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

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

Sponsored by:
North Forty News and Sanderosa Art Gallery



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

Submit Your Photos to:
yourphotos@northfortynews.com



ARTIST OF THE WEEK

Suzanne Parent
Whimsical Stories of Life's Simple Joys using Sticks and Stones

SANDEROSA ART GALLERY

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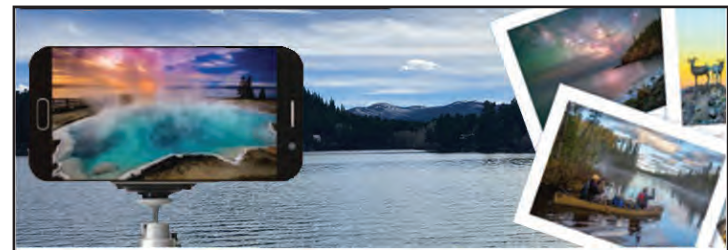


PHOTO CONTEST TAKE YOUR BEST SHOT!

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

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

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

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

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



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LONGMONT MUSEUM ANNOUNCES WINTER SEASON

NEW SCENE | SceneNOCO.com

The Longmont Museum officially has recently announced their winter season today with the release of their Winter 2022 Program Catalog and Newsletter. The Museum will host dozens of programs for both children and adults now through early May as part of this season.


Highlights of the season include:

- Thursday Nights @ The Museum February 3 - April 28
6 pm: Galleries, bar, & lounge
6:30 pm: Art & Sip classes
7 pm: Films, concerts, and talks
Art & Sip classes and exhibits as well as film, live music, and conversations in the intimate Stewart Auditorium. Wine, beer, non-alcoholic beverages, and snacks are available for purchase.
- Friday Afternoon Concert Series February 11, March 11, and April 8 at 2:30 pm
An afternoon of live music in the Stewart Auditorium featuring an eclectic array of musical acts from up and down the Front

Range.

- Longmont Museum Presents Concerts, performances, and other programs in conjunction with leading organizations from the region. This season features Pro Musical Colorado Chamber Orchestra, Boulder Opera, Mont Alto Motion Picture Orchestra, Earth Day Celebration, and more.
- Discovery Days January 19 - May 6, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays
Arts and crafts for ages 2 to 6 with a caregiver. No registration is needed; scholarships are available.
- Boulder International Film Festival March 4 -6
Shorts programs, documentaries, and feature films from local, national, and international filmmakers for three days in the Stewart Auditorium.

Visit longmontmuseum.org to download the full Winter 2022 Program Catalog and Newsletter.



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ALYSIA KRAFT FINDS SOLACE THROUGH HARDSHIP WITH DEBUT SOLO SINGLE "COLD MOUNTAIN"

JONSON KUHN | SceneNOCO.com



Alysia Kraft (Photo by Cassie Orduno)

"Cold Mountain" is an earthy folk tune acknowledging the immensity of pain, loss, and struggle as a first step toward healing and making a change.

Singer-songwriter Alysia Kraft delivers a striking performance on her debut solo single, "Cold Mountain," out February 18. As the first song from her upcoming record *First Light*, out later this year, "Cold Mountain" introduces the project with a sonic breath of fresh air. The Wyoming born artist has made a beloved reputation for herself in the Wyoming and Colorado music scenes; "Cold Mountain" showcases a different side of Kraft's artistry following her work with Whippoorwill and The Patti Fiasco, inviting listeners to experience the ethereal whimsy inherent to this track's lush, bioluminescent folk soundscape.

Fans of HAIM, Waxahatchee, and Kacey Musgraves will find themselves right at home immersed in Kraft's lush vocals and melancholy-steeped poetry. "Cold Mountain" is set to make an emotional appearance in the short film, *Be Still*, premiering at the Front Range Film Festival in Longmont, CO, on February 19.

