



INSIDE This Issue

Will a New Law Improve Cyclist Safety?
Page 1

Father's Day Gift Guide

Our Clients Say It Best
Page 2

CO Cyclists May Benefit From 'Rolling Stop' Law

Pet of the Month

Broccoli and Grape Salad
Page 3

Fort Collins' Live Music Scene
Page 4

PLAY IT BY EAR Kick Off Summer With Live Music

School is out, Memorial Day has passed, and summer is well and truly here. It's the perfect time of year to get out of the house, stay up late, and make some memories. The summer months are especially well-suited to relaxing as you enjoy some live music. We've got one big music event approaching, plus a few local gems you may have forgotten about.

Taste of Fort Collins

When June comes around, the Taste of Fort Collins festival is the place to be. Happening June 11-12, the event is filled with food, vendors, music, and good vibes. This year's headliners are 90s' rockers Collective Soul and rapper T.I. And if that's not enough, there will be plenty of local acts blasting out tunes during the day. Admission starts at \$12 for a single day or \$20 for a two-day pass, and children under 5 get in for free. Learn more about the trip and buy your tickets early at TasteOfFortCollins.com.

Magic Rat

Don't let the name fool you. Magic Rat is a warm and inviting space cloaked in hardwood floors and warm and inviting furniture, with an old-fashioned marquee, cozy fire pits, and vinyl record coasters completing the look. You and your friends can dip in for dinner and cocktails and stay afterward for the live music every Wednesday-Saturday. The best of Northern Colorado's musical talent is almost always scheduled to play. You can check out the upcoming performers and peruse the menu at TheElizabethColorado.com/magicratlivemusic.



Washington's and The Armory

Located in downtown Fort Collins, Washington's is a 900-person capacity music venue that always has someone new and exciting onstage. Only a few blocks away, its sister venue, the Armory, offers a more intimate listening room where you can get up close and personal with the artists. Depending on when you go, you can expect to hear explosions of big rock sounds, catchy pop hooks, or intimate acoustic melodies. And whether you prefer to hear big pop hits or up-and-coming artists perform original songs, the venues have you covered. Plan your next night out by visiting WashingtonsFoCo.com and ArmoryFoCo.com.



JUNE 2022



Colorado's New Safety Stop Law A BOON OR BUST FOR BIKES?



In mid-April of this year, state lawmakers passed Colorado Safety Stop, new legislation that radically changes the obligations of bicyclists when approaching stop signs and traffic lights. The new law permits bicyclists to treat stop signs as yield signs and red lights as stop signs. In other words, a cyclist no longer has to come to a complete stop at a stop sign, provided the road is clear. At a red light intersection, the cyclist must stop but can then proceed in any direction if traffic permits.

What purpose does this law serve? Advocates, most of whom are cyclists, argue that it's more convenient. It takes much more energy to stop and start while cycling than slow down and speed back up. And when it comes to stop signs, most of us don't always follow the law anyway. I, for one, am guilty of glancing both ways and rolling through stop signs on my bike. As someone who uses clipless pedals, stopping, unclipping, looking both ways, reclipping, and restarting in a quiet area isn't worth it.

Advocates supporting the Safety Stop law also argue it will quickly clear the intersections of cyclists. Since these locations are where most car and bike collisions occur, they say the new law will make travel safer for cyclists — assuming, of course, cyclists do their due diligence in watching for traffic.

I'm a bit more skeptical. The Safety Stop law has been around for decades in other states but has produced no concrete data indicating a reduction in car to bike accidents. While I see the potential upsides, I'm particularly concerned about the new law increasing the risk of accidents at busy intersections. See page 3 for a deeper dive into some of the statistics.

First, I worry about inexperienced riders getting themselves into potentially dangerous situations. Humans don't have the best speed and distance perception, and people may underestimate the amount of time it will take them to accelerate their bike and cross safely. Such a miscalculation could prove incredibly dangerous, especially when cars are traveling quickly.

