

June 2022 **CONNECTING COMMUNITY**

# Mesa County

## CONNECTION



**The Young Dubliners & Wicked Tinkers**



**FRUITA FAT TIRE FESTIVAL  
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NORTH AVE NONSENSE**

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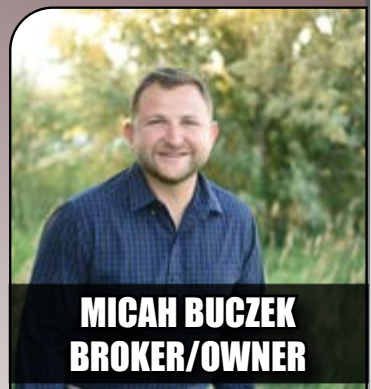
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# CONNECTING COMMUNITY

**JUNE 2022**

EVENTS CONNECTION P.10



FRUITA CONNECTION  
FAT TIRE FESTIVAL P. 8



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HIGHLAND GAMES



YOUNG DUBLINERS  
WICKED TINKERS P. 12  
STONE FLY



NORTH AVE NONSENSE  
P. 24



KAYLEIGH ANNE  
IMAGES

## Acknowledgments

*Festivals have been overtaking Mesa County Connection! As we veer towards new avenues of content, people should know that if they would like to contribute, they certainly can. We have incorporated some local Photographer's imagery in the last few issues and want to extend this to others who may want to write or send photography. We are looking for nature, exercising & sports, current events and anything else you think is important for people in the community to see or read. As the readers have seen in previous issues, this publication is fairly diverse in what we can do, so please reach out and tell us what concerns you. We would like to stay away from religious or political views, but questions comments and jokes are welcome!*

**CONTACT**

**970-260-2781**

**Sales@MesaConnection.com**



## PUBLISHING & DESIGN JESSE FORNWALT

May was a blast! There was a lot going on. From the continued headache of North Avenue to festivals across the valley, there are a number of events and situations to discuss in June's issue.

We start this issue with the Fruita Fat Tire Festival, a 3 day event which has grown over 27 years, bringing tourists and funds that help develop our growing community. Next is the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Highland Games held at the Mesa County Fair Grounds. Unique to the kilt, this 2 day event was full of games we don't normally see. The competitors are sharp, the entertainment grand & the fun is nonstop! We were greeted by a number of bands from around the Valley and More. Lastly, we are chiming in on a situation that gives business owners financial devastation, and drivers a constant steering-wheel clutching headache.

Thank you to Kayleigh Anne Images for providing some outstanding photos for June's issue of Mesa County Connection.



**The content of this publication is accurate to the best of our knowledge.**

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**Edited By Pam Davison**

# PICK US UP AROUND THE VALLEY



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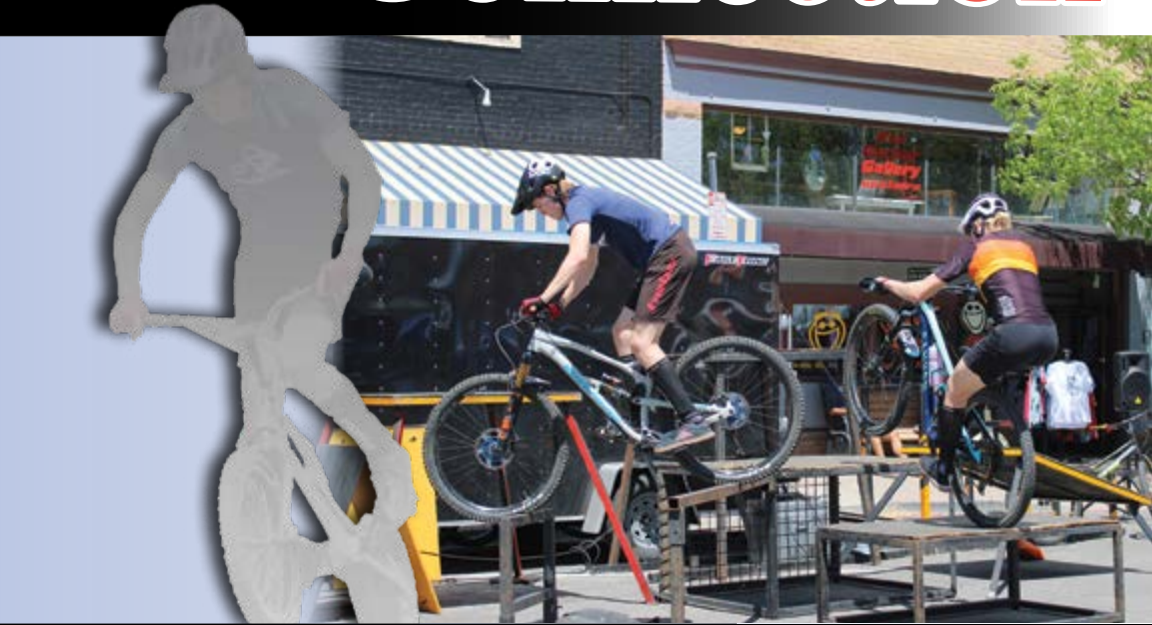
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# Fruita Connection