"Cold Mountain" came to Kraft like a breath of fresh air; having grown up in rural Wyoming, this song finds its roots in the same grandness of the windswept plains the queer artist took refuge in while enduring various struggles for acceptance and understanding throughout life. Kraft wrote this track "in a moment of fully feeling how brutal and beautiful life can be all at once." For her, "Cold Mountain" is an exploration of the ways in which

we "find the space to feel both the grief and hope we need to keep going." As co-producer, Kraft made it a point to create something that felt true to the place and emotion of the song. In collaboration with J. Tom Hnatow (producer, mixing engineer) and Justin W. Craig (producer, mixing engineer), Kraft brought her vision to life as a brilliantly multi-dimensional final product. Alysia Kraft partnered with SonabLAST! Records to create this project, adding her captivating artistic signature to their acclaimed catalog.

Fans can stream "Cold Mountain" on all major streaming platforms on February 18 and while you're waiting for that, check out a preview on soundcloud.com!

Connect with Alysia on Instagram, Facebook, Website, or TikTok.

new scene weekly

WEEKLY SNEAK PEEK



Venture Still w/ Wendy Woo Band and Wild Indigo, 830 North, 8 pm

8 pm -10:30 pm
Tribute to the Beatles ft. British Beat, Your Mom's House, 8 pm -12 am

Saturday, February 26
Comedy Night at Lirano Wine Bar, Lirano Wine Bar, 7 pm -9 pm
Evanoff w/ Amorphic, 830 North, 8 pm
Game of Love: Valentine's Speed Dating at Stella's, Stella's Pinball Arcade & Lounge, 8 pm -9 pm
Green Fairy Garden Class, The Windsor Gardener, 10:30 am -12 pm
High Country Hustle w/ Ghost Town Drifters, 100 Nickel, 8 pm
Mardi Gras Celebration, The Louisville Underground, 8 pm -11 pm
Micki Balder at The Gressiwick, The Gressiwick, 7 pm

Sunday, February 27
Asha Blaine Band / Stone Beat Invasion / Mr. Steak Fundraiser, At Cheers, 2 pm -6 pm
Stamped Mandala Coaster & Trivets at Maxline Brewing, Maxline Brewing, 3 pm -5 pm
Sunday Morning Toast and Jams, Soul Squared Tap house, 11 am -2 pm

Monday, February 28
Pikes Peak Safe at Schools Coalition, Online, 4 pm -5:30 pm
Recovery Mondays ft. D3XTR + More, Your Mom's House, 8 pm -11 am
UNC Jazz Funk Lab, Guitar Ensemble & Spectrum Studio Orchestra, University of Northern Colorado, Campus Commons Performance Hall, 5 pm

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

Wednesday, March 2
FREE: Workingman's Wednesdays w/ Tumbledown Shack, 830 North, 8 pm
Fun at The Flipside, The Flipside, 7 pm -9 pm
Songwriters' Workshop - Fort Collins, The Purple Cup Café, 5:45 pm

Thursday, March 3
Diggin Dirt, 830 North, 8 pm
Dragondeer with The Runaway Grooms @ Moxi Theater, Moxi Theater, 8 pm -11:30 pm
Melanin MagiQ, Online, 5:30 pm -6:30 pm
Security of the U.S. Today: Domestic Unrest, Russia & China, Online, 7 pm -8 pm
The Mystical Hot Chocolate Endeavors, Your Mom's House, 8 pm -2 am

Friday, March 4
A LIFETIME OF BLUES with Al Chesis and David Booker, Roots Music Project, 7:30 pm -10:30 pm
An Evening with TAARKA, The Gressiwick, 7 pm
Humanesque: Movement Stories for Tarnished Times, The Lincoln Center, 12 am -11:59 pm

Los Lobos, Washington's, 7 pm -9:30 pm
Molly Sweeney, Bas Bleu Theatre Company, 7:30 pm
Paizley Park Live at The Louisville Underground, The Louisville Underground, 7 pm -10 pm
The High Kings, Union Colony Civic Center, 7:30 pm
The Runaway Grooms w/ Conscious Pilot, 100 Nickel, 8 pm

