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MAY 2020



# Motorcyclists and Riding Safely on Colorado's Roads



As the weather improves, more and more people are taking to Colorado's many scenic roadways on their motorcycles. It can be an exhilarating way to experience the outdoors, and for some enthusiasts, it's like meditating at 55 miles per hour.

May is Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month, and whether you're on a mountain road or right in the middle of Fort Collins, everyone has to exercise the same degree of awareness and safety.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), 4,985 motorcyclists were killed in 2018, a 5% decrease from 2017. This followed a decrease in motorcycle fatalities from 2016, suggesting a downward trend, which is good news.

But despite this silver lining, many motorcyclists are still involved in serious accidents every year. While there is no doubt this can be a dangerous way to travel, there are plenty of things both drivers and motorcyclists can do to improve the safety of everyone on the road.

Interestingly, many motorcycle crashes occur with fixed objects. In 2017, the NHTSA reported that 23% of fatal accidents involved crashes into fixed objects found near the sides of the road, such as trees, utility poles, signs, guard rails, barriers, rocks, or other miscellaneous objects.

Why do so many motorcyclists collide with fixed objects? Some crashes are caused when a driver's visibility is impaired due to fog, smoke, or poor lighting — most fixed-object crashes occur at night. Other crashes result from motorcyclists losing control while driving at high speeds or driving after using alcohol.

To avoid these kinds of crashes, motorcyclists need to be as attentive as possible. When road conditions are not favorable, they must pay even more attention and ride at a safe speed, even if that means going below the speed limit.

In fact, this is true for all drivers, whether they're in a car or truck or on a motorcycle. Paying attention can save lives. One of the best things drivers can do to avoid collisions is spend a few extra seconds looking for oncoming traffic at every intersection. Drivers who spend just a little more time looking for hazards, such as oncoming traffic or pedestrians, will significantly decrease their chances of a collision.

It should also be noted that 33% of crashes occurred between a motorcycle and another vehicle, including cars, light trucks, or heavy trucks. Many of these collisions occur because the driver of the car failed to see the motorcycle.

Motorcycles, like bicycles, are much smaller than most vehicles on the road and can be easily obscured by traffic or blind spots. So remember: When in doubt, check it out. When you're on the road, always double-check before driving through an intersection, making a turn, or changing lanes. Don't assume your blind spot is clear just because you didn't see a vehicle come up from behind in any of your mirrors.

We all share the same roads, and one driver isn't more important than another. Attentive driving can go a long way toward saving lives, as can wearing the appropriate safety gear. Motorcyclists should always wear a helmet and proper riding gear, and motorists should always take time to be aware of their surroundings.

*-Bryan VanMeveren*

# Say Congratulations

## With These Tech Gifts for Grads



Spring is all about new beginnings, and for many, graduation is just the start of something big. Whether your favorite graduate is heading off to college, serve in our nation's military, or join the workforce, there's a gadget out there that will give them a great start — or at least make you their favorite relative. Check out this guide to find the perfect tech gift.

### For the Audio Lover

From wireless headphones that surround you with sound to Bluetooth speakers that offer crystal-clear quality, the options are endless when it comes to choosing an audio device. But before purchasing the “next best thing,” consider the person who will use it. If your graduate exercises frequently, they may want wireless headphones like Apple's AirPods or one of the many Samsung varieties. On the flip side, if they enjoy action movies, a great sound bar for their entertainment system just might do the trick.

### For the Streamer

There's no shortage of streaming services, and depending on what your graduate enjoys watching, you may consider gifting them a subscription. Nostalgic Disney lovers looking for some stress relief would certainly love a Disney+ subscription, but if you know someone who has an affinity for the dramatic sagas, a subscription to HBO Now could satisfy their cravings. Hulu + Live TV can also be a great alternative for a grad who is out of the house! The best part is that this gift keeps on giving with every movie or show they stream.

### For the Academic

This May will mark the start of a new academic adventure for many. AI systems like the Amazon Alexa and Google Home can make staying in touch and studying easier, while an e-reader could house all their textbooks in one handy place. Laptop cases, screen covers, and other protective gear can keep their technology safe from wear and tear. (After all, what college kid can afford a new laptop on a whim?) Charging stations and cord organizers can also protect their tech and keep their space clean.



