



Local farmers get sustainability grants to improve soil and food production

By PATRICIA LOGAN

It's all about the dirt. Improving the soil improves the plants, improves the yield, improves the quality and amount of locally grown food, and benefits the environment, which is why Boulder County is investing more than \$300,000 in grants to local agricultural projects and farms through the Sustainable Food and Agriculture Funds.

Michael Moss of Kilt Farms has two properties he leases from the county. One of them, on the Diagonal Highway west of Niwot is a productive organic vegetable farm. But the 13 acres he has in Gunbarrel is a long-term rehabilitation project. "It's always been bad," he said. "Even old farmers like John Ellis say it's never been good



Photo by Patricia Logan

Seedlings have sprouted at Red Wagon Farm at 63rd and Oxford Road. Wyatt Barnes got a grant from Boulder County that will help him grow and sell more vegetables in winter for local consumption.

ground."

Moss has never grown human food on the land since he took it on five years ago. It's just not ready. But he thinks it will

be ready in a couple of years. The \$75,000 grant he got from the county will help him continue nursing it back to life with cover crops, which are plants

that aren't harvested as human food.

The purpose is to hold the soil in place and build organic matter, especially through the roots system. Cover crops can also help retain moisture and support healthy bacteria as part of a functional soil ecosystem. This year, Moss is also going to add managed grazing with borrowed cattle that can add nutrients to the soil through their manure and the microbes in their gut.

The grant will also help him pay to test the soil and nutrients in the plants. "The goal is to improve the ground, but the broader goal is to catalog and document and showcase these techniques," Moss said. "At the end of two years, my goal is to have a workshop to lay out the

nuts and bolts and data." He's hoping to have a successful plan to share with other local farmers who want to rejuvenate their land.

Wyatt Barnes of Red Wagon Farms got a \$40,000 grant to invest in new equipment and processes that will help him build soil health and grow more organic vegetables, more efficiently. He said the money will help push their work along faster, "We have been working on all sorts of things that somehow relate to sustainability for many years," Barnes said. "We have been growing cover crops to reduce erosion and improve our soil, we have tried to increase habitat for birds and native pollinators, we have tried to

Continued on Page 6

Lucky Niwot Day lives up to its name for \$100 winner



Photo by Karen Copperberg

Everyone walked away a winner from the Lucky Niwot Day gold coin drawing held by Pat Murphy (left) and Todd Goad of Niwot Real Estate, but only a very surprised Tory Campanella walked away with the grand prize: a crisp \$100 bill. Also pictured are Campanella's sister Lyla (far right), and friend Francesca.

Dance, plants and grants taking root at Jack's Solar Garden

By VICKY DORVEE

Spring is always a busy time for gardeners, and this year Jack's Solar Garden is finding the season to be super-charged with activity. Last March Jack's, the largest U.S. commercially active agrivoltaic system, was just preparing to have 3,200 solar panels installed.

What a difference a year makes. By November 2020 the system was up and running, and now it's nearly 100% sold out, seeds for grasses and wildflowers have been spread, a unique 2021 Artist on the Farm has been selected, a grant for irrigation has been awarded, vegetable garden prep is beginning and an agrivoltaic learning center has been established.

Byron Kominek, founder of Jack's Solar Garden, an-

nounced early this year that applications were being accepted to select the 2021 Artist on the Farm. With the pandemic putting the kibosh on all indoor artistic venues, the opportunity to connect with an audience, in an outdoor COVID-safe setting, appealed to several dance related applicants.

Executive Director of San Souci Festival of Dance Cinema Michelle Bernier's artist application rose to the top because of Bernier's years of experience with the dance world, connection to local dancers, and her beautiful films, Kominek said of this year's designated Artist on the Farm.

"One of the first things that caught my attention was just how unusual it is to see an artist residency in a location like this

Continued on Page 4

Community

C A L E N D A R

Niwot Rental & Feed

Premium Feed & Supplies
for your

Horses, Dogs, Cats, Birds & more!



Your One Stop Shop for all of
your Wild Bird needs!

291 2nd Ave. Niwot

303.652.2900

COVID-19 VACCINE ELIGIBILITY & LOCATIONS

Boulder County vaccine providers closely follow the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's prioritization list for vaccines. As of March 19, the following groups are now eligible to receive vaccinations under the state's Phase 1.B.4.

- People age 50 and older.
- Frontline essential workers
- People with high risk conditions
- Continuation of operations for state government and continuity of local government
- See a more complete list of eligible groups on the CDPHE website

For a list of COVID-19 vaccination providers in Boulder County, or to sign up to be notified of vaccine availability, visit www.bouldercounty.org/families/disease/covid-19/vaccines/

RATE INCREASE

Due to rising operational costs

and future equipment needs, the Board of Directors of the Niwot Sanitation District will be considering a proposed rate increase at a regular meeting on Friday, April 9, at 7:45 a.m. This meeting will be by conference call, 1-425-436-6371, access code 355969. If adopted, the new rates will become effective May 1, 2021. For more information, contact the NSD at (303) 652-2525.

PARENT EDUCATION EVENT

Boulder Country Day School is hosting Parenting the Love & Logic Way, a virtual presentation by parenting expert Larry Kerby, on April 9 from 7 - 8:30 p.m. Registration is free. For more information or to register, visit BCD's programs page.

WILDLIFE AREAS CLOSE TO PUBLIC

The City of Boulder will close several wildlife protection areas starting Monday, March 15, to reduce the human disturbance of bird nesting habitats. Locations near the Boulder Reservoir and Sawhill Ponds

will be closed from March 15 through Sept. 10 to protect nesting osprey, American bittern, and the northern harrier. For a list of specific locations and additional information, visit bouldercolorado.gov/osmp/osprey-closures for updates. From March 15 through Oct. 31, the locations near 75th & Lookout will be closed to protect burrowing owls. For a specific list of areas and more information, visit bouldercolorado.gov/osmp/burrowing-owl-closures.

VICTIM ADVOCATES NEEDED

The Boulder County Sheriff's Office is seeking volunteers to serve as victim advocates to provide assistance to victims of crime, accidents, trauma and other critical events. For more details about the program, a volunteer description, or an application, please visit the Boulder County Sheriff's Office website or contact Danette Tye at dtye@bouldercounty.org or 720-564-2881.

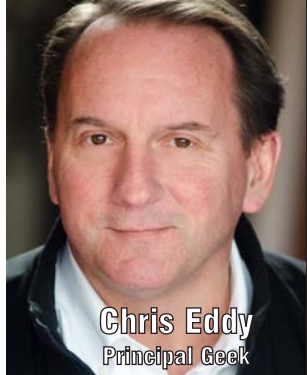
Geek For Hire, Inc.

We Provide Remote Service!

Remote & Onsite
Mac and PC
Troubleshooting and
Repair

(303) 618-0154

Info@GeekForHireInc.com



Chris Eddy
Principal Geek



Left Hand Valley Courier

P.O. Box 652 • Niwot, CO 80544

Email:
editorial@lhvc.com

Advertising
advertising@lhvc.com

Editorial
303-845-3077

Editor
Jocelyn Rowley

Business Manager/
News of Record
Vicki Maurer

Reporters
Kim Glasscock
Hannah Stewart
Pattie Logan

Production
Nesscel Calara

Media Director
Selene Luna

Vicky Dorvee
Emily Long
Kristen Arendt
Deborah Cameron

Managing
Editor
Bruce Warren

Advertising
Director
Ann Whitehill

Sports Reporters
Jocelyn Rowley
Bruce Warren
Jack Carlough

Senior Editor
Mary Wolbach
Lopert

Niwot News/Editor
Karen Copperberg

Find out more about our team at LHVC.com/About

Published weekly in Niwot, Colorado by Left Hand Valley Publishing,
L.L.C. Member Colorado Press Association.

LHVC PET SPOTLIGHT

Sponsored by
Niwot Rental & Feed



Meet Kane— This sweet and gentle three-year-old boy is looking for a forever family to call his own through Longmont Humane Society right now! Kane has an easy-going demeanor and appreciates the company of other calm dogs. He will likely also do well with a kitty in his new home. Kane is looking for a person or persons who are also easy going and will appreciate his desire to take new people and situations a bit more slowly. Your patience will be rewarded with an affectionate and loyal companion who is eager to be your best friend forever. Call 303-772-1232 today to learn more about Kane or to make an appointment to come in for a visit!



