



FACE THE MUSIC
 Rockies' Monfort, Bridich attempt to explain trade to media
 SPORTS, 1B



POT AU FEU
 Boiled meats and vegetables dinner can offer warm comfort
 FLAVORS, 8A

LONG-TERM CARE

Cases dropping at facilities

8% of all county residents have received at least one dose of vaccine

BY PAMELA JOHNSON
 LOVELAND REPORTER-HERALD

About 8% of Larimer County residents have received at least one dose of the coronavirus vaccine, including all residents in long-term-care facilities and approximately 35% of residents 70 and older.

Tom Gonzales, the county's health director, shared those numbers during a public meeting Tuesday, saying that health care pro-

viders are working as fast as they can to vaccinate as many people as possible each week with limited numbers of doses.

The first priority has been front-line medical workers, who are most at risk of contracting the virus, and older residents, who are at risk of the most serious health consequences.

And, Gonzales said, the strategy seems to be working.

"We're seeing a significant decrease in our long-term-care facilities," Gonzales said of new cases of the virus, tying it to vaccination efforts. "Those efforts are saving lives today. That is fantastic news."

Larimer County has reported 200 deaths from the virus since March; 105 of those were residents at long-term-care facilities. Gonzales said that deaths seem to be slowing down.

And cases at long-term-care facilities are down 58% from their peak on Jan. 17, while overall, cases are down 31% from that same day, said Gonzales. He stressed that vaccination is working.

28,000 FIRST DOSES, 10,000 SECOND DOSES
 Larimer County has been receiving an average of 6,500 doses of the vaccine each week — a combination

of both the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines. Gonzales said pharmacies and health care providers have been getting those vaccines into people's arms as quickly as the supply arrives.

So far, 38,418 doses have been administered to Larimer County residents, including 28,482 first doses and just under 10,000 second doses, according to Gonzales. That amounts of about 8% of county residents who have received at least one dose, he reported.

SEE LONG-TERM CARE, 2A

Spotlight

Waters, Warren back probe of hedge funds' role in GameStop

House Financial Services Chairwoman Maxine Waters scheduled a hearing for Feb. 18 to examine the role hedge funds played in the GameStop stock trading frenzy, joining Sen. Elizabeth Warren in seeking to determine whether U.S. capital markets are being manipulated.

The House committee will examine the heightened trading activity around shares of the GameStop, a Texas-based video game retail chain, which skyrocketed 1,700% in January, driven by retail investors organizing online to target stocks shorted by hedge funds. Waters, D-Calif., announced the hearing agenda Monday.

"We must deal with the hedge funds whose unethical conduct directly led to the recent market volatility and we must examine the market in general and how it has been manipulated by hedge funds and their financial partners to benefit themselves while others pay the price," Waters said in a statement.

She and other members of the committee have said they want to examine how short selling by hedge funds contributed to the frenzy. The practice allows investors to bet the price of a stock will drop by selling borrowed shares, then buying them back later at a lower price and returning them, pocketing the price difference. If share prices rise instead, the investors can get caught in a "short squeeze" and suffer enormous losses.

— Associated Press

More Nation news on 5A >>>

2 teens charged as adults in Denver house fire that killed 5

Two of the three teenagers arrested in connection with a house fire in Denver that killed five recent immigrants from Senegal, including two children, have been charged as adults, prosecutors said Tuesday.

Kevin Bui and Gavin Seymour, both 16, were charged with 60 felony counts, including first-degree murder, attempted murder, arson and burglary in the Aug. 5, 2020 fire that killed Djibril and Adja Diol, along with their 22-month-old daughter Khadija, as well as relative Hassan Diol and her infant daughter Hawa Baye, the Denver District Attorney's Office said.

Three other people who escaped the home in the Green Valley Ranch neighborhood near Denver International Airport by jumping from the second story were hospitalized with non-life-threatening injuries.

According to court records, Bui and Seymour are both represented by public defenders, who do not comment on cases.

Prosecutors will also seek to charge a 15-year-old boy arrested in connection with the fire as an adult but a judge would need to approve that first because of his age.

Investigators have not released any information about a motive or how the fire was set. Court documents explaining why Bui and Seymour were arrested have been sealed.

— Associated Press

More Region news on 3A >>>

Weather forecast

High: 57
 Low: 26
 A shower in the p.m.

Full Forecast on 6B >>>



LOVELAND COMMUNITY KITCHEN



PHOTOS BY JENNY SPARKS / Loveland Reporter-Herald

Volunteer Vivian Dratch cuts and wraps bagels Tuesday as she and other volunteers put together protein packs and food bags at the Community Kitchen in Loveland. As the nonprofit nears 1,500 consecutive days of serving meals to those in need, a \$15 fundraiser launches today.

1,500 days of service celebrated with fundraiser

The kitchen is hoping to raise \$15,000

BY AUSTIN FLESKES
 LOVELAND REPORTER-HERALD

In celebration of serving the Loveland community for 1,500 days straight, the Loveland Community Kitchen will launch a fundraising campaign this week to feed more struggling members of the community.

To honor more than four years of consecutive meal services since opening Dec. 26, 2016, the kitchen has partnered with an upper-level public relations class at the University of Northern Colorado to kick off the \$15 for 15 fundraising campaign starting today. The campaign will ask community members to donate \$15, all of which will be used to purchase more food for the Community Kitchen.

Sandra Wright, director of Community Kitchen, said since its opening the kitchen has provided a consistent place for the people of Loveland to go no matter what.

"It (provides) a gathering point for people and it provided a consistency, a reliable place for people. The people who use our services



Volunteers Barb Massey, left, and Sue Westerh fill bins with granola bars while working to put together protein packs and food bags at the Community Kitchen on Tuesday.

know no matter what the Community Kitchen is going to be open."

Wright said the kitchen chose the \$15 donation keeping in mind the financial impacts of the pandemic on the community.

According to the release, in 2020 the kitchen has seen a near doubling in requested services because of the pandemic, and the team is expecting a 60% increase in 2021.

SEE KITCHEN, 2A

FLAVORED
 PRODUCT SALES

Council pushes vote again

Councilor Molloy calls for more input from families of young vapers

BY MAX LEVY
 LOVELAND REPORTER-HERALD

Loveland's City Council again postponed voting on a proposed ban on flavored tobacco and vaping product sales Tuesday, pushing it to April to invite more public comment.

Councilor Rob Molloy successfully moved to put off voting on the ban to solicit comments particularly from parents and families of youths harmed by the products.

The council last heard the item on Dec. 8, when they voted to table it to Feb. 16 while the city performed more business outreach.

Council members voted 5-4 to postpone the item Tuesday, with Don Overcash, John Fogle, Steve Olson and Richard Ball opposed.

Molloy and others said they wanted to target the families of young vapers in a way similar to how the city received targeted input from flavored tobacco and vaping product retailers.

"I believe we did a disservice to the citizens of our city to not including them in public outreach," he said. "I think it's a very important part that we aren't just looking at business owners. We're looking at the actual people who were affected on the (other) side of the flavor ban."

Councilor Andrea Samson said she envisioned the comments taking place as part an "outreach activity" led by the Loveland Public Library or modeled off its Community Conversations event series.

"No offense, I love public comment, but that was

SEE COUNCIL, 2A