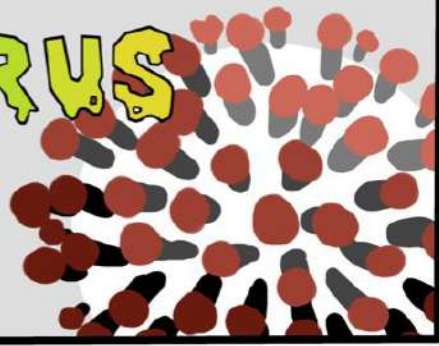
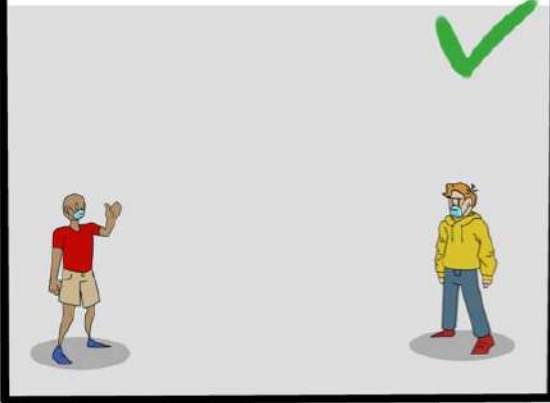


HOW TO SURVIVE CORONAVIRUS



Keep your distance from others, wear a mask



Some states are lifting quarantine orders. this does not mean it is safe to go outside. stay inside unless you have to go out.



Ignorance fixes nothing. Refusing to wear a mask or keep your distance can put others at risk.



Keep yourself Busy. There are plenty of things to do inside!





Fort Morgan High School Cafeteria

Teaching Reimagined: Covid- 19 Changes the Way Teachers Teach

by Jackson Langford

As COVID-19 has shut down all schools across Morgan County, they have transferred all classes online. This means that teachers have to restructure their classes so that students are able to learn while still staying within the curriculum.

As a current student at FMHS, I have experienced this new type of learning. I was curious about how our teachers came up with their plan to continue our learning. So, I asked Mr. Campbell about our current health and P.E teacher on how he came up with his plan. He not only has to come up with plans for making kids still learn about health, but to stay in shape.

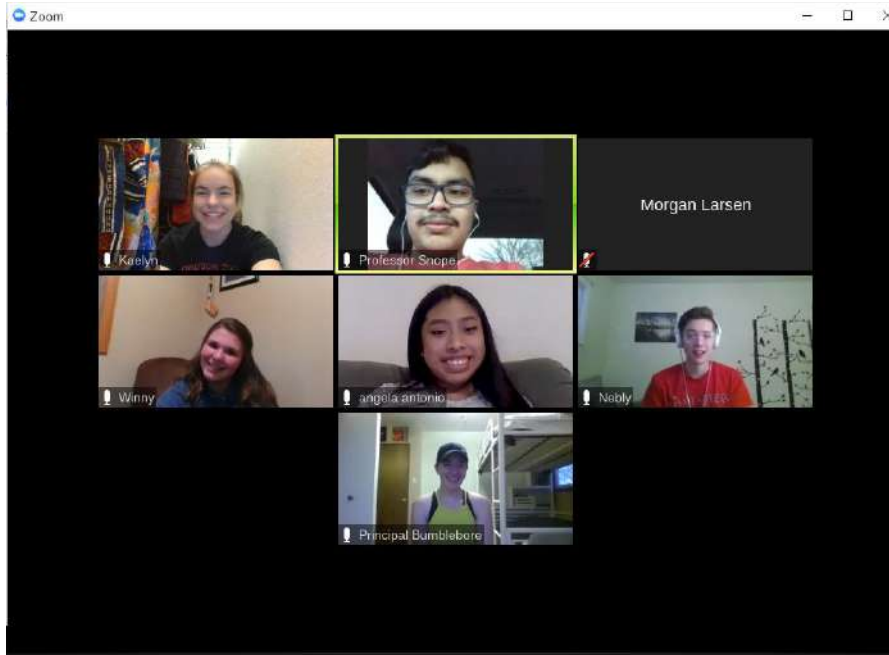
Mr. Campbell said, “We have been doing our best to incorporate a lot of self-teaching, where we pose questions and discussions that students have to research to find the answers. This allows them to utilize technology and be creative with how they complete the assignment.”

When asked about keeping students physically active, Campbell said, “For physical exercise, we encourage students to use equipment at home if they have it because they can most likely create a workout plan for themselves. For those students who don’t have any exercise equipment, each PE teacher created an 8-10 minute video with complete full-body workout students can do without any equipment. This worked out nicely because the students could do it on their own time, at their own pace.”

Mr. Campbell encouraged students to complete assignments. He said, “This is an opportunity to prove to yourself that you are capable of getting tasks done by yourself and that in the face of a

pandemic, you were able to overcome online school without ever having to do it. This will help you in the future, and next year you will be able to look back on this craziness and say to yourself you did it.”

Without our amazing teachers at FMHS, none of the students would be able to continue to not only learn but to be able to move on to the next grade or even graduate. Thank you to all teachers who care about us, students. You mean more to us than you know!



Rehearsal takes place over Zoom (Kaelyn Cavaleri, Carlos Avalos, Kristen Frasco, Angela Antonio, Judah Doughty, and Riley Shaver).

FMHS Theatre Department Produced ‘Zoom Plays’ Airing on May 8th

by Judah Doughty

Published playwrights such as Don Zolidis, author of the spring play “Game of Tiaras”, are writing plays designed to be performed over “Zoom,” a video conferencing platform.

These plays take place entirely in the cast’s homes; all the rehearsals and the final production. The final product will be a recorded zoom session published on YouTube through an unlisted link. The link will be available for the run of the show; May 8th and 9th.

Being creative and using available resources both play into the magic of productions during quarantine. This is precisely what the Director of “10 Way to Survive a Life in Quarantine”, Larsen, loves.

She explains that “before this happened, no one’s going to write a play to perform in this ridiculous medium. But since we don’t have any other choice people get creative and that’s what I like about it.”

The two shows being performed are “The Magic of Zoom” and “10 Ways to Survive a Life in Quarantine”. The first being published on Facebook for public use, while the latter is published by PlayScripts and is officially licensed.

“The Magic of Zoom” is a hilarious parody on the Harry Potter series by J.K. Rowling. It is student-directed by Angela Antonio and Cameron Bond, both of whom were scheduled to graduate this year. The premise, based on our current situation, acts as though the beloved characters of the Harry Potter Series are forced to conduct their magical education while “wizarding-in-place”.

“10 Ways to Survive a Life in Quarantine” is similarly comedic. Larsen describes it as “a live instruction manual on things you can do to survive in quarantine. Each tip has a scene performed by one person. Anything from performing musicals with your pet to staying in shape at home to becoming really interested in the wildlife outside your window. They are all connected by a Host and Co-host who walk us through them.”

The cast is made up entirely of FMHS students and includes volunteers and students from the Intermediate/Advanced Drama class. One student, Kaelyn Cavaleri, acting as Harry Plotter shared about her experience in “The Magic of Zoom” as well as her role as Josie in “10 Ways to Survive a Life in Quarantine”.

She explained that she volunteered so she could have a unique experience and continue to do what she loves. Her favorite parts include being able to act with her dog, a Pekingese-Bichon Frise mix named Claire, and not having to leave her house to attend rehearsals.

Likewise, Larsen expresses her goals for the productions. “I am hoping that my students get some semblance of the same type of experience they would get if they were doing this in person at school” she explains. Along with this, she hopes the plays can act as “an outlet for their creativity, and to build relationships with one another, a chance to work on all the skills we do on stage.”