Lucky Niwot Day celebrates the Irish

By JOCELYN ROWLEY

Mild spring weather, friendly faces, and Irish themed-fun made for a perfectly charming afternoon at Lucky Niwot Day on Saturday, March 20.

“I was so glad we changed the day,” organizer Deborah Read Fowler said of the first-time celebration, which was postponed from March 13 due to the snow storm. “The weather was perfect and it was wonderful to see so many people having socially distanced fun.”

The town’s salute to St. Patrick’s day featured festivities for the whole family, and then some. There was live music on the patios of

the Wheel House, Old Oak Coffee House, Pinocchio’s, and Niwot Tavern, where Irish specialties were also on the menu. Later, Niwot Inn held a formal Irish Tea.

For the younger participants, a leprechaun fairy led a “Lucky Walk” down 2nd Avenue to Niwot Children’s Park, and there were performers from the Avoca Irish Dancers Academy jiggging at Lefthand Corner. Meanwhile, Pat Murphy and Todd Goad of Niwot Realty shared their pot of gold at the end of 2nd Avenue.

Over in Cottonwood Square, local poet Clark Fishback read a selection

Continued on Page 6



Courtesy Photo

A horse drawn carriage transported Lucky Niwot Day visitors between stops on 2nd Avenue and Cottonwood Square.



Courtesy Photo

A leprechaun fairy gathers children for a “Lucky Walk” down 2nd Avenue, during Lucky Niwot Day on March 20.



Courtesy Photo

Inkberry Books sponsored a reading of Irish poems during Lucky Niwot Day on March 20.

SUBWAY
NIWOT
new hours
Monday - Friday 10 - 7
Saturday 10 - 6
Sunday 10 - 6
Cottonwood Square Niwot 303-652-6474

Porchfront
HOMES

Custom Homes and remodels
as unique as the people who live in them
www.porchfronthomes.com
102 2nd Avenue Niwot
303-44BUILD

Jack's Solar

Continued from Page 1

- both a solar power production site and a working farm. I've been interested in renewable energy my whole life, and even more interested in sustainable agriculture since adulthood, and since moving to Colorado in 2011," Bernier said.

Dancer-filmmaker Bernier plans for her year as the Artist on the Farm to begin with integrating an existing project called Community Dance Film, featuring professional Boulder County dancers, particularly those from marginalized communities, as they throw off the constraints of quarantining and reconnect with "their own dance-deprived bodies" in a natural setting.

She'll also work with new dancers shooting films on location at Jack's to raise awareness of renewable energy and sustainable farming. The third element of Bernier's artistic partnership with Jack's is to invite the families of dancers from local dance studios to tour the garden and learn about the research and technology being used.

Nearly all of the 1.2 MW system has been spoken for as of March 1, when the two most recent corporate subscribers, Western Disposal and Terrapin Care Station, committed to 15% and 10% of the panels, respectively. Other major subscribers include Premier Members Credit Union and In the



Courtesy photo

Meg Caley (left), Executive Director of Sprout City Farm, gathers soil samples for testing from Jack's Solar Garden. Sprout City Farms is starting the first season of gardening at Jack's with soil prep work.

Flow Boutique Cannabis.

As for the nitty gritty of gardening, spring planting prep is officially beginning. Knowing that weather forecasts predicted perhaps feet of snow descending on the area, Kominek put out a call for volunteers to help hand broadcast collected grass and wildflower seeds in the area where equipment had been parked during the solar array installation. A deep watering thanks to the melting snow will prompt the seeds to sprout and draw in pollinators. Early in 2020, perennial pollinators were planted by partner Audubon Rockies along the edge of the field.

In addition to providing renewable energy and engaging the community with art and education, Jack's works with re-

searchers from Colorado State University, the University of Arizona, and the National Renewable Energy Labs to monitor the effects of growing crops, grasses, and wildflowers under and around the opaque solar panels.

Partnering with Jack's is Sprout City Farms, a not-for-profit organization based in Denver, which establishes community farms while empowering participation through education. This organization is in charge of the more traditional farming elements of Jack's beginning with the cultivation of the land under the solar panels.

Sprouts City Farms founder and executive director Meg Caley said, "We'll be breaking ground at Jack's Solar Garden

as soon as the snow melts and the soil dries out. We plan to grow a little bit of everything"

Tomato and other seedlings are already germinating in a greenhouse and following the tilling, addition of soil amendments, and the installation of an irrigation system, cool weather crops will be directly sowed into the fields. The resulting produce will be available for sale at the Longmont Farmers Market and distributed through a no-cost CSA for families with SNAP and WIC benefits.

Newly hired farm manager Brittany Staie formerly with nearby Red Wagon Organic Farm, will be working with an assistant manager, and interns are being hired to round out the crew.

Caley said, "We'll be hosting a groundbreaking ceremony on Saturday, April 17, with farm tours, fun activities, music, and more. Everyone is welcome to come celebrate with us and put a golden shovel in the ground." Details on the event will be announced when available.

Thanks to a grant from the Colorado Water Conservation Board, the installation of an irrigation system will soon begin, which will bring water to the portions of the five-acre field needing consistent hydration.

In addition, rotating tracking devices that follow the sun from east to west will be installed by Namaste Solar, the Boulder company that designed and built the solar array. The trackers are built by Solar Flexracks, a company with prior experience particular to the needs of agrivoltaic systems.

Now that Kominek's goals for Jack's Solar Garden are well within reach, the newly formed Colorado Agrivoltaic Learning Center has been established. Community members and students will have the opportunity to learn about the unique blending of clean energy, responsible land use management, and locally grown food through agrivoltaics by participating in tours and events.

Support the working farm: by clicking [here](#).

Apply for a farm crew internship [here](#).

Take a tour and learn more about [Colorado Agrivoltaic Learning Center](#).

NIWOT Eyecare + Vision Therapy

Dr. Amy Chang is the new owner of Niwot Eyecare and Vision Therapy

Offering Complete Eye Exams, Contact Lenses and Glasses for all ages.

Dr. Chang

We specialize in providing Holistic Vision Care for:

- Children with developmental delays and learning disabilities
- Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Twice Exceptional Students
- Concussions and Traumatic Brain Injury
- Stroke
- And those with complex visual problems who desire a comprehensive evaluation of their vision

303-652-0505

niwotvision.com

6800 79th St. # 101, Niwot





COVERAGE FOR THE THINGS YOU CARE FOR

■ Contact me for a no-obligation coverage review

Leigh Suskin
Your Local Agent
7960 NIWOT RD UNIT B2, NIWOT, CO 80503
LSUSKIN@FARMERSAGENT.COM

Call 720.815.1924 today!
Smart choices last a lifetime.

Restrictions apply. Discounts may vary. Not available in all states. See your agent for details. Insurance is underwritten by Farmers Insurance Exchange and other affiliated insurance companies. Visit farmers.com for a complete listing of companies. Not all insurers are authorized to provide insurance in all states. Coverage is not available in all states.



Tip Top Savory Pies to open Gunbarrel location

By DEBORAH CAMERON

Savory pies, whiskey barrel roasted coffee on nitro, and New Zealand-style ice cream are just some of the items customers can enjoy when Tip Top Savory Pies of Lafayette opens a second location in Gunbarrel this spring.

The 4,000 square-foot location will open doors in late April or early in May in the Gunpark

Drive development close to King Soopers and next to Anytime Fitness. It will include plenty of on-site, indoor and outdoor seating for customers to enjoy menu options. It will also have a walk-up window which, at the other location, had grown popular during the pandemic.

The new site will house an expanded commercial kitchen, which was previously housed

in rented spaces in both Longmont and Boulder. With the new kitchen, the store will be able to create more variety, including gluten-free pies and a larger variety of ice cream flavors.

Chef Christine Carr founded Tip Top Pies with longtime friend Robert Morrow. “The inspiration behind Tip Top was Robert being from New Zealand and not being able to get a good savory pie,” said Carr. “I was in sales and marketing but became a chef later on down the road. We joined forces to create this com-

pany.”

Before opening any kind of brick and mortar location, the pair sold pies at Niwot’s Old Oak Coffeehouse. “Because we weren’t in a USDA kitchen, we really couldn’t sell meat pies wholesale, so we were selling our vegetarian pies there. People really wanted our meat pies, so we knew, eventually, we’d be opening our own shop.”

