



## NRCD moratorium comes to an end

By JOCELYN ROWLEY  
Editorial@lhvc.com

At a public hearing on April 23, the Boulder County Commissioners voted unanimously to approve revisions to the Niwot Rural Community District (NRCD) land use code, and end the divisive building moratorium that it unceremoniously dumped on the town 215 days before.

"I appreciate everybody participating in this," Commissioner Matt Jones said in his closing remarks before the vote. "I know it's a lot of work, and nobody's coming out with everything they want, but I appreciate people that have the spirit to work on this issue together to try to come to an outcome that works."

It was an anticlimactic coda to what has been an overlong and, for many community members, infuriating process.



Courtesy Photo

Boulder County Commissioners Matt Jones, Elise Jones and Deb Gardner deliberating during their second and final hearing on the NRCD land use code updates on April 23.

"We were assured that there would of course be an active public participation process," 2nd Avenue property owner Anne Postle said during the hearing. "We thought that that meant that our opinions would matter. Boy were we wrong. We were betrayed.... Today you will not find even one NRCD I property owner who

has come forward in support of the proposed regulations. Forget about trying to get a majority vote, you don't have one. Yet we're looking down the barrel at these overreaching and extreme code revisions, our voices ignored."

Discussion for much of the

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## A roads' scholar for county roadway maintenance

### How to manage a "holey" war

By MARY WOLBACH LOPERT  
Editorial@lhvc.com

The first thing Ted Plank, division manager for Boulder County Transportation Department, wants people to know is, it's a big misconception that the county doesn't maintain roads.

"The county does a ton of maintenance, starting with potholes," Plank said. "We do crack sealing operations in all our subdivisions. We sweep them, we snow plow them. We clean culverts and drainages." Whatever the issue might be, maintenance is done.

What the county has to do though is prioritize projects, with safety as the primary driving force. Main county



Photo by Mary Wolbach Lopert

Division Manager for Boulder County Transportation Department Ted Plank inspects some of the road damage on Mt. Meeker in Gunbarrel Estates. This type of damage is known as alligatoring and currently, does not meet the criteria for immediate repair.

something that is a true safety hazard, we try to get to it as quickly as we can.

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## ▶ LEFT HAND LAUREL

### Always going above and beyond: Paige Wilson



Courtesy Photo

Kevin and Paige Wilson and their two daughters.

By DANI HEMMAT  
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School teachers are arguably some of the hardest working people with one of the most difficult, but important jobs. A top complaint that many educators have is that they are expected and forced to fill too many roles at once, stretching their time to be not only educators, but counselors, planners, purchasers, often with their own funds, and social workers.

So when a parent or community member volunteers in the classroom, that act helps ease some of those burdens, freeing up our teachers to do what they set out to do: teach our kids.

And while every volunteer

deserves accolades, this month's Left Hand Laurel goes to Paige Wilson, a parent volunteer at Niwot Elementary School (NES).

According to NES principal Nancy Pitz, Wilson is a "parent volunteer extraordinaire" who not only helps out in the classrooms, but also takes care of the staff whenever she can.

Wilson routinely brings in coffee and snacks to different staff members just to let them know they are appreciated. Pitz is able to see the overall impact of Wilson's efforts, much of which includes organizing and set-up, both things teachers just don't have enough time for.

Wilson set up the staff work room after construction was com-

plete, labeling and organizing everything to make life smoother for the teachers. Organizing is one of her gifts, as she also set up and organized the entire Makerspace in the school media lab, and also tackled the organization of the storage spaces and closets in the classrooms.

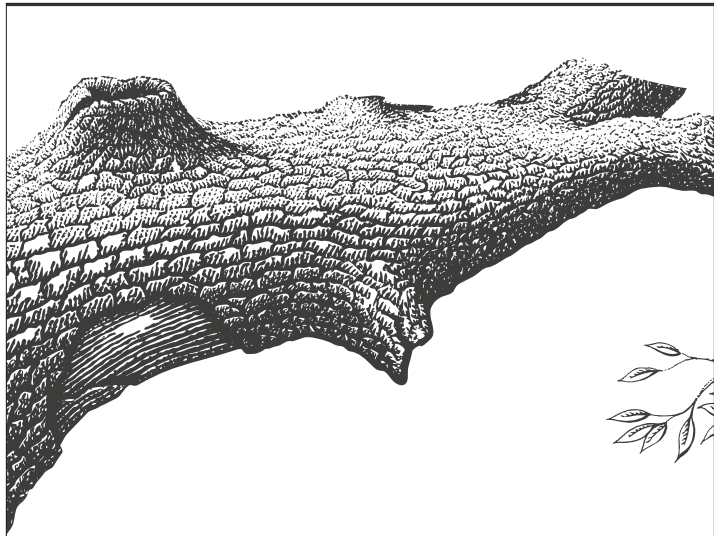
"She willingly came in to help organize my classroom closets after moving into a new classroom," said 2nd grade teacher Regan Burke. "She did this out of kindness and knowing I have little time to get to organizing my stuff. She knows my time needs to be with the kids!"

To help the staff and student body pull off Genius Hour, an inquiry-based time when students

explore and research their own passions, Wilson not only helps fund Genius Hour, but she also takes the kids' shopping lists and purchases the things they need for their projects. She also gives of her time, almost on a weekly basis throughout the year, to assist the students with their Genius Hour projects. As the final preparations of their projects near crunch time, Wilson comes in during those final few weeks each day of the week, pulling kids aside in groups or one-on-one, to help them conceptualize and then finalize their projects.

Aside from the typical--and always appreciated--donations of snacks and art supplies to the

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You know me, I think there ought to be a big old tree right there. And let's give him a friend. Everybody needs a friend.

Bob Ross

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## Community Calendar

### FREE CONCERT

Aria Singers will be performing in a free concert at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church/Pardes Levavot Synagogue (71st & Lookout Road) at 3 p.m. on Saturday, May 4. Refreshments to follow. All are welcome

### FIRST FRIDAY ART WALK

Niwot's May First Friday Art Walk takes place on 2nd Avenue and in Cottonwood Square Shopping Center on Friday, May 3, from 6 to 9 p.m. with live music on the streets.

### ALZHEIMER'S GROUP

Alzheimer's Association Dementia Caregiver Support Group meets on the first Wednesday of each month from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Niwot United Methodist Church 7405 Lookout Road. This free service is for family members and friends who care for and care about people with Alzheimer's Disease and other forms of dementia.

### DIABETES PREVENTION

The Boulder County Area Agency on Aging is offering a

Diabetes Prevention Program beginning Wednesday, May 8, at the Boulder County Sundquist Building (3482 Broadway, Boulder). Over the course of this year-long program, participants get the support they need to learn how to make changes that will last. Registration and a diagnosis of prediabetes are required for this year-long class. To find out if you qualify, or for more information, please contact Melissa Pruitt at 303-441-4583, or mpruitt@bouldercounty.org.

## Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor

As the Left Hand Valley Courier begins its 23rd year of publication, I wanted to thank you for the paper. We live in the Country Club

Estates community in Gunbarrel where we look forward to receiving the paper each week. The Courier is our valued source of local news concerning events that directly affect us.

Best wishes to the Courier publisher, editor, and staff as you go forward.

Gordon Riggle

Dear Editor

It is a Wednesday afternoon at about 2:30. I am standing at the kitchen window making a late lunch. Hey, I am retired I can eat when I want. I just heard the train horns as it was passing through Niwot. Once again, I am saddened.

