



New BoCo transportation director and the future of subdivision roads



Photo by Mary Wolbach Lopert

New Boulder County Transportation director Jeff Maxwell

By MARY WOLBACH LOPERT
Editorial@lhvc.com

This article is the third in a series, which explores various subdivision paving issues in unincorporated Boulder County.

Of HOAs and PIDs

Jeff Maxwell, the new director of Boulder County Transportation, is well aware of road conditions and the ensuing issues involving subdivisions in the unincorporated county. He was very clear about what county transportation can and cannot do. Whether working with HOAs or creating a PID (Public Improvement District), county transportation can only act as technical support, but cannot provide funding, according to Maxwell.

For those communities that want to work through their HOA, Maxwell said, "What we're doing on the county's end is developing all the analysis and the engineering components project."

These components include doing an early assessment of the problem. "Our engineering teams will put together the full bid package, all the engineering specs, and everything you

would need to go out to bid to get contractors onboard to construct the improvements."

There is also a "spectrum of improvements," according to Maxwell. Some communities may not want a 30-year fix, but instead, "There are some people who just want a real cost effective (fix) implemented immediately." These repairs would be viable for 10 to 15 years before more serious repairs are needed.

In addition, the department provides construction inspection during the reconstruction to ensure the HOAs are getting what is wanted and needed.

"We are trying to give ... as much support staff as we can through the process, short of the funding, of course, because that is a BOCC policy that we can't violate."

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Local schools welcome free full-day kindergarten



Photo by Jocelyn Rowley

Heatherwood Elementary will be offering two classes of tuition free full-day kindergarten with a licensed teacher in the 2019-2020 school year. In May, the Colorado legislature passed a bill funding full-day kindergarten in all Colorado school districts.

By JOCELYN ROWLEY
Editorial@lhvc.com

Full-day kindergarten programs have been available in the local school districts for more than a decade, but often came with a steep monthly tuition fee. Starting this school year, those programs will be free to families in all Colorado public schools, thanks to a bill signed into law last May by governor Jared Polis that funds kindergarten at the same per-pupil rate as the other grades. For principals at Heatherwood and Niwot Schools, the move to make full-day schooling available to all students in Colorado is a welcome one that should start paying dividends almost immediately.

HEATHERWOOD ES

Fourth-year principal Genna Jaramillo admitted that there were a few bumps during Heatherwood Elementary's transition to free full-day kindergarten, but the potential gains for her youngest students are worth it.

"Early intervention is what research shows really makes a difference," Jaramillo said. "We've constantly struggled with trying

to find the time these young kids need to learn, and when you give them a little bit more time in a full-day, we feel kids are going to leave kindergarten with a stronger foundation. And our first grade teachers should notice a difference where they're not constantly having to go back and fill holes."

For the past several years, Heatherwood's full-day offering consisted of academics with one of those licensed teachers in the morning and enrichment activities with paraprofessionals in the afternoon, at a cost of several hundred dollars per month. Now Heatherwood Husky kindergartners will see their academic and specials times double, and the addition of time for "intentional play," which will help solidify student learning.

"It's just such needed time," Jaramillo said. "Two-and-a-half hours to fit in all academics, specials, snacks, and recess, was just really, really hard. We really need the time to provide adequate education and time for them to soak it in without it being so stressful."

Due to the timing of the bill,

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Supporters of Boulder library district aim for 2020

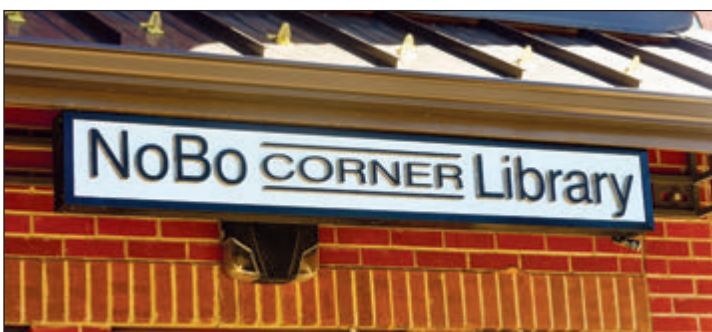


Photo by Jocelyn Rowley

The NoBo Corner Library (4600 Broadway) is the newest branch in the Boulder system. If approved, a districting scheme would raise enough money annually to cover current operating costs for the five existing branches (Main, Carnegie, Meadows, Reynolds and North Boulder), plus allow for new facilities in Gunbarrel and Niwot, depending on community interest.

By JOCELYN ROWLEY
Editorial@lhvc.com

Opting to avoid "a big fight with city council," the grassroots organization pushing

for the creation of a regional library district has decided to withdraw its petition to add the measure to the 2019 Boulder County election ballot.

Speaking at a gathering of

supporters on July 28, Joni Teter of the Boulder Library Champions said that group's leadership started getting concerned after it became clear that the nine-member Boulder City Council still had reservations about the proposed district, which spans the city limits, plus the unincorporated areas north and west of town, including Niwot. Then, in June, city manager Jane Brautigam requested that the group put its efforts on hold for this year, citing the many unknowns still surrounding the potential new entity.

"We had a great study session with council in November

Continued on Page 7

Community Calendar

ROCK & RAILS

Niwot's summer concert series, Rock & Rails, continues its 14th season on Thursday, Aug. 8, at Whistle Stop Park. The Jackson Cloud Odyssey will take the stage around 5 p.m., followed by headliner Something Underground. Niwot Patriotic Cookie Moms and Niwot Children's Park will receive donations from the tip jars for the evening. The Thursday night concerts are free and open to the public.

BOULDER COUNTY FAIR

The 150th annual Boulder County Fair continues through Aug. 11 at the Boulder County Fairgrounds (9595 Nelson Rd, Longmont). Parking and gate admission are free. For a full schedule of activities and events for the entire family,

visit www.bouldercountyfair.org/events.