Friday May 6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup>.

Started in 1995 by Troy Rarick, co-founder of Over The Edge Sports, the Fruita Fat Tire Festival has grown tremendously over the last 27 years. Now a desirable destination for MTB riders globally, Fruita and the festival have brought a lot of attention to our growing community. From bicycle rentals to unique vendors and entertainment, the FFTF is an event worth exploring.

A brutal fight from the wind didn't stop Trial Rides or Entertainers from doing what they love! Providing us with multiple exhibits of extreme Trial Riding are Doug Farrar and his two sons Ian and Sean. Out of Longmont Colorado. Doug says he has been Trial Riding since the 90's, and his two sons followed

suit growing up. Of course the boys have a little more spunk than their old man, but Doug shows us the moves that got Ian and Sean jumping boxes

**The** 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Fruita Fat Tire Festival held down town Fruita, successfully brings people outdoors from all over the state and more. This 3 day celebration that promotes the very thing Fruita has become famous for, closes the streets of downtown from

and riding across skinny rails with passion. It was wonderful of them to share their experience with us. Hopefully it encourages others to follow their passion as fiercely as these gentlemen.

The periodic displays of Trial Riding excellence, were broken up by various local artists that were setup at different areas. Josh Felton Mathews brings a distinctive sound covering various bands and playing his own original songs to entertain the crowd. He has a 6 hour set-list spanning several genres and languages. He can be booked and appreciates anyway to pursue his passion.

The audience, a diverse mix of Fruita's local community and people visiting for the festivities, came together for food, beer and guided bicycle tours. Ska Brewing provides a little bit more of a relaxing atmosphere with beer on tap. For those of us who couldn't stay the whole time and get fershnickered, Suds Brothers Brewery is convenient to all the action for a beer or two.

Under the main tent with exceptional fortitude on this windy Saturday is local artist The Lip. Persevering the technical issues caused by massive gusts of wind, the boys play mostly original songs sprinkled with some Sublime cover songs. They have only been together for about a year, but have already come up with 11 original songs and have more on the drawing board. Their energetic sound can be heard again at Mike's Headless Chicken restaurant on June 4<sup>th</sup> and you can be sure to see them around the community this Summer.

Ryan Chrys and the Roughcuts also played can be found at the Warehouse 2565.

Hopefully next year's Fat Tire Festival will bring out even more people. As Fruita continues to grow, it will be fun to see how the festival evolves as well.

Josh Felton Mathews  
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The Lip - (970) 424-2125

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## Grand Junction

### June 3

#### Night Ranger

**Amphitheater at Las Colonias Park**  
 925 Struthers Ave, Grand Junction, CO  
 With multiple songs having a significant impact on popular culture, Night Ranger continues to grow their ever-evolving fan-base.

\$75 Reserved seating \$55 GA \$25 lawn  
 Grand Junction Convention Center for tickets.

### June 4

#### Trey Lewis

7:00 - 11:30pm  
 Warehouse25sixty-five Kitchen + Bar  
 2565 American Way, Grand Junction, CO

\*\*Free Show

### June 5

#### Summer Nights Hip Hop Showcase

8pm  
 Two Rivers Tavern GJ  
 539 Colorado Ave, Grand Junction

### June 6

#### 311

Las Colonias Park, Grand Junction, CO  
 311 defined the 90s with a style that many bands would come to embrace – folding rap into more traditional forms like alternative rock and reggae.

