



A ROCKY MOUNTAIN STUDENT MEDIA PUBLICATION

COLLEGE AVENUE

green

E D I T I O N

VOLUME 21
ISSUE 1

FALL 2025

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No Waste, Big Impact

The Colorado Trail

From Denver to
Durango in 35 Days

50 Shades of Green

Fort Collins in Focus

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FROM YOUR EDITORS

Welcome to College Avenue's Green Edition, where we explore the many shades of green that define Colorado State University and the Fort Collins community. Green isn't just a color here — it's our identity. From cheering on the Rams in game day gear to choosing eco-friendly transportation or shopping local at the farmers market, it's a thread that connects us all.

In this issue, we highlight sustainable businesses, eco-thrifting and vibrant photostories that reflect the energy of our community.

At CSU, green is more than a school color. It represents a commitment to progress, to caring for the environment and to building community through thoughtful choices.

Green is not only what we wear on game day. It's a way of life.

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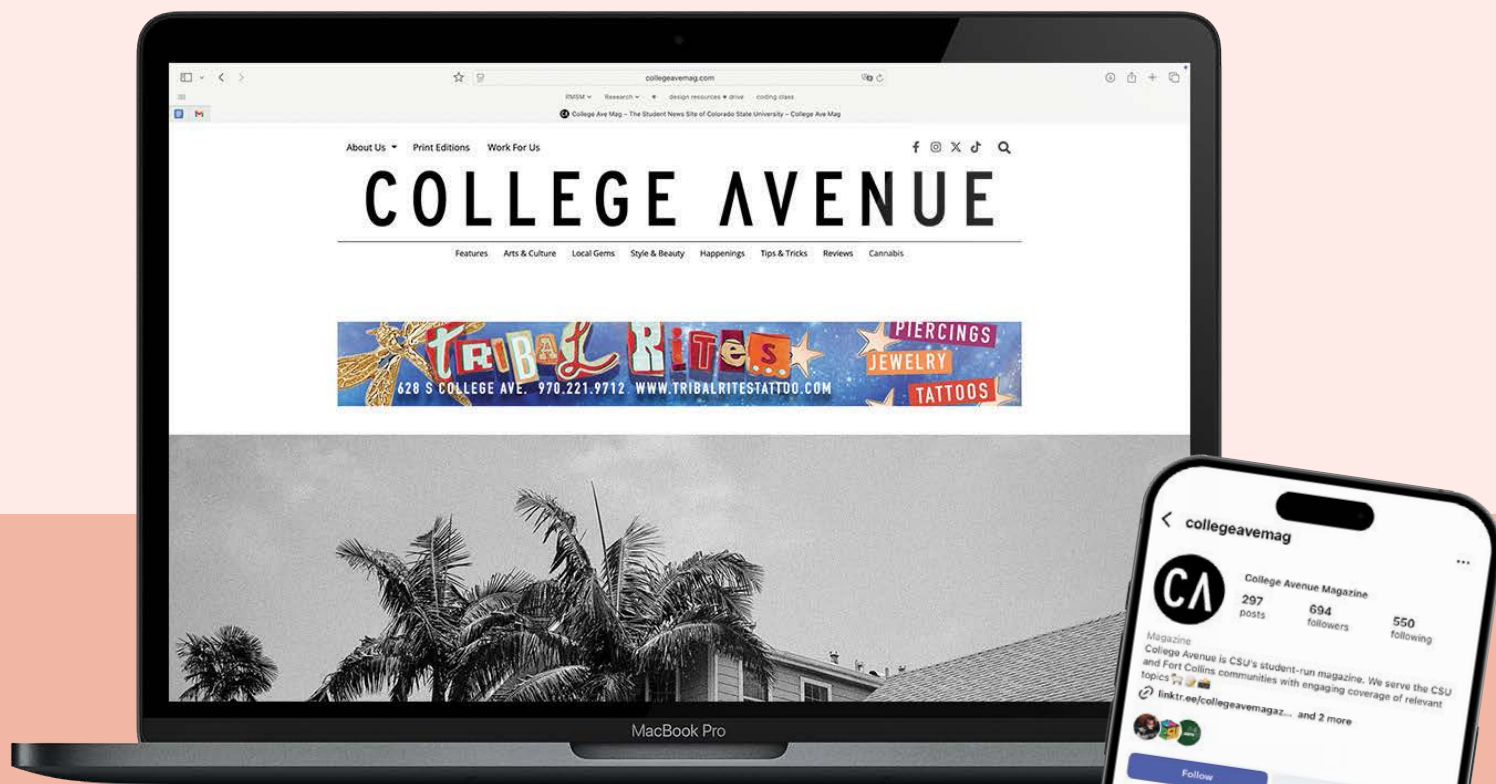
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SUSTAINABLE STYLE AT CSU

Written by Aubree Wood

(Above) The outside of Collective Vintage in Fort Collins, Colo. Sept. 12.

Photos by
Tony Bermudez

Design by
Sarah Thomas

College campuses have long been hotbeds of fashion experimentation and expression, and Colorado State University is no exception. On any given day, a stroll across the Lory Student Center plaza highlights the diverse and inclusive styles of the 2020s, which have taken on minds of their own within the student body.

One of the defining trends on campus has almost absolutely nothing to do with social media's fleeting trend cycle, but rather bold displays of self-expression via unique and sustainable pieces. This push for individualism is why thrift culture predominates in the fashion sphere in Fort Collins.

The students and faculty in the Department of Design and Merchandising at CSU have consistently prioritized the importance of infiltrating fashion education with questions of sustainability in both design and consumption.

"Thrift culture, but also upcycling and making things into something new and styling them differently, is so important. Our students are so great at that, and we all learn from each other, and we pick up things, and it's like, Oh, where did you get that? I got that at this thrift store. Where did you get that? I got this at a saddle making store. We're always trying to tell each other about things and getting inspired," said Dr. Kayna

(Top left) Clothing racks at Collective Vintage in Fort Collins, Colo. Sept. 12.

(Bottom left) A Collective Vintage hat on display in Fort Collins, Colo. Sept. 12.

(Top right) A chalkboard sign greeting customers at Collective Vintage in Fort Collins, Colo. Sept. 12.

Hobbs-Murphy, an assistant professor of design and merchandising at CSU.