About two-and-a-half years ago, the pair opened their first restaurant, an 800 square-foot shop located on South Public

Road in Lafayette. “We originally developed the location as an experiment,” Carr said. “We treated it as almost like a pop-up. Robert is very inventive, a great builder and carpenter. We threw everything together and even made a counter out of crates. We did the work ourselves. There was a lot of sweat equity involved.”

“We call it the little pie shack,” said Carr. She credits the area’s savory pie lovers for

Continued on Page 8




Photo by Deborah Cameron

The savory pie maker is looking forward to serving you at their new location



State Farm™
Joe Chrisman
Insurance Agent
303-449-7900
LOCAL NIWOT RESIDENT
www.agentjoechrisman.com
Convenient Downtown Boulder Office Location



**CENTENNIAL
PLUMBING
& HEATING**
303-516-1055
Conscientious Reliable Service

- Plumbing and Heating Service and Repair
- Water Heaters, Toilets, Faucets, Disposals
- Furnace and Boiler Service
- Serving Boulder County since 1997

Mark Posthumus - Owner/Master Plumber

Your LOCAL Colorado Landmark, Realtors! Looking Towards The Future!
SEE US AT: www.ColoradoLandmark.com

Leading REAL ESTATE COMPANIES OF THE WORLD
COLORADO LANDMARK REALTORS — est. 1977 —
LUXURY PORTFOLIO INTERNATIONAL



JUST LISTED  2820 17TH AVE #107 \$192,000 Deborah Read Fowler 720.378.1217	BUILD YOUR DREAM HOME 5+ ACRES!  11562 EAGLE SPRINGS TRAIL \$795,000 Jennifer Fly 303.506.0253	JUST SOLD  8801 SPRING CREEK TRAIL \$1,369,000 Deborah Read Fowler 720.378.1217
UNDER CONTRACT  7705 N 95TH \$1,900,000 Mara Yehl 303.579.6879	JUST SOLD  1850 FOLSOM #406, BOULDER \$500,000 Shannon Andrews Palo 720-530-5289	UNDER CONTRACT IN 4 DAYS!  12147 BEACH ST, WESTMINSTER \$835,000 Karlynn Spreder, 303.517.0026
JUST SOLD  8422 GREENWOOD DR, NIWOT \$1,500,000 Deborah Read Fowler 720.378.1217	SOLD  4501 NELSON RD #2305 \$381,000 Mayoura Phannadeth 303.709.8802	UNDER CONTRACT  5241 SPOTTED HORSE, BOULDER \$1,600,000 Ed Weaver 303.717.4304

SCOTCH SALE

SCOTCH, SCOTCH, SCOTCH

Aberlour
12yr, Highland **\$49.99**
16yr **\$69.99**
18yr **\$109.99**

Ainneamh
20yr, Speyside **\$20 off** **\$129.99**
22yr **\$50 off** **\$149.99**

Amrut
Triparva, Triple Distilled
Single Malt, India **\$129.99**

Ardbeg
10yr, Islay **\$44.99**
An Oa **\$46.99**
Corryvreckan & Uigeadail **\$89.99**

Auchroisk
25yr, Speyside
\$100 off **\$399.99**

Balvenie
12yr, Doublewood, Dufftown **\$49.99**
14yr, Caribbean **\$69.99**
12yr, First Fill **\$79.99**

Bladnoch
10yr, Lowland **\$49.99**

Cardhu
12yr, Speyside **\$54.99**

Chivas Regal
12yr **\$32.99**
18yr **\$79.99**

Clynelish
Special Release 109.8 proof,
Highlands **\$150 off** **\$749.99**

Dalmore
12yr, Highland **\$54.99**
15yr **\$109.99**
18yr **\$199.99**

Douglas of Drumlanrig
XO, Premium Blended Scotch
(12 pack) **\$10 off** 50ml **\$12.99**

Glen Elgin
18yr, Speyside **\$50 off** **\$249.99**

Glenfiddich
12yr, Speyside **\$34.99**
15yr, Sherry Finish **\$54.99**
18 yr **\$94.99**

Glen Moray
Classic, Speyside **\$26.99**
Port Finish & Sherry Finish **\$34.99**
12yr **\$39.99**

Gordon & Macphail
Bladnoch 21yr **\$50 off** **\$149.99**

Highland Park
15yr, Fire Edition **\$50 off** **\$299.99**
25yr **\$150 off** **\$599.99**
26yr, Soren **\$150 off** **\$749.99**
30yr **\$300 off** **\$1,099.99**

J&B
Blended Scotch 1.75L **\$39.99**

Johnnie Walker
Red **\$19.99**
Black **\$36.99**
Gold Reserve & Green **\$54.99**
Blue **\$179.99**
Odyssey **\$200 off** **\$799.99**

Kilchoman
Machir Bay, Islay **\$54.99**
100% Islay Barley 750ml **\$99.99**
14yr, Evolution **\$30 off** **\$189.99**

Lagavulin
8yr, Islay **\$49.99**
16yr **\$20 off** **\$89.99**
Distillers Edition **\$94.99**

Laphroig
10yr, Islay **\$44.99**
1/4 Cask 750ml **\$74.99**
10yr Cask 750ml **\$89.99**
16yr 750ml **\$104.99**
30yr **\$200 off** **\$1,099.99**

Macallan
12yr Sherry Oak **\$74.99**
Edition 6 **\$20 off** **\$149.99**

Mortlach
20yr, Dufftown **\$50 off** **\$149.99**

Oban
Little Bay **\$59.99**
14yr **\$74.99**
Distillers Edition **\$94.99**

Scapa
Skiren, Isles of Orkney **\$69.99**
Glansa **\$79.99**

Single Cask Nation
Cameronbridge 26yr
\$50 off **\$199.99**
Glenburgie 20yr
\$50 off **\$199.99**
Port Dundus 42yr
\$50 off **\$249.99**

Syndicate 58/6
12yr, Premium Solera Blend
\$20 off **\$79.99**

Usquaebach
Cask Strength,
2016 **Save \$70** **\$179.99**

*750ml unless otherwise noted
Limited to stock on hand-some items extremely
limited. No Rain Checks.

Prices valid 3/25 thru Wed. 3/31/21

1250 SOUTH HOVER
NEXT TO WHOLE FOODS MARKET
LONGMONT, CO
[303] 485-9463
WYATTSWETGOODS.COM

LONG
MONT



COLD
RADD

WYATT'S
WET GOODS

WINE AND SPIRITS SUPPLIER

SCOTCH SALE

SCOTCH, SCOTCH, SCOTCH

Aberlour
12yr, Highland **\$49.99**
16yr **\$69.99**
18yr **\$109.99**

Ainneamh
20yr, Speyside **\$20 off** **\$129.99**
22yr **\$50 off** **\$149.99**

Amrut
Triparva, Triple Distilled
Single Malt, India **\$129.99**

Ardbeg
10yr, Islay **\$44.99**
An Oa **\$46.99**
Corryvreckan & Uigeadail **\$89.99**

Auchroisk
25yr, Speyside
\$100 off **\$399.99**

Balvenie
12yr, Doublewood, Dufftown **\$49.99**
14yr, Caribbean **\$69.99**
12yr, First Fill **\$79.99**

Bladnoch
10yr, Lowland **\$49.99**

Cardhu
12yr, Speyside **\$54.99**

Chivas Regal
12yr **\$32.99**
18yr **\$79.99**

Clynelish
Special Release 109.8 proof,
Highlands **\$150 off** **\$749.99**

Dalmore
12yr, Highland **\$54.99**
15yr **\$109.99**
18yr **\$199.99**

Douglas of Drumlanrig
XO, Premium Blended Scotch
(12 pack) **\$10 off** 50ml **\$12.99**

Glen Elgin
18yr, Speyside **\$50 off** **\$249.99**

Glenfiddich
12yr, Speyside **\$34.99**
15yr, Sherry Finish **\$54.99**
18 yr **\$94.99**

Glen Moray
Classic, Speyside **\$26.99**
Port Finish & Sherry Finish **\$34.99**
12yr **\$39.99**