Tickets \$32  
 Allevnts.in

### June 7

#### Jason Boland and the Stagglers

8:00pm  
 Mesa Theater  
 538 Main St, Grand Junction, CO  
 \$20

### June 9

#### Grand Junction Rockies vs. Boise Hawks

Suplizio Field  
 1315 North Ave, Grand Junction, CO  
 6:35  
 \$10-\$43

### June 11

#### Grand Junction Rockestra

6:45pm  
 Amphitheater at  
 Las Colonias Park  
 925 Struthers Ave, Grand Junction, CO  
 \$20

### June 14

#### Book Monster Mug -- Kids' Camp

12pm  
 Angelo's Pottery Studio  
 2478 Patterson Rd #11, Grand Junction, CO  
 This adorable mug will keep them reading all summer long. Snack provided and fun, fun, fun. Ages 6 and up.  
 \$22

### June 14

#### ZZ Top - Raw Whiskey Tour

7pm  
 Amphitheater at Las Colonias Park  
 925 Struthers Avenue Grand Junction,  
 "That Little Ol' Band From Texas" has been at it for well over a half century, delivering rock, blues and boogie on the road and in the studio to millions of devoted fans  
 \$92 - \$52

### June 17 -19

#### State Summer Games Special Olympics

Colorado Mesa University  
 1100 North Ave, Grand Junction, CO

### June 17

#### Southern Fried

8:30 - 11:30pm  
 Warehouse25sixty-five Kitchen + Bar  
 2565 American Way, Grand Junction, CO  
 Southern Fried is known as one of the Rocky Mountain region's hottest country acts!  
 \*\*Free Show

# Events CONNECTION

### June 17

#### Grand Junction Fathers Day Baseball

3pm  
 Grand Mesa Little League  
 518 28 3/4 Rd, Grand Junction, CO

### June 18

#### Grand Junction High Desert Classic

7pm  
 Amphitheater at Las Colonias Park  
 925 Struthers Avenue Grand Junction,  
 "That Little Ol' Band From Texas" has been at it for well over a half century, delivering rock, blues and boogie on the road and in the studio to millions of devoted fans  
 \$92 - \$52

### June 17

#### Dave Landau

10pm  
 Mesa Theater  
 538 Main St, Grand Junction, CO  
 \$50

### June 18

#### JOSH WARD

7 - 11:30pm  
 Warehouse25sixty-five Kitchen + Bar  
 2565 American Way, Grand Junction, CO  
 Josh Ward is blowing up the Texas Music scene and taking his number 1 hits and awesome live show on the road!  
 \$18 - \$25

### June 18

#### Ron White

8pm  
 Amphitheater at Las Colonias Park  
 925 Struthers Ave, Grand Junction, CO  
 Grand Junction Convention Center for more info.

CONTINUED P. 17

# Calendar



**The** Grand Valley Highland Games exceeded expectations with a number of athletic events that aren't typical to "name brand" sports in the U.S.

These strongman competitions began in 1040 AD. under the direction of Malcolm Canmore to select the most able body men to be soldiers. The games grew in popularity, but took an epic hit when the Jacobite Rebellion was dismantled and an Act was passed banning Scottish dress for nearly 40 years. These games were slowly revived and started becoming a strong tradition in Scotland and the U.S. to retain Scottish Identity and Cultural heritage (<https://www.scotland.org/events/highland-games/about-highland-games>).

Locally, we have only had 3 Highland Games which Sharon Taylor of Taylor's Croft has been kind enough to help orchestrate. The first in 2019, then the forced Covid break we all endured and finally getting back into action with last year's and 2022.