English Honors period 2, Top row: Paola Cosio, Judy Carruth, Cael Langford
Middle row: Alejandra Ruiz, David Brannen, Akacia Schauerman
Bottom row: Jackie Escalera, Favian Suarez

Students and Teachers Struggle With Online School

by Paola Cosio

COVID-19 has made it hard for schools to stay open and continue teaching due to the fear of spreading this virus. Many have closed down and began to use online learning as a way to keep students up to date with their education. But what do these students and teachers think about this method of learning and teaching?

A sophomore from Fort Morgan High School was asked if she could give her opinions on this. She said “I hate it.”

She says that she doesn't learn this way “I can't see people and I am a visual learner so I can't figure out how to do things. Like when teachers are like ‘do this and this’ but they have no other explanation I don't know what I'm doing so I end up doing the assignment wrong.”

However learning isn't the only thing affected by online schooling. “I don't have a life or like a lot of friends outside of drama and orchestra, so not being able to see them is not going well for my mental health because I'm used to seeing them all the time.”

Many students haven't seen their friends ever since schools were closed down, along with that clubs and school activities were also cancelled.

Athletes continue to work out to stay in shape as best as they can, the drama department is having online plays, and the music department is finding ways to learn. Although this has been hard on students, teachers are also having struggles adjusting to this new form of teaching.

Even after schools were closed down teachers are still required to teach students from all grades, as if there was regular school. A teacher at FMHS was asked about how teachers were being compensated for their job. He said, "This can vary by school district. In this school district, they are lucky enough that they are being paid the same as if they were doing school like normal. This even includes school staff that aren't teachers."

When asked about the curriculum he said "Honestly, at this point, my curriculum has changed drastically, so it is hard to compare. Rather than all students performing on instruments together, I have changed to students being able to choose from projects that they find interesting. I found this an opportunity to allow some freedom to students, even if it is not what we typically do in my class."

Sometimes it's not about the curriculum, sometimes it has to do with how you enjoy what you're teaching or not. "It is tough. I miss seeing students in person, and my classes just don't look the same without a group of people in the same room. I am hoping to keep students engaged somehow without overwhelming them. I have definitely been expecting less than when we are in person and have been focusing on students' wellbeing more."

Does online school still require the same amount of work or more?

It would seem that because they are working from home that it would take up less time. This teacher said "Online school has not taken as much time as regular classes for me. I really didn't know how much time it would take going in, but I set aside time to make myself available to help students if they need it. I have been surprised that not many have taken advantage of that, so it has taken me less time."

Teachers now use websites like Canvas and, or Google Classroom to share the lesson of the day. Well most of the time if you have good Wifi access and some patience. Some students prefer Google Classroom over Canvas because "It's simpler and to the point" whereas with Canvas there is some confusion. The teachers are also getting used to these websites from sharing documents to grading them in the same site, and make it easier for students to use.

It would also seem like most if not all of the teachers are using video chat sites to at least have some kind of face to face time with their students. They use websites like Zoom and Google Meets which can come in handy for those who are a visual learner or just want to see a few of their classmates even if it is just for a little while.

These are hard times for a lot of people. More have been affected than others. Teachers and students alike have struggled during the global pandemic all over the world. Let's hope that this ends soon and that the schools can reopen for the upcoming school year and all of this can be put behind us and maybe even taught about some day just as students are being taught today.



Cover Theater May 7, 2020. Photo Taken by Julia Albrechth

Small Businesses in Fort Morgan Open Amidst State-Wide Shut Down

by Kristen Smith, May 5, 2020

Governor Jared Polis initiated a stay-at-home order March 26, 2020. This brought the closing of many stores, restaurants, and other non-essential businesses. Some restaurants were able to offer take-out and drive up to keep their businesses going. Other businesses, however, found it harder to operate while maintaining new protocols given by the state and city. So, what have these businesses had to change throughout this pandemic?

Wayne Johnson, owner of a local radio station, KNNG, 104.7 says that the station has maintained operation through the shut-down. Mr. Johnson explained that while he hasn't had to lay any of his employees off, he has had to modify hours for their safety. They have also ceased door to door operations temporarily. When asked about financial burdens, Johnson stated that his National and retail revenue has decreased, but he hasn't had very many shortcomings on a community level.

Mr. Johnson, for two years now, also is part-owner of the Cover Theater in Fort Morgan. The theater officially closed up March 16th. By closing, they still have expenses even if there aren't operating costs right now. With the downtime, they have been deep cleaning the theater from seats to walls. Meanwhile the theater hasn't stopped entertaining the community with their signs reading, "Sorry, gov. Polis says you can't come over," or "Now Showing COVID-19, Coming Soon Murder Hornets". It is up to Governor Polis as to when the theater can reopen. However, it is up to the crowd how the theater opens. Depending on how many people come in, they will have to fluctuate hours how they see fit.

All About U is a gift shop making up the Historical Downtown in Fort Morgan. Andrea Spessor, owner of All About U, in response to opening her doors again stated, "We are super excited, ... Happy to have people in our store again." During the shut down, the gift shop practiced curbside shopping where Andrea referred to her and her employees as "Personal Shoppers". It was difficult trying to find what people were looking for without letting them see everything in the store.

All About U opened its doors to the public Friday, May 1st, 2020. The employees are wearing masks and cleaning after every customer. They recommend customers wear masks as well, however they do not restrict people for not wearing one. Visit their Facebook page or their

website, (allaboutucolorado.com) for more information on what they have in store, deals, and more.

Now, finances have been hit hard among many local businesses with the lack of customers. However, there are a number of financial relief options for these businesses. The SBA (Small Business Administration) offers many relief loans and security. Their page states, “ On Friday, March 27, 2020, the President signed into law the CARES Act, which contains \$376 billion in relief for American workers and small businesses.” With this act in place, businesses could file for business loans.

An email from Fort Morgan’s mayor, Ron Shaver, stated, “In an effort to assist the businesses in Fort Morgan that have been impacted by this pandemic, the City set aside \$50,000 for a grant program to help ease the financial hardship these Downtown businesses have experienced. We have 34 local business owners that applied for this grant and we will disperse the funds to all qualified applications.” So along with the struggles of businesses affected financially throughout the covid-19 Pandemic, we know that our businesses are being taken care of.

With the stay at home order taken down, businesses can attempt to get back to normal, whatever normal is or will be, we can start to support them again. These are the businesses that have supported us and our communities, now it is our duty to return the favor. Remember to think and shop locally and help a neighbor out.



Morgan Lanes, Fort Morgan, CO

Communities Struggle With COVID-19 Stay-At-Home Order

by Mac Echols

Citizens young and old struggle with the Stay-At-Home order throughout the state and country, having to refrain from any outside contact that isn't necessary. How are these precautions affecting the members of our community?

Businesses that are considered unessential are being closed down until further notice. Above is Fort Morgan's Morgan Lanes, just one of the many businesses that is being negatively affected by this pandemic.

Ryan Echols, Manager at Morgan Lanes was asked his thoughts on the Stay-At-Home Order and how it's affected his business. He said, "I support the Stay-At-Home Order for the safety of the community and my employees, however it hurts the business and the 14 people that I employ."

Some small businesses, like Mr. Echols', have received funding from government relief programs to help support the losses of the pandemic. His thoughts are, "Although we've had support from the government, the spending of the PPP (Paycheck Protection Program) has strict rules which means it may only benefit us very little."

Outside of businesses, families are feeling the effects of having their regular lives temporarily put on hold. Fort Morgan Middle School student, Charlie Echols was asked his feelings about his situation. "It's difficult not being able to see friends and people outside of the house, but I know it's what we have to do to stay safe." Charlie also feels that the online schooling is not ideal and counterproductive to his learning.

We also see other conflicts that this pandemic creates. Social gatherings are prohibited, canceling many scheduled events such as concerts, graduations, weddings, sports events, etc. Cancellations like these have upset many people and caused many problems. Although some events have been moved to a later date, others have been cancelled indefinitely.

We hope to see these problems come to an end soon, and hope to see those who have contracted the disease reach recovery. COVID-19's effects have been felt around the world and we yearn for the day that we see it fade.