I'm also concerned about road rage. While cyclists have just as much right to be on the road as drivers do, many drivers don't see it that way. They travel too closely behind us, pass too narrowly at the sides, and generally feel angry

about us slowing them down. And if they are unaware of Safety Stop, that bike turning left on red will look like a reckless cyclist brazenly breaking the law. How you feel about another person on the road should not change how safely you drive, but too often, it does.

Of course, we also have to contend with human error and inattention. Imagine this scenario: Someone is wrapping up a long ride through the foothills and feeling fatigued. They come to a stoplight while reentering town, quickly glance left and right, and roll through the intersection at 10 mph after seeing no vehicles approaching.

Unbeknownst to them, a driver is late to pick up her kids from soccer. She sees the green light in the distance while traveling at around 50 mph. She briefly glances at a text, taking her eyes off the road for a few seconds. (Many people do it, but it's essentially the equivalent of driving down a football field with your eyes closed.) By the time she looks up, it's too late. The impact takes the cyclist's life.

Despite my reservations, I certainly hope the law helps rather than hurts. But I won't be changing my habits anytime soon and will continue waiting at the red light as I always have. With this new law, the responsibility remains with the cyclist to make sure the intersection is clear before proceeding, and I'm not willing to take the risk.

My overriding concern continues to be that motorists just aren't paying attention — and cyclists continue to pay the price. I would prefer that the legislature crackdown on distracted driving; until they do, I think we will continue seeing an increase in car and bike collisions. The law may or may not help. But to create truly safe roads, drivers and cyclists alike must treat each other with respect, minimize distractions, travel with caution, and watch out for others.



-Bryan VanMeveren

IT'S DAD'S DAY!

6 Gifts Dad Is Sure to Love

Dad is a very important person in your life! Every year when Father's Day rolls around, it can be tough to come up with the perfect gift, whether it be for your dad, a new father, your grandfather, or a father figure. Getting creative can be tricky, but this list is sure to help you with an idea or two for all different price ranges!



Wallet

Why not go really classic and opt for a thoughtful and practical gift? Most men's wallets see a lot of wear and tear. After all, they're sat on, toted around in pockets all day long, and sometimes forgotten about and sent through the wash. A new one just may be in order!

Massage Gun

Massage guns are rising in popularity. To help Dad recover from soreness and injury or just a tough workout, a massage gun will do the trick! The best part is that they range in price, and you can even purchase one on Amazon!

Apple Watch Strap

Does the dad you're celebrating own an Apple Watch? If so, help him customize it with a new Apple Watch strap. You can choose from many materials, colors, and designs so he can blend in or stand out as much as he wants.

A New Cooler

Men love their coolers — it's a foolproof Father's Day gift! Whether Dad loves to camp, fish, tailgate, go to the beach, or barbecue in the backyard, he's sure to appreciate a new way to store ice, drinks, food, or bait!

Tool Bucket Organizer

Is your dad a bit of a handyman? Help him get organized and never lose track of his tools again. Tool bucket organizers come in many forms and, again, can be purchased right online, making your shopping easy!

Bluetooth Headphones or Speakers

If your father doesn't have Bluetooth headphones or speakers yet, he's missing out. The opportunity to jam out wirelessly while working out, cutting the grass, doing hobby work, or just relaxing is effortless with this thoughtful gift.

'100% recommend giving them a call'

OUR CLIENTS SAY IT BEST

"I had an amazing experience with VanMeveren Law Group! Troy and the rest of the staff were beyond helpful in assisting me through my situation. Being an out-of-state college student and not being familiar with Colorado law, I felt really lost on what direction to go in with the car accidents I was in and the guidance they provided me was super helpful. I would 100% recommend giving them a call if you're contemplating finding a personal injury attorney in Colorado."

-Leah K.

COLORADO INTRODUCES 'ROLLING STOP' LAW

Will It Make Cyclists Safer?