Gordon & Macphail
Bladnoch 21yr **\$50 off** **\$149.99**

Highland Park
15yr, Fire Edition **\$50 off** **\$299.99**
25yr **\$150 off** **\$599.99**
26yr, Soren **\$150 off** **\$749.99**
30yr **\$300 off** **\$1,099.99**

J&B
Blended Scotch 1.75L **\$39.99**

Johnnie Walker
Red **\$19.99**
Black **\$36.99**
Gold Reserve & Green **\$54.99**
Blue **\$179.99**
Odyssey **\$200 off** **\$799.99**

Kilchoman
Machir Bay, Islay **\$54.99**
100% Islay Barley 750ml **\$99.99**
14yr, Evolution **\$30 off** **\$189.99**

Lagavulin
8yr, Islay **\$49.99**
16yr **\$20 off** **\$89.99**
Distillers Edition **\$94.99**

Laphroig
10yr, Islay **\$44.99**
1/4 Cask 750ml **\$74.99**
10yr Cask 750ml **\$89.99**
16yr 750ml **\$104.99**
30yr **\$200 off** **\$1,099.99**

Macallan
12yr Sherry Oak **\$74.99**
Edition 6 **\$20 off** **\$149.99**

Mortlach
20yr, Dufftown **\$50 off** **\$149.99**

Oban
Little Bay **\$59.99**
14yr **\$74.99**
Distillers Edition **\$94.99**

Scapa
Skiren, Isles of Orkney **\$69.99**
Glansa **\$79.99**

Single Cask Nation
Cameronbridge 26yr
\$50 off **\$199.99**
Glenburgie 20yr
\$50 off **\$199.99**
Port Dundus 42yr
\$50 off **\$249.99**

Syndicate 58/6
12yr, Premium Solera Blend
\$20 off **\$79.99**

Usquaebach
Cask Strength,
2016 **Save \$70** **\$179.99**

*750ml unless otherwise noted
Limited to stock on hand-some items extremely
limited. No Rain Checks.

Prices valid 3/25 thru Wed. 3/31/21

1250 SOUTH HOVER
NEXT TO WHOLE FOODS MARKET
LONGMONT, CO
[303] 485-9463
WYATTSWETGOODS.COM

LONG
MONT



COLD
RADD

WYATT'S
WET GOODS

WINE AND SPIRITS SUPPLIER

A haircut-free year inspires a hair-raising donation



Courtesy Photo

Niwot Historical Society president Kathy Koehler went for more than a year without a haircut and last week, Liz Edge, owner of Ivy and Thistle hair salon on Second Avenue, styled Koehler's hair so it could be donated to Hair We Share. The non-profit organization makes wigs and hairpieces and provides them at no cost to those suffering with hair loss due to a medical condition. Koehler and her two daughters have donated their long tresses in the past. Koehler said of her new hairdo, now more than 10 inches shorter, "It feels so light with much texturing. Liz did a wonderful job and I would highly recommend her." Hair We Share will be sending Koehler a photo of the wig made from her hair.

LUCKY NIWOT

Continued from Page 3

of Irish poetry to a socially distant but robust crowd at Inkberry Books, and then chatted with listeners afterwards. Across the parking lot, another group of revelers enjoyed first-day-of spring weather outside of Niwot Tavern and Winot Coffee.

The event was sponsored by the Niwot Business Association, and received \$2,500 from the Niwot Local Improvement District after a funding request in February. Overall, Fowler reported, the event turnout was vigorous, aided by balmy weather on the first day of spring, no doubt. Many of the participating businesses reported brisk foot traffic from

high-spirited customers all afternoon.

"A lot of businesses sold out of product," Fowler reported. "Old Oak sold out of Reubens, Joan's cookies sold out, and a lot more traffic went through businesses - both retail and restaurants. It was exactly the outcome we wanted."

Fowler is hoping to see similar turnout at the upcoming World Niwot Day, scheduled for May 15. She is also eagerly awaiting the return of regular sidewalk sales in April. And, given the success of the St. Patrick's Day celebration, she is hoping to see that return, too.

"It was a wonderful event, with something for everyone," Fowler said. "I loved seeing the bustle of fun and energy all around town."

HOW DOES NIWOT WORK

HOW THINGS GET DONE IN NIWOT - PART 4 OF A SERIES - THE NFL

By BRUCE WARREN

The Niwot Future League, or NFL as it is commonly referred to, is another one of Niwot's accidentally sports-themed acronym groups. With the Niwot Business Association (NBA) and the Niwot Cultural Arts Association (NCAA) widely known in Niwot, the NFL is probably the least-known group in Niwot.

That's because it is actually just a committee of the NBA, formed at the request of the Niwot Local Improvement District (LID) several years ago when the LID agreed to fund the NBA's request for a part-time contractor to serve as Niwot's Economic Development Director (EDD).

A RFP for the position was created by the NBA, which Boulder County publicized, and the position was filled, first by Heather Truhan, then by Jon Erb, later by Julie Ankenbrandt, and currently by Catharine McHale.

It soon became clear that someone other than the NBA officers should work with the EDD to provide direction, feedback and evaluate the EDD's work. Tony Santelli, who was then president of the NBA and a member of the LID Advisory Committee, appointed a group of individuals that included not

only members of the LID and the NBA Executive Committee, but also representatives of the largest commercial property owners in Niwot at the time.

The group was known as the Revitalization Committee, due to the fact that there were many commercial property vacancies in Niwot at the time, and the initial task of the EDD was to find a way to fill them while supporting and encouraging Niwot's existing businesses.

The first members of the Revitalization Committee were Santelli (NBA president, LID member and co-owner of Niwot Tavern), Harris Faberman (manager of the group that owned most of Cottonwood Square), Cotton Burden (manager of RLET Properties, which owned several Second Avenue commercial buildings, Carrie Wise (LID Co-Chair and co-owner of Wise-Buys Antiques, Niwot's longest tenured retail business), Chuck Klueber (NBA Streetscapes committee) and Biff Warren (LID member, co-owner of a Cottonwood Square commercial building, attorney and managing editor of the Left Hand Valley Courier).

Since then, Faberman has stepped down and been replaced by Alex Chlebek, current owner of most of Cottonwood Square, and new NBA

president and LID member Eric Bergeson, owner of Niwot Wheel Works and the Wheel House, have joined the group.

After several years of success in filling vacant commercial spaces, Santelli suggested that "Revitalization Committee" was no longer an accurate moniker for the group. The group agreed, and the Niwot Future League, or NFL, was adopted.

The NFL meets monthly on the first Tuesday of the month at 10 a.m., just ahead of the LID meeting, to receive updates from McHale and offer direction. A written report is then submitted to LID members. Current projects which McHale is working on include

1 - Developing a comprehensive list of all commercial properties in Niwot, with important information to prospective tenants such as square footage, zoning restrictions and current use,

2 - Meeting with area commercial brokers to make sure they are aware of opportunities in Niwot,

3 - Developing and implementing marketing campaigns for Niwot, and (4) offering programs and support for current Niwot business owners, such as marketing and social media recommendations.

Agriculture

Continued from Page 1

improve our farm and efficiency so we can afford to pay workers enough to live in Boulder."

Specifically, Barnes said the grant will allow the farm to make more vegetables available during colder months for local restaurants and customers who buy CSA memberships, or Community Supported Agriculture shares. "For me, having people eat high quality local food is my main objective." Barnes said they'll be investing

in equipment to help double or triple storage crops, like carrots and other vegetables.

The equipment will speed up harvesting in fall, which means Barnes can plant cover crops earlier and irrigate while ditches are still running. Establishing cover crops sooner helps the plants thrive in late fall and survive the winter. "Getting the cover crop to emerge and be a few inches tall by November is very important to hold soil from blowing away during windy winter periods," Barnes said.

The grant money came from the Sustainability Tax, passed

in Boulder County in 2016. There were 58 applicants, but only 11 were funded. Successful applications included educational projects for beginning farmers, school gardens, building healthier soils and improving local food production and distribution. "These practices increase soil nutrient levels, foster healthy ecosystems, sequester carbon, and help crops become more resistant in the face of climate change," according to a news release from the Boulder County Commissioners.



I LIFT MY EYES TO THE *hills* FROM WHERE DOES MY HELP COME?
MY HELP COMES FROM THE *Lord* WHO MADE HEAVEN & EARTH.