Saturday, March 5
An Officer and a Gentleman, Union Colony Civic Center, 7:30 pm
Bad Company / Journey / INXS Tribute Night, At Cheers, 7 pm -12 am
Ben Pu & Crew @ Moxi Theater, Moxi Theater, 8 pm -11:30 pm
Big Brooklyn Live at The Magic Rat, Magic Rat Live Music, 8 pm -10 pm
Cary Morin & Ghost Dog Live at 830 North, 830 North, 8 pm
Dave Beegle at The Gressiwick, The Gressiwick, 7 pm
Fort Collins Symphony March 5 Concert: Florence Price & Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, The Lincoln Center, 7:30 pm
Molly Sweeney, Bas Bleu Theatre Company, 7:30 pm
RMP Rising - Music Benefit for Teen Mental Health, Roots Music Project, 7:30 pm -10 pm
Seed Swap & Giveaway, Old Town Library, 1 pm -3 pm
Stella's Stand Up Underground Comedy Showcase, Stella's Pinball Arcade & Lounge, 9 pm -12 am

Wednesday, February 16
Blast N Bowl Feat. Wolfblitzer, Seam Ripper, and Nightwaker, 2454 West, 7 pm
****FREE** Electronic Wenzdaze at 830 North ft. Project Aspect, Jimeni, LonSoul,** 830 North, 8 pm
Noche Latina w/ Manabi Latin Band (Tiny Ensemble), 2454 West, 8 pm
This is A Metaverse Festival Too, Your Mom's House, 7:30 pm -2 am

Thursday, February 17
JLR Band / The Lonesome Heroes / Shawn Hess / David Miner, Hi-Dive, 8 pm -11 pm
King Crawdad and Los Toms, 830 North, 8 pm
Melanin MagiQ, Online, 5:30 pm -6:30 pm
The Cactus Blossoms with The Still Tide - Presented by 105.5 The Colorado Sound, Aggie Theatre, 8 pm
UNC Wind Ensemble Concert, University of Northern Colorado, Campus Commons Performance Hall, 7:30 pm
[Webinar] QuickBooks Online: 3 Part Series, Online, 1 pm -5 pm

Friday, February 18
Blues Night at Bootstrap - Rex Peoples 7x winner Best Blues Vocalist, Bootstrap Brewing, 6 pm -9 pm
Bottlerocket Hurricane, 2454 West, 8 pm
Card Catalog, Shady Oaks, and Radioactive Babushka, 100 Nickel, 8 pm
Curious Things / Broken Record / Hooper, Hi-Dive, 9 pm -11:30 pm
End Game / Carnal Contempt Metal Night, At Cheers, 7 pm -12 am
Machine Girl // The Coast FoCo, The Coast, 7:30 pm -10:30 pm
The Little Dog Laughed, Bas Bleu Theatre: 401 Pine St, Fort Collins, CO 80524, 7:30 pm
Todd Barry - Stadium Tour w/ Nathan Lund, Aggie Theatre, 8 pm

Saturday, February 19
COSMIC ALIGNMENT w/ Andy Immerman, Your Mom's House, 8 pm -11 pm
Digg, 100 Nickel, 8 pm
It's Thyme to start gardening! The Windsor Gardener, 10:30 am -12 pm
Karaoke Night at The Gressiwick, The Gressiwick, 7 pm
OZV's 21st Birthday Bash @ Stella's Pinball Arcade & Lounge, Stella's Pinball Arcade & Lounge, 7 pm -11:30 pm
Steely Dead, Aggie Theatre, 5 pm
The Little Dog Laughed, Bas Bleu Theatre: 401 Pine St, Fort Collins, CO 80524, 7:30 pm

Venture Still w/ Wendy Woo Band and Wild Indigo, 830 North, 8 pm

Sunday, February 20
CBDB w/ The Sunken Signals, 830 North, 8 pm
Gone Gear Gala (A Benefit for Stolen Gear), Your Mom's House, 7 pm -12 am
Sunday Morning Toast and Jams, Soul Squared Tap house, 11 am -2 pm
The Little Dog Laughed, Bas Bleu Theatre: 401 Pine St, Fort Collins, CO 80524, 2:30 pm
Zachary Williams, Aggie Theatre, 8 pm -11:45 pm

Monday, February 21
Momma's Electronic Mondays 2/21, Your Mom's House, 8 pm -12 am
UNC Concert Choir, Chamber Choir & Women's Glee Concert, University of Northern Colorado, Campus Commons Performance Hall, 7:30 pm

Tuesday, February 22
UNC Bands: Chamber Winds Concert, University of Northern Colorado, Campus Commons Performance Hall, 7:30 pm

