

Diagonal project planning continues

By KATE MISSETT
Editorial@lhvc.com

Planning continues for the State Highway 119 (the Diagonal) Multimodal Improvements Project, which began in 2014. The project will add express toll and bus lanes to the heavily used highway, and bike paths will be added to the medians. A transit station and park-and-ride improvements will also be part of the project.

The partners developing the project include the Boulder County Department of Transportation, the Regional Transportation District (RTD), the cities of Longmont and Boulder, and Commuting Solutions, an organization dedicated to both biking and motorized vehicles being able to not only get around our area, but to do so amicably and safely.

Construction for this project is not expected to begin until 2023, and with temporary construction impacts, travel/commute times might be impacted on the heavily traveled highway. No highway closure is predicted, and any foreseen temporary disruptions to traffic flow will be announced in advance so the public may choose alternate routes.

The project will stretch from 28th Street at Canyon Boulevard in Boulder, where public transportation passengers can connect to the downtown Boulder RTD Bus Station to transfer to other routes, to Coffman Street in Longmont, where improvements also will be made. Boulder Rapid Transit (BRT) stations will be added along the route, including at Niwot.

A continuous bikeway will

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City of Boulder Creative Neighborhood project moves into Gunbarrel

By HANNAH STEWART
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The City of Boulder first passed the Community Culture and Safety tax in 2014, and the funds from this tax went toward supporting local cultural projects--many of which were related to public art and public open spaces such as Boulder Creek, Chautauqua and others.

The original tax expired in 2017, but was renewed for a four-year period. The funds still support city facilities and infrastructure as well as cultural projects; one such project is the Community Neighborhoods: Murals Program.

This program was created as a way to support public art, especially of local artists. Muralists from the Front Range



Courtesy Photo

"Specifically for Gunbarrel, this is kind of our first opportunity to bring programming from the Office of Arts and Culture," said Public Art administrator Mandy Vink. "We're always looking to expand out there."

are invited to apply to the program and are then listed on a roster of about 200 artists who are then paired with property owners who host the mural.

"Public art often is focused on downtown," said Mandy Vink, the public art administrator. "This was another way to get creative investments out of

just downtown Boulder."

Vink said the Public Art Program has often found partnership opportunities with corporate and other public places--including underpasses--but that residential areas are a great opportunity for public art for multiple reasons. Not only do the residential murals bring a new sense of character to a neighborhood, but they also provide the opportunity for neighbors to get to know each other better.

"We want [residential property owners] to think, 'What kind of art do I want to share with my neighbors, my community?'" she said. "By having creative opportunities

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Ancient runes in Gunbarrel...?

...Sorta, but it won't lead to street repair any time soon

By MARY WOLBACH LOPERT
Editorial@lhvc.com

Several weeks ago, Gunbarrel Estates residents noticed several workers, along with their trucks, marking up the street. Thoughts immediately turned to street repair and the hope that Boulder County finally was going to do something about the deterioration of county subdivision roads.

Unfortunately, actual road repair is not in the current picture, according to Communications Specialist and Public Information Officer for Boulder County Public Works Andrew Barth.

"We like to keep an eye on basic quality of all the roads we're working with in case we do need to work there," Barth



Photo by Mary Wolbach Lopert

Not exactly ancient runes, but the code helps indicate where there are issues in the unincorporated Boulder County subdivision roads. This photo shows a bubble in the asphalt on Gunbarrel Road in Gunbarrel Estates.

said. "We routinely go in and check, even subdivision roads, for conditions and what you saw, subsurface conditions. You have to know not just what the asphalt looks like, but what the ground underneath it is doing."

Barth said that some unincorporated Boulder County subdivisions have asked what would it take to repair their roads? Barth said the information collected from field

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AND THEN THERE'S 71ST STREET

For anyone who has driven down 71st Street between Lookout Road and Hwy. 52, you know it's a torturous trip. While road crews were present during the spring moving poles and marking for utilities and pipes, all work has stopped.

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Community Calendar

COMMUNITY MURAL

The Mwebaza Foundation is creating a community mural to help support their partner schools in Uganda during the COVID-19 pandemic. To participate, purchase a 6x6 or 12x12 canvas and add your own original artwork. The canvases will later be stitched together and sent to the students overseas. To purchase online, visit the Mwebaza Foundation website's

[summer fundraiser page](#). Pick up will be available at Colorado Landmark Realtors, 1002 Griffith St. in Louisville after July 15. Starting June 26, canvases will also be sold at Niwot Market each Friday, from 10:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. Check back on Mwebaza's [website](#), Instagram (@mwebaza-foundation), or Facebook (The Mwebaza Foundation) for more info.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The City of Boulder is recruiting volunteers for a variety of programs. Current programs and services in critical need of volunteers include: COVID-19 Recovery Center, Park Champ Program, and Natural Lands Outreach Volunteer Program. Community members interested in volunteering can learn more at boulder.colorado.gov/volunteer

and sign up at countmein.boulder.colorado.gov/getinvolved. For questions, contact volunteer@boulder.colorado.gov.

CALL FOR PANDEMIC RELATED MATERIALS

The Niwot Historical Society needs your help. In order to document the 2020 coronavirus pandemic for future generations of Niwotians, the NHS is asking local residents to submit a short

letter describing how their lives have changed in recent weeks, and how they kept busy during the quarantine. To submit your reflections electronically, send an email to info@niwothistoricalsociety.org. The NHS will also be accepting hard copy submissions later this year. All will be included in a notebook to be archived for future researchers. For more information, please visit <https://niwothistoricalsociety.org/>.

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Letter to the Editor

Cookie Moms receive letter of thanks

Greetings from Italy,

Thank you for taking the time and sending tasty sweets to our Soldiers in Italy; they enjoyed the homemade cookies. I attached a picture of the MPs getting ready to work the swing shift and sending their regards. Thank you again, and take care!

Ulises Gastelum
MSG, USA
Provost Sergeant
Directorate of Emergency Services
USAG Italy



Courtesy Photo

Troops stationed in Italy sent this picture and a letter to say thank you to the Cookie Moms who send care packages on a regular basis. The letter was sent after the package was delivered around the Fourth of July.