Fort Morgan Mother and her newborn at home

Mothers Struggle to Raise Their Newborns Amid the Covid-19 Pandemic

by Verenis Soto

As the number of those infected with the coronavirus increases into the hundreds in Morgan County many begin to worry, especially new mothers.

According to the CDC, around 3.7 million babies are born each year in the United States. Having a baby is already stressful enough in itself. No amount of research can ever really prepare you to take on the role of a mother much less raising a newborn during a pandemic.

With COVID-19 claiming the lives of so many, we forget that there are millions of mothers raising newborn babies that are just beginning their lives. One of those mothers is a Fort Morgan resident who gave birth to her second child on April 20, 2020, a little brother for her 16 year old

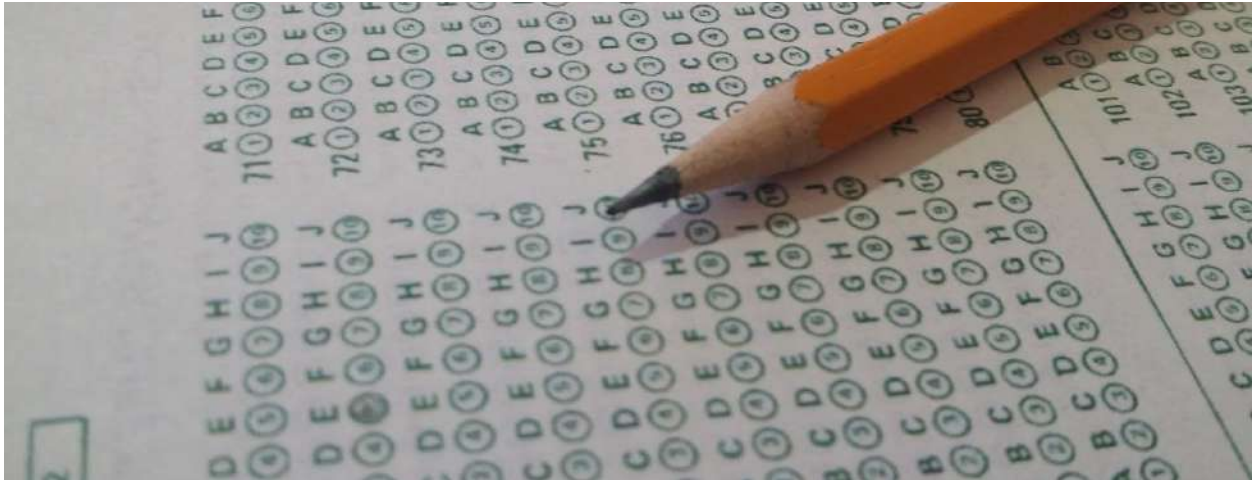
son. The mother of two, which was around six to seven months when she heard about COVID-19, explained the impact the virus had on her pregnancy.

“I was always in a constant state of worry. I feared getting infected. When I would attend my pregnancy appointments I was scared that they would tell me something was wrong with my baby or myself. ”

The new mother, who had to postpone her baby shower due to the coronavirus, explained that her pregnancy had been long awaited by her family and that she was excited to have her family along with her through her pregnancy, however the virus really changed her plans.

“I really want my family with me during this new chapter in my life. It really saddens me that my family cannot come see us as I would like. I know it’s for our protection, but it’s unfortunate that we can’t go see them and they can’t come see us. I think what hurts me the most though is that my eldest son, who is currently living with his grandparents, can’t come visit us and hold his little brother as I would like.”

Both the mother and the newborn continue to follow the stay at home orders and hope to see their family soon and celebrate the little one at their baby shower once this is all over. There's no knowing when that will be, but there is no doubt that the impact that COVID-19 has made to the world and to the small community of Fort Morgan, will never be forgotten.



As online programs progress, the class of 2021 worries that their SAT score may be affected due to the lack of proper, in-school training. The juniors of FMHS were set to take this college entrance exam on April 14th but it was postponed to the fall due to the coronavirus outbreak.

So just how much of a toll is this taking on students?

An interview of two separate students from the class was conducted to get their input on online schooling.

Miguel Estrada, 17, from the class of 2021, said the juniors will be affected because "...we were not exposed to some of the content and learning needed..." Estrada also said that he is the type "...to not show up if they can't control (him) to show up so it makes (him) more susceptible to falling behind."

Kamryn Herrera, 17, an FMHS junior, thinks "...the SAT scores are going to be greatly affected because depression and anxiety are affecting students everywhere..." Herrera also stated that "...without motivation and regular classes to help study then it'll be terrible."

An interview of an FMHS school counselor, who is heavily involved in the administration of the test was also conducted to get her input on the impacts on the SAT. Amy Prouty, 48, believes that students' SAT scores will be "individually based."

Prouty says "... this time away from traditional learning/online learning could allow for students to have more time to study or take SAT prep training." She also sees that an adverse effect could occur saying "...students could not be academically engaged and prepared for testing..."

All three responses bring up issues that the students and the state have been tasked with solving in order to keep students mentally healthy and thoroughly prepared for the test for the new date in the fall.

On one hand, the students may have more time to prepare digitally with the online practice or with practice test materials to help them prepare, outside of trying to balance school work. This might also help with stress levels since students have the summer to practice without schoolwork getting involved.

On the other hand, the majority of the students are having a hard time staying motivated during online school and not getting as much out of it as they would if they were in a classroom setting. It was also reported that quarantine has taken its toll on students mentally.

According to an April survey of more than 2,000 students conducted by the nonprofit Active Minds, 1 in 5 students says their mental health has significantly worsened since the coronavirus pandemic.

There are many factors that have affected students, specifically juniors who are planning to take a life-determining test of the knowledge they have gained from years prior, but primarily their 11th-grade year.

So what does this mean for the juniors of FMHS and nationally? Mostly, it means that these young boys and girls will need to develop a strong sense of motivation to push through these difficult times to push them through adolescence and into adulthood. As a class, they will be stronger and more resilient to anything that comes their way. Photo shows a typical SAT test setup

FMHS Juniors Worry About Their Futures Regarding the SAT: So What's the Issue?

by Regan Roth



Sign outside of Colorado Plains Medical Center

Health Care Workers Deal With Change in Professional and Home Life

By Akacia Schauermaun

The healthcare profession has dealt with major change since the COVID-19 outbreak. While many people have lost their jobs or been put on temporary leave, healthcare workers have been working overtime to try and keep people safe and healthy.

Healthcare has been hit the hardest by this global pandemic. People working in the medical field have undergone many new regulations and procedures that no one ever expected or prepared for.

Travis Freeman, a local paramedic, commented on some of the struggles people in his profession are facing. "We can't wear our uniforms home. We aren't allowed to wear our uniforms into the station, so we have to change our clothes out in the ambulance bay and in our garage before we go into our living quarters".

Leslie Paxton, a local medical assistant, talked about the changes that healthcare workers and facilities are undergoing. "I don't really get to see my patients, it's all via e-visits, where I'll call them. We launched this program way too soon, usually in healthcare it takes months to roll something like this out, and we rolled it out in 48 hours".

Paxton also commented on the emotional side that many health care workers are dealing with right now. "I miss not being terrified to go to work".

Most healthcare facilities have been focusing solely on COVID patients. The CDC recommends that "healthcare systems prioritize urgent visits and delay elective care to mitigate the spread of

COVID-19 in healthcare settings”. This changes the way hospitals and other medical facilities operate. Most medical professionals have dealt with major changes to their responsibilities and routine.



Aubrey Wells at her desk waiting for the next patient to come to her emergency room

Handling the Covid-19 Pandemic: A Perspective from Healthcare Workers

by Emilee Wells

Tired, scared, facing the unknown; healthcare workers across the globe are more than just nurses and doctors. While many of us associate the term 'healthcare workers' with direct COVID-19 caregiver positions, there are many essential employees also putting their life at risk to keep hospitals operating efficiently to handle the crisis.