He is Risen!
An empty tomb means joy-filled hearts...

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church
invites you to join us for Easter Worship
with Virtual Holy Communion
ALL ARE WELCOME!
Sunday, April 4th at 9:30 a.m.

Join Zoom:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/213762184?pwd=aWpPaT04wSldHc0tL MGpBTTQ1ekNuZz09>

Niwot United Methodist Church
7405 Lookout Rd (Gunbarrel)
303-530-0241 www.niwotumc.org

Palm Sunday March 28
10:20am Facebook Live

Wednesday Bedtime Story
7pm Facebook Live

Maundy Thursday District Service
7:00pm Facebook Live

Good Friday Service
7:00pm Facebook Live

Easter Sunday April 4
9:00 am Parking Lot Worship
followed by fellowship (masks required)
Register at niwotumc.org
10:20am Facebook Live

Embrace the community, transform the world

Spring storms bring needed moisture

By **DERYN DAVIDSON**

Colorado State University Extension
Boulder County

One thing that many gardeners have in common is, they pay attention to weather. Especially precipitation levels here in the semi-arid west. So, it may come as no surprise to some of you that according to the U.S. Drought Monitor (<https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>), here, along the Front Range, we are currently experiencing drought conditions and in fact are in the ‘Severe Drought’ category.

While “drought is a normal part of the climate cycle”, it is also characterized as “a slow-moving hazard” which needs to be paid attention to. When we go too long without significant moisture, it starts to become more serious. Given our current conditions, I was thrilled when the latest snowstorm came to fruition. Snow totals were less than originally predicted in some areas, but this storm brought a good amount of moisture to our parched landscapes.

Knowing that spring snow storms have the potential to



Photo by Patricia Logan

The heavy snowfall on March 14 was the equivalent of 2.5 to 3 inches of rain, which will be beneficial to the landscape in this area.

dump a lot of heavy, wet snow, I wanted to learn a little more, so I contacted Seth Linden who is a software engineer at NCAR and has been doing weather as a career for 20 years.

Linden explained that in the spring we experience more energetic storms because there is a greater temperature contrast between the jet stream in the northern region which is still cold and the jet stream in the southern region which is starting to warm up. This causes low pressure

systems to intensify and when the two jet streams meet (often colliding right over Colorado), it results in stronger storms. Spring storms can produce heavy, wet snow because warmer air has more available moisture.

As these storms are building, they are sucking up that moisture from the warming southeast region and the snow that is created is wetter. If you think of snow that falls when it’s really, really cold, it’s often light and fluffy and doesn’t hold a lot of mois-

ture because it’s produced from a polar air mass.

So what does this mean for our gardens? Snow ratios (percentage of water to snow) depend on how cold the air mass is that the snow was produced in, and the size of the flakes. The first half of this storm had very wet, dense snow and the second half brought lighter snow with big flakes and less moisture. Location reports vary and, as Linden put it, measuring snow totals is an art and a science, but overall, it’s good news.

As reported from CoCoRaHS (Community Collaborative Rain, Hail & Snow Network) the Loveland/Berthoud area averaged 29-inches of snow, which equaled 3.5-inches of water when melted down; Longmont received 20 to 24-inches of snow with around 2.7-inches of water; and Boulder reports averaged 21-inches of snow with close to 2-inches of water. The result will be a nice slow release of moisture into the ground which will greatly benefit our landscapes.

The moisture came at a good time to start prepping gardens,

but only after the soil dries out a bit and becomes workable. If you get into your gardens when soil is still too wet (read muddy), you run the risk of soil compaction which reduces the rate of water infiltration and generally makes your ground inhospitable to plants trying to spread their roots and grow. Will this much needed moisture get us out of drought conditions?? Time will tell, but it will certainly help move us in the right direction.

Through my discussion with Linden, I learned that weather is fascinating and much more complicated to predict than I realized. I only scratched the surface in my exploration of spring snow. Weather dictates so much of our daily activities and it’s something that affects everyone. After all, if you don’t know what to talk about, you can always talk about the weather.

Weather resources: US Drought Monitor <https://drought-monitor.unl.edu/>; CoCoRaHS <https://www.cocorahs.org/>, Seth Linden’s public FaceBook group “Seth’s Weather Report”.

TIP-TOP

Continued from Page 5

the first location’s success.

“The community in Lafayette and the surrounding area really embraced us. It enabled us to

grow into the company we are and be able to open up a second shop. What works for us is being in communities and neighborhoods.”

Once the new Gunbarrel location is open, service will extend beyond the immediate area with

delivery service similar to pizza delivery. It will extend to parts of the county that potentially include Niwot. At press time, the pair was still evaluating delivery companies, and delivery maps, for this piece of their service. They’re open to suggestions from

future customers.

In addition to proximity to local residents and businesses, multiple regionally and nationally prominent beer makers are nearby. These include Finkel and Garf Brewing Company, Beyond the Mountain Brewing

Company, Gunbarrel Brewing, Asher Brewing Company, and brewing behemoth Avery Brewing Company.

“In Lafayette, many people would stop by to pick up some pies and head to the breweries. I could see that happening again. It would also be nice to collaborate with a brewery for our steak and ale pie.”

Though these next few weeks will have a lot of activity for the owners, Carr is looking forward to the result. When asked how she was feeling, she paused before responding, though her enthusiasm was evident.

“This is part of our plan. We have proven the business model. We know it works. When you first open a business it’s a lot about working out the kinks for everything. We were able to use Lafayette to experiment and really see what customers want. It’s exciting to have a lot of experience now with opening the shop. We’re excited about it.”

Spring break is right around the corner and the dogs at Bowhaus will be having a pawtastic time!

whether it’s for the day, or an extended stay, Bowhaus will exceed your expectations with our award winning service, loving staff, and spacious yards.

- Daily Report Card With Photo
- Webcams throughout resort
- Daycare is great for socialization, getting out energy, and can help with separation anxiety!

Call NOW to Book a groom!

Proudly Serving You since 2005



Space fills up fast so be sure to book your spring break boarding reservations now!

We Offer: Daycare 7 days a week

So your dog can romp and play to their hearts content in our 14,000 SQ FT outdoor yard and indoor yard.



Boulder • 303.802.7790 | Erie • 303.828.4989

www.bowhausco.com

School News

NHS student speaks at environmental concerns press conference



Courtesy Photo

Last Thursday, individuals from a number of environmental groups held a press conference leading up to a joint meeting between the AQCC and COGCC. Clockwise from the top: Niwot's Maya Beauvineau, Earth Guardians' Marlow Baines, GreenLatinos' Ean Tafoya, concerned parent Patricia Garcia Nelson, Colorado Latino Forum's Xochitl Gaytan, Earth Guardians' Esperanza Garcia, Fairview's Rose Jou and Earth Guardians' Rakhi Kataria

By HANNAH STEWART

The Colorado State Legislature passed HB 19-1261 in 2019 to confront the global climate crisis. A year later, the governor's energy Office drafted a roadmap for how to confront greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, but this roadmap has been criticized by a number of environmental organizations. Since the release of the roadmap, 60 organizations came together to send a joint letter to the Polis administration.

On Thursday, March 18 Maya Beauvineau, president

of Niwot High School's Environmental Club, took part in a press conference preceding a meeting between the Air Quality Control Commission (AQCC) and the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (COGCC).

The press conference was notable because of the number of groups and perspectives brought forth. These groups included 350CO, Earth Guardians and two Latino-based groups: the GreenLatinos and Colorado Latino Forum. In a press release about the press conference, a 16-year-old ac-

Continued on Page 11

Senior MacKenzie Demmel runs a successful CAS fundraiser



Courtesy Photo

Senior MacKenzie Demmel organized a cross-country virtual race to benefit the National Brain Tumor Society. Participants dressed up, raised money and encouraged each other throughout the race.

By HANNAH STEWART

Niwot senior MacKenzie Demmel seems pleased to have participated in the International Baccalaureate (IB) program and her advice to

those considering the program is to just try it. "I know that IB might seem daunting, but it really is the best path you can choose," she said. "It forces

Continued on Page 10

WARREN, CARLSON & MOORE, LLP ATTORNEYS AT LAW



SERVING THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1975
WWW.NIWOTLAW.COM 303-652-2433

Demmel

Continued from Page 9

you to have a very involved and active high school experience, and you'll be surprised by how much you can accomplish when you have things like CAS [creativity, action, service] to push you."