COMMUNITY PET SPOTLIGHT

Sponsored by Niwot Rental & Feed



Meet Chloe - This delightful girl is nine-years-old and still quite peppy for a senior dog. Given time to warm-up, Chloe becomes very affectionate and enjoys being close to her people. Chloe can live with another dog though is looking a kitty free home with high school age or older children, please.

Call (303)772-1232 or email info@longmonthumane.org to learn more about Ms. Chloe or to set-up an appointment to come in for a visit today!

We look forward to seeing your pets in our Spotlight. Please send your photos and a brief description to editorial@LHVC.com.

Missett joins Courier staff as columnist, reporter



Courtesy Photo

The Courier's new staff member Kate Missett and her husband Terry Granger moved to Niwot from Wyoming. Missett will be a columnist and reporter for the Courier.

STAFF REPORT
Editorial@lhvc.com

Kate Missett is the Left Hand Valley Courier's newest staffer. Missett, who moved to Niwot in April after nearly 60 years in Wyoming, has remarked that while some people were born with a silver spoon in their mouths, she was born with printer's ink in her veins. She was two when she first started a newspaper press.

Missett comes from a newspaper family. Her father, William J. Missett, was publisher of the Casper, Wyoming Star-Tribune, and that is where she began learning the trade. Her four brothers were also in the news business; one was a newspaper

editor, one was the youngest newspaper publisher in the US at age 26, one was a production foreman, and her youngest brother, lovingly known as the black sheep of the family, was a CBS-TV reporter. Her son is also a published author.

She has been a newspaper reporter and columnist, as well as associate editor of Wyoming Wildlife, the magazine of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, and editor of a University of Wyoming's Wyoming Issues magazine.

She has also edited numerous newsletters, including a brief stint for the Pentagon, worked in advertising design, and written and recorded numerous radio spots

for a public library in Wyoming.

Missett will be a regular columnist and occasional reporter for the Courier, said Bruce Warren, Managing Editor of the publication.

"We are excited to have Kate Missett join our staff at the Courier," Warren said. "Although she is new to Niwot, she brings a wealth of journalism experience. Readers will enjoy Kate's columns, her insight, and her ability to capture the essence of the community in new and interesting ways."

Missett is also a "Squirrel Whisperer" who hand-feeds some of Niwot's squirrels. She and her husband, Terry Granger, love living in Niwot.

Niwot entrepreneur pivots his medical business to supply PPE

By PATRICIA LOGAN
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The market for personal protective equipment, or PPE, operates like the Wild West, as Niwot entrepreneur Dave Rechberger explains it.

He leveraged his contacts in the medical business and got into the chaotic market early this year when there became a critical need for PPE for medical providers who couldn't get masks and other equipment due to major shortages, supply chain disruptions, fierce competition and unscrupulous actors working under the shadow of the coronavirus pandemic.

The owner of Disruptive MedTech said the market has stabilized somewhat, but with cases of COVID-19 steadily

rising in the U.S., there is a renewed sense of urgency, tight supplies and plenty of problems to be solved.

"We saw a need and we jumped in and went after it," Rechberger said.

He and his partners were already in the business of manufacturing custom medical equipment along with fulfillment and distribution of various medical products to the healthcare industry. In January, they talked with doctors and recognized there was a crisis coming. Disruptive MedTech was not in the best position at the time. It serves the market for elective surgeries, which were being cut back to make room in hospitals for COVID patients.

But the company was well

positioned in other ways. Rechberger worked in Asia and has offices overseas. He has medical manufacturing contacts in China and understands how to import.

"We had a very, very fortunate supply chain in Disruptive MedTech," he said.

He also had the customer relationships in the medical

field and a system already in place to get products to them. Rechberger made a laser-quick decision to pivot his business toward supplying face shields, three-ply surgical masks, washable cotton masks, intubation enclosures and gloves.

By February, Disruptive MedTech was importing and distributing desperately need-

ed PPE. The company focused on a niche market that wasn't well-served - organizations like Hover Community, a senior living facility in Longmont, a women and children's health clinic in Wyoming and smaller hospitals.

Those organizations don't

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Niwot High School students win international award

By JESSE MURPHY
Editorial@lhvc.com

Two Niwot High School students made their voices heard in an international competition with their performance of "[I Am The One \(reprise\)](#)."

Soon-to-be NHS seniors Jazz Mueller and Grable Howie moved from the state level and beyond before the pandemic changed the way competitions were being held.

"It kind of ended up evening the playing field," Howie said. "For us, it didn't matter what was happening. We were going to take every opportunity we had. When we got invited to submit a video for it, we of course accepted."

"We had some success at the state level and we dove into [it] even further, did more character work and just small detail for the international performance. I think we really progressed in terms of our understanding of the characters and the complexity of the song. I'm proud of the work we did."

The video they submitted to the invitation-only event was filmed in Erie with the help of NHS drama/theater director Katie Foulke and her husband Ben Foulke. Both Mueller and Howie said that Foulke and choir director Laura Walters have had a huge impact on their performances.

"A lot of the thanks goes to our wonderful director Mrs. Foulke. She helped us a lot through this process and I don't

think we could have done it without her or Mrs. Walters," Mueller said. "In the past few years I think Niwot's theater program has been average. This is her first year here and I feel like she's come and raised it to a whole new level with the performances we did this year. She took us under her wings and saw the potential and wants to make sure we get to where we want to be. She's done an excellent job of helping us."

Their video was named runner-up for the International Thespian Award for their musical theater duet at the festival, and both said they're going to keep going through their senior year and beyond.

"We both plan to compete at least at the state level this year," Mueller said. "I think we're both going to do solo monologue, musical theater duets and solo theater. We both want to pursue some sort of performing after high school. I want to get more into the acting aspect."

Their performance was just one of eight performances out of thousands of submissions that were chosen to be viewed at the event.

"It all starts with picking the right songs," Howie said. "We went through a bunch of them, and with our director's help we ended up picking the 'I Am The One (reprise)'. From there, it was just lots and lots of practice. We performed it hundreds of times."