DANCING UNDER THE STARS

Dancing Under the Stars continues in Niwot on Friday, Aug. 9, at 7 p.m. in Cottonwood Square (7980 Niwot Road). Join fellow dancing enthusiasts for a free 45-minute swing dance lesson, followed by dancing until 9:30 or 10 p.m. The free community event continues on Friday nights through August, alternating salsa and swing dancing. Sponsors are Niwot Business Association, Cottonwood Square, Niwot Tavern, Porchfront Homes, DRF Real Estate, and Catherine McHale Marketing.

NEW PRIEST

St. Columba Orthodox

Church (726 N. 119th Street, Lafayette) will witness the elevation of its serving deacon, David McCready, to the priesthood and his installation as its parish priest on Sunday, Aug. 11, during the 9:30 a.m. mass. Presiding will be Bishop John of the Western Rite Vicariate of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America.

ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT 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.

FREE SHOW AT LEFT HAND GRANGE

Willowdale Live of Niwot is hosting its inaugural event on Friday, Aug. 9, at the Left Hand Grange (195 2nd Avenue, Niwot). Doors open at 6 p.m., entertainment begins at 6:30 p.m. National Geographic photographer Andy Mann will be presenting "Summits to Seas," and local bluegrass band 300 Days, featuring local realtor Nick Dunbar, will be performing. For more information, visit: www.WillowdaleLive.com.

PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT

Boulder County Parks & Open Space is hosting Land through the Lens, an exhibit of selected photographs featuring county open space lands at The Great Frame Up (430 Main Street, Longmont) Aug.

9 - Sept. 6. The public is invited to a reception on opening night, from 5-8 p.m. Regular gallery hours are 10 a.m.-5 p.m. For more information, please visit www.boco.org/photo or contact Karen Imbierowicz at kimbierowicz@bouldercounty.org or 303-678-6268.

GREEK FESTIVAL

Sts. Peter & Paul Greek Orthodox Church (5640 Jay Road, Boulder) is hosting the 16th annual Taste of Orthodoxy, a free festival to celebrate the food, dance, and music of Orthodox culture. Join them Sept. 6-8 for Greek food, pastries, soft drinks, beer, Greek wine, dancing, live music, and church tours. There will also be merchandise available to purchase.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Thank you for the weed killer recipe (in the May 15, 2019 issue of the Courier). It worked very, very well on the weeds that were along our fence and also those that were clinging to rocky areas. We did not spray it onto dandelions on our lawn, but simply on weeds that were on rocks or

bordering cement. Within 2-3 days the green weeds turned brown and shriveled. Very successful! Thank you.

Basia Turzanski

For those of you who missed it, here are the recipe and instructions again:

Combine 1 gallon white 30% strength vinegar,

*1 cup salt,
1 tablespoon liquid dish soap,
Mix well and then put into your sprayer.*

You can either mix it up in a spray bottle or a tank sprayer, which is recommended for large areas. The key to this mixture is a two-parter. First, you must apply it when the sun is out, with some sunny days to hopefully follow.

Rain or your sprinkler system will wash away the mixture, making it less effective. The second part is that this mixture is not a selective herbicide. Whatever you spray it on, you kill. So, if you've got weeds that vex you in your expansive green lawn, then you'll either want to hand remove them or paint the mixture on with an old paintbrush.

Correction

In the July 24, 2019 issue, the article "Commissioners vote to keep oil & gas moratorium until March 2020" incorrectly stated that "...almost 9 out of every 10 barrels of crude oil produced in the U.S. come from Weld County." The sentence should have read, "...almost 9 out of every 10 barrels of crude oil produced in Colorado come from Weld County."



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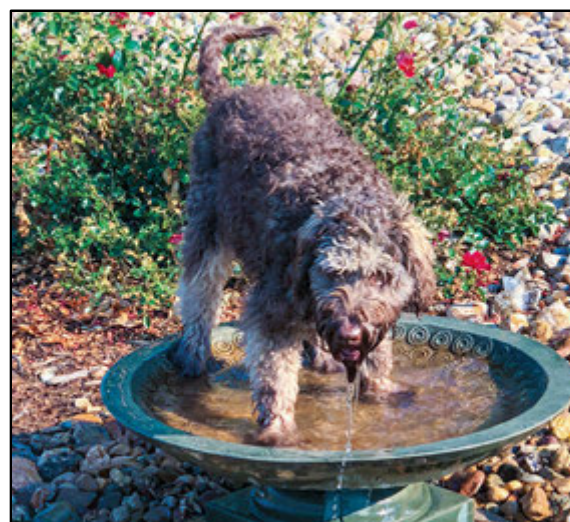

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COMMUNITY PET SPOTLIGHT



What do you call a dog that loves to play in the bird bath? A bird dog!

Meet Enzo, a labradoodle, who was snapped by owner Anita Wooldrige in his favorite spot on hot summer days.

We look forward to seeing your pets in our spotlight. Please email your photos and captions Editorial@lhvc.com

A thriving first year for Ollin's interns



Photo by Vicky Dorvee

From left to right, Niko Molfese, Lucy Swatfigure, Christopher Simmonds, and Gavin Morrison, participants of Ollin Farms' first internship program, prepped carrots they'd help to grow for Saturday farmer's markets

By VICKY DORVEE
Editorial@lhvc.com

It's high noon on a sunny Friday at Ollin Farms, and what would make a gorgeous still life of colorful zucchinis, eggplants, tomatoes, lettuce, cucumbers, basil, and onions is anything but still. Hands are sorting, bunching, washing, and putting the veggies in coolers and crates to be transported to Saturday farmer's markets. That's where the public will get the grand effect of all of the shapes and hues of the produce.

Many of the same hands working post-harvest are of interns who also planted the 150 varieties of vegetables from mustard to melons. They've weeded, watered, and learned what it takes to grow food for farmer's markets, restaurants, and the kitchens of the farms' CSA members.

Farm owner Mark Guttridge said it hit him earlier this year just how powerful an internship program could be. Guttridge noticed that when he told people he had just met that he's a farmer, they were eager to share their childhood experiences of working on a farm. This year the Ollin Farms' internship program was launched with six teenagers.

"This is a great opportunity to give kids their first job and get them being physical for something that actually matters in the community,"

Guttridge said. "The goal is to teach them to be responsible."