Statistics in a 2024 resale report emphasize the mass consumer ideology shift taking place amongst the general public when it comes to finding their next outfit. The report found that the global secondhand apparel market is expected to reach a value of 350 billion dollars by the end of 2028, growing three times faster than the overall global apparel market. Additionally, 42% of all consumers believe the government should take legislative action to help promote sustainable fashion, compared to 52% of Gen Z.

"So as people understand that these garments that we've been wearing are really toxic for our planet and off-gassing, there's probably going to be major shifts, and there's going to need to be lots of different people thinking about this stuff at every point of the cycle, not just designers," said Hobbs-Murphy.

Shopping secondhand has never been more accessible, especially in Fort Collins,

where there are over a dozen thrift stores and vintage shops to choose from.

Marcus Quere, an employee at Collective Vintage, has been working in the secondhand sphere since 2016, when he began selling vintage clothing. He adds that now, when entering a thrift store, "it's a lot of the younger kids looking for different styles and different things."

"I think the younger generation kind of got behind a lot of what's wrong with fast fashion, as it's filling landfills, people are realizing it's not good for you, and the quality is not as good as it used to be," Quere said.

Collective Vintage is a popular employee-owned vintage and secondhand store located on the west side of campus. Quere shares that "our goal is to keep clothes out of the landfill and reuse them. We carry really high-quality stuff, and we have stuff at basically every price range; if you're looking to spend \$8 or if you're looking to spend \$150, we have a good mix of that."

Shopping second-hand allows consumers to buy unique pieces and sustainably experiment with various styles. As more people turn to secondhand shopping, as opposed to mass-produced garments, the possibilities of what fashion can mean are endless.

"I mean, I hope that it continues to grow, because style is never-ending. It always changes. And that's kind of the fun of it, because you never know what you're going to find at a thrift store. You never know what you're going to find at Collective Vintage. It's not standard; it's not one style. It's like making your own style," said Quere.



COWBOY BOOTS
DISTRESSED DENIM

SNEAKERS

CSU'S GUIDE TO: **GAME DAY OUTFITS**

Written by Luke Purvis

Coordinated looks are common among any group. Matching shirts, hats and boots make for strong appearances. Some groups paint overalls and design T-shirts with slogans tied to the team. This isn't necessary, but these outfits stand out in the crowd and effectively show who is the home team.

Colorado State University game day style has been a mix of agriculture roots and modern college culture. Here is a breakdown of the essentials.

Cowboy boots are the anchor of the fashion. Worn by both men and women, they pair easily with denim skirts, shorts, or jeans. Neutral leather boots give a classic look, while brighter or patterned boots stand out and glow in the crowd. Comfort matters less than presence, since boots are as much about identity as utility.

Jeans, skirts, and cut-off shorts form the base of most outfits. Wranglers remain a favorite, tucked cleanly into boots. Skirts and shorts lean more casual but leave room for layering with jerseys or oversized tees. Distressed denim is common, but plain dark washes are just as prevalent.

Cowboy hats and ballcaps tend to dominate the scene. Cowboy hats lean into Aggie heritage, while caps carry athletic branding. Belts with large buckles are a staple for men. Jewelry and layered chains appear more with women's outfits. Orange face paint, temporary tattoos, and green or gold hair ties finish the look.

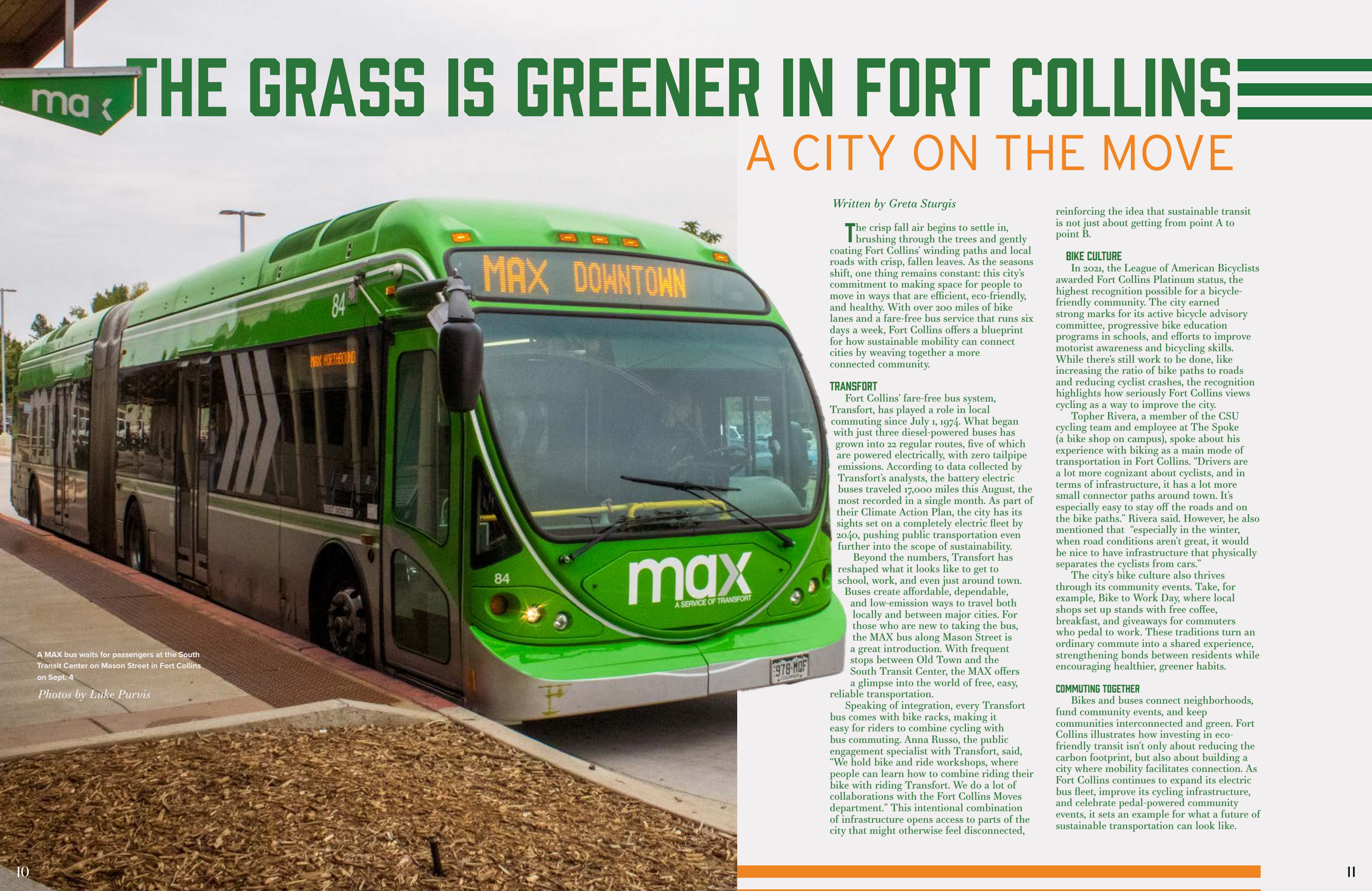
Oversized jerseys are everywhere. They are worn with shorts, skirts, or, on top, layered over long sleeves. CSU football numbers show up often. Some jerseys highlight the old Aggie branding in orange. Crop tops and cut-off tees with the CSU logos are another option, especially in the warm weather that accompanies the pre-sunset pregame.