I moved to Niwot in the early 1980's. My family grew up here. My friends and neighbors often joined us on the back deck for maybe BBQ, wine, margaritas or just plan old friendly talk and a good time. Many a time someone would remark, "Hey the train must be coming thru," as they heard the whistles.

One holiday weekend my brother-in-law and his family were here and we were outside enjoying the day. We had spent part of the afternoon fishing for squirrels but that is another story. Anyway someone,

let's call him Pat, suggested that not all the train whistles were the same. So we all started to pay closer attention as we heard the whistles. Guess what? He was right.

It reminded me of growing up and having a party line for a telephone. Simply stated, it meant that about 20 people shared a common phone line. Each person had a special ringtone consisting of short and long rings. Did I mention anyone or everyone could listen to your conversations and do I have stories about those party lines and Mrs. Kramer.

Anyway, the party line rings are like what you hear when the train whistles blow. A series of short or long horn blasts. Or, for those of you into telegraphs, it was like Morse code with blast of short and long horns.

For the sake of knowledge, I ran

to my trusty computer and this is what I discovered. Train whistles are really like Morse code. They mean something. For example, two longs, a short and a long means the train is coming to a public crossing. There are many more locomotive horn signals.

So, the next time you hear the train whistle, see if you can enjoy it and decipher what it is telling you instead of wanting a quiet space. Personally, I like the train whistles as they remind me of a great community and the heritage associated with the trains. Niwot might not exist if it wasn't for the trains.

P.S.. If you hear a series of short blasts you might want to be concerned.

Michael J Sinnwell  
Niwot

## Correction

The caption for a photo on page 16 of the April 24 issue of the Left Hand Valley Courier was incorrect. The correct caption should have read: Niwot students Misha Barrett and Donovan "Donnie" Schwartz participated in the Unified 100M dash at the BoCo Championships on April 20.



Photo by Jocelyn Rowley

# ▶ EDITORIAL

## Broken Trust in Niwot

By BRUCE WARREN  
 Editorial@lhvc.com

The Boulder County Commissioners (BOCC), whose job includes the governance of Niwot, abdicated that role to a Land Use Department whose "arrogance of power" as Niwot resident and community volunteer Laura Skaggs put it, is out of control. The April 23 hearing on changes to the Niwot Rural Community District (NRCD) regulations once again demonstrated a blatant disregard of previous direction from the BOCC to Land Use and Transportation departments, most especially with regard to opening the alley behind 2nd Avenue to immediate use by commercial property owners, as well as a disregard of those most affected by the changes.

Mike Thomas of Transportation and Dale Case of Land Use presented draft language that

would require "a study" to be paid for solely by commercial property owners, before any work could be done to make the commercial properties accessible for all purposes through the existing public alley.

Property owner Anne Postle testified that in checking with companies who perform such studies, the minimum cost was estimated to be \$50,000. When questioned by Commissioner Elise Jones, Thomas could not even venture a guess as to what it would cost. After a painfully long deliberation by the commissioners, the nature of the required study was pared down, though the BOCC ultimately passed the resolution without specific language to address the issue. Given past efforts of land use, who knows what the final NRCD provisions about the alley usage will be.

The alley usage is just one

example of how land use bullies property owners into acceding to restrictions that fly in the face of the law, common sense and good planning. In 1996, the county prepared an alley study, which concluded that commercial property owners on 2nd Avenue should have very limited access to the alley, while 3rd Avenue residents were allowed full use of the alley.

The study noted that it was subject to an awaited opinion from the Boulder County Attorney. That opinion was issued in 1997, concluding that the alley was a public right-of-way, that all adjacent property owners were entitled to use it, that no property owner could interfere with use of the alley by another adjacent property owner, and that all adjacent property owners were responsible for maintaining the alley. The opinion was buried,

ignored, and the "study" was used to force commercial property owners to access the back of their properties from 2nd Avenue to gain approval of their development plans.

The supposed change in policy with regard to use of the alley by commercial property owners, which came only after the BOCC walked the alley with Niwot Local Improvement District Advisory Committee members (LID) last fall, came with so many conditions imposed by land use that it remains to be seen whether usage of the alley will change.

Among the other changes invented by a Land Use Department run amok is a Floor Area Ratio, or FAR. Ultimately, a FAR of 0.6 was imposed on the commercial block of 2nd Avenue between Franklin Street and Niwot Road (Second Block). That means that if a one-story building

were erected on a property, it could at most cover 60 percent of the lot, and if a two-story building were erected, it could only cover 30 percent of the lot. Land Use backed off from imposing a FAR on the First Block, because it was deemed unnecessary because most of it is built out. It also avoided a discussion of the inconvenient fact that some properties on the First Block already have a FAR of 1.8, and no one is complaining about them.

Development plans must also account for on-site parking, setbacks and landscaping requirements. Under former regulations, there was no such thing as FAR, and for 25 years, property owners were able to work within the constraints noted, plus height limitations, to come up with acceptable

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# Sailing away with self-esteem

By DANI HEMMAT  
Editorial@lhvc.com

You are enough.

It's the simple, powerful message that ABLE to Sail, a local non-profit, works diligently to impart into the belief systems of the teens who take part in their sailing camps. Today's teenagers face more challenges than any have for generations—school shootings and social media, for example—often resulting in drug use, suicide and poor life experiences.

ABLE (A Better Life Experience) to Sail was founded in 2012 by Diane McKinney with the sole aim to help each teen realize the “self” in self-esteem.

“Our main mission is to prevent teen suicide and teen drug use by changing the negative thought patterns that these kids have in their heads,” said McKinney, herself a person in recovery.

ABLE was initially founded, in part, when a young friend of McKinney's died from an opiate and cocaine overdose in 2003. The friend, from Niwot, was very similar to McKinney—a star athlete, and top of her class at Niwot High.

“She was what I call a ‘real looking-good kid,’” said McKinney, who was herself an Olympic-level soccer goalie with a full ride to Harvard. “But she had those negative belief patterns. She was the youngest person I'd ever known to die from an overdose. You can't stop the behavior unless you stop the reason you choose that behavior,” said McKinney.

Despite her high-achiever

status at a young age, McKinney never felt like she was good enough, and as a result spent decades of her life in patterns of addiction and recovery. It was during her fifth stint in rehab that she realized the most basic truth she needed to understand when it came from the lips of a guest speaker at a conference, where McKinney was one of the 1,500 in attendance.

“You are enough,” were the words spoken by Cynthia James, a former Hollywood actress who became a motivational speaker, empowerment coach and best-selling author. The words she spoke to the crowd went to McKinney's core.

“She became my mentor and my teacher,” said McKinney, “and she's even going to be the M.C. at our upcoming event.”

The May 19 Rock the Boat event is a family-friendly benefit concert at Union Reservoir in Longmont featuring Hazel Miller, Coco Brown and Sheryl Renee. McKinney also promises games such as giant cornhole, giant Jenga and giant beer pong, which she asserts is not a typo.

“I have a giant teddy bear sitting in the passenger seat of my car right now, and there are two more at home,” she laughed.

Giant games and enormous teddy bears aside, McKinney's mission is very serious, and she aims to reach as many teens as she can with the resources she has.

“Every kid is an at-risk kid,” she said, “You need to know that you matter, that you are enough. Just because the people in your life are unable to tell you or show you that in a way



Courtesy photo

ABLE to Sail prepares kids to rely on themselves for self-esteem, not on external factors.

you can understand, it does not make it untrue. You are enough, and we need you.”

The upcoming benefit is McKinney's first-ever fundraiser, and while it's been exhausting, she wants to raise the awareness and the funds to help as many kids as possible.