The program is a natural extension of the farms' summer education program for six-to 11-year-olds. Next year the internship program will be more publicly advertised, but this year the slots were filled by those with connections to the farm and the Guttridge family

Pre-market days start early in the morning with the interns picking produce in the field and then prepping it for sale during the afternoon.

Under the open-side structure referred to as the washing station, interns Lucy Swatfigure, Christopher Simmonds, and Niko Molfese are whittling away at a hefty pile of dirt coated yellow, orange, and purple carrots still attached to their leafy tops. They gather the veggies into bouquets, twist on a tie, rinse them with water, and place the bunches on wire mesh-covered tubs to drip dry.

Simmonds, a senior at Niwot High School, attended Ollin's summer camp for five years before joining its internship program this summer. He was new to farm life back then and learned firsthand where food comes from and picked up some Spanish along the way. He was hooked from the beginning, he said, and these last three months as a worker on the farm have had an even deeper effect.

"Mark is so passionate

about everything he does, it rubs off on everyone," Simmonds said. "We get to learn so much about every single vegetable and what goes into growing it. It's really eye-opening to me."

Simmonds is enthusiastic about staying involved with agriculture and one day hopes to help "revolutionize farming with lower carbon impacts."

Molfese, a sophomore at Old Columbine High School and a self-confessed non-veggie appreciator prior to this summer, now seems on his way to being converted to a semi-veggie-loving being.

"I was not expecting there to be so many colors and so many kinds of vegetables," Molfese said. "Almost half of this stuff here, I never even knew what it was."

Now that he's tasted a lot of produce, he said what's being grown on Ollin Farms is better than store-bought versions. The other interns agreed that everything tastes great - the carrots are actually juicy, they said, and they attribute that to the high quality soil on the farm.

For Swatfigure, an incoming freshman at Niwot High School, the amount of patience

required for the entire process was the most challenging. Now, she said, she's used to it and can see herself having a garden someday.

Gavin Morrison, a junior at Niwot, is the Greens' Master. He immerses lettuce leaves in water-filled sinks, places the wet leaves in big mesh sacks, and uses a spin cycle washing machine to disperse the water.

Morrison said he'd like to combine his engineering interest with farming to use robots, drones, and machinery to improve efficiency.

An adult intern also joined the crew. Danielle McCann owns a farm off East Countyline Road and wants to expand her operation. She applied to participate in the Colorado Department of Agriculture's new Agricultural Workforce Development Program where she was matched with Ollin Farms.

"It was awesome, she came on and already kind of knew about farming, so I put her in charge of a lot of the production," Guttridge said. "It was good for the farm and good for her."

From April through June McCann worked five days a week while the state program

covered half of her pay. In the cold early spring, McCann's first job was planting seeds in trays to grow in the greenhouse until they could be planted outdoors safely.

McCann was involved with field preparation and was especially excited about using a seeder machine that creates furrows, drops perfectly spaced seeds, and then covers them. Now working two days a week, McCann intends to see the end of season wrap up and take the knowledge back to her own land.

"This was a great opportunity for me to see how to do things on a bigger scale, because I've been gardening all my whole life in Colorado, but it's really different," McCann said.

Half of the teen intern group worked full-time and half worked part-time. Each intern was paid \$12 an hour. The addition of interns helped offset the loss of a couple of employees this year, Guttridge said.

"My family can handle the distribution, but as the farm grows, we need more help planting, harvesting, and the washing," Guttridge said, "It worked out really well."

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Meet the Shire horses from Niwot's July 4th parade

By ABIGAIL SCOTT
Editorial@lhvc.com

Casey MacKenzie's calm energy mirrors that of the Shire horses she has spent over a decade raising. Just stepping onto the MacKenzie Shires farm provides a sense of tranquility and peace in the heart of bustling Boulder County. Rolling green hills and open sky set the backdrop for a bright red barn and spacious turnouts, home to MacKenzie's giant Shire horses.

Eleven years ago, MacKenzie fell in love with her first Shire horse, named Zorro. This weanling was only the second horse she had ever owned and MacKenzie immediately realized how much she enjoyed working with the temperament and ease of the breed. Since then, she has bred and raised

Shires, and, through community events and outreach, has introduced the friendly breed to the surrounding area. She spends her days caring for the equines, driving them around the property and sharing the breed with anyone interested in learning more about these calm, playful horses.

Three years ago, her horses first participated in Niwot's 4th of July Parade, and, fortunately for Niwot residents, have made continued appearances ever since. "In the past we had participated in the Boulder County Fair Parade, but that year we had a conflict and I wanted to get our horses out into the community," she said. "We loved the Niwot Parade and have been participating ever since. Niwot is a wonderful, manageable size and everyone

is so kind and happy to see the horses. We also like that it doesn't start at the crack of dawn."

Shires have a long history, dating back to 15th century Europe. During the mid-1800s, Shires were imported to America and quickly gained popularity as draught horses. They were used in urban and agricultural settings, pulling carts, ploughs, carriages and more. By 1911, there were 6,700 registered Shires.

Their popularity began to wane after WWI, thanks in part to the advent and expansion of railroads, street cars and automobiles, MacKenzie said. "Before the industrial revolution, people needed horses for everything from farming to transporting goods. As life became more mechanized, Shires



Photo by Abby Scott

Casey MacKenzie and her outsized Shire horses have been a part of Niwot's annual Independence Day parade for the past three years.

started to disappear. My understanding is that many were taken to slaughter during the great depression. The combination of these two factors caused

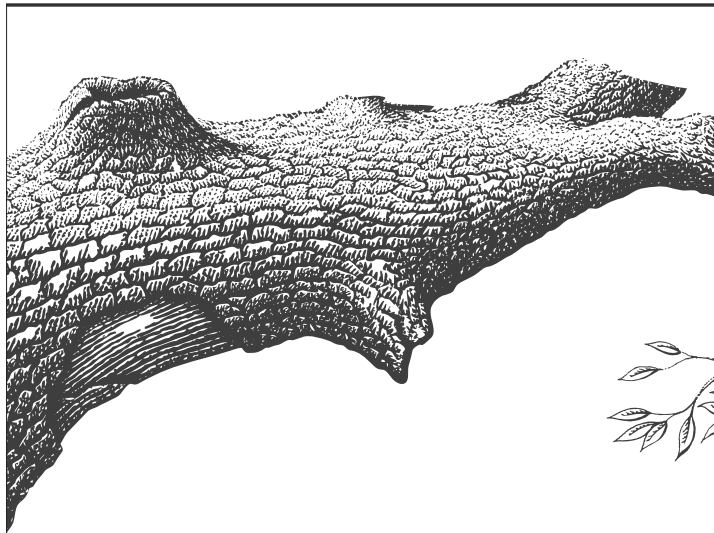
Shires to become endangered."