Courtesy Photo

Grable Howie (left) and Jazz Mueller rock their shades. The two recently took runner-up in an international musical theater competition.



Courtesy Photo

From left, NHS choir director Laura Walters, Grable Howie, Jazz Mueller and drama teacher/director Kathryn Foulke.





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Graduation information for Niwot High School

STAFF REPORT
Editorial@lhvc.com

Niwot High School has announced plans for an official graduation ceremony for the class of 2020.

In a letter sent out to students and parents, NHS principal Eric Rauschkolb thanked everyone for their support through health concerns and the unconventional end to the school year.

"We know that this year did not end in the way that anyone expected, however, as we look ahead to our official graduation ceremony, we could not be more excited to celebrate the outstanding students in our 2020 graduating class," Rauschkolb said in the letter.

He stated that through working with local health authorities, the plan for the graduation event has been approved for 9 a.m. on July 25 at the Niwot High School football field, located at 8989 Niwot Road.

There are, however, stipulations to the event, including the following, as listed in the letter from the school:

- "Graduates will be limited to two guests per student. To ensure we stay within our approved event capacity and social distancing restrictions, guests should reside in the same household as their graduate. It is important to know that District leadership has been negotiating the graduation process for weeks with our local health department and strongly advocated for multiple scenarios which would have allowed for

more guests in the stadium during the graduation. Ultimately, this is the plan that met BCPH's mandated social distancing space calculator, and allowed for our seniors to graduate together in one ceremony in the safest manner possible. Our only other option was to include more guests, but split the graduating class into separate smaller groups with multiple ceremonies.

- "All graduates, families, and staff must wear face coverings when entering and exiting the stadium and during any transitions within the ceremony. We have ordered special masks for our graduates to wear that celebrate their school pride.
- "Due to strict county health agency restrictions, all seating will be assigned at this year's graduation and graduates will sit on the field with their two household guests. Per Boulder County Health Department regulations, all household groups will be spaced a minimum of 12 feet apart. This spacing allows for the movement of graduates during the ceremony.
- "We ask that any students, staff, or family members who are exhibiting symptoms of any illness to remain at home.
- "Students and staff will arrive in the graduation robes and caps to eliminate the need for gathering before the ceremony.
- "Per county health agency

regulations, congregating before or after the ceremony will not be permitted on district property.

- "Per county health agency regulations, we will not be able to hold a practice ceremony and will be sharing

detailed logistical information for students and their household guests once it has been finalized.

- "The graduation event will also be live-streamed for students or family members who cannot attend,

are exhibiting symptoms, or who may be sensitive to the July heat. Live-stream links will be provided closer to July 25."

Rauschkolb said that any questions can be directed to the school at 303-652-2550.



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Boulder Country Club reopens food service after four COVID cases

By PATRICIA LOGAN
Editorial@lhvc.com

Food is being served again on the patio of Boulder Country Club. The club's restaurant closed for about 11 days at the end of June when four of its kitchen staff tested positive for the coronavirus. All four employees had mild cases of COVID-19, according to General Manager Mike Larson. At least two are recovered and back at work.

The club initially had two cases and, by law, had to report them to Boulder County Public Health. "The health department has been really good," Larson said. BCPH gave him guidance on how to handle the situation, which is technically considered an outbreak since more than two people were affected.

The dining operations were shut down, the club did a deep sanitizing and the health department worked on contact

tracing. Employees who had possible exposure were asked to get tested. That's when the other two cases were identified.

BCC had been doing temperature checks and taking other precautions before the outbreak. But medical experts say the virus can be contagious before symptoms show up, or a person can be asymptomatic. Workplace outbreaks have become more common since the state began opening more businesses and services. "It's going to happen," Larson said.

Larson said he has received more positive than negative comments from the membership.

"They appreciated the fact that we did all the safety precautions," Larson said. "We know we have got to be careful. We have a lot of high risk clients with our membership. I'm first and foremost concerned about safety for members, staff and guests."

Free shipping

Kate Missett
Editorial@lhvc.com

You've all seen the commercials that say, "Free Shipping." Well, I'm here to tell you that there is no such thing. You pay for it, it's just hidden in the cost of the items you are buying.

Similarly, I get "bonus points" on my Amazon credit card when I make purchases on Amazon. They're not bonus points, folks; the amount of money they represent are already covered in the prices I'm paying to Amazon. Yeah, I enjoy using those points, but I'm not deluding myself by thinking they are a freebie.

It's just like the saying, "There's no such thing as a free lunch." Or a free dinner. Many times you may have seen offers of a "free" lunch or dinner, usually offered by a for-profit company. The meal may be "free," but you have to sit through what is sometimes a long, high-pressure sales pitch.

The Atlantic ran a story recently about free shipping. It's the story of a woman named Ann Miceli, who happened to buy feather earrings, and, after inspecting them, decided she could make both the earrings and feather hair extensions herself.

She started a part-time business, selling her creations on a popular online website. She sold over 30,000 of her wares

and was able to stop working as a mechanic, which enabled her to stay at home and watch her grandchildren.

But then the website started pushing sellers who guaranteed free shipping, and she was bumped down on the website, and she was told to raise the price of her goods. Others on the same site were able to absorb the extra cost, but Miceli was just barely making a profit as it was. She and the website were in disagreement over what she should do.

Big companies, like Amazon, where I have shopped for over 18 years, starting back when Jeff Bezos, the founder of Amazon and now the world's richest man, would actually answer an email himself, are making a killing.

Once, my loyalty to the company even paid off, when I made a suggestion to Bezos about the site, and he rewarded me with a \$25 credit. Unfortunately, he never followed through on my suggestion, which has caused me to inadvertently pay more than \$25 for worthless goods, not even worth the trouble of returning to Amazon.

Meanwhile, "free shipping" has become something consumers expect and demand, and The Atlantic article said it might mean the end of neighborhood Mom and Pop shops. The ideal situation for online commerce is

when people spend money and don't even feel it.

It's not like when you are in a store and have cash, but have to count your cash to make sure you have enough to pay for an item you want; online, all you have to do is "buy now," or save the item in your cart or basket, and you don't even notice the money slipping away. At least not until you get your credit card bill, but even that is so easy to pay; just click a button and it's done. It's not at all like evaluating your check register and having to decide how much you can pay.