## Our Clients Say It Best

WHAT SOME PEOPLE ARE SAYING

*“Hiring VanMeveren Law Group was the best decision I made after my car accident. They really care about their clients. They stayed in touch with me weekly and kept me updated on every detail. I highly recommend VanMeveren Law Group.”*

*-Jennifer Rouze*



# From the Animal Friends Alliance

## Meet the Charming Pup, Sinatra!

This month, we bring you another profile of a great animal from the Animal Friends Alliance. Meet Sinatra! Here's his blurb from the website:

*"Sinatra is quite the charmer! This senior dachshund-Chihuahua mix is from Kansas where he was abandoned at an overcrowded shelter.*

*Sinatra gets along great with other dogs and currently shares his foster home with three large dogs of varying ages.*

*Sinatra would do best in an adult-only home that is familiar with the sensitivities that sometimes accompany our small Chihuahua-ish friends! Sinatra loves to snuggle on the couch, is generally easygoing in the home, and is housetrained.*

*Since Sinatra is in foster care and not at our shelter, please submit an adoption questionnaire if you'd like to meet him!"*

To learn more about Sinatra, or any of the great dogs and cats at the Animal Friends Alliance, visit [SavingAnimalsToday.org](http://SavingAnimalsToday.org).



# SUDOKU

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**Solution**

## Springtime Cacio e Pepe

*Inspired by Eating Well*

Nothing is more comforting than a big bowl of *cacio e pepe*, which is Italian for cheese and pepper. This dish combines a wholesome flavor profile with fresh, seasonal ingredients to satisfy any craving.

### Ingredients:

- 6 oz multigrain spaghetti
- 8 oz fresh asparagus, cut into 1-inch pieces
- 1 tbsp olive oil
- 1 tsp lemon zest
- 1/2 cup Parmesan cheese, grated
- 1/2 tsp black pepper
- 1 cup baby arugula

### Directions:

1. Heat oven to 425 F.
2. In a large pot, cook spaghetti until al dente. Reserve 1 cup of water before draining and put spaghetti in a covered pot to keep warm.
3. Line a 15x10-inch baking pan with foil and toss in asparagus and olive oil.
4. Cook asparagus for 5–7 minutes and sprinkle with lemon zest.
5. Add 3/4 cup of the reserved water, Parmesan cheese, and pepper to the spaghetti. Stir until creamy.
6. Toss in asparagus and arugula before serving.



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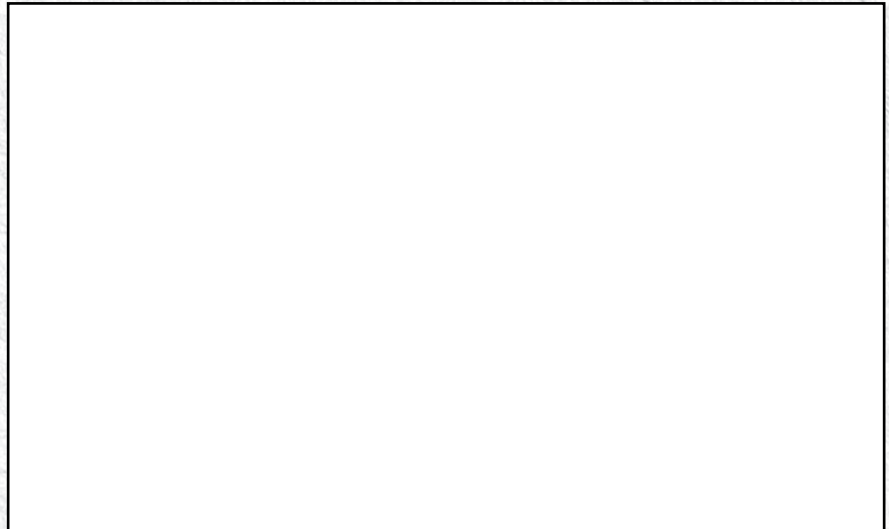
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## Get Into Gear With These 3 May Events

### Support & Save Old Town

Ongoing

Downtown Fort Collins

We all know these are challenging times. Many downtown businesses, and businesses all over Fort Collins, are doing what they can to navigate the effects of the recent health crisis. The good news is that many local businesses have adapted by offering takeout and curbside service as well as other new initiatives. The Downtown Fort Collins Business Association has put together a program to give our local businesses a little boost while saving on your purchases — a way to give back and get back. You can learn more about the Support & Save Old Town program at [DowntownFortCollins.com/event/support-and-save](http://DowntownFortCollins.com/event/support-and-save).

### 41st Annual Colorado Run

Monday, May 25

Spring Canyon Park

The classic Memorial Day run returns. Test yourself on a 5K or 10K run/walk/ruck, or take it easy and watch your kids take on the 1-mile race. Either way, you'll be enjoying the natural scenery around Horsetooth Reservoir. The 10K kicks off at 8 a.m., the 5K begins at 8:05 a.m., and the kids' race starts at 9:15 a.m. This event is part of the



larger Veteran's Plaza's annual Memorial Day celebration. Proceeds from the run go to the Veteran's Plaza. For complete details and registration, see [ColoradoRun.com](http://ColoradoRun.com).

### Old Town Car Show

Saturday, May 30

Downtown Fort Collins

Classic cars are rumbling back into Downtown Fort Collins. From 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., walk throughout downtown and check out everything from custom hot rods to classic antique cars. It's a lively event with so much on display. The car show is free, open to the public, and a great event for the whole family.