In addition, farmers switched out these giant horses for smaller, economical breeds that consumed less. In the 1950's the breed's numbers dropped to only 25 registered Shires in the U.S.

MacKenzie's role as a Shire breeder serves a greater purpose for the country's equine community. The breed is still marked as a threatened heritage breed with The Livestock Conservancy, meaning there are fewer than 1,000 annual registrations of Shires in the U.S., but their numbers are growing, slowly. Last year, the Shire breed saw less than 200 annual registrations in the U.S., which put them in the critical category.

The Shire horse played a huge role in our country's history and deserves to be protected. Just one look at these horses and even a non-horse person can see the beauty and grace in these gentle giants. MacKenzie spends each day with these amazing creatures and truly loves what she does, "These horses blow me away every day with how willing they are to do whatever I ask of them. They are gentle and sweet and absolutely hilarious. They crack me up constantly with their antics. I find that Shires have an unbelievable capacity to roll with the punches."

For more information on MacKenzie Shires, check out the farm's Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/macshires/>.



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Historical lectures educate and entertain for a 9th season



Courtesy photo

Photographer, Rocky Mountain Joe Sturtevant, was a recorder of life in the Rocky Mountains in the late 1800's. His life was the subject of a Niwot Historical Society lecture in 2017

By VICKY DORVEE
Editorial@lhvc.com

More than 35 lecturers covering a broad spectrum of topics have captivated and informed audiences since the start of the Niwot Historical Society's (NHS) Niwot Now

and Then lecture series in 2011. Originally, Niwot's history was the focus; delving into such topics as the historical role of the trains, Chief Niwot's life, and the legend of Haystack Mountain.

Gradually the lens of the lecture pulled out to explore more of Boulder County and the Front Range, examining archeological evidence of early Rocky Mountain habitation, baseball, and the American hobo.

This educational and entertaining lecture series will be the recipient of the tip jar program at Rock and Rails the evening of Thursday, Aug.15, at Whistlestop Park. Concert goers can drop a few coins and dollar bills in the jars at the entrance to Whistlestop Park, at an informational tent next to the railroad tracks, and at the beer, wine and margarita booth.

Former NHS president Laura Skaggs introduced the lecture series, and these days

Kathy Koehler, NHS's current president, is in charge of discovering new speakers.

With this fall marking the beginning of the series' ninth season, and four captivating presentations already booked at the Left Hand Grange (195 2nd Avenue in Niwot), there's a lot to look forward to. Each lecture evening begins with complimentary snacks and drinks at 6:30 p.m. and is followed by an expert show and tell session diving deep into a topic from bygone days.

Over the years, the series

has developed a high caliber reputation and that means the four to five annual lectures are very well attended by 80 to 100 guests. Every other year, the NHS likes to include a workshop, often assisting participants with exploring their own family history and heritage.

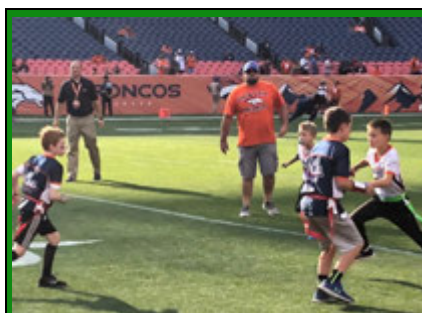
Koehler said, "We feel that, as a historical society, one of the things that we give back to the community is bringing people here for the lectures and giving people insight into what happened along the whole Front Range area from way

back when."

She explained that anything that happened here, probably also happened in other nearby areas and vice-versa, especially when it comes to farming and coal mining.

Koehler's ideas for new lectures often result from a magazine or newspaper article. Then she tracks down an expert to see if they'd like to make a trip to Niwot. Next year's lecture "History of Pies, International Pie Day" (presented by John

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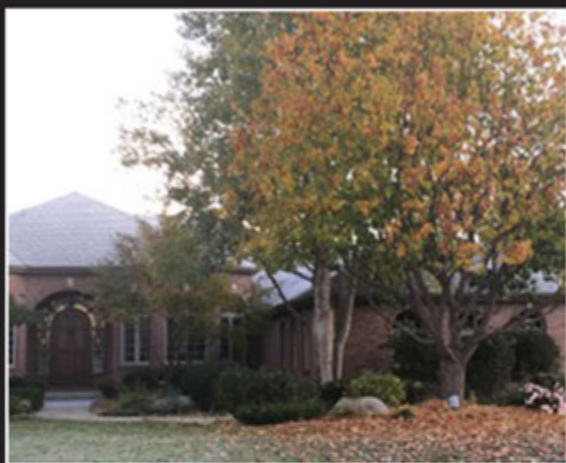
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“Ocean Embrace”



Courtesy photo

“Ocean Embrace” by artist Glenn Murgacz.

test of time, they are specifically designed to age and weather, much like a person. This change that can be witnessed over the course of years has a compelling impact. Often art looks new, shiny even, and untouched by human hands. Murgacz’s work is different and it invites the onlooker to find common ground within the art and all that it symbolizes.

With deep ties to his home state, Murgacz is known for his four stainless steel sports figures on the facade of the Woodbridge Community Center in New Jersey. Additionally, he is renowned for his work with local Montessori School students in several collaborative sculpture projects, welding work with high school students, exhibits in local restaurants and his “Exhibit, Work Shop and Demonstration” at the Barron Arts Center in Woodbridge.

