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# COLORADOAN

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2026 | COLORADOAN.COM

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## Pinball Jones founder, longtime owner dies



Kim Jones poses in Old Town arcade Pinball Jones on Dec. 8, 2011. Jones opened Pinball Jones in October 2011.

V. RICHARD HARO/THE COLORADOAN

### Erin Udell

Fort Collins Coloradoan  
USA TODAY NETWORK

The flappers are continuing to clack, balls are still pinging and lights remain gleaming at Fort Collins' Pinball Jones, but the Old Town arcade lost a piece of itself earlier this month.

Kim Jones, Pinball Jones' founder

and longtime owner, died Feb. 12 after a monthslong battle with bile duct cancer, according to her wife, Julie French. She was 62 years old.

Zach Zorich and Aidan Lancaster — both longtime Pinball Jones employees — fully took over ownership of the business from Jones in September following her cancer diagnosis earlier in the summer, Zorich said. They plan to keep Pin-

ball Jones open and operating as normal in Jones' absence, Zorich said.

Jones had worked in an arcade stocked with early 1980s pinball machines in college, which stoked a love for them that lasted the rest of her life, according to a 2020 interview with Jones posted to the Pinball Jones website.

See **JONES**, Page 2A

## City buys land at corner of Drake and College

### Erin Udell

Fort Collins Coloradoan  
USA TODAY NETWORK

After sitting vacant for nearly two years, the fate of a large slice of a busy Midtown Fort Collins intersection is shaking out.

The city of Fort Collins recently purchased land at the southwest intersection of Drake Road and College Avenue for a future electric substation, Fort Collins Light and Power Director Travis Walker confirmed to the Coloradoan on Feb. 19.

The sale consisted of the two west-ernmost lots at the former Spradley Barr Mazda car dealership site, 2601 S. College Ave. The city purchased the nearly 4-acre slice Feb. 17 for \$9 million from KRF Drake LLC, according to county property records. KRF Drake LLC is registered to Kentro Group, a Denver-based real estate investment company.

Two remaining lots on the eastern half of the dealership site are still owned by KRF Drake LLC, according to property records, and one remains in the sights of QuikTrip, which submitted plans for a convenience store and gas station there in late 2024.

The city's newly purchased land will be the future home of a new electric substation, which will replace Fort Collins' existing substation facility at the northwest corner of Bay and Drake roads near the Colorado State University Veterinary Teaching Hospital,

See **LAND**, Page 2A

## Cartel leader's death leads to violence across Mexico

### Lauren Villagran, Kathryn Palmer and Zac Anderson

USA TODAY

Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum said Feb. 23 that normal activity had resumed following a day of violence

in several regions of the country.

"Today, there is tranquility," she said, adding that peace had been secured and blockades largely cleared.

The U.S. State Department partially relaxed its security alert for Americans in several Mexican states, which had

initially included the international vacation hot spots of Puerto Vallarta, Guadalajara, Tijuana, Cancun, Cozumel, Playa del Carmen and Tulum. However, some areas remained under a "shelter in place" advisory from the U.S. government Feb. 23, including the states of Ba-

ja California, Nayarit and Jalisco, including Tijuana and Puerto Vallarta, and parts of a dozen other Mexican states.

The unrest was triggered by the

See **MEXICO**, Page 2A

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