“Teen drug use and suicide is happening everywhere. I want to bring awareness that we can do something about that, that ABLE does something about that,” said McKinney. “My main directive from the beginning has been to never let cost be a barrier to a kid getting in this camp. We don't have a scholarship fund. I just have a really big heart. Fifty-percent of our kids can't afford to come, and I let them come anyway.”

When asked why she picked sailing as the sport to use in an empowerment camp, McKinney said it was a no-brainer.

“It's a profoundly effective method, because the kids don't know anything about sailing, so they are vulnerable. When I created this program, it practically wrote itself. What do you do to steer a boat left? You turn it right. And that's how I changed my life, by changing my thinking. I didn't know I could change my thinking, and then I realized that my



Courtesy photo

ABLE to Sail helps kids realize the “self” in self-esteem.

mind was a wild animal that I needed to train. That was my path out of addiction and those negative thought patterns. And just like in sailing, you've got to be looking forward to let go of the past.”

“There's a physiology of beliefs in our brain, so it really is unbuilding those roads and building new ones, and making the choice to build new ones.”

“In camp, we talk about how we rewire our brains, and when you know you can rewire it, then you're really at choice. There is so much freedom in

knowing you have a choice,” she said.

“We are really an empowerment camp, and in between these talks that help them change their belief systems about themselves, they get to learn to sail.”

The Rock the Boat benefit concert will be held at Longmont's Union Reservoir on Sunday, May 19 from 3 to 7 pm. For tickets to the benefit—kids under 12 are free—and more information about ABLE to Sail, visit [www.abletosail.org](http://www.abletosail.org).

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# POTHOLES

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"In the subdivisions, we do rely on neighbors to report things, because we don't get in every road every week checking. It is important for residents to report things," Plank added.

There are two ways to report a problem. First is a phone call to the main office at 303-441-3962. "You will get a live person most of the time. We really don't have an answering service per se," Plant said and if requested the department will give a call back. The request is then "plugged into" their system and sent to the appropriate department.

You can also go to the county website, [www.bouldercounty.org](http://www.bouldercounty.org). There is a tab for roads and transportation. Click on that to either send an email requesting repairs or fill out a maintenance request form. Putting in street addresses helps crews locate the issue.

As opposed to tracking the number of potholes, and other issues, Plank said his department tracks their work by tons of as-

phalt used. Tracking is done this way because "we're more interested in how much material is used," Plank said. "I can have one pothole that takes a ton of material and another one that only takes a shovelful."

Plank wants to get the message out that there are other issues with streets than potholes. Most of those are called pavement condition types. Issues that fall into this category are cracks, which can run horizontal or vertical to a street and "alligating", where the street cracking resembles alligator skin, and some of the surface might be gone. There are also ruts and settling, where the substructure of the street has deteriorated. These terms are industry standard.

Most of these issues are realized in a short distance on Mt. Meeker in Gunbarrel Estates. There is not only alligating, but also potholes, cracks, both vertical and horizontal to the street, plus the ruts and settling, which may signify damage to the roadbed.

Plank said that it's very important to distinguish between the various types of road deterioration. He

realized that most people don't care about what kind of deterioration there is, they just want their roads fixed.

Because these issues are categorized under road maintenance, they can be fixed. "But we also rate it as a lower priority." The damage on Mt. Meeker falls into this category. If the alligating becomes dangerous where cars and bikes can't navigate the area safely, maintenance will be done.

It's the same with the dips and settling. "Unfortunately, we're just not far enough ahead of the curve to get to many of those, until it starts to get to, what we call, a blowout. That's when the pavement actually breaks or fractures."

Plank wants to stress that his department does repair all these issues. "Our crews, when they get going, are patching for the entire season, from April through October, non-stop." With budget constraints and the volume of work, they are doing the best job they can.

To report road safety and condition issues, call 303-441-3962, or go to [www.bouldercounty.org](http://www.bouldercounty.org).

## SUBDIVISION PAVING INCENTIVE FUND

While county maintenance is doing the best job they can, given the volume of work and budget constraints, subdivision roads continue to deteriorate. This process often leaves residents frustrated.

The county's solution has been to set up a Subdivision Paving Incentive Fund, which was established in 2015 and funded with \$1 million. According to the site, "Under current county policy, rehabilitation or reconstruction of unincorporated local subdivision roads, including paving, is the responsibility

of the property owners who use the road to access their property." This "incentive fund" is a way for the county and subdivision resident to "share the cost" of fixing deteriorating roads.

If you have applied for funding, the Courier would like to hear from you. Tell us about your experience. Email us at [Editorial@lhvc.com](mailto:Editorial@lhvc.com). Information about the paving incentive fund can be found at <https://www.bouldercounty.org/transportation/subdivision-paving/incentive-fund>.



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## MORATORIUM

Continued from Page 1

nearly three-hour hearing centered on Floor Area Ratio (FAR) and the alley, the two major issues that prompted the commissioners to table their final decision on the code update at a hearing on March 12. At the conclusion of that proceeding, the commissioners directed Land Use staff to revisit a number of issues, including their proposed FAR limit of 0.6 and securing commercial access to the alley.

At least two of the commissioners seemed satisfied with staff's results on the former. In their final deliberations, both Deb Gardner and Elise Jones were quick to offer their assent for the updated FAR

recommendation, of which a key provision is an opportunity for developers to increase the limit to 0.7 if certain conditions are met.

Matt Jones took a little more convincing, however. He argued for keeping the FAR limit at 0.6 with no "bonus" incentives, out of concern that a 0.7 FAR could potentially double the amount of existing square footage in the NRCD. This was based on analysis presented by County Land Use Director Dale Case during his report to the commissioners earlier in the hearing, which showed that if every property in the NRCD were built-out to the maximum, the total square footage in the district would increase from 77,573 to 151,162, or 95 percent.

In response, Elise Jones

pointed out that staff's methodology failed to capture the historic review and other regulatory conditions developers would face getting to that maximum amount.

"Given the constraints associated with using the incentives to actually get to 0.7 and site plan reviews protections that, while this chart gives us the maximum possible, that that's not going to be the reality for the whole district, so this is sort of maximum potential but it's more mathematical than what we're going to see on the ground."

Matt Jones did not press the point much beyond that.

As usual, it was the alley that seemed to cause the most consternation. Despite community outreach efforts in the weeks

following the March 12 hearing, staff's updated recommendation did not address many of the still outstanding issues about design and function.

Instead, it prescribed a lengthy process before improvements could even begin, starting with a comprehensive transportation study. That would be followed by design and construction phases, all subject to rigorous county regulation processes before the alley would be approved for access.

"I know that there's some concern about the scope and the cost of the traffic study," county engineer Mike Thomas said in response to public comments estimating the cost of such a report at \$50,000, to be paid for by 2nd Avenue property owners. "I do understand where they're coming from potentially, but we do want to make sure that we do have an alley that is usable. And not just the alley, but we want to make sure 2nd Avenue, Franklin and other aspects of this area are walkable, usable, safe and appropriate in its use."

This got pushback from Elise Jones and Gardner, who were skeptical about the need for such a costly study, and finally got Thomas to concede that it's not strictly necessary to accomplish the ultimate goal: securing alley access for 2nd Avenue property owners.

"We want to provide access to the alley but in a way that's respectful for the residents," Elise Jones said. "So what's the minimum to allow us to move forward to meet those goals without adding a whole lot of cost?"

Ultimately, the commissioners modified that language to call for periodic traffic counts that can be performed with county resources.

