

Watson-Lakamp, Paula

To: Watson-Lakamp, Paula
Subject: FW: John Kefalas photo



April 6, 2014

Dear Friend,

ALL THINGS INSPIRATIONAL & GOOD NEWS

On March 31, the CO General Assembly recognized Cesar Chavez Day in Colorado with the bipartisan passage of [SJR14-024](#). Cesar Estrada Chavez would have been 87 years old, and it was good to celebrate the life and work of a great man. He was born in 1927 on a small farm near Yuma, Arizona, and migrant farm workers raised him. On the Senate Floor, I acknowledged Carmel "Chuck" Solano, who worked most of his adult life as a barber here in town and authored the book, *At the End of the Row*. As a child, he worked in the sugar beet fields east of Fort Collins, and among his many achievements he has advanced the Museo de las Tres Colonias in Andersonville. Si se puede!

April 2 was the annual "Senior Day at the Capitol", and I was pleased and honored to address the assembled elders who filled the Old Supreme Court Chambers. They were to engage in the legislative process and to let us know the issues that are important to them. This is democracy in action!



Yesterday at the Old Town Library, I read *Grumpy Bird* in English and Spanish to a room full of 4-year olds and their parents as part of One Book 4CO Day. I was a bit nervous in front of so many children, but they were curious and awesome so we settled in for a fun time. See the picture of me in the tree; at least my head is not in the clouds.

This coming week, I will participate in the "Minimum Wage Challenge", which

ONE
BOOK
EVENT

Soapbox: Let's address transient situation in Old Town

Apr. 07

coloradoan.com

On the afternoon of March 10, my wife and I went to Old Town. It was a nice warm day and we decided to knock off work early and take a walk downtown to visit a couple local shops and then have dinner. Within 10 minutes we were approached in the Square by a middle-aged woman. She explained that she was a CSU student going through a nasty divorce and had fallen on hard times. She asked my wife for \$5 to help her out. My wife politely refused. The woman repeated her plea, with the same result. Then the woman called Sue a racial slur and started walking away (Sue is Native American). At that point I confronted the woman while calling the police. In short, things became heated as I followed the woman down Laurel Street while trying to get someone from the police department to respond. I gave up as she headed toward the Rescue Mission. The police left me a voice message three hours later.

The next day Sue followed up with a call to our city councilwoman, Lisa Poppaw. Ms. Poppaw informed Sue that the city was doing everything possible to address the transient issue downtown, but that they had to be careful of stepping on First Amendment rights. She argued that Fort Collins was such a beautiful place to live that it brought all kinds of people to town, and this social aspect was just part of the deal. And if Sue wanted to see a truly homeless problem, she needed to go to Washington, D.C., where Ms. Poppaw had just been visiting.

We weren't seeking a verbal infomercial of how wonderful Fort Collins was, nor are we concerned with the homeless situation in D.C. We are concerned of how the transient, not homeless — there is a difference — is affecting the social and business climate downtown. One of the suggestions Ms. Poppaw made is that perhaps we should have contacted the police at the time of the incident. Sue informed her we had. We received a call a couple days later by another office to apologize on their lack of response, which was welcomed.

In conclusion, as I read recent articles about future plans to enhance the Old Town Square, I have a suggestion. Let's also address the vagrancy/transient/loitering problem in downtown. In my opinion, the Old Town setting is becoming less and less inviting with the increasing gauntlet of panhandlers along College Avenue. The Coloradoan has done an admirable job recently writing on the homeless issue in Fort Collins. Let's also shine some light on the transient/vagrancy issue, which is very different. I'd suggest you start by interviewing downtown library staff and the businesses on Oak and College.

Richard E. Harness is a Fort Collins resident.



Keller: Fort Collins' homegrown publications need writers

Mar. 15, 2014 |

coloradoan.com

Go to any library or doctor's office in the Fort Collins area and look at the available periodicals.

There are copies of *People*, *5280* and *Sunset* for perusal but there might be just one or two copies of each. The rest of the space is covered with multiple instances of titles such as *RM Parent*, *BellaSpark* and *Fort Collins Magazine*.

Sure, we're not as big as some other metropolitan areas like Kalamazoo or Topeka, and yet the Choice City is home to a wide variety of magazines and literary journals that cater to a variety of audiences.