In conjunction with impressive public works, his pieces can be found in several private collections, including the sculpture garden in front of Osmosis Art and Architecture in Niwot.

Glenn Murgacz’s sculpture, “Ocean Embrace,” can be seen at the Niwot Community Corner at Sculpture Park. The piece is available for purchase.

For more information about the visit www.niwot.com/sculpture and www.steelingbeauty.com

BY CATHERINE MCHALE
Special to the Courier

This article continues a monthly series about the artworks and artists chosen for Community Corner at Sculpture Park at the corner of 79th Street and Niwot Road.

This month’s focus is “Ocean Embrace” by artist Glenn Murgacz. “Ocean Embrace” is made of quarter-inch stainless steel and features two figures reaching for one another and arcing down into a graceful wave. The piece is nestled in the trees on the south side of the park, where it creates a sense of continuity and wholeness. “Ocean Embrace” was the winner of Niwot’s People’s Choice Award and the artist received a \$250 stipend.

Hailing from New Jersey, Murgacz attended Middlesex

College and Fairleigh Dickinson University. He calls himself an autodidact (or self-taught) artist and draws his inspiration from the works of Picasso and Giacometti. He is compelled by a passion for creating monumental sculptures, especially those that will be placed in open spaces to be enjoyed by all. “Murgacz is most fascinated by the human form and creates it in natural, ethereal and primitive representations. The works are surprising, provocative and delightfully unpredictable,” (steelingbeauty.com).

His pieces have been as diverse in size as in style, ranging from tiny delicate dancers and woodland faeries, to massive keg-toting beer gods and spear-bearing warriors. Most pieces are designed to work in outdoor environments with the intent to weather with the elements.

While his pieces withstand the



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LIBRARY

Continued from Page 1

where they asked the right questions, and they teed up the right issues, and we thought it was a great start," Teter said. "And council's done nothing since, which is key to why we had to do a change in strategy. They did not schedule anything on their agenda since November, so all of those good questions and issues are kind of sitting there."

"From Brautigam's standpoint," Teter continued, "if it passed in November, she would then have 90 days to answer all those questions that were teed up last fall, and do all the work to set up the district, and she'd be doing this as they're seating a new council with at least four new members, and in the middle of their budget cycle. And she just said, 'we can't do this.'"

Brautigam didn't send the BLC away empty-handed, however. In return for withdrawing their petition, she agreed to help ensure that the nearly 800 signatures the group gathered during its spring petition drive could be used in support of a similar initiative in 2020. She also agreed to recommend that sustainable library funding be a top priority in next year's budget "with a big community conversation."

The Champions' strategy for getting a library district passed in 2020 is to make the city's budget a focal point of that conversation. According to Teter, some city council members have been reluctant to support the measure because it adds a levy "not to exceed four mills" to area property tax bills. Four mills translates to \$28.80 per \$100,000 of assessed residential property value, or an additional \$230.40 for a home in Boulder County valued at \$800,000.

"Right now it's being framed as 'do you want to raise your property taxes' to support the library, which is not necessarily the best framing for the library," Teter said.

To counter that, Teter said that the BLC plans to stress the budget savings the city will realize from a separate library district. According to the group, funding the library through a property tax levy will return \$10-15 million to the city's general fund, which could be reallocated to other services or even rebated to residents. The future district also shifts a significant share of the library funding burden to the 40,000 patrons who live outside of the city limits. She said BLC hopes that message will resonate with taxpayers frustrated by rising assessments, and the council members who represent them.

"That's the conversation we need to have," Teter said. "It's about what's going on in the city budget and how a library district fits into it, and how the library district is not only a better way to fund the library, because we have all patrons paying for it, but it can also help the city's budget."

BLC is also planning to make the library district a focal issue in this fall's city council election. Four new members will be chosen in November, and Teter said that educating candidates and voters about the budgetary and other benefits of the district will be among the group's imperatives in the coming months. They hope to hold candidate forums, and are also considering issuing formal endorsements, after clearing some campaign finance red tape. They will also be escalating the petition drive, with a goal of 4,000 signatures, even though its spring drive resulted in more than enough to make the ballot.

"We made a judgment not to

make it a really big public thing, though, because we didn't really want to get in council's face," Teter said of their first round of petitions. "We thought they might still be working with us... But if you get signatures from 10% of voters—about 3800 in this case—then the county has to pay for half of the election. So

we thought that's a good target to shoot for, since we now have a year to collect signatures. And more signatures are also very helpful to get elected officials to recognize something."

Teter said the group feels it is on a "positive path" despite the abrupt change in strategy, and is confident that voters will finally

get a say on the potential library district. Now, the goal is to get those voters to say 'yes.'

Boulder Library Champions is now recruiting volunteers and supporters. If you would like to help bring a library district to Boulder County, visit boulderlibrarychampions.org/volunteer

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Niwot Florist under new ownership



Photo by Juniper & Twine.

Beautiful, fresh floral arrangements from Juniper & Twine are already gaining a following in Niwot.

By ABIGAIL SCOTT
Editorial@lhvc.com

A quick perusal of Niwot Market is all it takes to notice a new aesthetic throughout the floral department. That's because Niwot Florist has been purchased by Susy Tallman Shams, a Lafay-

ette resident of 25 years. As of Aug. 1, Tallman Shams took over this locally loved flower shop and plans to run it along with her daughter, Nina Shams. Newly renamed Juniper & Twine, the shop implemented a total design

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MAXWELL

Continued from Page 1

As for cost savings, besides piggybacking on scheduled road maintenance, as the Brittany Park subdivision is doing in conjunction with the repaving of Niwot Road, Maxwell suggested that several neighborhoods within a community band together for group savings, so there aren't such large startup costs.

This group effort might be best served through a PID, as Brittany Place formed. Creating a PID must come from the people and communities involved. Maxwell explained. While county transportation cannot help in the formation of a PID, once the PID is initiated and filed with the county, then "we just take it from there as far as getting it on the ballot."