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

Thursday, February 24
OtterJ Cruising Party / A Sleazy Underwear Nite, Hi-Dive, 9 pm -2 am
RFC Networking Luncheon - Tilted Barrel Brew Pub, Tilted Barrel Brew Pub, 11:30 am -1 pm
Sports - Get A Good Look World Tour, Aggie Theatre, 8 pm
Women of Bass, Your Mom's House, 8 pm -2 am

Friday, February 25
Greeley Does Drag! Moxi Theater, 6 pm -11:30 pm
Indigo Jones with Dzirae Gold + Brooklynn + Janae @ The Black Buzzard, The Black Buzzard, 8 pm -11:30 pm
Level Up Rap Battle: Freestyle Rap Battle at Stella's, Stella's Pinball Arcade & Lounge, 8 pm -12 am
The Songwriter's Living Room: Writers in the Round, Roots Music Project,

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CROSSWORD SOLUTION

CHECK OUT THE CROSSWORD PUZZLE ON PAGE 15

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SODOKU SOLUTION

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NORTHERN COLORADO

Poudre Schools Mask Mandate Lifted

NORTH FORTY NEWS | NorthFortyNews.com

Poudre School District (PSD) lifted the District's Mask Mandate on February 11. This decision aligns with the Larimer County Department of Health and Environment's announcement no longer ordering masks in public, indoor spaces.

Please note: Masks may still need to be worn in certain cases, as required by public health guidance or federal mandate.

Public health officials still recommend wearing masks, and ask that everyone treats one another with dignity and respect, whether they choose to wear one or not.

Masks will still be required in some settings, according to public health guidance for schools. PSD is still awaiting finalized guidance from the

health department, but masks will still be required in at least the following instances but not limited to:

On school buses, according to a federal mandate. Students may not get on a bus without a mask.

In Early Childhood Education classrooms and facilities, according to federal mandate.

Those positive or required to quarantine for COVID must isolate for five full days and return on day six only if symptoms are improving; they must wear a mask on days six through 10, according to state and county health guidance.

PSD will communicate further after we receive and evaluate updated guidance. Additionally, we will monitor

PSD-specific and Larimer County data to understand the effects of this change. PSD health and safety protocols will continue, including contact tracing in high-risk settings (such as athletics, band, choir), following health department guidelines. Please keep students experiencing illness symptoms home from school.

State and county projections show a reduction in COVID-related cases due to vaccinations and increased community immunity. That said, PSD still faces challenges like staffing shortages and outbreaks that could prompt shifts to remote learning.

Each of us is responsible for the health and safety of our community.

Increased Emergency SNAP Benefits Continue

NORTH FORTY NEWS

All Coloradans who receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits will continue to receive the maximum monthly amount of funds in February.

SNAP serves more than 250,000 households and 499,000 individuals in Colorado each month, providing money to purchase food in low-income households.

Colorado has met the criteria needed to request this extra assistance and the federal government has approved emergency allotment, also known as max allotment, every month since March of 2020. This gives SNAP recipients additional money for food during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The CDHS Food and Energy Assistance Division (FEAD) administers the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

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COVER STORY

Colorado Sends 24 Athletes to 2022 Winter Olympic Games

JONSON KUHN | NorthFortyNews.com

Well, as I'm sure you may know by now, the 2022 Winter Olympic Games got started in Beijing earlier this month on February 4, but what you might not know is that this year Colorado is excited and proud to have 24 Coloradans competing on the U.S. Olympic Team???

Just in case you weren't aware of that fun little fact, it's totally cool because North Forty has you covered by providing a complete list of every athlete's names. And those athletes are: Nina O'Brien, Denver, alpine skiing; River Radamus, Edwards, alpine skiing; Mikaela Shiffrin, Edwards, alpine skiing; Hailey Swirbul, El Jebel cross-country skiing; Brandon Frazier, Colorado Springs, figure skating; Aaron Blunck, Crested Butte, freestyle/freeski; Hanna Faulhaber, Basalt, freestyle/freeski; Alex Ferreira, Aspen, freestyle/freeski; Birk Irving, Winter Park, freestyle/freeski; Dylan Walczyk, Blue River, freestyle/freeski; Nicholas Shore, Denver, ice hockey; Nicole Hensley, Lakewood, ice hockey; Taylor Fletcher, Steamboat Springs, nordic combined; Jasper Good, Steamboat Springs,