Green is the foundation, in all of its hues. Gold often appears in different parts of CSU game day outfits. Orange adds variety and is tied to CSU's Aggie history. Successful gameday outfits combine the two of the three colors. Matching isn't required, and layering different tones creates depth.

Alumni lean toward older gear from past seasons like polos or quarter-zips. Letterman jackets from the 'gos stand out. Children usually wear miniature jerseys, making gameday a display of spirit wear for families.

Accessory packs are part of the look. Sunglasses are common for style. Comfortable shoes other than boots are a backup option, especially if tailgating is long before kickoff. Weather in Colorado can change anytime, so layering is recommended.

The mix of agriculture heritage and student culture creates a rustic atmosphere. The variety of outfits builds a collective identity that is visible as you step onto campus. On Sept. 6, CSU fans demonstrated how fashion and football overlap. The look of the crowd matters for the sake of playing at Canvas Stadium. Dressing for gameday is a way of taking part in the event before the first kickoff happens.



A MAX bus waits for passengers at the South Transit Center on Mason Street in Fort Collins on Sept. 4

Photos by Luke Purvis

THE GRASS IS GREENER IN FORT COLLINS

A CITY ON THE MOVE

Written by Greta Sturgis

The crisp fall air begins to settle in, brushing through the trees and gently coating Fort Collins' winding paths and local roads with crisp, fallen leaves. As the seasons shift, one thing remains constant: this city's commitment to making space for people to move in ways that are efficient, eco-friendly, and healthy. With over 200 miles of bike lanes and a fare-free bus service that runs six days a week, Fort Collins offers a blueprint for how sustainable mobility can connect cities by weaving together a more connected community.

TRANSFORT

Fort Collins' fare-free bus system, Transfort, has played a role in local commuting since July 1, 1974. What began with just three diesel-powered buses has grown into 22 regular routes, five of which are powered electrically, with zero tailpipe emissions. According to data collected by Transfort's analysts, the battery electric buses traveled 17,000 miles this August, the most recorded in a single month. As part of their Climate Action Plan, the city has its sights set on a completely electric fleet by 2040, pushing public transportation even further into the scope of sustainability.

Beyond the numbers, Transfort has reshaped what it looks like to get to school, work, and even just around town. Buses create affordable, dependable, and low-emission ways to travel both locally and between major cities. For those who are new to taking the bus, the MAX bus along Mason Street is a great introduction. With frequent stops between Old Town and the South Transit Center, the MAX offers a glimpse into the world of free, easy, reliable transportation.

Speaking of integration, every Transfort bus comes with bike racks, making it easy for riders to combine cycling with bus commuting. Anna Russo, the public engagement specialist with Transfort, said, "We hold bike and ride workshops, where people can learn how to combine riding their bike with riding Transfort. We do a lot of collaborations with the Fort Collins Moves department." This intentional combination of infrastructure opens access to parts of the city that might otherwise feel disconnected,

reinforcing the idea that sustainable transit is not just about getting from point A to point B.

BIKE CULTURE

In 2021, the League of American Bicyclists awarded Fort Collins Platinum status, the highest recognition possible for a bicycle-friendly community. The city earned strong marks for its active bicycle advisory committee, progressive bike education programs in schools, and efforts to improve motorist awareness and bicycling skills. While there's still work to be done, like increasing the ratio of bike paths to roads and reducing cyclist crashes, the recognition highlights how seriously Fort Collins views cycling as a way to improve the city.

Topher Rivera, a member of the CSU cycling team and employee at The Spoke (a bike shop on campus), spoke about his experience with biking as a main mode of transportation in Fort Collins. "Drivers are a lot more cognizant about cyclists, and in terms of infrastructure, it has a lot more small connector paths around town. It's especially easy to stay off the roads and on the bike paths," Rivera said. However, he also mentioned that "especially in the winter, when road conditions aren't great, it would be nice to have infrastructure that physically separates the cyclists from cars."

The city's bike culture also thrives through its community events. Take, for example, Bike to Work Day, where local shops set up stands with free coffee, breakfast, and giveaways for commuters who pedal to work. These traditions turn an ordinary commute into a shared experience, strengthening bonds between residents while encouraging healthier, greener habits.

COMMUTING TOGETHER

Bikes and buses connect neighborhoods, fund community events, and keep communities interconnected and green. Fort Collins illustrates how investing in eco-friendly transit isn't only about reducing the carbon footprint, but also about building a city where mobility facilitates connection. As Fort Collins continues to expand its electric bus fleet, improve its cycling infrastructure, and celebrate pedal-powered community events, it sets an example for what a future of sustainable transportation can look like.

THE COLORADO TRAIL

STORY & PHOTOS BY: ADAM CARLSON

The Colorado Trail (CT) is 486 miles of trail from Denver to Durango. The trail was established in 1974 and has been maintained and modified over time, from basic maintenance to the creation of an entirely new stretch of 86 miles that opened in 2012.