"We, just as public servants, can't advocate for certain things politically. That kind of is a gray area for the PID," Maxwell said. "So we can definitely be supportive of you in putting it on the ballot, but you would have to initiate the PID and signature collection."

The Subdivision Incentive Fund

In early 2015, an annual incentive fund of \$1 million was established by county transpor-

tation to aid subdivision property owners in road maintenance. Due to the September 2015 Boulder County floods, the incentive fund has not been renewed.

It should be noted that although incentive funds haven't been available since 2016, the original information about the fund still appears on the county transportation website.

When asked if the fund might be reinstated and if so when, Maxwell said that there is a possibility that the fund might be restored, although the 2020 budget has not been set yet. "If we do have more funding available..., I will make sure that the subdivisions are made aware of that."

Maxwell added that he didn't think there was any direct correlation between renewing the incentive fund and what FEMA may owe the county for flood expenditures. While the floods were a life-threatening event that has taken years to recover from, the county is still functioning. The county has grant applications pending for the floods that are still being processed.

County tax dollars

Through property taxes, Boulder County residents are taxed for roads. "The revenue we collect from the subdivisions is about \$176 per house and what we spend on that, just on subdivisions themselves, is about \$106 to \$110 per year, just on snow and ice control and pothole maintenance, etc.," Maxwell said. "Which leaves us \$60 or \$70 for the rest of the entire countywide roadway network, which is of course massive."

There are approximately 146 miles of roadways in 120 unincorporated county subdivisions.

Maxwell understands county residents' frustration. The issue is that while residents are contributing to maintain roads, it's not a workable scale.

One possible solution would be a countywide taxing initiative. There was an initiative in 2013, but it failed. The initiative would have created a PID to raise taxes up to \$3.3 million to pay for the cost of road rehabilitation through "an ad valorem property tax mill levy imposed at a rate not to exceed 7.15 mills."

Election results showed that while City of Boulder residents voted for the initiative, county residents did not. The initiative failed by a 43% to 53% vote, with county subdivisions voting against the measure.

"It was the PID that failed," Maxwell said. "Because the PID failed, the commissioners then implemented a LID (Local Improvement District) and that's when the commissioners were taken to court to determine that a LID could not be used for resurfacing roads."

What is gaining momentum, Maxwell said, is a group effort. "We have several people in subdivisions who are banding together to form a countywide PID. They've been working on that for quite a long time and that seems to be gaining traction with a lot of the subdivisions." Maxwell said they are exploring how they can join forces and have some economy of scale when they are going out to get some bid prices, and get roads constructed.

The point person for this group is Peter King-Smith. King-Smith has been involved with previous efforts to fix subdivision roads, including the 2016 county ballot issue 1A, a road and bridge mill levy increase. The issued failed to pass by a 45% to 54% vote.

Looking ahead, Niwot Community Association board member Liz Marr and NCA President David Limbach don't see anything happening for a while. Limbach said, "The current efforts under discussion by a number of private citizens that try to communicate with our county representatives. The current thinking is that there are too many funding measures already slated for the next two election cycles that perhaps 2021 might be the best time to try and get a measure on the ballot."

Marr added, "...The County is in the midst of updating the plan. And that impacts what would go on the ballot and when."

Anyone who is interested in the new PID effort should contact Maxwell. His email is jmaxwell@bouldercounty.org, or call 303-441-3955.



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FLORIST

Continued from Page 8

and brand overhaul, including the name change and interior design updates, but Tallman Sham's passion for flowers remains as steadfast as the previous owner's, Jessica Wilson.

Tallman Shams received a tip from a longtime friend and colleague of Wilson that the owner was looking for a new challenge and wanted to sell the shop. Tallman Shams, who ran a catering company for years, had some experience working with flowers during catering gigs and felt that this could be a fun new project. "I'm extremely busy with other business commitments, but I absolutely love working with flowers and people and when opportunity knocks...well you know how that goes."

Tallman Shams and her daughter trained for a full month with Wilson before officially taking over just one week ago. Nina Shams is a recent college

graduate who plans to start her post-graduate job at a cancer retreat center in Hawaii in early 2020. She and her siblings grew up helping Tallman Shams with catering jobs, including design and floral arrangements. Tallman Shams praises her daughter's natural talent for color and design and knows she'll be a valuable asset to this new venture.

Tallman Shams felt even more confident that Juniper & Twine would be a success after meeting Bert, Alison, and Seth Steele, owners of the Niwot Market. "We realized what a blessing the support of the Market would be... One of the best parts of being at Niwot Market is the fact that arrangements, gifts, and stems are available even when we're out. The Niwot Market family has been incredibly supportive through our transition and launch. My favorite part of all this has been getting to know Jessica, the former owner, and all the Market staff."

In addition to selling floral arrangements, Tallman Shams has

grand plans for Juniper & Twine. During the first year, Tallman Shams wants Juniper & Twine to find its place in the Niwot community and becoming an integral part of birthdays, anniversaries, and holidays. But Tallman Shams doesn't just set her sights on the day to day retail portion but

looks towards the future of this local flower shop, "We love east Boulder County. Hopefully, in the next five years, we'll build a robust local flower and gift shop that employs a dozen people!"

Juniper & Twine supports area businesses, including Kilt Farm, Aspen Moon Farm, Fresh

Herb Company, and more. Tallman Shams plans on hosting classes at the market that will focus on a variety of topics from building terrariums to preserving edible flowers, and everything in between.

For more information, visit juniperandtwine.com.



					
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Fantastic First Friday



Photo by Nellie Nibnose

Even the threat of rain couldn't keep fanatic First Friday Art Walk fans from Niwot's monthly event, sponsored by the Niwot Cultural Arts Association and Osmosis Art & Architecture. A few drops of rain? No problem. Most folks ducked into shops for food, friends and libations. Landmark Realty had a great showing, with house-made appetizers, some really swanky swag, not to mention live music.

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Jenn Cleary

Aug 29 **Hazel Miller** (soul/blues)
Tim Ostdiek

HISTORICAL

Continued from Page 5

Lehndorff on Feb. 26, 2020) is one of those subjects that came across her radar after reading a newspaper article.

