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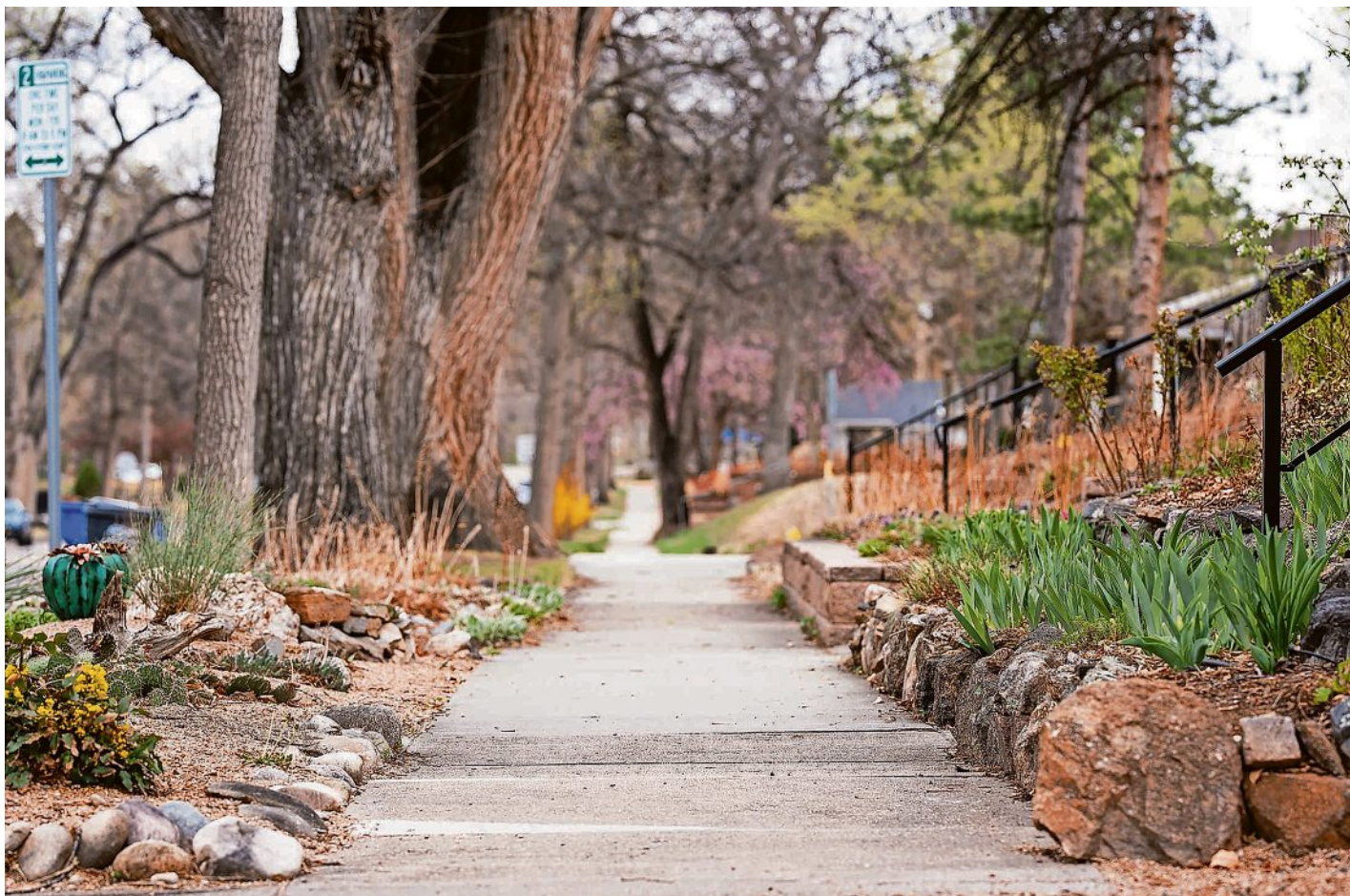
SPORTS, 1B

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DIY guide to designing a water-wise garden



Plants near the downtown area start to grow on March 27 in Fort Collins. LOGAN NEWELL/THE COLORADOAN

Miles Blumhardt

Fort Collins Coloradoan | USA TODAY NETWORK

If you have been thinking of shrinking your lawn in favor of more water-friendly planting beds, now is the time given Colorado's drought.

Colorado has seen record heat and historically low snowpack this winter and early spring, and that trend looks to continue with the National Weather Service's outlook for April through June predicting Colorado will see above-normal temperatures and below-normal precipitation.

With that in mind, here are steps to replace your grass lawn with a more economical (in both time and money) landscape design, according to Colo-

rado State University Extension and the city of Fort Collins, which have an abundance of resources on the subject.

Step 1: Check on HOA rules and look for rebates, then consider replacing these lawn areas.

- If you live in an area with a homeowners association, check what requirements it might have. This might include a percentage of your property that must be in grass lawn, a specific plant list and at least a simple design.

See **LAWN**, Page 3A

Windsor voters reelect mayor and 3 town board members

Kelly Lyell

Fort Collins Coloradoan
USA TODAY NETWORK

Mayor Julie Cline and all three town board members up for election were reelected to new terms in Windsor's municipal election, according to preliminary results announced by Town Clerk Karen Frawley on April 8.

Results are preliminary until a canvass is completed and the election is certified by the town clerk no later than April 17, Frawley wrote.

Cline, who has served as mayor for the past two years, easily defeated challenger Ernst Eric Jonasson, with Cline receiving 4,238 votes to Jonasson's 654.

Brian Jones, Kenneth Symsack and Jason Hallett all retained their seats on the Windsor Town Board.

Symsack was the only incumbent town board member facing a challenger and won his race for the District 4 seat over Jarrod Muse with 556 votes to Muse's 282.

Jones received 518 votes as the only candidate on the ballot in District 2, while Hallett received 764 votes as the only candidate in District 6.

See **ELECTION**, Page 2A

USFWS wants your thoughts on Colorado's wolf plan

Miles Blumhardt

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USA TODAY NETWORK

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which has threatened to remove Colorado Parks and Wildlife from managing wolves, is asking for public comment regarding the state's implementation of its wolf recovery program.

The federal agency stated in an April

6 news release that many confirmed wolf-livestock depredations and claims by ranchers from livestock losses have "vastly exceeded the funds currently available under Colorado's existing livestock compensation scheme."

Recently awarded claims to ranchers in 2025 from confirmed wolf depredations allowed under the recovery plan have exceeded \$700,000, with that number to grow to more than \$1 million,

as first reported by the Coloradoan and confirmed by Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

Awarded claims in 2024 totaled more than \$600,000. The state has budgeted \$350,000 annually, with the state wildlife agency covering the shortfall through various revenue streams, excluding sales of hunting and fishing licenses.

USFWS is asking for comments re-

garding how Colorado Parks and Wildlife and partner agencies are implementing the federal 10(j) rule and addressing conflicts between wolves and livestock, the news release stated.

The federal agency signed a memorandum of agreement with Colorado Parks and Wildlife in December of 2023 that made the state agency the agent to

See **WOLF PLAN**, Page 4A

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