Those who decide to attempt to hike the trail all in one stretch are called thru-hikers. On July 2, I began my trek of the CT with my eyes set on Durango. This was my first thru-hike. I traveled with my mom and grandma through the first mile, and it felt unreal to stand at the beginning of almost 500 miles. After I hiked my first mile, I had to say goodbye to my family and let my will propel me through the rest of the trail. But I was not alone. The CT is known to be a social trail with a lively community. I started the trail with a paper journal, generally considered a luxury item, as often hikers find paper too heavy, opting for digital notes instead.

Thru-hiking requires that you carry only what you need and very little extra. My other luxury items consisted of a camera and some additional gear. These add-ons weighed



six pounds out of my 23-pound total (not including food and water). After years of it being on my radar, last September was when I officially decided I wanted to do the CT. My uncle did the trail roughly 30 years before me, and described it as the journey that made him no longer feel like a visitor in nature. To me that was an incredibly appealing idea that I could feel like I was a part of and living inside of nature.

Throughout my journey, I also heard the travel described as moving at the speed of human. One of my favorite sensations was seeing a mountain on the horizon and knowing that in a few days I would be at the base of it. Three miles per hour has never felt as fast as it did on the trail. I remember when I saw Mount Massive for the first time after I left Breckenridge it seemed incredibly distant, 53 miles away. Three days later I was at the base of the mountain preparing for a detour to the summit of Massive.

Thru-hiking is an innately transformational experience. It forces you to sit with yourself for long amounts of time while physically pushing yourself. The trail was not, by any means, easy. That being said, it was the simplest my life has ever been. Wake up, walk, go to bed, and eat somewhere in the middle.

The trail is broken up by resupply points, when I was close to running out of food I would hitchhike into the nearest town and get all I needed to sustain myself until the next point. I stopped in Breckenridge, Leadville, Twin Lakes, Salida, Lake City, and Silverton. The first stretch to Breckenridge was just over 100 miles and was the real test of whether I could even handle this kind of trek. I would hike the mornings relatively alone but by the afternoon I would find people to hike and ultimately camp with that night. Through this early phase you learn who goes your pace and who you will spend your time with.

Trail culture also gives trail names, most hikers receive a nickname from other hikers. I carried a camera, a paper journal that I wrote the names of everyone I met in, and I let anyone write in my journal. This gave me the name "Yearbook" which I almost exclusively went by for the rest of the month, many of the hikers I met along the way never



learned my real name and I never learned theirs. While the trail was full of many notable experiences, one of the most memorable was hiking through the Cochetopa hills before San Luis Peak on day 25 of the trail. This was going to be an attempted marathon day to hike 26.2 miles compared to my average up to this point of 16 miles. The day was bound to be lengthy and taxing, not to mention that it also was in cow country. These sections are notorious for being unpleasant, with poor water quality, cowpies on trail, and herds of cows standing on the trail. This stretch of trail is notoriously one of the hardest parts of the journey, but it's also the price of admission to the San Juan Mountains. This range is widely considered the most scenic section of the entire trail and the reason most hikers endure the monotonous cow country miles that come before.

My experience went very differently than expected. I woke up early, packed up my camp and took off on the trail. The air was



cool and the trail was flat, good for cruising. As the sun came up, I saw the golden hues bouncing off the grass and saw a number of rodents running around and birdsong in the air. The animals were awake and moving with me. I got to mile 12 around 11 a.m. and reached Cochetopa Creek, which I would hike alongside for the rest of the day. The babbling creek had fish that jumped out of the water, and the valley had even more incredible birds surrounding me. The sky was turning gray everywhere except above me, I would feel a brief sprinkle but then it would pass by. The entire day, I only saw six people, and on my 25th night I finally camped alone, 25 miles from where I started. While I did not hit the marathon point, I found the perfect campsite and watched the sunset. While I hiked all day without company, I was never lonely. It was a day of perfect bliss. Later, I found out that I dodged a major hailstorm in all directions by a little bit that day.

Until this point, I had never camped alone on the trail, as I was fortunate enough to have formed a few different “tramilies” (trail families) that I would meet at night to camp with. Tramilies formed quickly, after hiking with someone for a day it could feel like you have been friends for a long time. Relationships on trail were strong and formed quickly. I found myself hiking with people that, in my regular life, I may not have ever wanted to talk to. Yet the trail brought me to these people and I shared an experience with them.

The trails revealed parts of humanity I had never seen before. People on and surrounding the trail were incredibly generous. The culture of thru-hiking is one of giving, and when you intersected a road people wanted to hear your stories and share



what they had. Fresh fruit and vegetables were my greatest cravings, while others I had met sought after beer. Often, the townsfolk had both and were willing to share.

Lake City was the stop that showcased this the best for me. The town already had a reputation with hikers, and their hiker center has a feast every Sunday with locals who want to meet hikers and hikers who had lost pounds and needed a big meal. This town had a strong contrast to any other. In Breckenridge tourists looked at me like I was homeless and they would keep their distance. In Lake City, the fact that I was a dirtbag hiker who needed a shower and laundry did not bother them, instead they embraced me (and many others) with open arms. At the Sunday feast I talked with George and Ingra (residents of Lake City), a couple who were fascinated by the trek and asked my friends and I about our journeys. By the end of the feast, they invited myself and other

hikers over for dinner the next night. A home cooked meal was everything I wanted at this point of the trail. The hospitality was unmatched to anywhere else. I spent a whole day off-trail talking with and getting to know the locals. On my way out of Lake City, George offered me a fishing rod to carry the rest of the trail, which I accepted. While I never caught a fish, I see that rod as one of my greatest souvenirs of the trail.

During my journey, I rarely felt stressed or worried. When I did, it was when I was in town. Life on the trail was the most free I have ever felt, and it made me look at what really was important. Every single item I could need was on my back, and there was nothing else to worry about other than when I would find my next water source and where I could camp.

Over the trail, I met over 175 people, most of whom were hiking the very same trail I was. In Twin Lakes I met someone hiking the trail who went by Ghostwipe, I never saw him again until about 300 miles later, only two days before I would finish the trail with him. The trail is mysterious as you never know when you will spend just hours or weeks with one person before you either never see them again or establish a lifelong friendship.