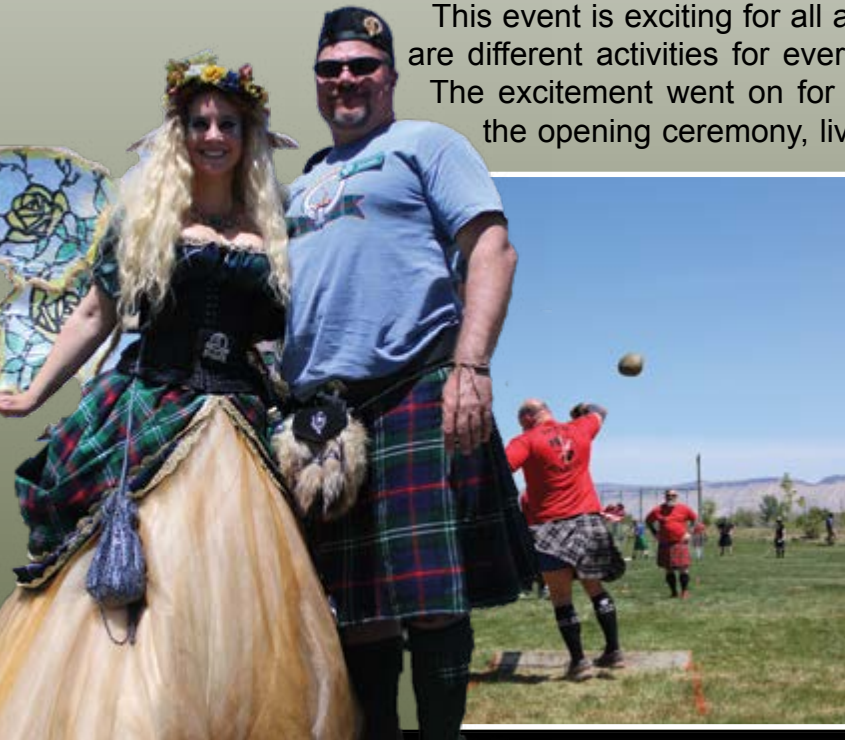
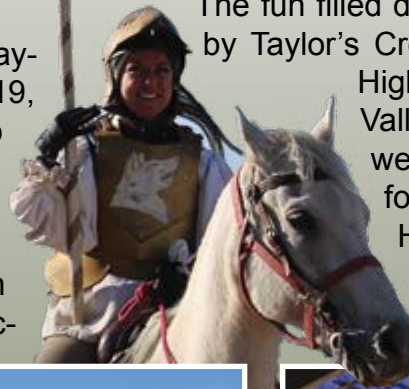
This event is exciting for all ages as there are different activities for every age group. The excitement went on for two days with the opening ceremony, live music, danc-

ing competitions, Jousting, Weight for Distance, Hammer Throw, Stones, Hay Bail Throw, Log Throw and many more!

Bands such the Young Dubliners (above-left), the Wicked Tinkers (above), and StoneFly presented our ears with some traditional Scottish and Irish music as well as more rock based versions to keep our adrenaline pumping.

Knights of the Tempest continued the entertainment with a theatrical equestrian troupe. Interacting with the audience, the group gave us a unique story of Medieval times. As they clash and sword fight, the crowd cheers and is then delighted by the horses coming out to meet the children.

The fun filled days brought to you by Taylor's Croft and Glenfinnan Highlanders, gave the Valley an interesting weekend. We look forward to up coming Highland Games in the years to come!



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# CALENDAR

CONTINUED

## Grand Junction

### June 22

**Exit 42**

7pm

Two Rivers Winery

2087 Broadway, Grand Junction, CO  
81507

Settle in for an evening of Country  
Rock on the Lawn of Two Rivers Winery. Tickets benefit The Art Center of Western Colorado

\$15 Online \$20

### June 22

**Full Draw Film Tour**

8pm

Mesa Theater

538 Main St, Grand Junction, CO

\$10

### June 24

**Ninety Percent 90's**

7 - 11:30pm

Warehouse25sixty-five Kitchen + Bar

2565 American Way, Grand Junction,  
CO

\$10 - \$0

### June 25

**STILL THEY RIDE**

7 - 11:30pm

Warehouse25sixty-five Kitchen + Bar

2565 American Way, Grand Junction,  
\$10 - \$25

### June 26

**Nine & Dine**

3:30pm

Tiara Rado Golf Course

2057 S Broadway, Grand Junction,  
CO

String Scramble - Teams May use  
length of string for a stroke on putting  
green.

