



Photo by Jeanne Davant

Sports bars look to football to field more patrons

By Jeanne Davant

Bars, like restaurants, have been struggling with the closures and restrictions imposed on them because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Sports bars have faced a double play, as they were required to close for in-person service for 74 days, and the live games and competitions that are a main draw stopped in their tracks. With professional sports — from baseball to hockey

to basketball — in full swing and football season kicking off, sports bar owners and managers are hoping they'll be able to fill their available seats again. "We are looking forward to football, because that is our biggest draw," said Tyler Sherman, co-owner of The Bench, a sports bar and restaurant in south downtown. In the meantime, sports bars have counted on specials and their regulars to help them stay in business.

THE BENCH

Sherman said The Bench is playing all televised sports on its 11 screens but thinks patrons have a little less interest in watching sports. "It's a different experience for people," Sherman said. "Even for the televised fan, not having fans in the stadium makes it a different thing. You don't hear

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Arts nonprofits getting creative during pandemic

By Zach Hillstrom

Unable to host groups in confined spaces like galleries, theaters and other performance venues, Colorado Springs arts nonprofits face a conundrum connecting with clients and patrons in a socially distanced world. So they're doing what arts organizations tend to do best — they're getting creative.

The *Business Journal* recently spoke with a pair of leaders from local arts organizations to talk about how they've pivoted and positioned themselves for success during the pandemic and beyond.

COPPER

When COVID-19 first appeared in Colorado earlier this year, most venues dedicated to the performing arts were forced to shut down to help prevent its spread.

And though some have since reopened — often at just a fraction of their former capacity — the crisis has closed many of the physical spaces that arts organizations rely on to engage the community. Andy Vick, executive director of the Cultural Office of the Pikes Peak Region, said as a result, many of the arts organizations COPPeR works with have found a new home on the internet. For instance, Vick said, First Friday art

walks — held on the first Friday of each month to highlight galleries and artists in the creative districts of downtown, Old Colorado City and Manitou Springs — have gone virtual on peakradar.com, a local cultural calendar run by COPPeR. The site has added a page for online and streaming content, which gives visitors access to virtual performances, museum

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FOCUS SOUTHEAST
 The health care desert in the Southeast is still missing a hospital.



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