nordic combined; Chris Corning, Avon, snowboarding; Mick Dierdorff, Steamboat Springs, snowboarding; Lucas Foster, Telluride, snowboarding; Stacy Gaskill, Golden, snowboarding; Red Gerard, Silverthorne, snowboarding; Taylor Gold, Steamboat Springs, snowboarding; Hagen Kearney, Norwood, snowboarding; Meghan Tierney, Eagle, snowboarding; Cody Winters, Steamboat Springs, snowboarding; Decker Dean, Steamboat Springs, ski jumping.

So far, figure skater Brandon Frazier, along with partner Alexa Knierim, are favorites in the figure skating pairs. Though the two train in California, Frazier calls Colorado Springs his hometown.

Frazier tested positive for COVID-19 and had to withdraw from the U.S. Figure Skating Championships and then was left with no other option but to petition for a spot at the Winter Games.

Frazier told the Associated Press, "I never imagined it like it actually went down last night," and when the petition was finally granted he "hugged the crap" out of his pillow in the hotel room. Frazier



Team USA (File Photo)

went on to earn a silver medal in the Figure Skating Team Event.

Freestyle skier, Jaelin Kauf, is a Vail native but now calls Wyoming home. She competed for the first time in Olympic Games in 2018 in PyeongChang and placed seventh, according to Team USA.

Kauf is a Steamboat Springs Winter Sports Club member and an expert in moguls, which should come as no surprise seeing how both her parents were previously on the pro mogul team. Kauf finished second Sunday in freestyle moguls and will bring home a silver medal.

U.S. Colorado Senator Michael Bennet, along with Senators Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.), and Mitt Romney (R-Utah)

are united in a bipartisan resolution that honors Team USA Olympic athletes competing in the 2022 Winter Games; Bennet and Klobuchar are currently serving as co-chairs of the bipartisan Senate Olympic Caucus, and here's what Bennet had to say about this year's games and Colorado's involvement.

"The Olympics are incredibly important to Colorado. Our state not only hosts the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee, but also has the second-highest number of athletes representing America this year. As the games begin, the Senate affirms its support for the American delegation and its commitment to excellence, teamwork, and fair competition. We wish them the best of luck."

OBITUARY

Northern Colorado Remembers Katherine M. "Kathy" Brott



two children Jerry and Karen, the couple later divorced.

On January 12, 1986, she married Larry Brott, gaining two stepson Mark and Larry Dean. Following their marriage, they made their home in Lakewood, Colorado until April of 1990 when they moved to Coffeyville after purchasing the Bowling Center and opening The Zone. They operated the Bowling Center until selling it in 2001 but continued to operate The Zone until 2021. For many years they operated a bowling lane refinishing company.

Kathy was a member of the Dearing Christian Church. She enjoyed bowling traveling to many out-of-town tournaments, cooking, cleaning, loved music and singing she took voice lessons when she was young. She also enjoyed being outside going on walks with Larry and their dogs. And loved spending time with her family.

Survivors include her daughter, Karen

Lindesmith and husband, Rick of Coffeyville, her son, Jerry Meisner and wife, Monica of Fort Collins, Colorado, her step-son, Mark Brott and wife, Rebecca of Star, Idaho; three brothers, Roy Nace and wife, Wanda of Coffeyville, Alfred Nace of Liberty, Missouri, and Chas Nace and wife Lynette of Portland, Oregon; thirteen grandchildren, Mary, Joseph, David, Desire, Jacob, Rebecca, Lucas, Anthony, Wyatt, Dallas, Jeremy, Brittany, and Elizabeth; and twelve great-grandchildren, Chase, Matthew, Hailee, Lunarae, Sawyer, Lenora, Ethan, Owen, Gabe, Trinity, James, and Bentley.

Kathy was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, Larry Brott in 2020, one stepson Larry Dean Brott, one grandson Nick, and one brother Robert Nace.