Still, a number of hurdles

will have to be cleared before the alley can move forward, according to Thomas and Case, not least of which is that any alley improvements are subject to the county's multimodal transportation standards around drainage, multi-weather travel, and impact to adjacent properties.

Additionally, at least one major decision remains outstanding; should the alley be configured for one-way or two-way traffic. Each will involve significant county red-tape and construction challenges. Commissioners again directed land use staff to engage the community stakeholders and move the process forward sooner rather than later. Case said that staff will start reaching out to the community to form a study group on alley design later this month.

Before adjourning, the commissioners made some minor tweaks to language concerning windows and patios that face the alley in new residential developments to make it less prescriptive.

Like Matt Jones, Elise Jones expressed her appreciation for the Niwot stakeholders and community members who have participated in the drawn-out process.

"I do want to thank everybody who's been in this room again and again and engaging with us. I am a little bit surprised at the tenor of the comments, but I appreciate the 3rd Avenue folks saying, 'We lost the alley, we compromised.' I feel like that is the spirit of what we're doing—compromising between different values and trying to get to that sweet spot where I think that Pat Murphy probably said it best—doing what's best for the community."

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**EDITORIAL**

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plans after numerous required reviews.

Even the BOCC had difficulty understanding FAR. Commissioner Matt Jones said, "I have questions around the FAR, and I've been trying to get my arms around that and what that means. And currently what's happening so I can have a reference as to what the growth might be."

Land Use Director Dale Case was more than happy to oblige, using a "parade of horrors" chart that showed how much more development would be allowed in the block with a FAR of 0.6 (67 percent over existing), as well as 0.7 (95 percent over existing) and increasing increments. What he neglected to say, until vaguely admitting under questioning, is that existing conditions on many of the commercial properties, such as existing historic structures and their placement, make it extremely unlikely that development on those properties would even approach 0.6 FAR.

Case noted that the Niwot Inn, "a property which people respect and would like to emulate in the community," has a lot size of 14,500 square feet, and currently has 8,406 square feet of above-grade structures. He noted that at .58 FAR, it's closest to the 0.6 FAR maximum, but the new regulation would still allow a 300 square-foot increase in structures on the property, as if that were significant. So even if the Niwot Inn were to eliminate the driveway from 2nd Avenue and use the alley for access, the new regulations would essentially prohibit any further development on the driveway area.

Until now, development regulations in the NRCD applied equally to all properties in the district, with the exception of Historic Review requirements in the block between Murray Street and Franklin Street plus the Colterra property (First Block), and different setbacks in the Second Block. Now there are different regulations that ap-

ply to each block of the NRCD.

The NRCD was established with the approval of the commercial property owners in 1993, with a simple set of regulations that worked reasonably well until 2018. The initial regulations included a provision that any changes had to be approved by a majority of the property owners.

In 2012, the regulations were amended following a study on parking and connectivity, to simplify the square footage required for different uses, such as office, restaurant and retail, by setting one uniform standard. Those changes were approved by a majority of the property owners, and went through planning commission and BOCC hearings without opposition.

There was one catch, however. The Land Use Department also slipped in a change eliminating the requirement for future approval by the property owners of any changes, saying that if minor changes to the parking regulations in the future based on experience, land use didn't want to have to go back to the property owners for approval.

The contrast between the 2012 process, and the 2018-19 process, demonstrates the true colors of the BOCC and the Land Use Department. In the fall of 2018, a group of 3rd Avenue residents complained to the county about recent development across the alley, saying they did not receive notice of the proposed plans. They didn't ask for a morato-

rium, but wanted the county to listen to their concerns.

Rather than go to the Niwot LID, whose members are all appointed by the BOCC and represent business owners, property owners, residents and community organizations, to discuss the issues raised, the BOCC, at the urging of the Land Use Department, imposed a six-month moratorium on development in the entire NRCD, without notice to anyone in Niwot. This, in spite of the fact that the Land Use Department won't even accept development applications without a several-month waiting period; but that's another subject for another day.

The BOCC later apologized for how the moratorium was imposed, and tried to placate the business community by removing it for the First Block, in an ineffective effort to allow Colterra to rebuild quickly.

Why was it ineffective? Because Land Use, once again, misled the BOCC by omitting the fact that Colterra had to have parking leased from other property owners to satisfy its parking requirements, and those owners were still subject to the moratorium and not about to lease parking spaces when they didn't know what the new regulations would require of them.

Land use describes the new NRCD regulations as a compromise, after listening to all of the input from the community. But the new regulations were, in fact, opposed by the Niwot LID, by the Niwot

Business Association and by the entire Niwot business community as too restrictive, too complicated, and unnecessary. Rather than build a consensus following a thorough study by a representative group, as was done in 2012, land use chose to impose its will on the Niwot business community, because it could.

No longer did it need the approval of the Niwot commercial property owners as it did in 2012. The resulting acrimony between the business community and the 3rd Avenue residents will not soon go away.

The error that the Niwot community made was believing that the BOCC trusted Niwot, including the Niwot LID, the Niwot Business Association, and the larger Niwot community, to do what was best for the community. It is now clear that such trust, if it ever existed, is broken.

Instead, the BOCC blindly follows a Land Use Department that even ignores clear direction from the BOCC to follow its own agenda, one which is focused on limiting commercial development,

even when it flies in the face of the Boulder County Comprehensive Plan and good planning.

Two BOCC positions will be up for election, and it will be incumbent upon Niwot residents to ask hard questions of the candidates, and hopefully elect commissioners who will help restore trust with the Niwot community.



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# Those tiny flags? It's up to us

By DANI HEMMAT  
Editorial@lhvc.com

"Little boxes on the hillside...Little boxes made of ticky tacky...Little boxes on the hillside...Covered with flags all the same...There's a pink one and a green one,,,And a blue one and a yellow one...And it's up to you to get them 'cuz they leave them, by the way."

Utility locator flags are those tiny wire and vinyl or plastic flags of various colors that are stuck in the ground in your neighbor's yard, along the highway, on medians, right-of-ways and near construction sites throughout Boulder County.

The flags are essential when it comes to marking located utility lines before any digging happens. If the lines haven't been located, and digging happens, then things get disrupted. Regular, repairable things like water supplies or internet service can be down for hours, sometimes days. It's a hassle, but we can live through it. Sometimes, however, bad things can also happen, like sudden death if a gas or an electrical line is struck. More than a hassle, and someone might not live through it.

But what happens to those little flags when the digging is, well, done?

Locator flags are, by law, good for 30 days after placement. Which means that the digging that needed to get done was hopefully



Courtesy Photo

Flags are waving, beckoning us to ask, "How long have those little buggers been there?"

completed in that time, and the flags can be removed. But who removes them? Not the locating service, not the county, and frequently not by the contractors that are doing the actual digging. Not only are the leftover flags trashy looking, but the little metal poles can get rusted and bent, creating little tetanus landmines all over our beautiful county.

Which means it's up to each of us to remove those little litter banners when their time is up. But before you leap over the neighbor's fence and start pulling up the tiny vinyl banners from her lawn, double-check that the work has been done. You don't want to create an even bigger hazard than a tiny tetanus landmine. And, if you dig after flags have been removed, you can be

responsible for the cost of the damage, and that can get pricey.

There are a few things you can do if you're pretty sure those flags have been there for more than 30 days and are no longer needed. You can call the Utility Notification Center of Colorado at 1-800-922-1987 and

ask them if the little flags have gone past their 30-day limit. You can also contact the utility that placed the flags. The flags are typically color-coded for the utility they represent, and often the name of the utility will be on the flag.