This is known as the "pain of paying," which doesn't resemble the ease of clicking on a "buy now" button. Most companies must figure the sales tax for where you live. And it all seems painless.

If you don't think business is booming for the online retailers, consider this: The Atlantic article estimated the US Postal Service delivered 800 million packages last Christmas. FedEx is going to start delivering on Sundays all year. Big retailers like Amazon can see something called the "economy of scale;" the more they sell, the less their overall expenditure, and the greater their profits, because the more they ship, the lower their shipping costs are.

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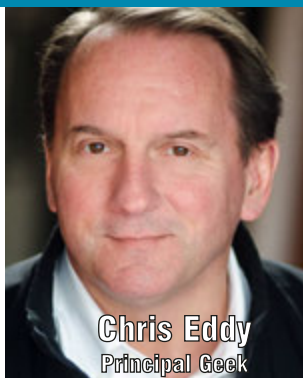
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MURAL

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like Creative Neighborhoods, it strengthens relationships throughout the neighborhood and then the city."

For residential owners, part of the application process is reaching out to neighbors to ensure residents are on-board with the decision. With this mutual agreement, it is thought that interpersonal ties will increase and the community mindset will help the community become more resilient should events, like the 2013 flood or the current pandemic, arise again.

Vink and others with the Creative Neighborhoods program are optimistic that the mural program, in particular, will continue. One reason for this optimism is interest from Gunbarrel neighborhoods.

"Gunbarrel has always been an area of focus, but it has been a little tricky to find applicants there. There are just so many HOAs that

(make it difficult). We tried to figure out which areas are still missing murals or public art investment," Vink said. "There's actually a muralist in Gunbarrel and she applied to do a mural, so it's going to be on the city's public infrastructure."

The proposed Gunbarrel mural will be an underpass painted with wolves, honoring the 8 p.m. howl that honors the COVID workers. Vink said that the Creative Neighborhoods Program is enthusiastic about this particular mural because it is a very physical representation of the program's expansion.

"We're very excited about the opportunity to grow into our neighborhoods and not just be a downtown experience for our community."

The 2020 program is still open for applications through July 15. For more information, please visit <https://boulderarts.org/public-art/murals/creative-neighborhoods-mural-program/>

DIAGONAL

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not only be included in this construction, but will connect to other popular bikeways from Longmont to Boulder.

Projected costs for this project range from \$230-250 million and money is set aside for it as it becomes available.

The plan was conceived because of the current heavy

traffic of nearly 50,000 vehicles per day, which is predicted to rise to 60,000-plus vehicles per day by 2040. A 33% increase in transit ridership is also predicted.

Because this is a multi-community project, public input, including from Niwot residents, is encouraged.

For more information and updates, readers are invited to go to the Commuting Solutions and RTD's SH119 websites.

FREE SHIPPING

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You may wonder why my Amazon shipping is "free" and I get bonus points every month. It is because every year, I pay \$119 to belong to Amazon Prime. Belonging to Amazon Prime means I get "free" shipping and can watch many "free" movies.

Because of the bite out of

her income, Ann Miceli now has to work part-time at local restaurants and bars. She said that, obviously, some people are winning at the "free" shipping game, but she doesn't know who they are. You better believe that they are not you, me or our neighbors.

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RUNES

Continued from Page 1

reports, as was done in Gunbarrel Estates, will give a more accurate cost for re-

pairs.

He restated that the bottom line is the county will help with preliminary estimates of cost and designs, but county subdivision homeowners are responsible for

footing the bill, per county policy.

As the Courier reported in the Sept. 4, 2019 issue, there is a movement for a ballot initiative to create a Public Improvement District (PID)

to fund subdivision road repair in Boulder County.

Pinebrook Hills resident Peter King-Smith has helped to establish the Subdivision Paving Coalition (SPC) www.subdivisionpaving.org. SPC is a group of residents, companies and various organizations that want to "renew focus on resolving (the) seemingly never-ending quarter-century old issue of funding for subdivision roads in Boulder County."

The group is looking "to secure fair and affordable County-wide funding, including potential ballot initiatives, and to assist the County Commissioners and Transportation Department throughout the planning and implementation of rehabilitation and maintenance for Boulder County subdivision roads."

Smith-King said while his number one preference is for the commissioners to provide funding for road repair in any county-wide measure. Failing that, he wants public works, formally known as the transportation department, to include funding for subdivision roads. If both of those measures fail, Smith-King feels the only other choice is to put together a ballot initiative as they did in 2016.

In February, Smith-King was told that neither the commissioners nor public works would include the requested funding, but that both entities would work with him in creating a ballot initiative.

"We haven't really gotten together with them since then basically due to the COVID pandemic situation," Smith-King said.

Smith-King said the primary goal is finding a source of funding. There was talk of funding by a sales tax and other means. He said, "I think the way this would work is that it would be funded by a property tax, but it would result in a PID." Funds paid into a PID are tax deductible, which Smith-King views as a major advantage.

While the funding requested for the 2016 ballot initiative was \$6.25 per \$100,000 of

assessed property value, in the next initiative Smith-King is looking for \$8 per \$100,000 of assessed value. He would not support public works if the county came back asking for \$10 per \$100,000 of assessed value.

Since there are several large tax measures going on the 2020 ballot, Smith-King is looking at a ballot initiative in 2021 or, failing that, 2022.

He hopes the SPC is able to create a member list of individuals and entities that will actively support funding. Smith-King said, before the pandemic hit, "We ended up with like 15 or 20 of the largest subdivisions, they're primarily the ones with HOAs, because not all (subdivisions) have that. ...Everyone we approached has joined and is pretty actively involved in the SPC."

In addition to the subdivisions, the SPC has contacted fire departments serving unincorporated Boulder County and anyone that is concerned about public safety. While recruitment has slowed down due to COVID, the goal is to have a representative from each of 120 subdivisions in unincorporated Boulder County along with public safety organizations.