CAS adds a unique aspect

to the academic rigors of the IB program. In an effort to inspire students to widen their world view, students must combine the tenets of creativity, action and service into various projects that contribute to the community.

Demmel also encourages students thinking about CAS to pick something that inspires passion. For her, that meant

organizing a race for the National Brain Tumor Society (NBTS). She was inspired by her aunt, who was diagnosed with brain cancer in 2018. Her aunt had created a fundraiser, which is still ongoing, and with this as an example, Demmel found her project.

NBTS seeks to "[invest] in, [mobilize], and unite our community to discover a cure,

deliver effective treatments, and advocate for patients and care partners," according to its mission statement.

In the United State, there are an estimated 700,000 people living with a tumor today; and it's estimated that another 85,000 will be diagnosed by the end of 2021. While approximately 70% of all brain tumors are benign, it can still

be quite concerning for patients and their families.

From the very beginning of CAS, Demmel took notes about her dream race and how to accomplish it. She scheduled it to fall on Halloween, and due to COVID, had participants from across the nation--even as far as Florida. But it wasn't the easiest process.

"I had a website that kept track of the funds, and the first weeks went by with only one donation." Demmel had relied on St. Vrain Valley schools' athletic departments to publicize the event initially.

Soon enough, especially after advertising the race on Facebook, her family, friends and numerous others signed up. Toward the end of the project, she ended up raising hundreds of dollars daily. Additionally, Demmel hopes that the race will become an annual tradition.

Demmel's race-fundraiser was "amazing," and not just because of the money she was able to raise for her chosen foundation, but also because of seeing all the people participating. Demmel even ran the race herself around Niwot, saying that race-day was her favorite part. "Everyone sent in pictures of their costumes, which was fun to see... it was very funny to see my parents run around in onesies while track was practicing."

In addition to having the fundraiser to support the NBTS, participants competed in a costume contest. The fastest participant and costume contest winners were recognized on the race's Facebook page. The Facebook page is filled with photos from participants, with encouraging comments. Demmel also used it to announce that they collectively raised \$3,779 for NBTS.

To check out the group, the social media page can be found here.

To contribute to Demmel's aunt's ongoing fundraiser, it can be found here.

For more information about the National Brain Tumor Society, visit www.braintumor.org

Thank You!

for subscribing to the Left Hand Valley Courier
& supporting independent, award-winning, local journalism.

As a subscriber you receive:

- ◆ Full access to the stories about your community, friends and neighbors that you will not find anywhere else
- ◆ Digital Replica Editions delivered to your inbox every week
- ◆ Archive editions back to 2018
- ◆ Unlimited access to lhvc.com

Your continued support keeps local journalism alive!



LEFT HAND VALLEY
COURIER

EST
1997

All local. All the time.

NHS

Continued from Page 9

tivist named Rakhi Kataria said, “The climate crisis is directly impacting the future of the youth, and we need to take action immediately. Colorado cannot realistically claim to be a leader in climate action while calling to expand oil and gas production. As youth, we are doing what we can to protect our future but we need to support and direct action from the AQCC and COGCC.”

According to the press release, Colorado is the seventh largest producer of natural gas and fifth largest producer of oil. This is worrisome because the proposed roadmap is more likely to increase GHG emissions by 61% according to a report by 350 Colorado.

Per this report, the oil and gas industry is in a financial crisis and has a debt of more than \$260 billion. More than 250 oil and gas producers have filed for bankruptcy since 2014. Not only is this distressing from a financial standpoint, but also because of concern that abandoned wells “leave communities with permanent toxic sites that threaten their water, air and climate for many decades into the future,” according to the report.

Active as well as abandoned wells are also a concern for the present too. Patricia Garcia Nelson of Greeley is

concerned because her child attends school near a controversial fracking site in the area. “There is a producing site less than 700 feet from the soccer field at my son’s school,” she wrote. “There have been recorded incidents of high emissions like benzene. This plan [the roadmap] is, once again, leaving some of us behind.” Benzene is one of the most common chemicals released during the fracking process, and has the possibility to cause cancer, according to the CDC.

Greeley’s population is 33.3% Hispanic, based on 2018 data; the fracking site mentioned by Garcia Nelson is viewed as an example of environmental racism by some in the environmental conservation community. According to GreenAction, a multiracial grassroots organization fighting for environmental justice, describes environmental racism as “the disproportionate impact of environmental hazards on people of color.”

The groups hosting the press conference are asking the climate commission and other community leaders, at various levels of government, to reevaluate the governor’s roadmap and what we are doing to fight climate change. More than that, the groups are “demanding that the state phase out of oil and gas production in the coming decade.”

ARTS STUDENT OF THE WEEK Grable Howie

By HANNAH STEWART

Niwot senior Grable Howie is passionate about music. His advice to music students: “Take risks, never back down from a challenge, and surround yourself with people who will push you and help you become better. Always believe in yourself, and never let any amount of criticism stop you. If you want to become a musician, put in the work, and never quit.”

Howie certainly hasn’t quit, and it’s possible that his incredible drive comes from inspiration from his parents, who are musicians as well. He’s done everything from singing in choir to musical theater and acting and seems both thankful to the art and focused on developing his skills further.

While he has not committed to a college yet, he plans on majoring in music production and competition. “Wherever I go, the sole focus will be music. I know that in college, I will have the ability to collaborate and learn from talented and intelligent musicians, which will be very important to my success.”

Howie has been recognized for his various



Courtesy Photo

Senior Grable Howie is this week’s arts student. He is passionate about the art and his team saying, “Thank you for all of the incredible moments we have made together. I am so thankful for all of you. You have made me a better musician, and I will never forget that.”

achievements while in high school. At Thescon, he competed in a duet piece and sang a solo song. At NHS, he has been involved in a few choirs and was the Niwot Choir Leadership Team President, which he says has been an absolute honor. “I am so happy to be a part of the team. We have tackled many different projects over the past few months, all to make sure every singer knows how valuable they are. From arranging performance op-

portunities, to hand writing letters for every student, we have made the most out of our platform, and there is still more to come.”

For him, music extends beyond simply a passion. It “has the ability to articulate thoughts and emotions that words cannot, and that is why it is so special” and has helped him personally and in developing his relationships with others. “Without music, I would not be who I am today.”



KAMLA CHOPRA GRI, ABR
Broker Associate | REALTOR
136 2nd Ave, PO Box 814
Niwot, CO 80544

COLORADO LANDMARK REALTORS
LUXURY PORTFOLIO INTERNATIONAL
LEADING REAL ESTATE COMPANIES OF THE WORLD

“I take commitments to clients very seriously, and that is why many Boulder County families have trusted me to find them the perfect environment for them to call home.”

Stay Healthy and Strong during COVID-19

Buying OR Selling Virtually during COVID-19
Call Me 303 641 5428



“Inspiring Those Who Inspire”

We believe that changing the world begins right here, in our backyard!

www.interstatetoyota.com 303-776-1743

Sports

Niwot boys soccer splits opening week



Photo by Jocelyn Rowley

The Niwot boys soccer team acknowledges the spectators after a 6-1 win over Fort Morgan on March 18.

By JACK CARLOUGH

Led by senior Keegan Stobbe and junior Azael Marrufo, the Niwot boys soccer team went 1-1 in its first week of games. The Cougars opened with a convincing 6-1 win over Fort Morgan on March 18 before dropping a narrow 2-1 contest against Skyview on March 20.

Stobbe scored a pair of goals and four other Cougars found the back of the net once against Fort Morgan. Junior Jacob Elston assisted two of the goals and sophomore goalkeeper Javier Amaya saved two shots.

Against the defending 4A state champs Skyview, the Cougars fell behind 2-0 early and couldn't rebound. Head coach Stephen Dimit said Skyview goalkeeper Obed Hinojos made several "out of this world" saves in the second half to halt Niwot's offense. Marrufo was the only Cougar who could get a ball past Hinojos and his 13 saves.

"Aza (Maruffo) has been so dangerous," Dimit said. "He's such a good player and he's so smart on the field in just kind of working space, taking guys on one on one. He's been really nice to have out there, given us solid minutes."