Aubrey Wells, a recent college graduate works in Emergency Rooms across Northeastern Colorado and Southern Wyoming as a Financial Services Representative. While she does not medically help patients affected by the COVID-19 virus, her position is unique in that she and others like her are the first contact these patients have in the emergency room and clinic when they arrive at the hospital seeking treatment. After speaking with Ms. Wells, it is apparent that the fear and change that COVID-19 has created affects most employees working in a hospital.

When asked if she was worried about contracting the virus or spreading the virus Ms. Wells responded, "When I help a lot of patients that have the symptoms I worry about getting it. Since I am younger I worry more about spreading it to people with higher risk from infection in my family or even people in the hospital." Ms. Wells confirms that there is concern among essential workers in hospitals about getting the coronavirus and giving it to her family and the patients she helps everyday in the emergency room.

Restrictions put in place to protect healthcare workers and even just regular day people from contracting the coronavirus. Ms. Wells explains some of the precautions that have been adopted into her workplace. "I have to wear a mask 24/7, that's all they require me to do. I clean my desk and computer regularly. I wish they would put some other kind of barrier around my desk." These front line workers wish they could have more precautions to protect them from the coronavirus other than just wearing a mask. Even though she cleans her workspace regularly, she feels that there is more that can be done to protect front line essential workers.

Another concern discovered in this interview was the mental toll that the stress of infection is putting on healthcare workers, like Ms. Wells. She says, "It is kind of overwhelming sometimes. The work load seems heavier when we have covid patients because there are more things we have to do to keep ourselves and other employees safe. I have seen someone die and that was pretty overwhelming, he went into cardiac arrest." Overall you can see that the stress put on healthcare workers is "overwhelming" from the Covid 19 crisis.

At the end of the interview Ms. Wells expressed how she hopes that things will soon start to go back to normal and that she hopes people stay safe and avoid opportunities that might cause infection.

Ms. Aubrey Wells and front line essential health workers are not the only health professionals impacted by the crises. While Aubrey maintains her positive outlook that the COVID-19 situation will improve, a Clinical Doctor: Jinil Harvey Wells, who treats patients with cancer focused on the mouth, nose, and throat gives insight to how COVID-19 is affecting “non-essential” medical procedures.

Ms. Harvey told me how she is typically unable to go into work as much as she used to. She explains why she is considered to be a “non-essential” healthcare worker, “We are a high risk specialty clinic, and there have been restrictions/precautions placed on how we examine patients. We have not been able to do routine examinations and follow up appointments, as well as elective surgeries have been postponed until further notice. Also, patients have been following the social distancing policies and have opted not to be seen or go out if they can avoid it. Because of these factors, patient visits/appointments have been dramatically reduced.” Jinil also explained that since she works in this specific field it is more likely she could contract the coronavirus because of how it is spread, via the respiratory tract.

Since Ms. Harvey cannot go into her office as often she told me the things she does besides working at home. She said, “Most days I am at home, helping my step sons with online schooling, cooking more at home and not going out to eat as often, or shopping.” Not only is she doing her part as a healthcare worker to improve the lives of others but she is also helping around the house to support her family and herself.

Health care professionals, both essential and non essential are seeing drastic changes in their day to day jobs as a result of this crisis. We should be grateful that they are willing to assist with our health needs, even when it puts them and their families at increased jeopardy of contracting the Covid 19 virus.



Alfredo Velasquez in his living room with a homemade mask on.

Cargill Operates through Toughest Wave of COVID-19

by Katerin Velasquez

The Fort Morgan Meat Solutions Company employs over 2,000 people and as of May 1st, 2020 the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment as well as the State Emergency Operations Center had confirmed 56 cases of people with COVID-19 and 1 confirmed death due to the virus.

While the number of probable cases of people with COVID-19 continues to rise every week. Over 150 employees are under quarantine. Alfredo Velasquez, a current employee who has worked at the company for over 20 years as a Round Dropper has been in quarantine for over 3 weeks, and explains the process of being quarantined by the company.

“I felt sick and I went to go talk to the nurses at the office and the first time I went they said I didn't have anything and I was okay to keep working, but I felt really sick. My body hurt. The second time days later I felt a lot worse and I was starting to get a cough. I went with the nurses

again and they decided to send me home because I had a fever. As soon as they sent me home they also sent my wife home because she also works at Cargill, we are both under quarantine.”

The Fort Morgan plant employs people from all around Morgan County including Denver, Greeley, Arkon, Sterling, and Brush which makes it a prime target for covid-19. Cargill is taking measures to try to prevent from spreading the virus within employees and products.

Cargill pleads to be taking additional precautions to support their staff. This includes temperature testing, cleaning and sanitizing procedures, prohibiting visitors from entering the facilities, prohibiting international travel, limiting domestic travel, adopting social distancing practices and offering shift flexibility to keep major production facilities open. Velasquez continued to explain some of the measures taken by the facility here in Fort Morgan.

“They would take the temperature of the employees at the entrance of the building and they also would ask us to wear masks. But it really wasn't mandatory. If you had a fever you would be sent to quarantine for 2 weeks, and if you were in contact with someone who worked at cargill they were also sent home. They also got rid of the 2nd shift, my shift, I guess because so many people had symptoms. I feel like they really started doing this once the situation got worse.”

When asked if the company had taken all the possible precautions to ensure the safety of the employees, he explains the company had taken precautions to keep the employees safe, yet the timing of the company could have been better.

“In a way yes and in another no because they didn't let us know beforehand about the masks or that there were people who were confirmed with having coronavirus. Maybe that way there wouldn't be so many infected at the company. Another thing I feel like they needed to do is let everyone know that every person should be looking after their health, but that was after a lot of people were thought to be infected. It worries me because no one really knows who is or isn't infected, because I could get sick again when I return to work. You can't really be sure about anything. “

Velasquez and his wife continue to be in quarantine, the company has no longer paid them surpassing the 2 weeks. Cargill Meat solutions plant is a key component to the economy of Fort Morgan as it employs a number of the population. Their products are also a key component to people all around the nation. Steve Vairma who works as the principal executive officer for the great union at Teamster Local 455 has explained that the company has been trying to put the safety of the employees over profits.



Fort Morgan essential worker Manny Escalera standing in front of his company truck, wearing a mask.

Essential Workers go to Work Despite COVID-19 Pandemic

by Jackie Escalera

Citizens considered “essential” are having to report to work despite the COVID-19 pandemic. Many risk their lives to protect ours, such as healthcare workers. However, how are these facilities and essential workers being protected?

There are a few programs that have been adopted by the federal government that are used for the protection of essential workers. Programs such as the First Emergency Spending Package, the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, and the CARES Act.

Fort Morgan essential worker Manny Escalera, who works for Wiggins Electric” was asked how he feels having to go to work every day. He said, “I feel normal, but the work environment doesn’t feel the same. Everybody looks tense and hesitant.”

He was also asked what precautions his workplace has taken and he answered, “We have to wear a mask, the company gave us disinfectant spray for the company truck and we have to clean it twice a day, we can’t eat together or work together during work.”

Fort Morgan essential worker Alondra Aguirre, who works for Arby’s, was also asked how she feels about going to work. She said, “I feel scared because I have to see a lot of people and I also feel angry because so many people still go to Arby’s even though we are supposed to be in quarantine. I also feel nervous because you never know what can happen.”

Some of the precautions she stated her workplace takes are, “A piece of plastic at the window to separate us from the customers, we have to wear gloves and masks, we have to wash our hands every 30 minutes, and there are fewer workers working than usual.”

Around the Nation, there are people that still have to go to work despite the Coronavirus pandemic. Workers that work for other people to be able to live their lives as normally as possible.



School Just Isn't the Same

by Mateo Salcido

From the first day we found out about our season being cancelled to today, the guys from the FMHS baseball team have been finding ways to stay busy. Some things we have been doing range from working to playing video games until it is time to wake up for school. I spent some of my time interviewing a couple of guys from the Fort Morgan High School baseball team and got their opinions on everything going on and what they are doing to stay busy.