In addition to learning about the all-American pastry, the three other highly anticipated lecture topics for the upcoming 2019/2020 series are: "Lithophones, Colorado Digs" (presented by Marilyn Martorano on Oct. 9), "The History of Banjos" (presented by Pete Wernick of Hot Rize on Oct. 23), "A Land Made from Water, and Left Hand Water Ditch" (presented by Bob Crifasi on April 23, 2020).

Tip jar donations will be used to offset the costs of purchasing and maintaining audio-visual equipment, serving coffee and tea at lectures, as well as offering support to the Left Hand Grange.

While the NHS historical collection in the Firehouse Museum adjacent to the Grange has a 99-year lease with the Left Hand Grange for a whopping \$1, NHS board members feel a sense of responsibility to be more generous. This year the organization purchased new chairs and in prior years, cash donations have been given as a way to acknowledge the symbiotic relationship the two organizations enjoy.

"I'm just really proud," Koehler said. "We've established a reputation and people look at what's coming up because we've done a good enough job that people know there's going to be a quality lecture."

Niwot Historical Society members (\$15 for one person and \$25 for a family membership annually) receive free admission to the lecture series and nonmembers pay \$5 at the door. For additional information on the Niwot Historical Society and upcoming lectures, visit www.NiwotHistoricalSociety.org.

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SCHOOL NEWS

Niwot senior to serve as Boulder County Fair Queen



Photo by Jocelyn Rowley

Niwot senior Amber Nusser made her "grand entrance" as 2019 Lady-In-Waiting at the Boulder County Fair on Aug. 4.

By JOCELYN ROWLEY
Editorial@lhvc.com

What it lacks in air-conditioned palaces and fancy formal dinners, the year-long reign of the county fair queen more than makes up for in dusty arenas and long trips to distant horse shows. But Amber Nusser, the newly crowned 2020 Boulder County Fair Livestock Show Rodeo Queen, wouldn't have it any other way.

"It's a lot of work, and a lot of hours, but I love it," Nusser said after an appearance with her horse Miley during the 150th annual Boulder County Fair on Aug. 4. "It's so unique to have a family here, and a group of people that understand what you do, how you

spend your hours, and then be able to talk about random horse things with."

Nusser's reign doesn't officially begin until Aug. 13, the day before she begins her senior year at Niwot High. For the past 12 months, she has served in the Royalty Court as Lady-in-Waiting, which is essentially the "queen-elect." Nusser was selected for that position in 2018, after competing against other contestants in public speaking, horsemanship, and modeling.

"The Lady-in-waiting basically spends the year learning from the queen, so I spent the year traveling," she said. "We go to various fair board events, various community events, rodeos, and a lot of different events throughout the year to

promote the Boulder County Fair, especially because this year was the 150th celebration."

To be sure, Nusser brings a wealth of experience to the position, including a stint on the fair court as Princess in 2017. An avid rider from a young age, she has been a member of the Boulder County 4-H program since age nine, and has accumulated dozens of accolades and awards. She has competed with her horse Bill at the state and national levels, both individually and as a part of the Rocky Mountain Wrangler Interscholastic Equestrian Association team. At the recent IEA Western National Finals, she took first

Continued on Page 14

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FLAGSTAFF ACADEMY

Internationally known teacher joins Mountain Shadows



Courtesy Photo

Joni Perry, new Mountain Shadows elementary teacher, organizes artifacts from around the world for her new classroom.

Special to the Courier

Mountain Shadows Montessori School in Boulder is honored to announce that Joni Perry will be joining their teaching team in the 2019-20 school year. Perry is known both nationally and internationally for her passion, expertise, and creativity in working with elementary children. Perry has over 20 years' experience and has spoken around the world at professional conferences. She holds her AMI Elementary certificate as well as a K-12 Art Credential, uniting two of her

passions—art and supporting elementary children in their journey to becoming their highest and best selves.

When asked to describe herself, Perry said, "I am an educator, a guide, a teacher, an art lover, but mostly I am a learner." This lifelong learner mindset is what makes Perry such an amazing fit with the Mountain Shadows community.

Perry is relocating from the San Francisco Bay Area and is excited about exploring Boulder and having the opportunity to be part of the Mountain Shad-

ows community. Perry arrived in Colorado in mid-July before leaving for a conference speaking engagement in England. She will be back on August 5 to meet with the other staff and to prepare for the start of school on August 15.

Perry is offering a special presentation entitled "The Mind of the Elementary Child" to be held at Mountain Shadows on Thursday, Sept. 12 from 6-7:30pm. The public is welcome to attend this free event. Mountain Shadows is located at 4154 63rd Street, Boulder on the southeast corner of 63rd and Jay.

KINDERGARTEN

Continued from Page 1

Due to the timing of the bill, Jaramillo and her team had just a few days at the end of last school year to make some important decisions, including when to schedule training, orientation, and other important events. She also had to hire teachers to fill the new openings, but, luckily, she didn't have to go too far to find the perfect candidates.

"We were really, really fortunate because we had two half-time kindergarten teachers who were ready to go full-time. So our

teachers are the same, they're just going to be working full-time now. We were lucky that we were able to fill those positions with highly-qualified current Heatherwood staff members."

Reaction to the initiative has been uniformly positive, from both parents and staff, but Jaramillo has fielded questions about full-day readiness from anxious parents of very young kindergartners. Those families can still send their students for half of the day, the principal confirmed, but they risk missing out on important academic time.

"I think any time there's anything new, people ask questions.

The bottom line is that in Colorado, until you're six, you don't have to go to school, so if a parent chooses to take their kid out for a half day every single day, there's really nothing legally we can do."

Jaramillo credited Boulder Valley Schools for doing an "amazing job" of preparing for the new kindergarten framework, which made the implementation far easier than it could have been. She was especially thankful to assistant superintendent Robbyn Fernandez, who led the transition on the district level.

"We were at an advantage, because our district has done tons of research and has implemented full-day kindergarten at some other schools in our district. Since the people in charge of it were using a lot of research-based protocols, we have really, really strong programming prepared.... It's a huge change to the system, and they have had a plan to roll with at the last minute, and I give kudos to them."