Although Stobbe couldn't get on the board against Skyview, he and Maruffo have become a nice dual threat.

"He's so hungry for it this year," Dimit said of Stobbe. "There were times when four (Skyview) guys couldn't contain him. They were going out of their way to mark him really really tight with half the players on their team and it wasn't even phasing him."

The 2-1 loss became Niwot's fourth consecutive one-goal loss to Skyview dating back to 2018.

In both games, Niwot struggled out of the gates defensively by relinquishing the first goal. Dimit said Niwot's poor starts are likely a product of simply not having played many games this year.

"We've been giving up

some early goals in games and then having to battle back out of that, which has been good; it's nice to know that we can," Dimit said. "But overall, I've been impressed with the guys."

For Dimit, one of the benefits of playing an elite team like Skyview is that he can now gauge where his team needs to improve.

"Skyview showed us what we need to clean up and we've got, we have our list of stuff that we want to get better at," Dimit said. "The goal is to try and come out on top of the (3A/4A Longs Peak) league."

After another weekend snow storm, playable field conditions repeat as a factor in week two. Niwot's initial opener at Roosevelt on March 16 was scratched and both of Niwot's first two "home" games were played at Erie High School's turf field. Pending any schedule shifts, Niwot will play at Berthoud on March 23 and then host Riverdale Ridge on March 25 at 4 p.m.



Photo by Jocelyn Rowley

Junior forward Azael Marrufo controls the ball near the sidelines in Niwot's season opening win over Fort Morgan on March 18.

Box Scores

3/18—Niwot 6, Fort Morgan 1
Mustangs (0-1, 0-1) 10-1
Cougars (1-0, 1-0) 33-3
Goals — Stobbe (2), Marrufo, Karbassi, Dominguez, Feiner
Assists — Elston (2), Stobbe, Biscaldi, Dominguez, Feiner
Goalies (Min-Goals allowed-Saves) — J. Amaya (80-1-2)

3/20—Skyview 2, Niwot 1

Wolverines (1-0, 0-0) 20-2
Cougars (1-1, 1-0) 01-1
Goals — Marrufo
Assists — Wright
Goalies (Min-Goals allowed-Saves) — J. Amaya (80-2-4)

Niwot gymnastics returns to the mat



Photo by Jocelyn Rowley

Event awards at a social distance during Niwot's season opening meet on March 20.

By JOCELYN ROWLEY

Niwot head gymnastics coach Marisa Purcell was candid about how the 16-month layoff between the high school seasons had impacted the skills of her gymnasts. With gyms and recreation centers closed during lockdown periods, team members had difficulty getting training time on a consistent basis, and that could set back many of the gains she saw from her youthful team during the successful 2019 season.

"We just haven't had a lot of places to go," she said. "That's been the hardest part, not consistently being able to do it for the last year and a half... Strength and endurance of routines is definitely hard, and so we're working on a lot of those things right now."

Per the coach, there were clearly some early season jitters among the competitors in Niwot's opening meet against Fort Morgan and Lone Star on March 20, particularly on the beam. Even seasoned competitors seemed nervous during their routines, and it was common for gymnasts to stumble.

But there were also some bright spots for Niwot on the day, most notably, a winning performance by Mia Curry, the



Photo by Jocelyn Rowley

Junior Mia Curry's campaign to defend her Class 4A state all-around title began with a win at Niwot's season debut against Fort Morgan and Lone Star on March 20.

defending Class 4A state All-Around champion. Curry took first in three events, and was the All-Around winner with 36.25 points. According to Purcell, the junior worked especially hard during the pandemic lockdown to maintain her fitness and skills, and is on pace to defend her individual state title.

"Sometimes you have girls who need people or other gymnasts to push them, but Mia doesn't have that. She pushes herself, and so she does a lot of

working out on her own. She's really had that drive throughout this COVID time.... She looks great. She feels great, and she's doing a phenomenal job."

Joining Curry on varsity this season are sophomores Ava Silverstein, Savannah Slater, and Madison Sloan, all veterans from the 2019 team. Making her debut for Niwot was freshman Grace Gutierrez, who finished second in the floor competition at the meet, and brings a lot of "potential" to the team,



Photo by Jocelyn Rowley

Ava Silverstein leaps from the balance beam during Niwot's season opening meet on March 20.

Purcell said.

"She's got to get used to high school, and just getting all those skills and routines put together.... You should see her more and more throughout the season."

Niwot took first overall on the day, which was unsurprising considering their opponents brought just six competitors between them. Nonetheless, Purcell was relieved to see her team back in action after the 500-day layoff, and has a better idea of what the Cougars are

up against before the regional qualifying meet on April 15.

"I'm glad to have a starting point," she said. "Now we just take it, and go with it, and continue to work forward. I know the potential. We've just got to put it all together. Whether we can do that in the next four weeks or not, we'll see."

Niwot gymnastics will be back in action on March 24 for a home meet against Thornton, and then home again on March 27 against Loveland.

STUDENT-ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Natasha Terekhova

By JOCELYN ROWLEY

Niwot's long-delayed 2021 volleyball season is off to an undefeated start, and senior Natasha Terekhova is one of the main reasons why. Now in her fourth year with the varsity, the athletic outside hitter is a major contributor on both offense and defense as well as a natural team leader. Though her final season isn't going quite the way she once envisioned, Terekhova is thrilled to be back on the court with her Cougar teammates playing the game she has loved since fourth grade.

"There's so much fun and excitement and energy that comes from volleyball," she said. "Even just watching it just gets me excited for the next play, and what's gonna happen next. And that's something I really love—that everyone adds to this big pile of energy that ends up being released, even just in one game or one set."

Terekhova is looking forward to leading Niwot back to its winning ways in 2021, after the 2019 season ended on a losing note. So far, she's on the right trajectory, with 23 kills and 32 digs in Niwot's three early wins. However, she considers her affinity for leadership to be the most important skill she brings to the court, and one that is especially crucial for a team-oriented sport such as volleyball.

"Leaders aren't really individually focused, they're more focused on the community that they're part of," she said. "We all have a part in the game that each one of us contributes somehow into making the game possible."

Terekhova believes Niwot's chances for success are high in 2021, even though the team's routines and training

have been upended over the past 16 months. Most of the varsity players, including Terekhova, remained active with their club teams in 2020, but their time with each other has been limited. She also knows the team will have to hit the ground running, as the normal 23-game schedule has been shortened to just 14 to fit on the spring calendar.

"It is definitely weird to be playing in March, but I think the weirder part about the season is that it's so short. But I am so excited to be able to play with this team, because just seeing all the growth that all the girls have had is amazing."

As for her life off the court, Terekhova enjoys running to help keep in shape, and nearly chose a career in cross country over volleyball back when she was a freshman. In the classroom, she is on track to receive a diploma in the challenging International Baccalaureate program when she graduates in May. The senior is also a gifted artist, whose work has been selected for district-wide art shows. She specializes in painting and drawing, and counts her mother, a professionally trained textile artist, among her biggest influences.

"I've always really loved painting, ever since that first class," she said, referring to her first exposure to the craft, at age three. "I've realized how much I can explore as I paint, not just with the world, but with myself. I can pick whatever I want. I can also paint whatever's around me and experience the world through painting and drawing."

Terekhova is also deeply passionate about her family's close ties to Russia, where her parents were born and where



Photo by Jocelyn Rowley

Senior Natasha Terekhova is a talented outside hitter for Niwot volleyball, but is also passionate about painting and acting.

her entire extended family still lives near Moscow. Terekhova herself was born in Colorado, but spent her formative years much as a toddler in Moscow would have—reading Russian-language books, and watching Russian children's shows. That made for a confusing first day of kindergarten, but it didn't take long before Terekhova came to embrace her bi-cultural up-

bringing.

"At first, it was very hard to fit in, just because I didn't really know what was happening," she said of her early school experiences. "But then as it went on, I kind of realized that it's really cool to be different. And that I have different things to talk about with other people, and gives me an opportunity to learn more about others."

Terekhova has retained a close connection to the local Russian community, where she gets a chance to explore another of her passions. She has appeared in several Russian-language stage productions over the years, and relishes the opportunity to combine two of her favorite activities—acting and speaking her first language.

"The most important part about the plays is reinforcing the Russian language and teaching people about Russian history and about Russian culture, and reminding people that being Russian is really cool," she said.