I finished the trail on Aug. 5 with a total of 512 miles due to detours up three of Colorado's 14ers. When I was in my last mile things felt unreal but I eventually reached the end of the trail. If I wanted to keep walking I couldn't, the trail was over. This was both gratifying but also shattering to me. I could not believe it was over after 35 days. I spent two days in Durango with people I hiked with before I returned home. It was very bittersweet. I sat in a car driving 75 miles per hour for hours and it already felt too fast. Work quickly picked up and I slept in a real bed but I did not sleep as well as I had in my tent for about a week.

Post trail depression is common and impacts everyone differently. For me being off trail was crushing. My life quickly became busy and filled with stressors. People would often refer to “the real world” on the trail, this is where you work, live and make money. My friend Rookie disagreed with that sentiment and said that the trail feels more real than anything off of it.

I am now in the human world after spending 35 days in the real world. Another friend expressed how people do not act the same in the human world. On trail you talk to everyone you pass, maybe even spend the rest of your day with someone. In the human world it seems people do not go out of their way to talk to you unless you already established rapport. In my journal I would write everyone's name under the heading of “Friends of the CT” and every piece of writing I have from someone I met is precious to me.

My first few weeks back were weeks of mourning. It felt like I lost a part of myself I had just found. I could hardly schedule anything and keeping track of my possessions was harder since I couldn't carry everything I owned on my back. While I have been on the mend from post trail depression I find this life much harder and I greatly miss three miles per hour.

I was given one piece of advice for reacclimating and post trail depression. The best way to get over it is to plan your next trail.

Now I feel fortunate to have seen this world with my own eyes. But my eyes are now open and they cannot close.



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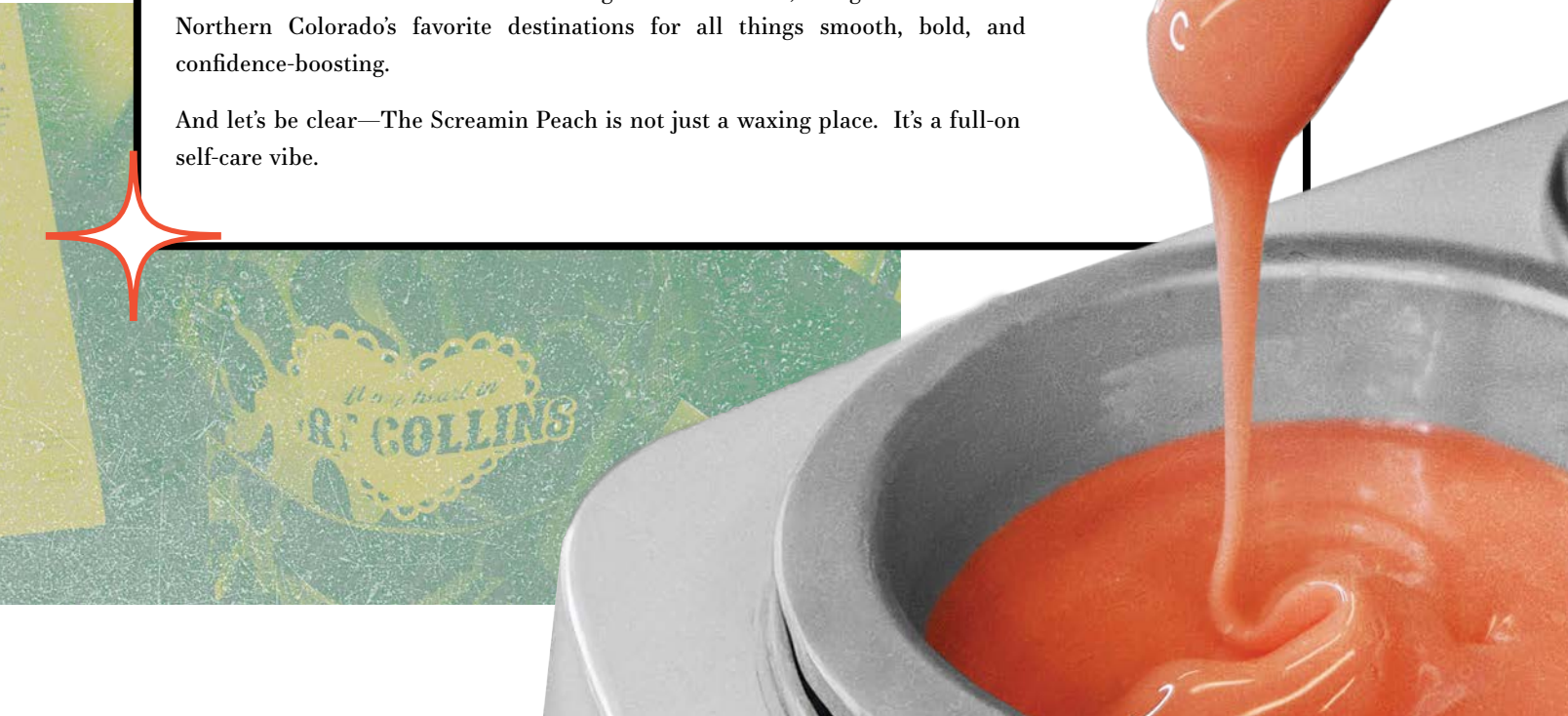


A Peach Like No Other

Why Students Are *Screamin'* About This Spot

If you're looking for a spot in Fort Collins that's way more fun (and way less awkward) than your average salon, The Screamin Peach is your new go-to. Since opening in 2006 as the first full-service waxing studio in town, it's grown into one of Northern Colorado's favorite destinations for all things smooth, bold, and confidence-boosting.

And let's be clear—The Screamin Peach is not just a waxing place. It's a full-on self-care vibe.



Services That Go Beyond the Basics

Yes, the “waxperts” here are pros at brows, Brazilians, and everything in between — but the menu doesn’t stop there. Think:

- Sugaring for a natural twist on hair removal
- Brow tinting and lamination to level up your face game
- Lash lifts and tints so you can skip mascara
- Spray tans for that golden glow before a formal date, or game day
- Dermaplaning that leaves your skin smooth enough to make foundation optional

Every appointment starts with a quick consultation so they can match the service to your skin type and comfort level. No cookie-cutter treatments here—it’s all about you.

Fun *Peach* Facts

- Opened in 2006 as Fort Collins’ first full-service waxing studio.
- Now has 4 locations across Northern Colorado (Fort Collins, Loveland, Greeley, & Longmont).
- Known as the home of the “waxperts”—estheticians trained for speed, precision, and comfort.