And for those interested, here are colors' assigned

meanings: blue is for water lines; green for wastewater; red is for electrical; yellow is for gas; orange is for fun stuff like internet, phone, and cable TV; pink is for surveyors' marks; and purple is for clown-infested storm drains. Just kidding! There are no clowns down there.

We hope.

## Where the dinosaurs roamed



Photo by Karen Copperberg

The Niwot Historical Society (NHS) once again outdid itself with a well attended and interesting talk about local and area dinosaur fossil finds. Over 100 kids of all ages heard Dr. Joe Sertich, curator of dinosaurs at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science (DMNS), explain how and why this area, and all the Front Range of Colorado, is an especially good hunting ground for newly identified dinosaurs. Those dinosaurs familiar to all of us, such as the T Rex which was superimposed on the area map, were roaming the range during the Cretaceous period, 66 million years ago. Kathy Koehler, president of NHS, and Mary Stewart, longtime volunteer at DMNS, introduced Sertich. In response to any children or adults who may be worried there are not enough fossils for them to discover in the future, Sertich said that 40 to 50 new dinosaurs are found each year, with many more waiting to be found. Like the Torosaurus discovered in Thornton in 2017, a jawbone piece was on hand to examine, the bulk of that fossilized skeleton and many others are still being worked on at the museum. There are 12 new species of dinosaurs not yet described at DMNS. Although there are 120 dedicated volunteers like Mary Stewart, who fulfilled a childhood dream by working mostly with these finds, the museum is always on the lookout for more volunteers.

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# “Desert Visions” by Myles Howell



Courtesy Photo

“Desert Visions” by Myles Howell

By CATHERINE MCHALE  
Special to the Courier

The Niwot Community Corner park was created in 2018 at the corner of Niwot Road and 79th Street. In the fall of 2018, Community Corner was enhanced with a Sculpture Garden with artworks chosen from various artists for display for up to a year. This continues a monthly series about the artworks and artists chosen for Community Corner at Sculpture Park.

We pick up with “Desert Visions” by artist Myles Howell, a large, smooth structure with elegant curves carved into the Bardiglio marble.

Originally from St. George, Utah, Howell moved to attend Utah State University as a painter. After taking an introductory sculpture class he found that as soon as he touched stone he knew that it was the medium he wanted to work with. He received his Bachelors of Fine Arts in Sculpture from USU in 2013 and recently received a Masters Degree in Sculpture.

An avid outdoorsman, Howell climbed and hiked throughout his childhood and teen years. He became fascinated by making

beautiful forms with materials that had been around for millions of years. Currently, he is using old bones as inspiration for his new works. By abstracting them into concave and convex forms, he can create incredible non-objects that still hold meaning in a primal way.

Movement in sculpture is important to Howell and helps keep his viewer engaged. The bold twists and turns keep the audience’s eye moving and allows them to find surprising familiarity at every angle.

Myles hopes his projects can become larger in scale, and even participatory. He said, “I want someone to climb on my sculpture and interact with it.” He believes that the ability to poke your head into a hole and maneuver your body through a piece of art allows you to experience it more fully. Plus it’s fun!

No matter what walk of life you come from or your past experience with art, Howell believes that you are able to connect with it. Regardless of whether you love it or hate it, art can be approachable and meaningful. As such, he encourages us to be open to artistic experiences and embrace the beauty we are able to create.

Myles currently resides in Logan, Utah with his wife, daughter, twin boys, and dog. He enjoys sculpting at his home studio, fly fishing, and family time.

Myles Howell’s sculpture, “Desert Visions,” can be seen at the Niwot Community Corner at Sculpture Park. It is currently for sale for \$32,000.00. For more information about the park, visit [www.niwot.com/sculpture](http://www.niwot.com/sculpture) and [www.myleshowellsculpture.com](http://www.myleshowellsculpture.com).

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# SCHOOL NEWS

## Auction to benefit Adopt-A-Cougar program

By JOCELYN ROWLEY  
Editorial@lhvc.com

It's no secret that college is expensive, but these days even planning for a post-secondary education can be pricey, between exam fees, application fees, and college visits. Unfortunately, these costs can sometimes keep an otherwise deserving student from taking

advantage of every opportunity.

In 2018, the Niwot High School Education Foundation (NHSEF) partnered with the school's counseling department to found the Adopt-A-Cougar program, which helps Niwot families with these costs.

"What people don't always realize is that Niwot High School has a fairly large free

and reduced lunch population," NHSEF Director Paula Hemenway said. "Niwot's main focus is the IB (International Baccalaureate) and AP (Advance Placement), and students can get college credit for those, which can save a lot of money, but you have to take the exam. The fee for an AP exam this year is \$94 and an IB exam is even more, at \$119."

For students enrolled and taking the test in more than one of these classes, that can quickly add up, and there are a limited number of hardship waivers available. Last year, the Adopt-A-Cougar program paid for a total of 40 exams with funds provided by the NHSEF, and they hope to surpass that this year.

The foundation is also looking to provide more than just exam fees.

"This year we would like to expand the initiative to also cover other costs, including application fees, college visit costs, and SAT prep courses, particular for first generation college students," Hemenway said. "It's all administered by

the counseling department and it's all confidential."

To help fund this goal, the NHSEF is gearing up for its third annual spring online auction, which kicks off on Sunday, May 5th and runs through May 11, just in time for Mother's Day.

"Part of the money goes to the foundation as a whole," Hemenway said. "Our purpose is programs that enhance and enrich student learning. The foundation is really the academic side of parent and community supported organizations at the school, whereas the Boosters is more extracurricular."

The NHSEF's mission is to "engage and inspire the community in support of enriching the teaching and learning experience at Niwot High School." In support of that, the foundation provides grants to teachers for field trips and classroom materials, as well as professional training. The organization has also helped the school fund larger projects, such as the digital marquee and upgraded lighting in the

auditorium.

This year's auction has a bit of everything—from travel packages, to professional services, to restaurant and brewery options. Locals will recognize many of the sponsors, including Taddiken Tree, Niwot Market, and Bootstrap Brewing, but there are also getaway packages to mountain destinations, for those inclined to venture a little further.

There are also several items for Niwot students and their families, such as reserved graduation seating, tickets to the 2020 prom, and registration to a Cougars mini-cheer camp.

"There are a lot of 'experiences,'" Hemenway said. "It's definitely worth checking out."

There are also options for directly supporting the Adopt-A-Cougar program or the Foundation itself.

All proceeds raised from the auction will go directly to the NHSEF, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. The auction runs for just six days, from May 5 to May 11. For more information and a link to the auction site, visit [nhsef.org](http://nhsef.org).



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Niwot High School Education Foundation

Courtesy Photo

The 2019 NHSEF auction is raising funds to support the school's Adopt-A-Cougar program, to help students afford college planning expenses

# LAUREL

Continued from Page 1

classrooms, Wilson also volunteers in the classrooms, helping with math, reading and writing.

"Paige is the kind of person who would do anything for anyone," said Kelly Bernhardt, first grade teacher. "Paige doesn't wait to be asked to help - she is intuitive and offers help before you even realize you need it. Paige is tireless in her efforts to support the staff and students of Niwot Elementary—she is here for all of us. She knows that if one of us succeeds, we all succeed, and she does everything she can to support us in everything we do."

Wilson is married to her best friend, Kevin, and has two girls, Braegan (8) and Riann (4) and her desire to assist at their school benefits more than just them. Her volunteerism makes use of many talents, such as helping the kids learn to bake cornbread during a field trip to Four Mile Historic Park, or helping students that are visual learners by creating color-coded math posters to display in the classroom.