Thanks to advertising sales, many of these publications are available for free, giving curious citizens a chance to take them home and peruse them at their leisure. These magazines not only provide data on parenthood, business, and medical issues, but also they take the pulse of Fort Collins and the rest of Northern Colorado.

Fort Collins Magazine is an example of one of these periodicals. Edited by former *5280* staffer Cara McDonald and featuring articles from many local writers, this glossy publication premiered in 2012 to solid reviews by Fort Collins residents. It provides a mix of feature articles on local businesses, cuisine and fashion, along with personal essays on items such as parenting, and spotlights on local people making an impact in our region.

RM Parent and its older sibling *RM Senior* are published and edited by the husband and wife team of Scott and Kristin Titterington, both longtime residents of Fort Collins. Established in 1996, *RM Parent* focuses on subjects for caregivers and their children, including school news, health reports and — if I say so myself — a rocking monthly nutrition column. *RM Senior*, started in 2009, centers its stories for the large population of folks older than age 55 who live in Northern Colorado, with an emphasis on health, continued learning and recreation.

With 18,000 magazines distributed in Northern Colorado, *BellaSpark* is the area's prime source for living a natural and holistic life. Stories in this magazine focus on meditation, natural healing, exercise, organic eating, and finding a general calmness with oneself and the world. It sounds New Agey; however, it contains plenty of information that should get readers to take note in order to improve their lives.

We can't make a list of local magazines without including our two literary journals — *Matter Journal* and *Ruminate Magazine*. *Matter Journal* is distributed by Wolverine Farm Publishing and Bookstore, while *Ruminate* is prepared for quarterly publication from offices in north Fort Collins. Both literary journals feature fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and personal essays from writers in Northern Colorado and the rest of the world.

The good news about these local publications is they are all looking for new writing talent.

Let this column be your bugle call to contribute to the literary life of Fort Collins.

Richard Keller is the assistant director of Northern Colorado Writers and a monthly nutrition columnist at RM Parent.



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2014 SCHEDULE

MONDAY, APRIL 14

Fort Collins	10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.	Old Town Library	201 Peterson St., Fort Collins, CO
Windsor	1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.	Windsor Town Hall	301 Walnut St., Windsor, CO
Greeley	4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	UNC West Campus Practice Field # 2	1300 23rd St., Greeley, CO

TUESDAY, APRIL 15

Sterling	9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.	Prairie Park	825 Elm St., Sterling, CO
Holyoke	1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.	Holyoke Senior High School	545 E Hale St., Holyoke, CO
Wray	4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Powell Field	30074 County Road 35, Wray, CO

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16

La Junta	9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.	Inspiration Field	612 Adams Ave., La Junta, CO
Trinidad	1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.	Trinidad Catholic Football Field	201 Church St., Trinidad, CO
Walsenburg	4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Walsenburg/Huerfano County Community Center	928 Russell Ave., Walsenburg, CO

THURSDAY, APRIL 17

Alamosa	9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.	Alamosa Family Rec Center	2222 Old Sanford Rd., Alamosa, CO
Monte Vista	12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Monte Vista City Hall	95 W. 1st Ave., Monte Vista, CO
Pagosa Springs	4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	The Springs Resort	165 Hot Springs Blvd., Pagosa Springs, CO
Durango	7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.	Whalen Gym, Fort Lewis College	1000 Rim Dr., Durango, CO

FRIDAY, APRIL 18

Fruita	11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Fruita Community Center	324 N Coulson St., Fruita, CO
Parachute	2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Grand Valley Recreation Center	398 Arroyo Dr., Parachute, CO
Buena Vista	7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.	Buena Vista High School	553 S. Railroad St., Buena Vista, CO

SATURDAY, APRIL 19

Cañon City	10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.	Centennial Park	221 Griffin Ave., Cañon City, CO
Colorado Springs	1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.	Hillside Community Center	925 S. Institute St., Colorado Springs, CO
Monument	4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Tri Lake's YMCA	17250 Jackson Creek Pkwy., Monument, CO
Castle Rock	6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.	The White Pavilion	414 N. Perry, Castle Rock, CO