I got in contact with Sam Shaver, who is a 3rd baseman and Pitcher for the varsity team to get his thoughts. When asked what he was doing to stay busy his response was, "I have been binge watching shows and playing video games to the point where I get bored. I have also been trying to find work while filling out scholarship applications and finishing school. It has made me find new ways to exercise like taking long bike rides". This is similar for most of the guys.

Another person I talked to was Nick Norris. Norris has been super busy since he is going to UNC to play football and work two jobs and keep up with school. When asked about how he is dealing with it he responded with, "During quarantine I have worked. I got a new job seeing I have a lot

more free time. Other than that I have done school work and gotten stuff done for college.” Quarantine is making everyone’s lives way more stressful even though there is less to do.

Over the break I have been working non-stop and trying to help my parents around the house. I’ve noticed that online school makes life way harder and isn’t fair to everyone since people got jobs and don’t have time to write essays weekly and do 60 math assignments (Yes, 60). In my opinion grades shouldn’t even be a thing right now, but only because students are taking this time to get a job and earn money and save it for college or maybe any other thing they may be interested in.

Overall, I understand and respect the efforts made in trying to continue learning, but in the end I am not sure how much good it will do. Students are stubborn and rather sleep and play video games than do their homework and I do not blame them. I hope everything goes back to normal soon so we can get back to doing our homework and going to school.



Covid-19: Fall Sports May Be Suspended

by Alexis Ricalday

In the beginning of March, schools were treating the spreading of Covid- 19 cautiously and temporarily shut down, and all sports games and training sessions were suspended . High school athletes might lose another season in the fall, so sports won't return until 2021. Irving Rubio, a soccer player, and Katerin Velazquez, who's in cross country, talk about how they feel about the current situation, and how they might not play in the fall. They are also asked if they think anything can be done to play.

Irving describes how he feels, “Right now, I really hate being stuck in my house for a long time. It's really boring to not be able to do anything or go out and be able to see all my friends. Thinking about how I might not play soccer for my senior season makes me pretty sad.” what can be done I don't think there can be anything that can be done, but I wouldn't honestly care if I get sick, I just want to play and want sports to be around.”

Katerin had a pretty similar answer and said, “I didn't initially think it was as bad as it is now. It makes me feel pretty weird, how everything was normal and now we are all being isolated from one another. It honestly worries and saddens me to think that because as athletes we train hard to get to play the sports we enjoy and it sucks knowing that could be taken away. I think it makes it worse being my senior year.” She thinks that there can't be anything done until the pandemic is gone.

Knowing their responses, you can only imagine how every fall athlete would feel about sports not coming back until 2021, and not getting the chance to compete, especially if they're missing out on their senior seasons. Sports are very important for a lot of students. A lot of people have a huge passion for the sport that they play in and put their blood and sweat into the game. Some worked harder and went an extra mile to be able to continue sports in college, and not getting their final opportunity to demonstrate what they can do is frustrating and sad.



Household items for self protection Kaelyn Cavaleri

COVID-19 Schedule Changes Leave “At-Risk” Individuals Rattled:

Morgan County Citizens Change Habits for Self Protection

by Kaelyn Cavaleri

In the wake of this COVID-19 global pandemic, there have been clear groups that are at risk for the virus. These groups are people over 65 years old, and people with underlying health conditions.

The CDC recommends that at risk individuals should stay home as often as possible, wash hands often, and wear a mask in public areas. Staying home and avoiding close contact with other people is the most recommended way to prevent contraction of the virus.

But how are the at risk individuals that are close to home coping with this? A survey was conducted for the at risk individuals in Morgan county, 85% having underlying diseases and 15% being 65 and older.

Cassie Potts, MA was one of the participants. She recorded feeling anxious, stressed, frustrated, and restless. In fact, these emotions had the highest votes out of the list provided. Most participants have felt these emotions, along with other emotions. Only 28% of participants had reported feeling relaxed.

Potts explains how this pandemic has affected her life by providing information about the changes she has made to her habits and her home life. She says, "...now to protect myself and my family I grocery shop every 2 weeks." She also reports using a homemade face mask and using hand sanitizer while grocery shopping. She also is "more diligent about washing for at least 20 seconds." Her job has changed by forcing her to conduct telehealth meetings with her clients.

The survey participants explained how COVID-19 has affected their lives and schedules. Most of their lives have gone online, with jobs, highschool, and college. One participant stated, "...we are trying to do much more than our usual volume in a remote working situation." Most of the business and education workload has been the same, and it is putting on a strain on community members.

The individuals with children all selected "stressed" as an emotion. Not only do they have to conquer their own work, they have to take care of their children's needs and schoolwork. All of this is added on top of being at risk for COVID and having to protect themselves.

Judy White, an older member of the community, is working very hard at protecting herself from this virus. She explains that she is trying to keep herself busy by crafting and gardening since she lives alone. She is also making masks and distributing them to her family.

White has felt the effects of this virus by not being able to go to her usual get-togethers with her friends and family. She reports that she uses gloves and washes her hands often, and "I view everything that comes into my home with the knowledge that it could have virus spores and clean accordingly."

While it may seem tedious to some, White is actually following recommended guidelines to a T. She states that "I feel I am being socially responsible and know I am blessed to be able to stay at home as so many cannot!"

The best thing to do right now to protect everyone in the community by following in the footsteps of community members and regulations of the CDC. Morgan County residents must work together to protect the at risk people they love and to help in the worldwide COVID-19 effort.



Travis Scott

Live Concerts Are Over, but Virtual World Hosts for All

by Kendra Toler

Before the pandemic hit, tours were going on everywhere with music artists. A lot of artists had dropped new albums, take for example Five Finger Death Punch.

They released their new album, titled F8, right before the pandemic and was about to go on tour when the lockdown began. This forced them and other music artists to stay home and because of that, they lost quite a bit of money. But, there is a bright side to this story.

Even though the concerts that used to rock the world from pop to metal are not able to be done in person, we have found a way where people can listen and “go” to a concert, and that is done by online concerts. Artists have been scrambling to figure out what they can do instead and so they started to live stream their songs from their own home and posting on social media.

This allowed people to listen to their favorite artists from home and listen to all of them for the rock bottom price of, and you guessed it, nothing. No money is charged and that is one of the best things because this allows people to virtually go to a concert and not have to pay a lot of money for a good seat so that you can actually hear the band/person singing rather than the person next to you singing horribly and constantly bumping into you.

Travis Scott hosted a virtual concert on the popular video game Fortnite that people could attend and hear his content. CMT had a special on their network for country artists and was broadcast live around the middle of April.

Out of a survey of a few students here at FMHS, all of them haven't gone to a virtual concert, but they want them to continue simply because of the accessibility. These concerts make it a lot easier to see one's favorite artist sing.

One student also said that while concerts are cancelled, "the virtual concerts are better than no music at all." This really goes to show how music helps us all even through these trying times.



Sarah Vicente's dog showing off Sarah's yard sign.

Community Celebrates High School Seniors

by Damaris Arreola

Senior year of High School everyone is looking forward to prom, senior ditch day, senior pranks, and graduation. Some may even say its the 'time of your life'. Unfortunately, the class of 2020 didn't get to celebrate their last couple of days of high school in the traditional way because of the world epidemic COVID-19.

FMHS seniors didn't get their ideal ways of celebrating, however, the community and admin at FMHS were able to come together to find a way to celebrate the seniors. They were able to create the "Musting Nation Adopt A Senior" group on Facebook. How it works is a picture of the senior is posted along with a bit of information about the senior. Each senior can only be adopted a total of two times this makes it fair for everyone. Once a senior is adopted they will receive a gift from the person that adopted them. "We encourage the whole community to get involved." said Dencia Kudron the counseling secretary at FMHS..