Colorado has become the latest state to introduce a law that allows people who ride bicycles, electric bikes, and electric scooters to make rolling stops at intersections, thus regarding stop signs as yield signs and to view red traffic lights as stop signs. Cyclists must continue to yield to pedestrians and motor vehicles that have the right of way.

Advocates contend that the law will limit the amount of time cyclists spend at intersections. According to the Colorado Department of Transportation, 72% of crashes between cars and cyclists occur at intersections. But will the law really reduce the number of cycling deaths and injuries? Let us take a look at Idaho, where the law began. The rolling stop is often referred to as the "Idaho stop," thanks to that state's 1982 adoption of this law geared toward helping cyclists.

A year after the law's implementation, Idaho saw a 15% decrease in cyclist injuries. However, since then and with many more years of statistics available, state and federal officials discerned no long-term changes. Certainly, there are too many other factors involved, particularly the increases in distracted and aggressive driving behaviors, to determine whether the "Idaho stop" has helped reduce car versus cyclist incidents.

Bicycle safety must continue to remain a priority. Too many cyclists sustain injuries or die in preventable collisions. In Colorado, 20 cyclists died in crashes in 2019, according to the Colorado Department of Transportation.

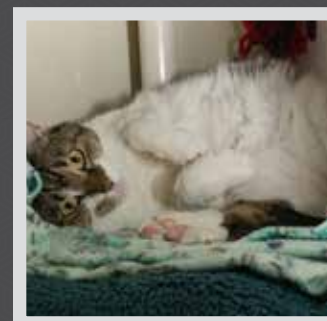
In addition, cyclist deaths accounted for 3% of all of the state's traffic fatalities during the five-year period of 2015 to 2019. Finally, cyclists accounted for 3% to 5% of the people seriously injured in motor vehicle crashes during that same five-year period in Colorado.

As advocates for cyclists, we hope this new law will have a positive effect. Regardless, everyone traveling on our Colorado roadways must remain aware and alert and understand that collisions caused by distracted, inattentive, and reckless drivers may be only moments away. If you're a cyclist who was a victim of a collision caused by a motorist, contact an experienced Colorado bike law attorney as soon as possible to understand your rights, responsibilities, and next steps to protect your interests.



Pet of the Month

Hiya! My name's Amiya and I'm a very special kitty! I came from a pretty bad situation in Arkansas and I've been quite scared of cats and other people ever since. Since I've come to the shelter, I've learned that people aren't so bad! It takes time to earn my trust, but once you have it, I can be such a character! I'm great at communicating my needs and I love to get pet on my face and under my chin. Hands can still scare me, so it's good to wait for my permission before petting me. You'll know the time is right when I flop on my side. I'll even use my paws to show you where I want to be pet and gently push you away when I've had enough. Treats and patience are the fastest way to my heart! I will need to be in a quiet household (preferably without children) as an only pet with experienced cat owners who get me like the Animal Friends Alliance staff! For the right owner, I'd be a great, silly companion! I've got a lot of stories to tell and a lot of love to give if you'll give me the chance to prove it to you.



BROCCOLI AND GRAPE SALAD

Inspired by EatingWell.com

A healthier version of broccoli salad? Yes, please!

Ingredients:

- 3 1/2 cups small broccoli florets
- 1 1/2 cup red onion, chopped
- 1/4 cup plain Greek yogurt
- 3 tbsp mayonnaise
- 1 1/2 tbsp apple cider vinegar
- 1 1/2 tbsp honey
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- 1 cup seedless grapes, halved
- 1/4 cup sliced almonds

Directions:

1. In a medium pot, bring water to a boil. Add broccoli and onion, cooking until the broccoli is tender.
2. Once broccoli is cooked, drain water and add the vegetables to a bowl filled with ice water. After 2 minutes, drain water and pat vegetables dry.
3. In a medium bowl, combine yogurt, mayonnaise, apple cider vinegar, honey, salt, and pepper.
4. Fold in the broccoli mixture, grapes, and almonds. Serve immediately.