### June 30

**Grand Junction Rockies Vs.  
Northern Colorado Owls**

6:35pm

Suplizio Field

1315 North Ave, Grand Junction,

### June 30

**The Expendables**

8pm

Mesa Theater

538 Main St, Grand Junction, CO

\$20 +

### Palisade

#### June 4

**Donny Morales – Band in the  
Barrel Series**

8pm

Mesa Theater

538 Main St, Grand Junction, CO

\$20 +

#### June 5

**Palisade Sunday Farmers Market**

1:30 - 5pm

Main and, E 3rd St, Palisade, CO

Season Summer Market Hours: June  
5 - October 9, 2022

#### June 10

**PALISADE BLUEGRASS AND  
ROOTS FESTIVAL**

12pm

Riverbend Park

451 Pendleton St

Palisade, Colorado

For over ten years,

Palisade has been

celebrating its

love for hot

pickin' guitars,

outstanding art-

istry, blazing

fiddles and

Colorado

sunshine.



## June 11

### Zac Grant – Band in the Barrel Music Series

1:30 - 5pm  
Restoration Vineyards  
3594 E 1/2 Rd, Palisade, CO

## June 12

### Palisade Sunday Farmers Market

9:30am - 1:30pm  
Main and, E 3rd St, Palisade, CO  
Season: Summer Market Hours: June 5 - October 9, 2022

## June 17 & 18

### Creativity Retreat for Writers

Saturday 2:30pm - Sunday 12pm  
Wine Country Inn  
777 Grande River Drive, Palisade  
\$197

## June 18

### AJ Fullerton & Jake Friel

1:30 - 5pm  
Restoration Vineyards  
3594 E 1/2 Rd, Palisade, CO  
\*\*Free

## June 25

### 11th Annual Colorado Lavender Festival

9am  
Riverbend Park  
451 Pendleton St, Palisade, CO

## Fruita

### June 3 & 4

### Mike the Headless Chicken Festival

Civic Center Park and Pavilion  
325 E Aspen Ave, Fruita, CO  
We get this a lot, but YES this is a true story of Mike the Headless Chicken Festival.

## June 3, 4 & 5

### Kids Adventure Games

All day  
Highline Lake State Park  
1800 11 8/10 Rd, Loma, CO  
Join The "Coolest Kids Adventure Race On The Planet!"

## June 11

### Fruita Farmers Market

8:30am - 12pm  
Fruita Farmers Market  
250 S Elm St, Fruita, CO  
Season Summer Market Hours: June 11 - October 29

## June 11

### Fruita Farmers Market

8:30am - 12pm  
Fruita Farmers Market  
250 S Elm St, Fruita, CO  
Season Summer Market Hours: June 11 - October 29

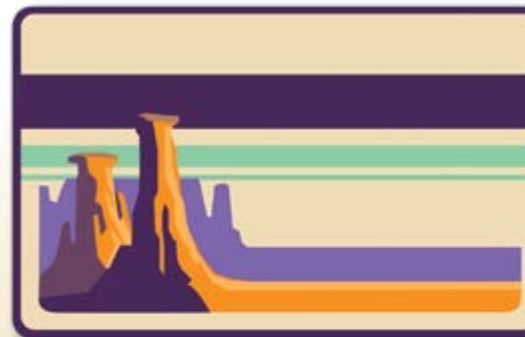
## June 23, 24 & 25

### Country Jam

8:30am - 12pm  
2420 Applewood Cir, Grand Junction, CO

Country Jam is a three-day country music festival featuring 20+ bands on two stages, surrounded by Colorado's awe-inspiring red rock landscape. Country Jam Colorado was founded in 1992 after the promoters successfully produced a country music festival by the same name in Eau Claire, WI. Country Jam is one of the longest-running festivals in the country! Check out this great festival and buy your tickets today.

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# NORTH AVENUE



There's no arguing the construction on North Avenue is a headache. Some even say it's hurting them financially. We can certainly see from the 1<sup>st</sup> & Grand Avenue's Burger King that construction in front of your business is no joke. That place has been there longer than memory serves.

It seems like they planned this construction for the school year! It is Colorado, so it's necessary to do the construction when they can; however, the one lane shut downs going to and from the schools along North Avenue coincidentally happened right when school started or let out. Maybe it only seems that way because those times are now Grand Junction's rush hour.