A Memorial Service celebrating Kathy's life was held, Monday, February 7, 2022, at the Dearing Christian Church.

RURAL

Poudre Valley REA Announces Another Rate Decrease

NORTH FORTY NEWS | NorthFortyNews.com

Poudre Valley REA (PVREA) members can expect to see a cumulative rate decrease of 2.8 percent applied to their March electric bills. PVREA members will soon pay less for their electricity per kWh than they did back in 2013.

PVREA Board Directors approved two separate rate reductions in 2021, an earlier rate reduction approved in April 2021 and this current rate reduction, both average about 1.4 percent each. The cumulative rate decrease of 2.8 percent is shown as a power cost adjustment (PCA) line item on member bills. A PCA allows PVREA to expedite savings for homes and businesses in Northern Colorado as opposed to a lengthy rate change process.

Currently, PVREA has the lowest cooperative residential electric rate in the state of Colorado thanks in part to the previously announced rate decrease. With the addition of another 1.4 percent reduction in rates, PVREA will also have some of the lowest residential electric rates in the state among all types of electric providers including municipalities and investor-owned utilities (IOU).

"Our Board has a strategic focus on safeguarding the affordability of our products and services for the members they represent," said Jeff Wadsworth, President and CEO, of PVREA. "To that end, our employee team takes great pride in fulfilling that obligation daily. Combined with another rate decrease in our wholesale power costs from our

cooperative power supplier, Tri-State, we successfully lowered rates again for our membership."

The energy mix of PVREA is becoming increasingly green, allowing the cooperative to deliver more clean and affordable power to their members. As PVREA progresses towards reaching its 80 by 30 goal, the cooperative anticipates stable rates and reliable service through a diverse energy portfolio of renewable resources and baseload power.

PVREA is committed to reliably delivering its products and services to members. While the cooperative has successfully lowered rates, PVREA has also effectively improved reliability metrics that measure outage durations and restoration times.

"We ended 2021 with our best year on record for our reliability measurements, and we're not stopping there," Wadsworth said. "Our cooperative is committed to be the partner our members can depend on now and into the future."

Poudre Valley REA Board Directors approved the first recorded rate decrease for all members on April 27, 2021.

The 1.4 percent rate reduction equaled an annual cost savings of about \$1.8 million across the PVREA membership.

The rate reduction took effect in May of that year and resulted in lower bills for most members in June 2021.

Visit pvrea.coop for more information.

THE BACK PAGE

U.S. PRESIDENTS

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| <p>ACROSS</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Short for specification Knave *Like President Eisenhower's head *One fourth of a Presidential term Take-out handout The Beast's problem in "Beauty and the Beast" *Pres. Eisenhower established this space agency Thought Body of water *#22 and #24 First-rate, slangily Terminate, as in mission Lingerie staple Public speaker Ivory tickler "Fresh Prince of _____-Air" Most likely to win Pot contribution By surprise Indian restaurant staple Lacking justification Office communique Greece and Bulgaria peninsula Overnight stop Indifferently Sturdily built English course abbreviation "_____ ' it easy" Oliver Twist, e.g. *University of Virginia founder African prairie *Second most-popular Presidential birth state, after Virginia Arm bone Poem at a funeral German title Arnold Lobel's "Mouse _____" High school club Clinton _____ Rodham Hitler's Deputy | <p>DOWN</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Update a FitBit Sound of bells "At _____, soldier." Modern tie forerunner Aromatic lumber Beside, archaic Two of the same *The only President who was a bachelor _____ 51, Nevada Law school entry requirement, acr. Bear's room Edith Piaf's hit Meat of coconut Digital tome Trash container, e.g. *One of three Presidents to win a Grammy James Dean's famous role Remember this battle *First to serve coast to coast Indo-Aryan, as in languages Did not smell good Like yellow polka dot bikini June 6, 1944 Salt in cocina *a.k.a. Silent Cal Loosen ropes Deli acronym _____ help Hawaii's number Mob offensive High-pitched laugh sound, in print Like Bananas Foster "All's well that ends _____" Away from wind *Second most common Presidential first name, after James Type of gin Cross to bear Midday slumbers Chill, with 'out' |
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	3		7			9		2
	1	3	5		6	4		
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