The class of 2020 will also be receiving yard signs from Dustin Price Photography in Brush. In an interview with the Fort Morgan Times, he said “ We’re not making a thing on it, but the reward of seeing everybody’s emotion is more payment than what dollar signs can put on it. It’s priceless.” Most of the signs were donated by members from the community.

Not only is the community celebrating the class of 2020. The Fort Morgan FFA and the Drama department also found a way to recognize the FMHS class of 2020.

The Fort Morgan FFA officers had an online end of the year banquet. They met through Zoom, a video conferencing app on Friday, and recorded the banquet. The video was then posted on the Fort Morgan FFA Facebook page so the parents, the members, and family could watch the end of the year banquet.

One of the many activities that COVID-19 canceled was prom. However, that wasn’t going to stop the Drama department from having their own online prom. The idea came from one of Mrs. Larson’s former students, Sam. Soon enough Mrs. Larson, the drama director and teacher at FMHS, sent out invitations for people to RSVP. They then received a box full of party supplies! At their prom, there was a lot of dancing, they learned choreography from the musical *Prom*, and even gave out a few prizes. “It was different than prom but I still got to hang out with them.” said FMHS senior Sarah Vicente. The seniors that were part of the Drama department got a homemade banner that Mrs. Sharp made them.

Recently on the Fort Morgan High School Facebook page, there was a post regarding graduation. Unfortunately, the FMHS class of 2020 won’t be able to have a traditional ceremony. However, on May 16th at 6:00 p.m. they plan on having a “Baccalaureate Celebration” which is a pre-recorded broadcast on YouTube. The Baccalaureate Celebration will include speeches from the valedictorian, salutatorian, class president, and other students. It will also include the senior slideshow. On May 23rd there will be a presentation of diplomas in a parade form while still practicing social distancing. Each senior will get to decorate a car and bring along a couple of their family members. The parade will also be videotaped therefore, people at home can still celebrate with the Class of 2020.

Who says you can’t have fun with your friends even when you're at least six feet apart? Thank you to all of the community members that were part of all these activities! Congratulations Class of 2020!



Picture taken by Elizabeth Welp

People of Morgan County are Staying Home Amid Decreasing Pollution

by Elizabeth Welp

People all over Morgan County are staying home to protect themselves and others from COVID-19. We are starting to see a reduction in driving all over the country

According to Capradio there has been 65% fewer cars on roads in the San Francisco Bay Area and we are seeing that here in our own backyards. Our own mayor stated that “We have seen a large reduction in the traffic on the interstates and in Fort Morgan” - Ron Shaver. This is an amazing thing that no one could have imagined would happen in this terrible time.

According to WITN “The air pollution going down can actually help people fight the COVID-19 virus,” this is really cool because we are helping those in need by not driving our cars. If you think you aren’t helping or doing anything during this time of need, you are by staying home.

According to my own survey there are 47.4% essential workers within Morgan County and 42.1% of people are driving everyday during this quarantine.

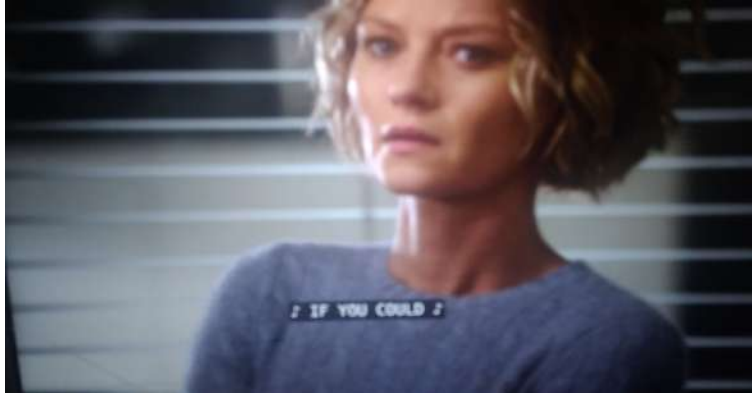
Even some of our many essential workers are working from home. For example Devin DeLand, a mother of three, is keeping our internet running right from the comfort of her own home; and teachers are teaching from their own home as well.

Many people from Morgan County are staying home and those people aren’t given as much credit as the ones you can see during your everyday life. Those people are saving lives by staying home and we need to appreciate them as well

Even though we are helping our air quality we are not helping our land. Our mayor stated that “We have seen an increase in the garbage being generated due to the number of people at home during this current situation we are in,” this is not good news.

People are bored. We need to keep ourselves busy during this hard time in order to help our environment.

Everyone needs to stay at home and busy in order to help our environment. Maybe plant some flowers, pull weeds, enjoy the fresh air from your own yard.



Boredom Caused in Teens by Forcing Them to Stay inside Causes Trouble for Parents

by April Nichols

Teens all over Morgan County and really all over the United States have been forced to stay inside causing trouble for parents nationwide. Parents and teens nationwide are having to come up with ways to keep entertained.

An article published on psychologytoday.com written by Carl E Pickhardt Ph.D. refers to adolescent boredom as the Devil's Playground.

In the same article Carl Pickhardt says, whether from emptiness or entrapment, boredom begins as state of disinterest that becomes painful the longer it is protracted; and the longer it is protracted, the more risk there is of impulsively seeking troubling measures for relief -- like the various forms of Escape, Excitement, Substance Experimentation, or even Rule Breaking mentioned above.

The younger the child the harder it seems to keep them entertained, therefore, parents have resorted to increasing their kids screen time to keep them entertained. Teens have to be somewhat creative with ways to keep themselves busy.

Lyllan Shaver, a freshman, says she has been watching tv, babysitting her brother, and drawing stuff to keep herself busy and out of trouble.

Faith Miller, a freshman, says that she has been reading, watching tv, sleeping, and making rubber band bracelets. Her sister Allison Miller, a sophomore, says she has hung out with friends, slept and done school work just to keep herself entertained.

“Hold your chance even in any health condition. Because there is nothing worse for your health than boredom,” Mignon McLaughlin.



Protests Fighting the Lockdown Arise Around the Country

by Melvin Figueroa

It's not just teenagers who are fed up with this lockdown, all around the country citizens are making themselves heard when it comes to this quarantine. This virus has brought protest after protest to local and state governments.

The closing of businesses has without a doubt affected people in ways they wouldn't expect, predictions of crashes in the stock market have caused business owners to urge their governments to reopen as soon as possible. An article by Shawn Langlois on Marketwatch.com states, "How can stocks continue to rally against what's shaping up to be a depression in the economy". The fear of an economic crash is not the only motivation for citizens to take action, unemployment rates are proving critical to the well being of American Citizens. With 20.5 million jobs lost in April, the economy can not get any better as the lockdown regulations continue to be in place.

On the contrary, many believe that the refusal to shutdown close-quarter jobs such as factories is further adding to the spread of the disease. In Fort Morgan, CO the Cargill Meat Solutions plant has continued to operate amidst backlash from the workers. Cargill employee Teresa Figueroa said the following about workplace conversation, "Many workers are considering just not coming into work because of how fast the virus seems to be spreading,".

Regardless of the regulations being put into place such as the workers being required to wear masks while on the job and separate tables in the cafeteria they seem to only do so much in

preventing the spread in such a congested work environment. While praised for the various safety measures by some, by workers the plant doesn't seem to be doing enough.

Threats of strikes and protests aren't limited to factories as seen by the May 1st strikes across the country. Essential workers such as those from Target, Amazon, and Whole Foods have protested the lack of safety equipment, denial of sick leave, and unsafe working conditions. This pandemic has brought out people to stand against the treatment of workers and the almost exploitative nature of some of these businesses. Giving these essential workers a safe place to work is essential, they are the people who are pushing the country along while the rest of the country is on lockdown. Their value is starting to come through to the business owners and compromises on the demands of those on strike are starting to be met.

All around the country, everyone is feeling the results of this lockdown to some degree, the desperation of those eager to open up is starting to seep through the political ladder. States such as Texas and Florida who were against the lockdown from the beginning are starting their path onto normalcy. As the rest of the states continue on lockdown we see the protests and defiance of the citizens continue to pop up in the midst of this once in a lifetime pandemic.