"Paige is a volunteering cha-

meleon," said Bernhardt. "There really isn't anything she can't or won't do to help literally anyone in the building. She gives of her time and energy generously and frequently, and brings positive energy and laughter with her when she comes to help."

"Paige is the type of person that I can give an idea to, and she will run with it," said teacher Burke. "She always goes above and beyond. She created posters for our math class that I can display for my students to better understand the key concepts for that topic."

But for Wilson, it's part of who she is, or rather, who she is rediscovering she is. Wilson was a dentist until a major congenital brain issue caused her vision to completely change. That and the resulting surgery forced her to leave her practice and struggle with daily symptoms that force her to "rediscover 'who' I am," she said.

"I think I will always be uncomfortable with not getting up and driving to my practice," she said, "But I get the privilege to see my girls way more than my original plan."

"I love being busy, but I can't

commit to a regular routine since my brain and eyes need a great deal of TLC. So I do what I can when I can," Wilson said.

Her desire to put her efforts into volunteering at the school is fed by both her beliefs and her past experiences with her health.

"I have very strong feelings about teachers, especially biased towards Niwot teachers and staff, and their under-appreciation and under-pay in conjunction with the over-abundance of tasks, expectations and constant needs of their students and families," she said. "If I can take away one item off a list, give a small gift, help in a class, share my knowledge to one fantastic kiddo, make a system more efficient or just be there for my own girls, I win. Something I learned while I laid in bed for almost one year, unsure if I was going to be witness to the next, (was to) have a generous and kind spirit because it is really good medicine. Just by showing up when you can, offering your best, expecting nothing in return, authentically being present and being seen, accepting your weaknesses but magnifying your abilities, showing love and appreciation and making your possible difference, life can be

really great even when there is so much that makes it difficult, frustrating and unfair."

Her kind and generous spirit was once again on display last Friday at NES. It was pajama day, and one little boy had forgotten. According to Pitz, Wilson was volunteering and noticed how sad the student was that he was the only one in regular clothes. She immediately went to the store to buy him pajamas so that he could participate with the rest of his classmates.

While the staff is beyond appreciative for Wilson's generosity of spirit and time, the feeling is mutual.

"Niwot Elementary is a rare gem," said Wilson. "From Mrs. Pitz to every single teacher, paraeducator, wrap-around staff, counselor, janitor, lunch helper, bus driver or volunteer, this school is providing an educational and cultural experience that is beyond compare."

Wilson has no problem recognizing her blessings and sharing them.

"Getting sick was not in my plans. I guess it never is," she said. "My new life mantra is a quote from Arianna Huffington: 'Always treat life as though it is rigged in your favor.'"

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# Boulder County was made for dogs



Photo by Dani Hemmat

Master and commander at the helm on Lake McIntosh.

By **DANI HEMMAT**  
 Editorial@lhvc.com

If it isn't clear by the random water bowls outside of boutiques and every other person walking a dog or two, Boulder County was made for dog lovers. More often than not, dogs are seated side by side with their human guardians at outdoor cafes, and we have our fair share of natural pet supply stores and dog-friendly trails.

And let's not forget that your well-behaved mutt is as welcome in the aisles of McGuckin's Hardware as you are. Maybe even more, if your pooch is a real cutie.

But even the most die-hard dog owners may not realize that there are more places that you can bring your buddy along with you than you can shake--and then throw--a stick at. Go fetch!

## Shopping

Although the most exceptional walking and shopping area around, Pearl Street, doesn't allow dogs, and neither does the Boulder County Farmers' Markets, there are plenty of other shopping experiences that welcome you with your pooch in tow.

There is the 29th Street Mall in Boulder at 29th and Canyon, an outdoor promenade that features wide sidewalks, and even free dog waste bags, plenty of waste bins and small relieving stations intended for a dog's business. Then there is the aforementioned McGuckin's, and you can also bring your furry pal to Home Depot, any pet store in Boulder County, and some of the more relaxed boutiques in town. Just remember that not everyone loves, or is comfortable

around, dogs. Read the room before you barge in with your buddy.

## Socializing with alcohol

While your dog can't drink, she sure can hang out with you while you imbibe, and be there to walk you home when your revelry is done. BoCo is home to several establishments that not only brew the good stuff, but they love your dog, too. Romero's K-9 Club & Taphouse in Lafayette is targeted to dogs and their people who like to drink, but there are breweries aplenty that accept your dog along with your drink order: Asher Brewing Company, Avery Brewing Company, Boulder Beer Company, Flnkel and Garf, Gunbarrel Brewing, J Wells Brewery, Rayback Collective and Upslope Brewing.



Raise your glass and your paw!

## Socializing without alcohol, otherwise known as the dog park

Lame romantic comedies aside, the dog park is a great place to chat with strangers while you watch your dog get his ya-yas out on a sunny day. Grab a matcha latte and head out to one of many fine dog parks in our area. They include, but are not limited to: Foothills dog park, Valmont dog park, Louisville dog park, Great Bark dog park, Airport dog park, Boneyard at Reliance Park, Autrey dog park, Howard Heuston Off-Leash, and Longmont dog park. While it's tempting to stick to a favorite, you can mix it up so Fido doesn't squeal and whine every time you get near one of them, plus you get to explore new places and meet new people.

## Swimming

There is a special place, and for a short time each year, its doors open just for the dogs. The public pool at Scott Carpenter Park hosts Dog Dayz at the end of every outdoor swimming season, kicking humans out of the pool for two weeks and opening up the water for dog shenanigans. This is a fun tradition that has been frolicking along for a decade, and more than 2,000 canines

have enjoyed cooling off in the waters with their peers during the actual dog days of summer. Unfortunately, the pool will be closed for serious renovations and revamps during the 2019 season, but work is projected to be done before the 2020 swim season, and we can only hope that Rover will once again get to romp in this super cool Boulder tradition.

But if Fido digs the water, there's always another way to get him out into the waves. Paddleboarding abounds in BoCo, with plenty of places to rent or buy one, and if your little skipper has a life jacket, you can train him to stay steady on your board while you paddle around Longmont's Lake McIntosh. I like to let my dog pretend she's captain of the ship, even though she's only ten pounds.

All in all, the place we live is for the dogs, and we're lucky. Remember, as accepting as the merchants and public spaces are of our dogs here in BoCo, it's always contingent on what sort of citizen both you and your dog are. Well-behaved humans and canines keep those dog-toting privileges open, but if you or your pooch are jerks, the general consensus can always change to a less dog-friendly state of mind.

So, who's a good dog?



# SPORTS

## Niwot blanked by Mountain View

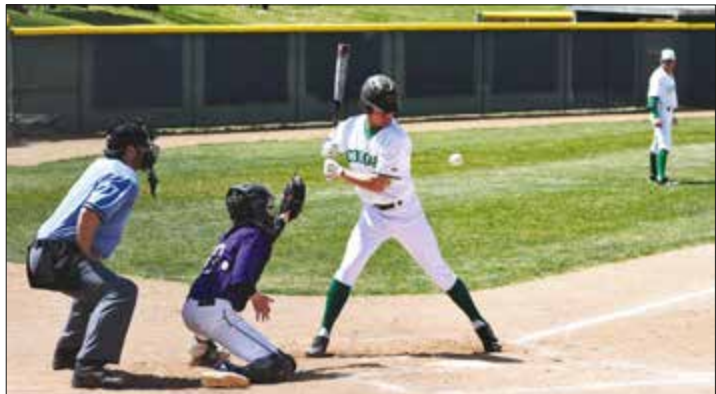


Photo by Jocelyn Rowley

Freshman Nick Yard looks at a pitch outside during the Cougars' game against Mountain View on April 27.