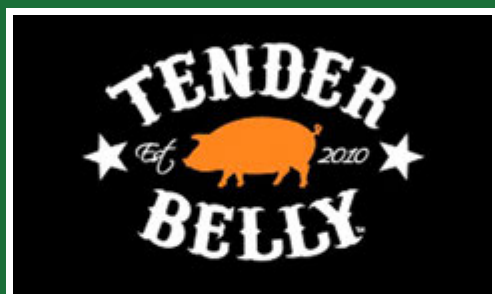
With two of the three commissioner's seats up for election, Smith-King said the SPC's goal, prior to the election, is to meet with each of the candidates and force them to take a stand on repaving. Those answers will be published when available.

In terms of total cost for road repair and the cost of the diagnostic work being done in Gunbarrel Estates, Barth said, "I was told the number hadn't been updated in a while and would take some work to formulate, so I don't have anything at this time. The company we're using for advance design work has a general 'not to exceed X dollars' contract that is awarded annually to assist with this specialized type of work that we cannot complete. We're billed for the services after they are completed, so I don't have that number either."



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PPE

Continued from Page 3

have the need, space or money to buy PPE in massive quantities, something major suppliers often require, according to Rechberger.

"If you need a box of 50, you just couldn't get that in the market space," Rechberger said. "We were able to take our large purchasing capability and supply 50, 100, 2000 at a time versus 500,000 at a time."

The competition for PPE has been fierce. That made organizations vulnerable to shady sellers looking to take advantage of a desperate situation.

"Everybody turned into a PPE supplier," Rechberger said. "All these hospitals were being inundated with fake products or random calls. Nobody knew what was real and what was not real. We always took the position that if we don't have it in inventory, it doesn't exist. A lot of other companies made promises that they couldn't keep. There was a lot of scamming and some unethical interactions as things were getting crazy."

With trust in short supply,

Rechberger's track record and relationships in the medical field made a difference for the company's customers. Hover Community in Longmont got PPE from Disruptive MedTech when it had few options.

"They have been able to secure the necessary PPE for our staff when other suppliers have run out," said Lisa Czolowski, CEO of the senior living community. She also noted the quick turnaround and quality of the products. Hover Community has only had one worker test positive and none of its residents have tested positive.

Disruptive MedTech may be in the perfect location to operate in the Wild West market of PPE - Laramie, Wyoming. That's where the manufacturing facility started and will soon expand once its new 6,000 square-foot building is ready to occupy later this year. The young company has been hiring. It will have 11 employees this year and plans to double the workforce next year.

There could be an even greater leap in the company's future. Rechberger is exploring the possibility of manufacturing face masks in the United States, rather than importing from China, which

makes the vast majority of the world's supply, he said.

It could be another opportunity to be the right business at the right time. Presidential candidate Joe Biden recently announced that if he's elected, he will shift to the United States the production of medicinal supplies and other critical goods and technology that come from overseas.

Peter Navarro, trade advisor to the Trump administration, said they are working to bring home medical supplies and equipment, admitting it is a challenge. Two weeks ago, the American Medical Association (AMA), asked the federal government to use the Defense Production Act to harness the U.S. industrial base to increase supplies of PPE on behalf of physicians.

"Without adequate PPE, physician practices may have to continue deferring care or remain closed, which will continue to have a dramatic impact on the health of their patients," wrote Dr. James Madara, CEO of the AMA. "For the health of patients, physicians, and staff, as well as the future sustainability of these practices, the federal government must do more to help navigate the challenges of securing PPE."

Rechberger said there are

a lot of good reasons for domestic production.

"From a geopolitical standpoint, if China decided to stop shipping, we have very limited places where we could purchase these," Rechberger said. "It also provides a surge capacity that, even if you're continuing to buy from Asia, it takes time to exercise those supply chains and to increase or decrease those demands in a very, very short period of time."

And, domestic manufacturing would make supplies less vulnerable to international terrorism, trade wars, transportation disruptions and other issues out of U.S. control.

The idea of domestic manufacturing has already been gaining traction, he said, accelerating because of the health crisis.

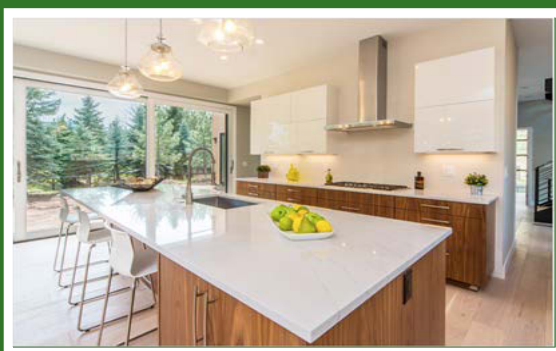
"Over (the) last five to six years, I've seen a big shift in

mentality on, 'How do we bring more of this stuff back to the U.S.?' And, how do we get more innovative and creative to bring costs down? That's really what it comes down to. How do you make it so you have a good liveable wage which is necessary in the United States? That's what we're going to figure out," he said.

Rechberger said his company is working with major strategic partners to make it happen, including some state governments. Whether he continues to import or moves into manufacturing, Rechberger said he's glad he has been able to fill a critical need by jumping into the PPE business. He plans to stick with it for the long haul. "We're pretty proud that we're able to help," he said.

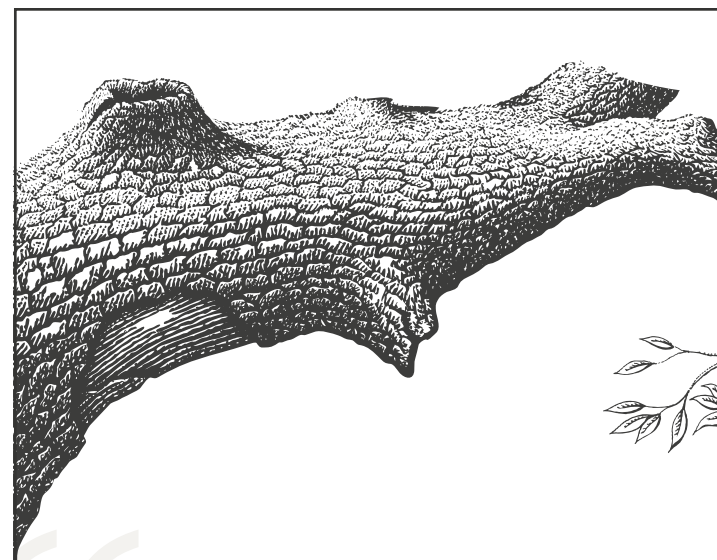
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Photos by Patricia Logan

Niwot held a sidewalk sale with live music on Saturday. It was the town's first public festivity since the pandemic began. See a slideshow with music [here](#).