\



People Sanitize During Covid-19 Crisis

by Alejandra Marta Ruiz

According to The Fort Morgan Times, the Fort Morgan Council agreed to “extending the declaration of a public health emergency in the city until at least May 30.” With this extension, people should go out only when they need to and when they do to stay sanitized by using gloves and masks.

There have been 1.29M cases confirmed all across the US and over 76,000 deaths. It is spread from person to person if they are infected and are within 6 feet.

Washing your hands for at least 20 seconds is very effective. “So the greater threat is not washing your hands thoroughly,” Sansoni said in an email. “Use whatever type of soap you prefer.”

Cleaning and sanitizing everything you frequently touch around your house and especially your bathroom is very helpful. Jura Koncius from The Washington Post reported that we should “wash our clothes such as towels every few days.” As difficult as it sounds to stay home for an extra 30 days, it is best for us and our health.

Essential jobs are now making their employees wear masks and gloves. Michel Ana Orellana, an FMHS student wears gloves and masks at her job. While she is home, she constantly wipes everything down with disinfecting wipes.

Edgar Escalante, a former BHS student also wears a mask at his job and washes his hands every chance he gets. The first thing he does when he gets home is put on hand sanitizer to kill any other germs.

This is all new to us and our daily schedules have drastically changed due to this pandemic. There are a lot of people that still have to go to work and go on with their lives but that doesn't mean we have to go out for unreasonable reasons. This lockdown is keeping us healthy and safe.

Quarantiners Practicing Social Distancing During This Pandemic

by Yisel Sotelo

Americans and other people around the world have been asked several times to help stop the spread of the CoronaVirus, and the number one thing many have said is to practice social distancing. Practicing social distancing mostly means avoiding close contact with people who don't live with you or public places where there might be a risk of contamination.

The C.D.C. has issued guidelines for the public to wear masks when outside one's home and to practice social distancing — remaining at least six feet away from those outside your household, do not gather in big groups, and to stay out of crowded places. Many people have strictly followed these guidelines to keep themselves and others safe from the CoronaVirus but there have been people who don't social distance what so ever.



Martha Gomez a teacher at Green Acres speaks about how she and her families experience practicing social distancing whenever they leave their house. “It's honestly a lot harder than I expected it to be. It's hard to keep your distance from others in stores because there are just too many of us shopping we cant keep 6 feet away.”

And I totally agree. Yes, it can at times be very difficult to keep your distance but it is doable with the proper techniques of the C.D.C guidelines. It's extremely important for everyone to follow the guidelines to make sure everyone in the world whos being affected with the virus can battle back to health. Not taking things seriously can lead us to be under quarantine even longer and not going back to our normal lifestyle.

Robert A.J. Signer, an Assistant Professor of Medicine at the University of San Diego he states, “One infected person will on average pass the virus to 2.5 people within five days. After 30 days, the figure would rise to a devastating 406 new infections. The number can be significantly reduced by engaging in less social contact.”

So just remember to keep a 6 feet distance from others. Stay away from crowds of people. Wear masks every time you are leaving your household. Work from home if possible if not be cautious when at work. Avoid any public transportation. If needing things from a store consider their delivery services to risk exposure.

I know it might seem difficult to not see your family or your friends. Or go to the store without worrying about your health or others around you but it's something that we all need to do and we all need to take proper precautions so we can get through this together in the safest way possible.

Teachers Around the District Need Our Help

by Joe Ha

Amidst all the hysteria with COVID-19 and online teaching, everyone seems to only be worried about the students. What people seem to forget, however, is that teachers are having as much trouble as students are with online teaching.

According to USA Today, teachers should ideally receive several weeks or months of training before launching any sort of online learning program. Morgan County school teachers only had a couple of weeks to prepare themselves, which is less than ideal.

It often goes unnoticed just how much effort the teachers of this generation put in with such little time to prepare. Teachers have to work extremely hard to put out lesson plans daily, while also keeping track of 100+ grades.

Heldwin Brito, an industrial arts teacher at Fort Morgan High School, noted that one of his main struggles with online teaching was finding the right platform to use for communication.

“My focus is to create the best industrial arts program ever and that demands for me to spend many hours researching tools, ideas and a connection to the industrial world that is always evolving. When I spend time learning digital digital platforms that I probably will not use in the long term it takes away time to do the research needed to improve my program,” said Brito.

He elaborated further on the issue stating that most “easy to use” platforms are not as easy for someone who isn’t as tech-savvy like him. Not to mention the fact that another concern tied with online communication is students not having any internet access at home.

Nolan Meyer, a science teacher at Fort Morgan Middle School, shared his struggles with online teaching as a parent of two students himself.

“We do our best to help the kids stay on top of their work and to turn things in on time, but I’ve had to step away from a lot of these duties in order to keep up with my own work. Often the kids have needed our help on assignments so we have to stop what we are doing to help,” said Meyer.

He added that it gets chaotic and frustrating at times, as four sets of school related emails go in and out of the house throughout the day, as his wife is also a school teacher.

Chad Unrein, vice principal at Fort Morgan Middle School, speaks for teachers everywhere with the statement “Students are really important to our staff and knowing that students are struggling, but not having the ability to help them wears on teachers. This adds more stress to the job.”

So be kind to your teachers, and show up to class on time. They do care, and you never know just how much time was spent working on the lesson plan for that day.

Family and Justice at Risk

by Miguel Estrada

The pandemic of Covid-19 is a major deal in the U.S and the rest of the world, but some places have been hit harder than ever. Fort Morgan is tenth in the nation for most confirmed cases per capita. You may think it's not a big deal, but Fort Morgan is a town of 11,539 people and there have been 534 cases confirmed and still counting.

Of the 11,539 people living in Fort Morgan, the majority do work in Cargill. Many from other countries work at the beef plant which puts it at risk. Workers have been screened with simple questions of “do you have symptoms or do you have a fever” to screening of temperatures, to separating the crews of 1st, 2nd, 3rd shift by just a tunnel. More employers are forced or are now working longer hours in the plant.

I spoke to one of the workers over the phone and asked not to be named, the conversation started with “how do you feel about this pandemic as you work?”

“I feel grateful that I have a job right now as I know there are some people that may not have a job. And that we’re living paycheck to paycheck, but to work such long hours and having to work almost every day is really getting to me, as I work in the packaging section of Cargill it was bad enough. We had to wear heavy jackets and when it was time for us to push out we had a high temperature and now with the mask and protective clothing we have to wear it’s making it even worse. The masks restrict us from communicating well and as well as interesting with other clothing and by the end of the day we have to get screened and our temps were so high that it seemed that we have the virus and sent us home”-anonymous

“Why have you had to work so many long hours”

“We started to work longer hours as some of our workers stopped coming or had contact with some with the virus, and some have abused the system put by Cargill to take care of its workers. Cargill offers to pay the hours they were scheduled to work and others saw it as a paid vacation and that is not just right, because some of us haven't seen our families, and I can say that I can't even come home to a hug from my kids. I have to enter from the basement, take my clothes off and wash them, then take a scalding hot shower to make sure I don't infect my kids. Back then I was able to come home with my kids running towards me, and now they are forced to wait.”

I spoke with someone that worked at the county courthouse, asking the same questions and how trials were going.

The trials have come to a complete stop and any jury duties or trials are now put on hold. We can’t do all of our work on the laptops given to us, as there is something that we need our desktops for that our laptops can not do. The hours are the same, and much like Cargill, we are getting paid like we are still at the building. And it’s so inconvenient that we can’t have our judge sign-off on paperwork for protection orders, warrants, and other material, I know that the captivity can make anyone go crazy and I also know that there are some families that request protection orders on their own families because they were beaten or abuse and now we can’t do anything except wait. We can send units to go and separate them but it’s not enough. I just hope that we can get this pandemic to go away by some shape or form.