By Jocelyn Rowley  
Editorial@lhvc.com

The wins have been few and far between for the youthful Niwot baseball team in 2019,

but head coach Adam Strah said there have been definite signs of improvement down the stretch. Unfortunately, that wasn't much in evidence in the Cougars' 10-0 loss to Mountain



Photo by Jocelyn Rowley

Sophomore Will Smith warms up on the mound before the Cougars' game against Mountain View on April 27.

April 9, Niwot beat Skyline 5-3 for their first win of 2019, then a week later went to Mead, where they beat the Mavericks

by the same score.

Senior Jaryd Meek and junior Felipe Castro came up big for the Cougars at the plate against the Spartans, with two hits and three RBIs apiece. In five innings on the mound, sophomore Micah Sheats gave up five earned runs and struck out five. In relief, junior Clay Kleespies struck out another three in two innings, surrendering just one hit.

Niwot resumed its league schedule on April 25, with the opening game of a home-and-home series against Mountain View, a perennial contender for the Northern League title.

For six and a half innings, the Cougars held a 4-0 lead, but the Mountain Lions found

their bats in the bottom of the seventh, and pulled off a 5-4 walk-off comeback.

Freshman Nick Yard fanned five and walked just one in a very solid six-inning appearance for the Cougars, and also helped himself at the plate, with a hit and an RBI. Castro (1) and junior Tim Stokes (2), the team's leading hitter, combined for Niwot's three other runs.

Unfortunately, Mountain View remembered to bring their bats for the entire second game, along with their top pitcher. They jumped out to a quick 4-0 lead off of back-to-back doubles in the top of

*Continued on Page 16*

## CHSAA sanctions three new sports

By Jocelyn Rowley  
Editorial@lhvc.com

Beginning in the fall of 2020, Colorado high school students will have more options for athletics, after the Colorado High School Activities Association sanctioned three new sports for the first time since 1998.

At their annual meeting on April 24, CHSAA's Legislative Council voted to approve boys volleyball, girls wrestling, and

unified bowling, the first new sports since boys and girls lacrosse and girls field hockey were added 20 years ago.

Niwot athletic director Chase McBride, who is also a member of CHSAA's Board of Directors, said recommending approval for the three new sports was an easy decision, after they successfully navigated the complex sanctioning process.

"They followed the process,

they got some active participation, and did what they were supposed to do.... Really, it's about equity. You have to be able to balance the addition of sports—you can't just throw a sport out there, and not be able to offer it to both genders. You also have to make sure it can be funded, and you have to make sure it's a good fit for the season. There's a lot of things that go into it."

The three new sports will

launch their inaugural seasons during the 2020-21 school year, after spending the coming year forming leagues and establishing postseason criteria. It's too early to know if any area schools will land new teams, but, after a successful pilot season, Niwot is a good candidate for a boys volleyball team.

Boys volleyball is on its second trip through the CHSAA sanctioning process. Equity issues tripped up the sport in 2016, but according to McBride, advocates for the sport were able to address those short-

comings in the intervening three years, and robust participation numbers during the pilot season tipped the scales in its favor.

Niwot was one of nearly 80 teams from across the state that participated in the eight-week pilot season this spring. Approximately 45 smaller schools compete in the 3A classification, with larger schools in 5A. A total of eight teams from six schools in the St. Vrain Valley district took part in the pilot,

*Continued on Page 16*



Courtesy Photo

Niwot fielded a 17-player boys volleyball team during the CHSAA pilot season.



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## STUDENT-ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

# Erica Bortfeldt

By JOCELYN ROWLEY  
Editorial@lhvc.com

The quadrennial summer Olympic Games brings millions of new athletes to gymnastics, and after the U.S. team's dramatic finish in the 2008 Beijing games, one of those was then-elementary school student Erica Bortfeldt.

Bortfeldt's affinity for the sport has endured, and now, more than a decade later, the Niwot High senior competes for a club team based at Airborne Gymnastics in Longmont. On April 20, she captured the All-Around title in her division at the 2019 NCAA Youth Gymnastics Challenge, in Fort Worth, Texas.

Bortfeldt was the high scorer in two of the meet's four events, for a final score of 37.10. Afterwards, she and the other division winners were honored before the crowd at the 2019 NCAA Women's Gymnastics Championships, which was held in a nearby venue.

"The whole place was so fun and energetic," she said of the experience.

As an AA competitor, Bortfeldt is strong on each of the apparatus, but her highest scores tend to come on beam or bars, the two events she currently considers her favorites. However, that might not be the case in a few weeks.

"It changes," she said, when asked about her competition preferences. "Right now it's bars or beam, because those tend to involve less impact. I really enjoy the floor, but I do it less now. I don't really like the vault, because I get injured



Courtesy Photo

On April 20, Niwot senior Erica Bortfeldt was crowned All-Around winner at 2019 NCAA Youth Gymnastics Challenge in Ft. Worth, Texas.

on the vault."

Bortfeldt admits that, while she may love gymnastics, it hasn't always loved her back. Like many competitive gymnasts, she has battled her share of injuries over the years, and even has a rebuilt ankle to show for it. That has kept her off the Niwot High team gymnastics team for the past few years, though she did compete for the Cougars as a freshman.

When she's not mastering new skills in the gym, Bortfeldt enjoys singing, a passion she didn't discover until she joined Niwot choir as a freshman. Inspired by her time there, but with no prior singing experience, she spent

the next two years teaching herself outside the classroom, and was later tapped to join Even Star, the school's elite vocal choir. Bortfeldt was especially moved by the group's recent performance of the gospel song "Total Praise"

Bortfeldt is taking AP classes at Niwot, after an initial foray into the IB diploma programme convinced her that a demanding academic workload might not be the best fit for someone with so many other pursuits.

Bortfeldt plans to head to CU in the fall to study biomedical engineering. She also hopes to try out for the CU Women's Gymnastics team.

## Two Niwot coaches receive statewide honors



Courtesy Photo

Eric Rauschkolb, Terri Ward, and Chase McBride at the CHSAA Class of 2018 Hall of Fame induction ceremony.

By JOCELYN ROWLEY  
Editorial@lhvc.com

### Terri Ward

Longtime Niwot girls basketball coach Terri Ward was formally inducted into the Colorado High School Activities Association Hall of Fame at a ceremony in Denver on April 23.

Ward was selected for induction into the Hall's 2018 class back in January, due to her decades-long advocacy on behalf of girls and women in high school athletics and involvement with Colorado Coaches of Girls Sports and Sportswomen of Colorado. She also has a coaching career spanning nearly 30-years, and recorded her 300th career win for Niwot on January 25th.

Joining Ward in the Hall of Fame's 30th anniversary class were volleyball coach Patty Childress (Otis, Palisade, Grandview), music teacher Morton Dickson (Woodland Park), former MLB player Scott Elarton (Lamar), tennis player Jack Klapper (Denver East), small school standout Bart Stevens (Flagler) and the Columbine High football team of 1999.

### Aimee Keronen

Last month, Niwot girls tennis coach Aimee Keronen was named one of 12 2018 Colorado Coaches of the Year by the National Federation of State High School

Associations (NFHS).

Keronen, who teaches P.E. at Niwot, is in her sixth season as head tennis coach. Last year, she led the Cougars to the Class 4A state title, the first championship for the school since 2015.