Did You *Know*?

- They never double-dip a waxing stick (cleanliness = top priority).
- Every appointment starts with a custom consultation—your skin type, your comfort, your way.
- Services include spray tans, dermaplaning, lash lifts, and more—not just waxing.

Safety First, *Sass* Always

Cleanliness is a huge deal at The Screamin Peach (double-dipping? not here). They use high-quality waxes for different skin types and always keep things professional, safe, and as comfortable as possible. Bonus: you’ll leave with personalized aftercare tips and can even snag Peach-approved skincare products so your glow lasts longer.

More Than a Salon: A *Boutique* Worth Browsing

Here’s the fun part—every location doubles as a boutique packed with Peach-approved goodies. We’re talking trendy apparel, hats, sunglasses, stickers, and accessories that scream confidence and personality. They also showcase items from local makers, so shopping here feels like supporting the community while upgrading your style.

Boutique Vibes

- Exclusive Screamin Peach merch you won’t find anywhere else.
- Local maker collabs keep the boutique stocked with unique finds.
- Apparel, accessories, and self-care products designed to show off your confidence.

Locations & *Affordability*

With four easy-to-find locations in Northern Colorado (including 2 right here in Fort Collins), The Screamin Peach makes it easy to squeeze in some self-care between classes, work, or a night out. Services are student-budget friendly—and honestly, the confidence boost is priceless.

no hair is safe

Student-Friendly Perks

- ✦ Brow clean-ups start at a price that won't wreck your ramen budget.
- ✦ Affordable add-ons like tints & laminations mean you can glow-up without maxing out your student loan.
- ✦ Shopping in the boutique? Grab stickers, sunnies, or hats that make perfect gifts (or treat-yourself moments).

Award-Winning, *Student-Loved*

It's no surprise The Screamin Peach has racked up awards like The Best of CSU's "Best Wax Salon" and NOCO Style Magazine's "Best Hair Removal." Students love the mix of professionalism, inclusivity, and that little dash of sass that makes every visit memorable.

Awards & Recognition

- ✦ Voted "Best Wax Salon" multiple times in CSU's Best of CSU awards.
- ✦ Consistently wins "Best Hair Removal" in NOCO Style Magazine.
- ✦ Featured nationally for inclusivity, expertise, and fun vibe.

The *Peach* Difference

At the end of the day, The Screamin Peach is about way more than hair removal. It's about feeling good in your own skin, finding your style, and having a little fun while you're at it. Whether it's your first visit or your fiftieth, The Peach crew is ready to help you look (and feel) your best.

So next time you're due for a glow-up? Skip the generic salons and go where self-care comes with personality: The Screamin Peach.

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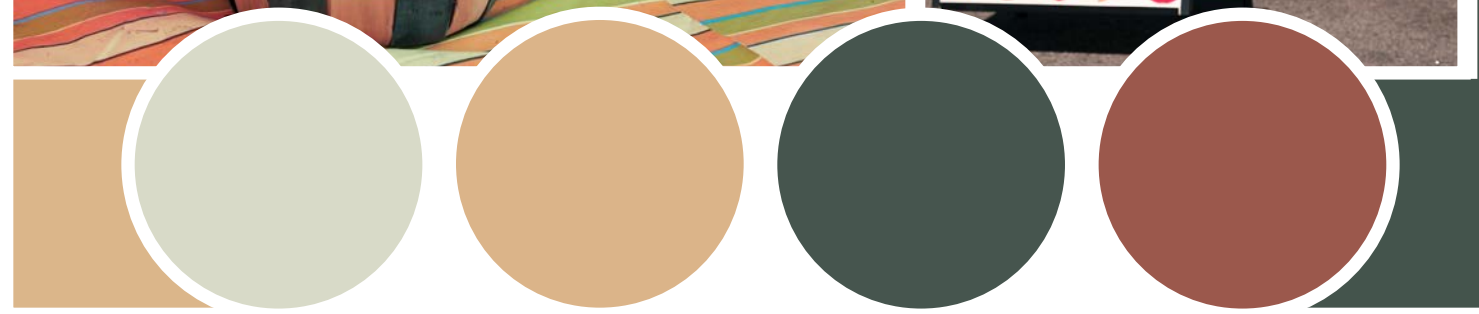
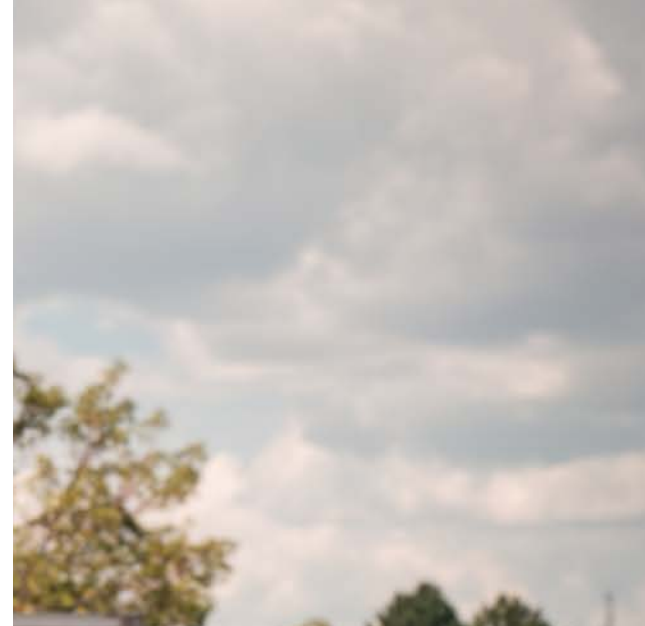
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Story & Photos By: Aiden Lundien

The market opens beneath a sky thick with clouds, sunlight spilling in broken patches across the pavement. A woman moves steadily through the rows of tents, her black dress catching the breeze, a canvas bag heavy with the morning's first finds. Behind her, stalls brim with color and chatter, but in this frame she is the quiet center—a single figure carrying the rhythm of the market forward, and in that simple gesture, the still life becomes a story.

Each photo was taken on my FujiFilm- XT5 in my effort to capture beauty within the farmers market.