Out in Leftfield

By BRUCE WARREN
Editorial@lhvc.com

GOLF

Kelsey Webster (Fairview) of Gunbarrel was named to the Women's Golf Coaches Association

All-American Scholar for the 2019-2020 season. Webster, a sophomore psychology major at the University of Colorado, posted a 77.58 stroke norm for 12 rounds. To be eligible for WGCA Golf All-American Scholar status, a golfer must have a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.50 (on a 4.0 scale) and must have played in 50 percent of the college's regularly scheduled competitive rounds during the season.

BASEBALL

Former Niwot High baseball coach Bob Bote, who resigned as Standley Lake head baseball coach prior to the 2020 season, served as an assistant coach at Ralston Valley during the

shortened 2020 season. Bote, whose son David Bote is an infielder with the Chicago Cubs, wanted to be able to follow his son's career without the responsibilities of a head coaching position. David Bote was hitting .333 in spring training after 10 games before the season was interrupted.

Several former Niwot High assistant coaches are continuing their coaching careers at the high school level. Jack Taylor, who grew up playing baseball in Gunbarrel for what is now the Niwot Youth Sports program, returned to the position of head coach at Boulder High School before the season was cut short. Mike Newton, former pitching coach at Niwot High, began his first season as a head coach at Erie High School this spring. Sam Distefano, who played at Niwot High, is the head coach at Holyoke High School in northeastern Colorado. Connor Messinger and Joe Wilson, both Niwot High



Courtesy photo

Ford Ladd, pitcher for NYU.

grads, are assistant coaches at their alma mater.

Skyler Messinger (Niwot) started all 17 games for the University of Kansas prior to the shutdown of the program. Messinger, who plays third base for the Jayhawks, hit .250

in the abbreviated season, with one homer and eight RBI's. He added four doubles, second on the team. In KU's last win of the season on March 6, Messinger had two hits and two RBI's in a 6-1 victory over Indiana State. Kansas closed the season with four straight losses to go 7-10 for the shortened season.

Jamie Hollowell (Niwot) continues in his role as the Colorado Rockies' analytics guru. Hollowell, who played college baseball at Haverford University, serves as Manager - Baseball Research & Development for the Rockies, a position he has held since January 2019. Prior to that Hollowell was a Data Architect for the Rockies for three years.

Ford Ladd (Niwot) hit .357 in a shortened senior season for New York University last spring. Ladd played all five games before the coronavirus caused a cancellation of the season, scoring three runs and posting three RBIs. Ladd was

primarily a first baseman, and also pitched one game, giving up six runs in five innings of a 7-2 loss to William Paterson March 5.

Mike Hoog (Niwot) is far removed from his days as a baseball player, but he is not forgotten. Hoog, a powerful left-handed hitter, probably still holds the record for homeruns at Niwot High, regularly depositing pitches over the short right field fence, and often on top of the school's roof, back when the baseball field was located where the parking lot is now.

After a stellar high school career as a first-baseman and pitcher, Hoog went to the University of North Carolina, where he pitched for a very successful program. NCAA.com put together a series a year ago, choosing an All-Star team of players who played for the Tar Heels over the years.

Continued on Page 14

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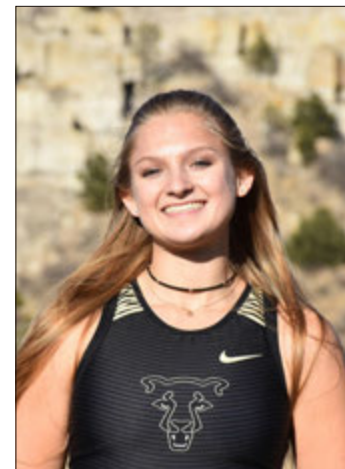
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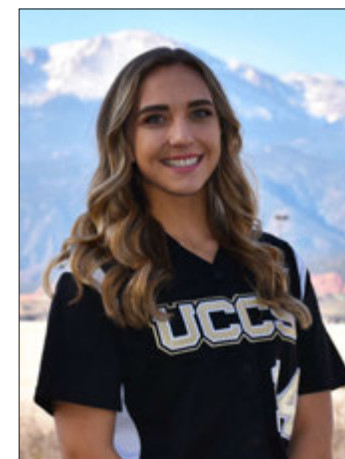
OUT IN LF

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Courtesy photo

Alexis Carroll, jumper for UCCS.



Courtesy photo

Meghan Waidler, first baseman for UCCS.

The authors selected the team based solely upon collegiate performances rather than pro careers. Hoog was named as one of five starting pitchers on the squad. The others were Andrew Miller, Dave Lemonds, Scott Bankhead and Adam Warren, each of whom went on to pitch in the major leagues.

Miller has 14 seasons under his belt and is still pitching for

the Cardinals, Lemonds pitched two years for both Chicago teams, Bankhead pitched for 10 seasons, and Warren is still active after eight seasons.

Hoog was drafted in the 19th round by the New York Mets out of high school in 1986 as a first-baseman, but chose to go to North Carolina on a scholarship instead. At North Carolina, Hoog set school pitch-

ing records for wins, starts, innings pitched and strikeouts, but the lefthander injured his arm during his senior year, and ended up signing as a free agent with the Atlanta Braves organization in 1992 after graduation. He pitched one season at Idaho Falls in the Pioneer League, posting a 4-1 record and five saves, but ended his playing career to attend law school. Hoog returned to Colorado for work, and also served for 10 years as Skyline High School baseball coach, stepping down in 2016.