Whatever the case, Cassaundra from Redeemed Treasures says, "You just tend to avoid North Avenue all together, I know I do." Located just passed 29 Rd. on North Ave, Cassaundra says her business Redeemed Treasures and the liquor store next door have taken a major hit. "There was no warning; they just came in and started tearing everything up one day."

Now you may have to fear the construction will end up in front of your means to a meal, and some areas on North look as if they are just completely ignored.

We aren't talking about just one end of North either. Both sides are mangled beyond recognition. Progress seems nonexistent. They patch what they were doing with sloppy piles of asphalt and move to the next spot. We can all be thankful 1<sup>st</sup> & Grand Avenue was finished in one fell swoop, even if businesses around them failed in the construction's wake from how long it took.

Research found that the construction on North is two different projects. One ran by Ute water and the other a cooperation between Xcel and CDOT.



# NONSENSE

Both project managers referred to spokespersons for answers to an end of the construction and a restoration in sight.

Brad McCloud with Xcel Energy was quick to respond. He says the project on the West end of North towards 12<sup>th</sup> is where Xcel and CDOT are collaborating on a project to relocate street lights. Brad says the individual project managers communicate with each other to minimize the mayhem, but the work should be done by fourth quarter.

Elise Thatcher, Regional Communications Manager from CDOT says, for outreach purposes they have tried to contact business owners and keep an open line of communication, sometimes it's necessary to buy prop-

erty around areas for putting in sidewalks and widening lanes. She says the planning for these projects is a couple years. Maybe the line of communication broke down between landowner and small business owner. If a landowner tells his tenants that construction is coming, the land owner won't have leasers.

However, Andrea Lopez, External Affairs Manager for Ute water says, "The District designed, went to bid, and awarded a contract to replace aging water facilities from 29 Road to I-70 Business Loop along North Ave. The District awarded the contract to K&D on October 5, 2021". Which would not have been enough time to notify anyone if construction started in November 2021.

We can all expect delays and stagnation throughout the summer and into next school year on North Avenue.

Resurfacing of the road is expected to happen this year. We can look forward to devastating **potholes** like the this one heading westbound in front of Wells Fargo to be a tire traumatizing bad dream.



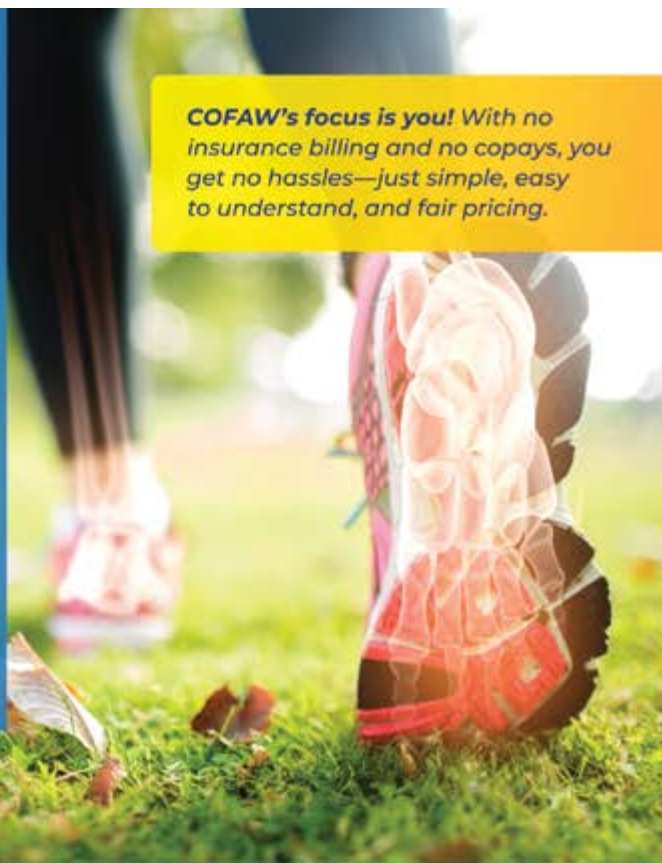
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