AESTHETICS OF THE

FARMERS MARKET



THE FOX DEN

BIG NO WASTE IMPACT

BY MIA ANGUIANO-PEREZ

In a world where the Great Pacific Garbage Patch exists and global warming is worsening, sustainable action at the community level can help drive a larger movement for change.

The City of Fort Collins has its own list of sustainability goals, also providing sustainable actions residents can take to make a difference. Residences use lots of energy, water, and produce waste, but so do businesses.

The Fox Den: No Waste Cafe & Roastery is paving the way for other businesses to make a sustainable change. Before coming to Fort Collins, The Fox Den's CEO, Patricia Acheson, started THO Coffee in Los Angeles as a no-waste company and later founded The Fox Den in 2022 with the same no-waste goal in mind.

“We try to source as locally as possible, and if we can't, we try to source in ethical ways.”

ACCESSIBILITY AND SUSTAINABLE DESIGN

The cafe is located off a busy bike trail and has more spots to park bikes than cars. In promoting easy access for bikers, The Fox Den has leaned into Fort Collins' larger-scale sustainability efforts to encourage biking.

Sustainability is also reflected in the cafe's design. Large windows fill the seating area with natural light. Near the door, a feedback box invites customers to share their thoughts, with a bin of rolled-up cloth napkins beside it.

The furniture radiates a comfy, homey vibe. “The cafe got its furniture all

(Top) A coffee grinder sits between a roaster and the refill bar at the Fox Den in Fort Collins, Colo. Sept. 9.



secondhand, everything from tables and chairs to the espresso and ice machines, with the exception of the coffee roasting machine,” said Noah Chavez, the general manager and lead roaster at The Fox Den.

WASTE REDUCTION PRACTICES

The shop uses glass, ceramics, and metalware only, and charges customers a deposit fee on glass to-go drink jars. You can bring back these jars in exchange for a dollar bill. This policy holds customers accountable and reduces a significant amount of waste.

The cafe donates food waste to local farmers and composts all its scraps, which are processed into soil and given back to the community, Chavez said.

“We donate all spent coffee grounds and beans for community use, whether in gardens or elsewhere,” Chavez said.

ETHICAL PRODUCT SOURCING

Sourcing coffee beans is no easy task, Chavez said. The cafe sources beans that are fair-trade, organic, and Rainforest Alliance Certified. This Ensures the beans are grown without synthetic chemicals and with fair labor practices, and grown on farms that

go out of their way to leave surrounding rainforests and ecosystems unharmed.

The Fox Den sources many products locally from Copoco’s Honey, Folks Farm, The Bread Chic, Morning Fresh Dairy Farm and local farmers’ markets. “We try to source as locally as possible, and if we can’t, we try to source in ethical ways,” Chavez said.

The cafe recently simplified its food menu, guided by two factors: sourcing products responsibly and finding the best way to dispose of potential waste, Chavez said. The Fox Den’s menu is ever-changing, only producing products that are in-season to support local farmers.

WATER AND ENERGY PRACTICES

CEO Acheson has partnered with carbonfootprint.com, which tracks the cafe’s carbon footprint, helping the shop keep track of how much energy it’s using and providing recommendations to offset the usage.

The Fox Den also compares its energy use with local businesses in the area to identify what can be improved, Chavez said. The cafe additionally partners with One Tree Planted, a nonprofit organization that focuses on reforestation.

EMPLOYEE AND BARISTA PERSPECTIVES

“Like a lot of us at The Den, a major reason I wanted to work here is because I felt like it already aligned with a lot of my beliefs,” Chavez said. “Working here also gives me a deep appreciation for other eco-conscious businesses and makes me want to seek out and support them even more.”



Gwen Tapia has worked as a barista at The Fox Den for six months. “My experience at the cafe has significantly influenced my outlook on sustainability. Because sustainability practices are emphasized daily at the shop, I have become more conscious of my own habits,” Tapia said. “I now find myself reusing items at home and making more mindful choices in an effort to reduce waste and live more sustainably.”

Tapia further discussed the changes that the cafe has made since she began working there: “We reuse the chai leaves from our house-made concentrate to make chai muffins, ensuring that nothing goes to waste.”



“There is always a clear motive to get as close to fully sustainable as possible. While there are some unavoidable single-use items, such as cooking gloves, the overall direction has been toward greater sustainability,” Tapia said.

CHALLENGES OF NO-WASTE

It takes a lot of time to produce no waste; every dish has to be hand-cleaned, versus the ease of throwing away a paper cup or a straw, said Chavez.

Everything in the shop is constantly shifting, including the prices of drinks and food, as well as where the cafe sources its

products. “There isn’t a model for how a sustainable business should run. We want to be transparent, and we’re learning together,” said Chavez.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Fox Den not only practices sustainable methods in the inner workings of the cafe, but also promotes and uplifts a sustainable community. The cafe hosts events like open mic night, networking events, and their newest event, a cafe rave.

“The Fox Den is more than just a cafe – it’s a place where the community can connect, relax, and enjoy time together.”

“We host a really fun open mic night every Thursday, which brings people together to share music, poetry, and creativity,” Tapia said. “On Wednesdays, we offer discounted wine, which a lot of people don’t know about!”

The shop showcases artwork from local artists in the bathroom and at the front of the store, giving them a space to thrive. All of these products are created with sustainability in mind.

“The Fox Den is more than just a cafe – it’s a place where the community can connect, relax, and enjoy time together,” Tapia said.

FUTURE GOALS

The shop currently uses foil, compostable to-go boxes, and silverware. Chavez hopes to implement a deposit program similar to the one for to-go drink jars. While these compostable products are better than the latter, the necessary facilities to process them are not available in Fort Collins.

The next step for the cafe is finding ways to ship its products sustainably to communities just outside of Fort Collins. “Now that we have a further outreach, how can we eliminate those single-use products as we’re shipping further?” Chavez said.

The Fox Den just hit one of its biggest goals, getting a composter, which reduces unnecessary emissions from landfills and gives carbon back to the soil.

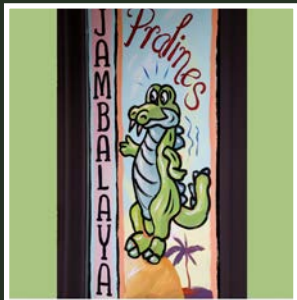
For The Fox Den, “no waste” isn’t just a label, it’s an evolving goal, one they’re determined to keep chasing alongside the community they serve. In the meantime, they’re being transparent about their progress and continually looking for ways to improve and uphold that commitment.