BASKETBALL

Tyson Christiansen (Niwot) is the marketing director for the Denver Nuggets. Christensen moved back to Colorado after serving as the marketing director for Madison Square Garden in New York, which hosts the New York Rangers hockey team and the New York Knicks basketball team. Christensen has also worked in marketing and ticketing for the Phoenix Suns basketball team and the New York Yankees baseball team.

SOFTBALL

Brooklynn DeLozier (Niwot) played 15 games for New Mexico Highlands before the season was shut down this spring. DeLozier, who primarily played leftfield for NMH, hit .143 on the season. She had two hits including a double in three plate appearances against Regis University March 8, scoring a run in a 5-3 loss. She also had two hits in a loss to Angelo State Feb. 15.

Bailey Kleespies (Niwot) was named to the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference All-Academic First Team, and was also voted to the CoSIDA Academic All-District 6 squad, which consists of only 10 players voted on by District 6 athletic directors. Kleespies is a senior finance major at Colorado Mesa University, with a 3.881 GPA. She was also an Honorable Mention All-RMAC selection in 2018 and 2019 and was named to the RMAC All-Academic Honor Roll in each of those two seasons. She has been a member of three RMAC Championship teams and posted a .318 career batting average with 14 home runs and 89 RBIs in 123 career games.

She started 21 of 22 games she played this season at third base before the pandemic ended the season. She was hitting .310 at the time, with eight doubles, tops on the team and fifth in the conference. Kleespies also hit three home runs, including two grand-slams, while driving in 24 runs to rank second on the team and tied for seventh in the conference. She hit both grand-slams on the same day on Feb. 8 against St. Mary's and Hawai'i-Hilo, the second of which was a walk-off homer, giving her 11 RBIs on the day. She finished with a .549 slugging percentage and a .364 on-base average.

Meghan Waidler (Niwot) ended her senior season at the University of Colorado – Colorado Springs with a .360 aver-

age in 21 games. Waidler, a first baseman and designated hitter, scored 10 runs and had 12 RBIs. She had a monster game against New Mexico Highlands March 1, with three hits, including a double and a triple, driving in four runs and scoring three in a 13-1 victory. A day earlier, Waidler went 1-3 with a run scored and an RBI in a 9-1 win over New Mexico Highlands in which she faced her former NHS teammate, Brooklynn DeLozier. Waidler's RBI came on a sacrifice fly to DeLozier in leftfield that day, who was 0-2 at the plate.

Grace Ladd (Niwot) pitched in five games for Brown University in her senior season before the season ended. Ladd made two starts in the circle and posted a 3.15 ERA, with one complete game, nine strikeouts, and 20.0 innings pitched on the year. On Feb. 23, Ladd pitched 7 innings and allowed only two

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OUT IN LF

Continued from Page 14

runs against George Washington University, but took the loss in the 2-1 game. She also struck out four in two innings of relief against UNC Wilmington Feb. 22, and pitched five innings in relief without allowing an earned run against San Jose State March 1 in a 5-0 loss.

CROSS COUNTRY/TRACK

Claire Gillett (Niwot) earned West Coast Conference All-Academic Honorable Mention honors at Gonzaga University for her efforts



last fall. She finished 19th at the Inland Empire Championships Oct. 12 with her personal best time of 18:09 for the 5K course. She also posted her best time in the mile at the UW Preview Jan. 18 with a time of 5:06.86, good for 25th place.

Alexis Carroll (Niwot) finished ninth in the triple jump for the University of Colorado – Colorado Springs at the RMAC Indoor Track & Field Championships Feb. 28-29 with a mark of 37'1.25". Carroll also competes in the long jump and 60 Hurdles, finishing second in the hurdles at the Air Force Collegiate Open Feb. 21 with a time of 9.61 seconds. Her long jump of 15'6" was good for 11th place at the same meet.

SWIMMING

Lucas Bergeson (Niwot) posted his best times of the season for Whitman College at the NWC Championships Feb. 13. Bergeson, a senior, posted a time of 1:46.28 in the 200-yard freestyle, the first time he had broken 1:50 on the season. He also broke the five-minute mark in the 500-yard freestyle for the first time with a time of 4:47.35, and set a season-best mark in the 1650-yard freestyle

with a mark of 17:00.51. He holds the eighth-best time in school history for the 500-yard freestyle with a time of 4:46.77 set in the fall of 2019, the eighth-best time in the 1000-yard freestyle set in the fall of 2018, and the sixth-best time in the 1650-yard freestyle with a time of 16:57.46 set in 2018.

HOCKEY

Michael Sdao of Niwot has joined the coaching staff of the Lincoln Stars, the team announced. Sdao played for the Stars as a defenseman from 2007-2009, registering 19 points, 340 penalty minutes and a plus-12 rating in 104 games. Sdao was selected 191st overall by the Ottawa Senators in the 2009 NHL draft. Following his time in Lincoln, Sdao spent four years playing college hockey at Princeton University where he served as an alternate captain. He then began an eight-year career in pro hockey, including four seasons in the American Hockey League and four in the ECHL. In 2019-20, Sdao played for the Adirondack Thunder, before the ECHL's season was cancelled on March 15th due to the pandemic.

71ST STREET

Continued from Page 1

Andrew Barth of Boulder County Public works said, "The funding was there. There were some refinements to designs made. The utilities all had to be moved. ...With 95th Street being under construction last year, we didn't want to have 95th and 71st both under construction at the same time. It was an amalgam of

different things that caused it to shift, and shift and shift."

The current projection is to have the portion from Lookout Road to Winchester Circle done by late fall 2020 or early winter 2021. As for the reconstruction from Winchester Circle to Hwy 52, Barth said while the designs are done, "There's no estimate for construction yet. That's probably contingent on seeing how the first phase goes."