As for her post-graduation plans, Terekhova plans to study psychology after an "eye-opening" experience in an IB class, but is still deciding where she will do so. She has a few candidates in mind—CU-Boulder and the University of Wisconsin-Madison to name two—but is hoping to find the right balance between strong academics and opportunities to continue pursuing her passions.

While that includes volleyball, she also wants to leave room in her schedule for art, theatre, and building ties with other international students.

"I don't think varsity volleyball is for me, because from what I've heard it's a very busy thing," she said, adding that she hopes to play at the club level. "I just want to keep all of the stuff that I love from high school and expand on it. I just think that college is going to be such an awesome opportunity to take all of those classes and continue growing in the interests that I have grown to love."

BANK OF
ESTES PARK
NIWOT BRANCH

Our Customers Are Our First Priority

7980 Niwot Road - Niwot, CO 80503

(303) 652-8082

www.bankofestespark.com



Niwot opens long-delayed season with back-to-back wins

By JOCELYN ROWLEY

Fourth-year Niwot volleyball coach Daisha Agho isn't easily impressed, but the Cougars' dominating performance against rival Silver Creek in the 2020-21 home opener had her at a literal loss for words. With solid contributions from both returning veterans and some new faces, Niwot easily handled the Raptors in three straight sets, and managed to exceed Agho's already high expectations.

"I came into the final huddle and I had no idea what to say to them," she said after Niwot's 25-15, 25-19, 25-19 win over the Raptors on March 18. "That was the most amazing thing I've just

seen—the leadership that I've seen from Varshini [Panuganti], taking over the libero piece...and then for Angie [Xu] to step in and do what she's been doing. I really can't say enough good things about all of them."

It was evident early on that Niwot was ready for a rematch with its closest foe, a team that beat them twice during the disappointing 2019 season. Led by veteran Zoe Gibbs and the aforementioned Xu, the Cougars jumped out to a quick 7-2 lead in the first set, as Silver Creek struggled to match their energy. Though the Raptors would catch up, the 10-1 scoring run from the Cougars eventually sealed the 25-15 loss.

The second and third matches were more even-handed, but the Cougars controlled play both in phases of the game. Niwot's attack was particularly effective as the game went on, with Gibbs and seniors Natasha Terekhova and MacKenzie Demmel making a number of timely kills. The veteran trio combined for 22 of Niwot's 34 kills, and Demmel led the team in blocks with four.

"Gibby played really well tonight on the outside," Agho said of the third-year varsity hitter. "We've asked her to step into that leadership role to where she's normally a middle, and she's playing all the way around, and doesn't get a break."

However, a trio of new-

comers, led by sophomore Xu, also share much of the credit for the high powered offense, according to Agho.

"Angie's really stepped up and played that role beauti-

fully," she said of the first-year varsity setter, who posted 26 assists on the night.

Continued on Page 16



Photo by Jocelyn Rowley

Junior Zoe Gibbs (14) leaps for a kill during Niwot's win over Silver Creek on March 18.

MICHAEL SHURTZ



PAINTING

RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL
INTERIORS AND EXTERIORS
YEAR ROUND CUSTOM PAINTING
303-910-1674

Great Local References • Fully Insured
mwshurtz@yahoo.com

TILE WORK

High-quality, custom tile work, repairs, remodels, new installations. Local, dependable and insured. Free estimates. **Josh Thompson - Thompson Tileworks.** (303) 877-7526

EDITOR

The Left Hand Valley Courier is looking for an editor. Applicants must be familiar with Google Docs, sheets and drive. Experience with Adobe Photoshop, Acrobat and InDesign are all helpful. Weekly Wednesday publication, with one print edition per month, and the remaining issues online. Job requires approximately 20 hours per week commitment, with final proofs completed by Tuesday afternoons. The editor is also responsible for assigning stories to staff writers, posting articles and photos to the website, and organizing the weekly Wednesday meetings, currently on Google Meet. Please write to editorial@lhvc.com if qualified/interested.

HOUSE PAINTING

Michael Shurtz Painting

Residential & Commercial - Interiors & Exteriors
GREAT Local References
Fully Insured & Fully Vaccinated
mwshurtz@yahoo.com 303-910-1674

Volleyball

Continued from Page 15

“She’s mixing the ball. She’s setting, and I have no idea who she’s setting the ball to, which is what we want, so the other side can’t read us.”

The Cougars also saw scoring from sophomore Grace Demmel and left-handed hitter Morgan Daughtery, a transfer from Silver Creek. Agho is excited about the junior’s addition to the front line, and predicted she will bring “a whole new dimension on the right side of the court.” Daughtery ended the match against her former team with six kills and a block.

On the defensive side, Panuganti, playing a more familiar position this season, had 11 digs on the night, while Gibbs and Terekhova had 12 and 10, respectively.

With the win, Niwot moved to 2-0 on the young season, which has been compressed to 14 games instead of the typical 23. The Cougars weren’t as quite as sharp in the opening night win over Roosevelt, according to Agho, but it was a “wonderful feeling” to see them on the court again, after the unexpected 500-day layoff due to the COVID-19



Photo by Jocelyn Rowley

Three newcomers to the varsity squad—Morgan Daughtery, Angie Xu, and Grace Demmel—will add a spark to Niwot’s offense in 2021, head coach Daisha Agho said.

pandemic. It also marked the debut of Agho’s two new assistants: Tony Engle, a former collegiate volleyball player,

and Aimee Keronen, whose coaching repertoire now includes three sports and four separate teams.

Just as importantly, the two-game winning streak confirmed Agho’s notions about her team and their potential for the 2021 season. With new talent on offense and more experience on defense, the Cougars should be back on a postseason path after a disappointing 8-15 finish in 2019.

“I feel like there’s so much talent on this squad, and piecing all those pieces together to make it all work as one is going to be so much fun to watch and coach,” Agho said. “And the camaraderie between them is there. They are so kind and so willing to help each other. That means that we also get that healthy competition. They’re not afraid to go after each other and make each other better. But they also know when to just be a friend. The team aspect, the leadership side, and that cohesion piece is already there.”

Box Scores

3/18 — Niwot 3, Roosevelt 0
 Cougars (1-0, 1-0) 25 25 25 — 3
 Roughriders (0-1, 0-1) 13 19 13 — 0
 Kills—Zoe Gibbs 9, N. Terekhova 8, M. Demmel 6, Angie Xu 4, M. Daughtery 4, Addison Engel 1, L. Diasabeygunawardena 1, Grace Demmel 1, V. Panuganti 1,
 Blocks—Grace Demmel 3, Angie Xu 2, M. Demmel 1, Addison Engel 1
 Digs—N. Terekhova 12, V. Panuganti 12, Angie Xu 8, Zoe Gibbs 7, L. Diasabeygunawardena 5, M. Demmel 4, M. Daughtery 1, Hannah Waldron 1,
 Aces—Angie Xu 2, N. Terekhova 1, M. Daughtery 1, Grace Demmel 1,
 3/18 — Niwot 3, Silver Creek 0
 Raptors (0-1, 0-0) 15 19 19 — 0
 Cougars (2-0, 1-0) 25 25 25 — 3
 Kills—Zoe Gibbs 12, N. Terekhova 8, Angie Xu 6, M. Daughtery 6, M. Demmel 2
 Blocks—M. Demmel 4, Zoe Gibbs 1, N. Terekhova 1, M. Daughtery 1, Grace Demmel 1
 Digs—N. Terekhova 12, V. Panuganti 11, Zoe Gibbs 10, Angie Xu 8, M. Demmel 5, L. Diasabeygunawardena 3, M. Daughtery 1,
 Aces—Zoe Gibbs 2, N. Terekhova 2, V. Panuganti 2, M. Daughtery 1, M. Demmel 1

Boulder County's Finest European Auto Specialists for 37 Years!
 Quality Sales, Service & Parts Since 1984
 MERCEDES BENZ • AUDI • BMW • PORSCHE • VOLVO
 MINI COOPER • VW • LAND ROVER • JAGUAR

GUNBARREL IMPORT MOTORS
 283 2nd Ave., Niwot
 Off the Boulder / Longmont Diagonal
 Locally owned and operated!
 303.652.3040
 www.gunbarrelmotors.com