*Photos by
Charlie Cofts*

(Left) The Fox Den’s no -waste coffee roaster in Fort Collins, Colo. Sept. 9.

(Pg 24. top) The Secret Library in the corner of The Fox Den in Fort Collins, Colo. Sept. 9.

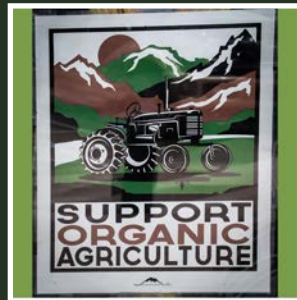
(Pg 24. bottom) A variety of mugs hang from hooks in The Fox Den in Fort Collins, Colo. Sept. 9.



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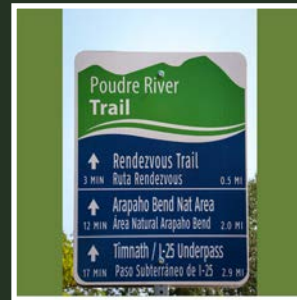
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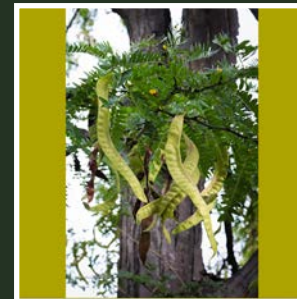
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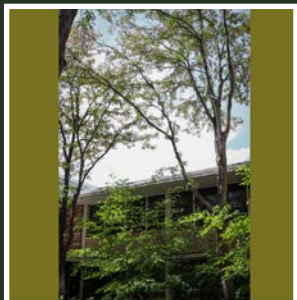
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PHOTOS & STORY BY EMMA WINTERS

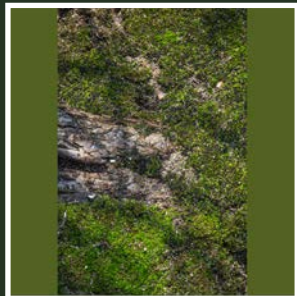
The color green surrounds us. It's in the perfectly curated Fort Collins foliage, the artwork, and of course, on Colorado State University's campus. That said, does anyone ever stop to think about how many shades of green there truly are? Throughout the week, I made it my mission to go around Fort Collins and photograph anything green. From leaves and grass to sculptures and books, I found that it was a lot easier than I thought to find such a broad variety of shades. Compiling the images I had gotten from around town, I used AI to extract the red, green and blue values from the pixels in each photograph and compare it to a database of Pantone colors. Pantone is recognized as the standard for designers and brands, at least when it comes to color. The Pantone Matching System (PMS), created in 1963 by Lawrence Herbert, assigns each color a unique number, making sure that there is a framework for consistency throughout different brands. Using the values that AI pulled, I had the system find

the closest match to individual Pantone colors as possible, using the average green color in each photograph. I was particularly inspired by the Brazilian photographer Angélica Dass. She created a photographic work titled *Humanæ*, where she matched her subjects' skin tone to a Pantone color. While hers is more of a square with just a small Pantone code underneath, I wanted my photographs to present more paint chip-like, the small pieces of paper that you use to decide what color to paint, say, your bedroom wall. Using Photoshop, I was able to match the photographs to their corresponding Pantone color and put them together as one. I felt that presenting the photographs like this, although time consuming, was more visually appealing and really represented the different shades of green found throughout Fort Collins. So next time you're taking a stroll through the park, slow down and take a look around. I'm sure there are fifty shades of green or more, all around you.

(All photos) Various shades of green throughout Fort Collins, Colo. Sept. 8-12.

50 SHADES OF GREEN

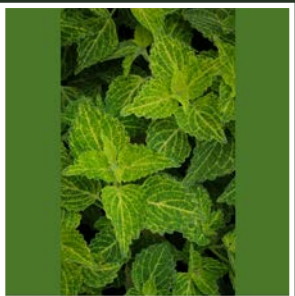
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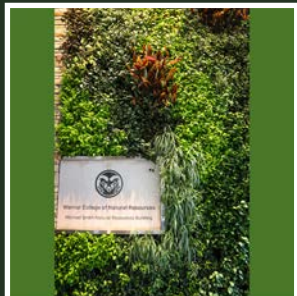
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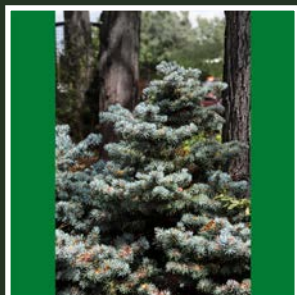
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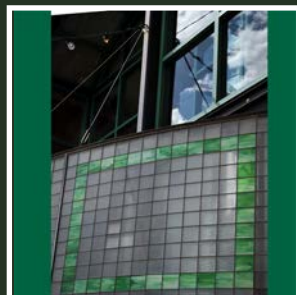
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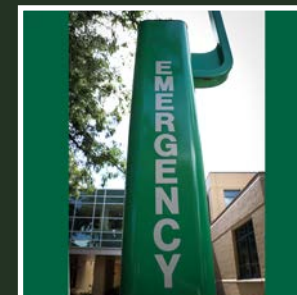
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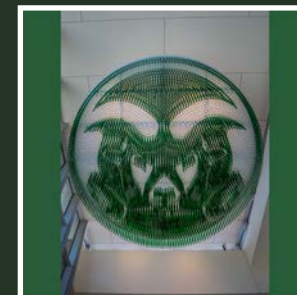
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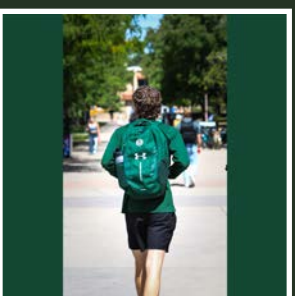
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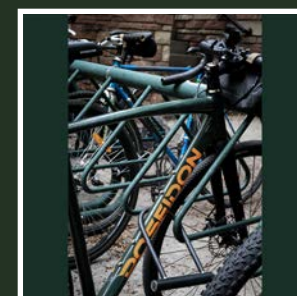
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