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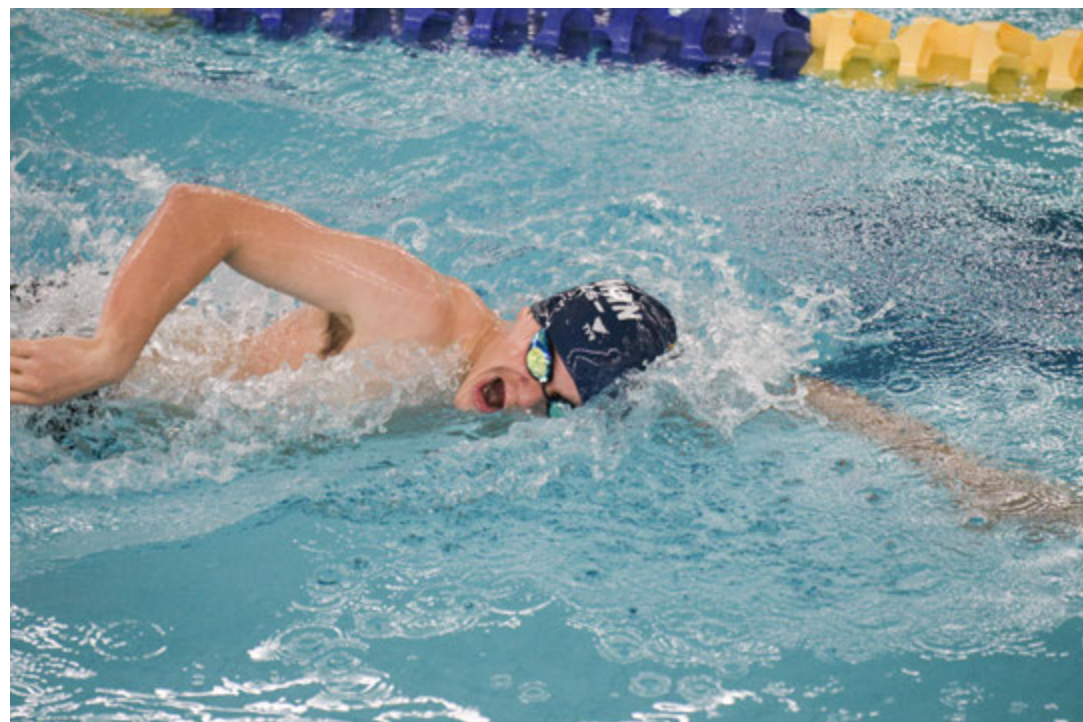
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Courtesy Photo

Lucas Bergeson, swimmer for Whitman College



Local food crop loss and insurance costs

BY ADRIAN CARD
Colorado State University Extension
in Boulder County

Agricultural risk is an interesting concept to non-farmers. Imagine you are self-employed, and your business is not only highly dependent on the weather, it can be crushed by it. People have various mental models of what they think your business is like, the skills needed to succeed, what the challenges and rewards are for producing food, and how you remain profitable including where and how you should allocate your resources. While the scientific and policy communities increasingly look to agriculture as a solution to climate change, sustainable agriculture from a farmer's perspective starts with economic sustainability, without which other aspects of sustainability—social and environmental—are a nonstarter.

Would you choose to start a business that, for most crops producers, is outdoors and thus subject to a unique set of variables that you cannot control? With no building for protection, frost, wind, hail, flood, and drought are weather events that can take an otherwise well-executed production plan and ravage profits, often creating an economic loss. How many of these can a business endure? Beginning farmers are exceptionally susceptible.

These weather perils typically don't happen every year in every field for every producer (although I know of one in Weld County with one field hailed to oblivion for 5 years straight), but for those who have experienced one or more of them, each thunderstorm elicits a silent prayer, please spare my field.

The core question to me is this: if we truly value local agriculture in Northern Colorado for the food, culture, community, open lands, and ecosystem services it provides, how do we increase its resiliency, better manage inherent risks in a weather era that will bring us more extreme events, according to our best climate scientists?

Remember the flood of September 2013? Markets were closed and crops were lost as peak

harvest began. June and August 2018 hail events? Some producers replanted in late June only to be wiped out by the August hail storm. Northern Colorado is one of the more hail prone areas of the US.

And did I mention that most farms in the region do not carry crop insurance? This is particularly surprising for high value, less resilient produce crops. Many of these growers will "self-insure" in some manner, which means they take the full burden of the financial loss.

Based on their evaluation of the cost/benefit analysis, most find the insurance products available too expensive to justify the cost, and this makes sense when we think about it compared to the cost of homeowner's insurance. The number of farmers that can pay into that insurance pool compared to the number of homeowners in that insurance pool is just too few to cover all the costs of paying on crop losses if farmers were offered a lower insurance premium.

One product from the USDA is on the right track. Whole Farm Revenue Protection (WFRP) allows farms to insure 1, 2, 3 or more commodities with increasing government subsidy for the more commodities insured. However, back to the homeowner's policy comparison, farmers cannot insure for the full value of a crop with WFRP, only up to 80% of the value. In an example of 75% coverage with an 80% subsidy from USDA, a farm might pay \$1,300 to insure \$76,000 in revenue under WFRP. This is about 6 times the cost of a homeowner's policy. While better than a complete loss, some farmers choose to take the risk and skip a policy cost that doesn't make them financially whole if they were to file a claim.

If farmers are crucial to the well being of the US, can we reward their ongoing and increasing risk by lowering their costs to insure those risks?

So far 2020 has had spotty hail-related crop losses in Northern Colorado. Mother Nature will decide if crops planted make their way into the food system. Meanwhile, growers take courageous steps daily to nurture those crops.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

✓ Become a Volunteer

We are specifically seeking people who can share reliable information, provide virtual support, deliver food, medication, and medical supplies, and help with daily tasks for people who live alone.

Visit helpcoloradonow.org to sign up to volunteer or request volunteer needs.

✓ Donate

Donate Funds We greatly appreciate any contribution you can make to the response effort. Every dollar will go to helping your neighbors and saving lives in Colorado.

Visit bit.ly/covid19-relief-co to contribute.

Donate Supplies We are soliciting donations for supplies such as: masks, gloves, swabs, cleaning supplies and baby formula. Visit helpcoloradonow.org to contribute.

Donate Blood There is an urgent need for blood. If you are healthy and eligible, please make an appointment at a Vitalant donation center or blood drive near you: vitalant.org.

✓ Stay at Home

The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus and to put distance between yourself and other people.

What are you doing to stop the spread?

Post a photo or video of how you're doing your part, using hashtag **#DoingMyPartCO**.