Though they lost two key pieces of the championship team to graduation, the Cougars went undefeated in the 2019 regular season, and head into the Region 4 tournament on May 1 with a good chance to repeat as champions.

Niwot athletic director Chase McBride described Keronen's impact on the program over the last several years.

"First and foremost is her relationship with kids, inside and outside of the building," he said. "She's a kid magnet—they flock to her class, and they come out to tennis to support her there. She's done such a nice job of establishing excellence within the program. They want to be good, they want to be better, and they're always doing the work towards it. I think it's easier to maintain that than build it, and she's certainly got it to a place where it's just maintenance."

### Niwot seeks boys basketball coach

Niwot is hiring a new

  
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FDIC 

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## ▶ Classifieds

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The Courier is looking for a few good reporters who are passionate about the Gunbarrel, Niwot and south Longmont communities. If you have writing experience and are looking for part time work, contact us at Editorial@lhvc.com.

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## COACHING

Continued from Page 13

head basketball coach, following the resignation of Eric Hejl earlier this spring. McBride said that Hejl departed for family reasons, and there are "no hard feelings" between the school and the former coach.

The Cougars went just 1-22 during Hejl's first season at the helm, but managed eight wins in 2019 and narrowly missed a postseason berth.

Incoming Niwot athletic director Kevin Clark, who will take over for McBride when he becomes the district athletic director later this year, said there's no firm time frame for a new hire, but he, McBride and Principal Rauschkolb will start the process in the coming weeks.

"We'll take some time to see if we can align any teaching positions with that," he said. "We'll wait for the next few weeks to play out."



Courtesy Photo

Niwot's Aimee Keronen was named one honored as a Colorado Coach of the Year by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS).

**Community News?**  
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# CHSAA

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which came as a surprise to McBride and other district personnel.

"I had some interest at Niwot, so we opened it up to see what it would be like," he said. "It was nice to see there were so many new athletes out there. It was a total success story in terms of opening opportunities for people who maybe hadn't been involved in athletics before."

It was a different story for girls wrestling, where just a handful of girls in St. Vrain Valley participated, possibly due to competition from girls swimming, which draws big numbers in the district. McBride expects to see it grow locally, now that it has officially joined CHSAA's ranks.

McBride will oversee that growth as the St. Vrain Valley's athletics director, a position

he will assume later this year. Incoming Niwot AD Kevin Clark, currently at Loveland High School, will be at the helm when the new sports are officially launched.

"With Niwot going through and piloting boys volleyball, that, in my eyes, will probably be the smoothest transition," he said about the potential implementation. "At Loveland High School, we piloted girls wrestling, so I'm excited to be a part of that sport growing as well."

McBride said he's also excited about bringing new sports to the athletes of SVVSD.

"Anytime that you can give opportunities to kids is a great thing. I'm always going to look for more opportunities and more involvement and opportunities for kids to do more than one thing. It brings more choice into our schools and gives us an advantage that maybe surrounding schools don't have."

# Cougars clinch league title



Photo by Jocelyn Rowley

Niwot's Julia Solem watches an errant putt at the Northridge league meet, held in deceptively chilly conditions on April 25 at the deceptively hard Highland Hills golf course in Greeley. She ended the day with an 85 (+14), which was good for second overall.

First on the leaderboard was her teammate Halie Ostrom, who clinched her first-ever event title with an 84 (+13). Niwot freshman Sydney Rothstein finished in fourth (+16), and senior Laure Bourgin (+23) finished tied for ninth. That was enough to give Niwot the team title by 20 strokes, and sole possession of the 2019 Northern League title.

## NHS SPORTS

SCHEDULE

MAY 2 TO MAY 9

**Thursday, May 2**  
Girls tennis regionals, Quail Tennis Center  
10 a.m. - Girls golf, Estes Park Invite  
4 p.m. - Baseball vs. Longmont

**Friday, May 3**  
2 p.m. - Track & field, Northern Conference meet, Longmont HS

**Saturday, May 4**  
8 a.m. - Track & field, Northern Conference meet, Longmont HS  
noon - Baseball @ Longmont

**Monday, May 6**  
12:00 - Girls golf, regional tournament, Fox Hill CC  
4 p.m. - Baseball @ Ft. Lupton

**Tuesday, May 7**  
4 p.m. - Baseball @ Frederick

**Thursday, May 9**  
Class 4A state tennis, Pueblo  
4 p.m. - Baseball vs. Greeley Central

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# BASEBALL

Continued from Page 13

the second inning, and never looked back. In all, eight of the

Mountain Lions' 11 hits were for extra bases—four doubles, a triple, and three home runs.

"They're always a good-hitting team, just a good hitting program," Strah said afterwards. "But it certainly also shows how well Nick Yard threw against them on Thursday to be able to shut them down, since what they did today is probably a little more typical of their production."

Meanwhile, the Cougars managed just three hits in their first shut-out loss of the year, two from Sheats and a double for sophomore Will Smith, who also reached base twice on walks. Other than that, Niwot base runners were in short supply.

"That was their number one on the mound, and he's very good," Strah said. "You can probably talk to a lot of teams in this area who have faced him and have a similar story. He's not very big, but he throws downhill, and he's sneaky, sneaky fast and hard to see. So it was a frustrating day for us, but a lot of teams have had the experience against him."

With the loss, the Cougars fell to 3-14 on the year, with

six games to go in the season. With no chance of reaching the postseason, Strah said he and the team are striving to spend the final weeks building on some tough lessons from early in the year.

"There are some things coming together that are certainly encouraging, but our record is certainly not what we want or picture. So it's still showing up every day to do my best and do my part in getting them better. I think the more that we as a coaching staff show up with our passion and energy, that is only going to float to the kids."

**4/23 — Niwot 8, Berthoud 6**  
Spartans (6-10) 002 310 0 — 6 9 2  
Cougars (3-12) 430 010 — 8 8 3  
Hitting (ab-r-h-rbi) — Will Smith 1-2-0-0,  
Micah Sheats 3-1-1-0, Felipe Castro 3-0-2-3,  
Joey Desenfants 2-1-1-1, Tim Stokes 3-1-1-0,  
Hayden Morford 2-1-0-0, Jaryd Meek 3-1-2-3,  
Ben Strid 4-0-0-0, Nick Yard 3-2-1-0  
**4/25 — Mountain View 5, Niwot 4**  
Cougars (3-13, 0-9) 120 010 0 — 4 6 4  
Mtn Lions (8-8, 5-4) 000 000 5 — 5 9 3

Hitting (ab-r-h-rbi) — Will Smith 2-1-0-0,  
Micah Sheats 4-1-2-0, Felipe Castro 1-0-1-2,  
Joey Desenfants 3-0-0-0 Tim Stokes 3-0-1-2,  
Hayden Morford 3-0-1-0, Jaryd Meek 3-0-0-0,  
Ben Strid 3-0-1-0, Nick Yard 4-1-1-1, Dylan  
Olson 3-1-0-0  
**4/27 — Mountain View 10, Niwot 0**  
Mtn Lions (9-8, 6-4) 041 021 2 — 10 11  
Cougars (3-14, 0-10) 000 000 0 — 0 3 1  
Hitting (ab-r-h-rbi) — Will Smith 1-0-1-0,  
Micah Sheats 3-0-2-0, Felipe Castro 3-0-0-0,  
Joey Desenfants 3-0-0-0 Tim Stokes 3-0-0-0,  
Ben Strid 3-0-0-0, Nick Yard 3-0-0-0,  
Dylan Olson 1-0-0-0, Hayden Morford 1-0-0-0,  
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