As you can see that the two completely different jobs are having trouble with coping with this pandemic some easier than others. But all in the way the same by dealing with hard times and the fright of others. This pandemic needed to be taken more seriously. Some of the other interviews

even once stated I would have rather closed the facility down for 14 days than to risk more people from getting it. “Would our economy take a hit?”

“What is an economy with no one to help run it if we are all getting sick and calling on and being sent home. Because we don’t know when we have it, it is like the flu we feel great then the next hour we feel terrible and then by the time you realize what you have you have already infected one other person and then it spreads.”

Yesenia Rangel completing her assignments for online classes.

College Students Struggle to Adapt Due to COVID-19

by Briana Rangel

Across the globe millions of students have been struggling to finish off the semester strong. With such an abrupt change of scenery and schedule, it gave them zero to little time to adjust.

Around 2,000 students are enrolled at Morgan Community College, 13,000 who go to the University of Northern Colorado and over 25,000 who attend Colorado State University were affected by the virus. In just three schools there are about 40,000 students who had to return to their homes. Whether that be a few miles down or a whole state or country away, universities only gave the students till the end of the semester to gather their belongings and head out.

Yesenia Rangel, a sophomore at the University of Northern Colorado was one of many who was forced to go from physically attending her classes to trying to understand what the professor was saying in a zoom call or pre recorded lectures. When she was asked what the hardest change for her was she responded “I found it the most difficult to have to give myself a certain amount of hours to sit there and only focus on school”. Then added “It was also really hard for me to have to sit down and finish my homework while everyone else around me was chillin’.”

After freshman year having a meal plan and paying for a parking pass, most students tend to do the same for their next year. A parking pass for the whole school year is about \$300 and a meal plan for the year is \$6,350. Together this is about \$7,000 that a student pays either from their pockets or with the help of scholarships.

All around the country students are petitioning for tuition refunds and or discounts. Some have filed lawsuits and others have just simply chosen to not pay. “Zoom university is not worth 50k a year “ a student wrote on their petition in hopes that schools would consider refunding their tuitions. Students are not only paying for the classes but the campus as well. \$53,308 for the school year of 2019-2020 is the price tag for tuition at NYU, and over 11,000 thousand students have signed the petition to help get their money back.

At UNCO the plan is to allow the meal plan that students had paid for continue on into their next year at the university. As for parking passes all students were only refunded \$60 of the \$300 that they were forced to pay. When Yesenia was asked what she thought about the decisions that were made she responded “ I think that it's a good thing that those who had paid for the year meal plan still get use out of their money, but I was fortunate enough to have only paid for the semester plan, but as for the parking pass I felt that it was unfair that we only got half of our money's use and feel that it would be better if it was also carried on to our next year.”

Spring Is Here!!!

Kristen Smith, Gardening Enthusiast
May 7, 2020

Well folks, Spring is officially here. The past few days have brought some much needed moisture and plants are beginning to bud. Now let's be honest; you probably have time on your hands right now that could be put to better use than binge-watching Netflix. Here is my progress on spring planting.

With being out of school and little hours at work, I Have had a lot of time on my hands. So, I turned to gardening. Growing up my grandparents were big gardeners and my mom was always roping me into yard work (that I most certainly didn't want to do). However, as I grew older I developed a love for gardening and appreciating what nature has to offer. I have had a garden for about five years now and am planning to do more with it this year than previous years.

So far my radishes are coming up and I am anxiously awaiting the sprouting of carrots, green onions, lettuce, and spinach. I also have some squashes, cucumbers, and cantaloupe ready to plant. In a few weeks I will be planting my corn and vine crops such as beans and sweet peas.

I recently saw a post about “Victory Gardens”. Future Farmers defines victory gardens as, “ gardens planted both at private residences and on public land during World War I and World War II to reduce the pressure on the public food supply brought on by the war effort.” Citizens all over the U.S were planting their own gardens to supply for themselves and their communities. It is also stated by Future Farmers, “ These gardens produced up to 41 percent of all the vegetable produce that was consumed in the nation.”

So how are victory gardens relevant now? Victory Garden Revival, a group on Facebook states in their new mission, “ Now, the enemy, COVID-19, is dominating the entire world... This idyllic thought is not realistic, but with the continued help of local farms, corporate farms and available transportation some assemblance of a solid food supply might be achieved.” They go on to say how they are helping their communities and what other groups are participating in their cause. I find it awesome that people are lifting each other up through gardening.

If you are new to gardening or are thinking about it, I recommend starting small. You are going to try and fail until you figure out what plants like, but thankfully there are many resources to refer to. Seed packets themselves (Burpee, etc.) normally give planting information to go off of as well.

There are so many positive outcomes from gardening. Personally you can gain patience and faith (it takes a lot of faith to water dirt until it sprouts). You will also produce delicious food to do with as you please. As the world seems to be falling apart, I hope you find gardening as an outlet for any emotions that might be interfering with your ability to enjoy the 2020 year.



Economic Impact of COVID-19

by Leona Templeton

Living in a smaller town as Fort Morgan is, there are bound to be economic issues stemming from the COVID-19 crisis. As I spoke with Daniel Templeton about how the Corona Virus is affecting his own small business economically, he shed some light on the financial side of Covid.

He began by stating “My business is honestly going to be fine after quarantine is over, but it’s definitely not going to be the same for others in this town.” He continued to say that he runs his business mostly over the phone and with online planning, so he does not have a lot to worry. However, the biggest worries are about places like restaurants and the movie theater.

For example, there is no way the movie theater could still make the same money they did while open, and while this is the same for a lot of businesses, restaurants can do things like takeout or delivery, you can’t exactly do the same with a movie theater.

Later on in the conversation we had, he brought up a big point that is effecting so many people, and that was unemployment. Personally I know quite a few people who have been laid off due to the covid crisis. With businesses closing, and not many people hiring, thousands upon thousands of households are having to worry about every penny that they spend.

With this in mind, he wanted us to think about how we could help fix this problem, and at this point, the best way to do so is to stay inside and self quarantine yourselves so this whole thing can pass over. Doing so will help businesses open up faster, more and more jobs will become available and things can go back to the way they were.

CALL^{OF}DUTY **WARZONE**

The most popular video game at the moment

Video Games more Popular than ever with the outbreak of COVID-19

by Gabe Vickers

Call of Duty is one of the most popular games to ever be played when it first got its release on October 29, 2003 and it was called just Call of Duty. With the outbreak the most recent one Call of Duty Modern Warfare is one of the most popular games at the moment.

Nick Statt stated that Modern Warfare is one of the fastest growing games which hit over 30 million players in the first two weeks of its release which surpassed Apex Legends which hit 25 million in the first two weeks and that is a great accomplishment. Nick confirmed, "Helping the matter, of course, is the massive surge in work-from-home policies and shelter-in-place orders nationwide as people stay indoors during the novel coronavirus pandemic." and this is saying that the outbreak did help a lot because more people are out of work and kids are out of school at the moment.

Not only is Call of Duty rising but other games are also going to the top of the leaderboards. In Japan Nintendo's last installment of the Animal Crossing franchise hit a record of 1.8 million sales in just three days and that is a huge accomplishment.

Sourced by Ahmed, "COVID-19 has ultimately helped boost sales as more people are under lockdown and gaming is a safe and low cost form of entertainment," almost everything in the gaming industry is getting bigger and will keep getting bigger. That's because people are locked inside and playing video games all the time and they will eventually get tired of that they might have to buy some new video games to keep them entertained but that is just what the gaming world is about.

It's not just the video game sales that are going up it's also the youtubers for the games. With more people out of school or work they sometimes like to watch some content creators play and give tips for a game and they are getting thousands of more views on their videos so they are very ecstatic about this.

Right now the gaming industry is loving the money coming in but they do also want the outbreak to end so people can get back to work. They love the money coming in but they also care for the people out there and want everything to get back to normal.