Jaramillo is eagerly anticipating the changes a free full-day program will bring in student achievement down the line. Though Heatherwood didn't see a big boost in enrollment this year (due to BVSD open enrollment rules), she expects to see more and more students entering school early starting in 2020.

"It's something that's proven to make a difference, and we've just needed funding to make it happen," she said. "All in all, it's been very, very welcomed in our community, and everyone is excited about the opportunity of having highly qualified education all day long by a licensed teacher."

NIWOTES

Full-day "wrap-around" kindergarten has been the norm at Niwot Elementary for at least five years, so principal Nancy Pitz couldn't point to much that will be different on a day-to-day basis for kindergartners in the new tuition-free program. In fact, she said the only change most families will notice is their higher bank balance at the end of the month.

"The transition to full-day at Niwot looks very similar to what we've been doing. How we have it set up this year, is exactly the way we've always had it set-up, so it's not a big change, but it allows more opportunities for additional families to take part." Pitz said that opening up better opportunities in early education is the key to better outcomes in the higher grades, and pointed to performances in her own building that bear her out.

"We've seen huge results from our full-day students going on to first grade. District wide, you're going to see an increase in numbers of kindergarten students, and I think we'll see increases academically, as well as socially and emotionally."

Niwot did see a significant increase in its kindergarten enrollment for the upcoming school year (to 77 from 63, or 20 percent), but whether this is due to new families moving into the area or a response to free kindergarten is unclear. However, it wasn't the only "exciting" enrollment news for the school.

"It's super exciting, because a large percentage of that growth is our residents," Pitz said. "It's our largest number of kindergarten



Photo by Jocelyn Rowley



Photo by Jocelyn Rowley

Principal Nancy Pitz said that Niwot Elementary's transition to tuition-free full-day kindergarten has been "very smooth." The school will be offering three full-day classes this fall.

residents enrolling this year in Niwot."

Earlier this year, Pitz, Sunset Middle principal Anthony Barella, and Niwot High principal Eric Rauschkolb participated in a discussion with the Niwot Community Association about keeping area families within the local school feeder system, and Pitz said it appears that those efforts are paying off.

Pitz also commended St. Vrain Valley district officials for being "proactive" and working to ensure a smooth transition across the district.

"It's such a positive thing for our kids. Early education is so important, and if you can give kids more opportunities to build that foundation, it's always a wonderful thing."

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SPORTS

Niwot paraclimber Trevor Smith ascends IFSC World Championships



ie van Slooten

Photo by Adam Payne and Sytse van Slooten

Trevor Smith participated in the 2018 IFSC Paraclimbing World Championships in Innsbruck, Austria in Sep. 2018

By Jack Carlough
Editorial@lhvc.com

Trevor Smith is no stranger to climbing mountains, literally. Born without a right hand, Smith has worked his way to become one of the best paraclimbers in the nation and he doesn't plan on stopping there.

At just 17 years old, he has already competed in the International Federation of Sports Climbing World Championships, twice. What's even more impressive is that he picked up the sport just three years ago.

"Last year was definitely a real eye opening experience for me," said Smith, who placed second in 2018. "It kind of showed me like how good I could be and how I could push myself."

As life goes, the road hasn't always been up for Smith. A fourth-place finish this year following a second-place spot a year ago left the Niwot senior frustrated. High expectations and hopes of standing on the podium will only fuel the fire

for Smith.

"After reflecting on it a little bit, I definitely know it will give me more motivation to train harder and to work my weaknesses and spend more time on things I should have before the championships," said Smith. "I just know after I got off that wall I looked at that move I fell off of and I have that move ingrained in my head right now. It's very frustrating."

The IFSC World Championship, which took place just three weeks ago in France, offered a rough final course. Although difficult, Smith admits it was within his limits and he will use

the experience as motivation.

Smith does plan on taking a little time off before preparing for nationals next year, but not too long. He also hopes to improve his outdoor climbing game while continuing to train. The ceiling is high for him and he remains optimistic for the future.

"Being able to find a way to motivate yourself and keep going on it and keep pushing yourself is something that this sport has definitely taught me, because anything is possible," said Smith. "It's just a matter of how hard you're willing to push yourself."



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R.E.A.L. leads the pack in track and field, cross country training

By Jack Carlough
Editorial@lhvc.com

The track and field and cross country scene in Niwot hasn't been the same since R.E.A.L. Training Colorado opened its doors in 2007. Led by accomplished coaches Maurice Henriques and Kelly Christensen, the facility offers top level instruction for track and field and cross country athletes.

Hard work is a top priority at R.E.A.L. and the athletes take this to heart. Bringing on runners that exemplify these traits is a top priority for Henriques. The success that his runners have had is no mistake.

"It feels great," said Henriques, who spent his college years playing football at the University of Colorado Boulder. "We've got a great coaching staff. There's no substitute for hard work. People don't realize that we train 11 months out of the year."

Off the track, Henriques served as a probation officer

at the 20th Judicial District for 18 years and now serves as the District Attendance Advocate for Boulder Valley School District. It's no question that Henriques enjoys helping the future generation and his accolades speak for themselves. The head track and field coach at Niwot High School has won multiple state titles and was named the Denver Post Coach of the Year in 2013 and 2015.

Henriques' work ethic has rubbed off on such talent as Emily Boldt and Elise Cranny. Boldt graduated from Niwot in 2010 and found success as a middle distance runner at Vanderbilt University. Cranny won multiple state titles at Niwot before graduating in 2013. She was also a two time Colorado Gatorade Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year and found collegiate success at Stanford University.

Kelly Christensen is another key component of what makes R.E.A.L. so successful. The head cross country coach and

counselor at Niwot since 2016 certainly has his hands full. Christensen thrives on challenging his runners while allowing them to be self-motivated.

"The kids usually set the tone as far as like what they want to do, and they set high goals," explained Christensen, who was the CHSAA 4A Boys Cross Country Coach of the Year in 2014 at Palmer Ridge High School. "My main goal was with both teams was just to continue to develop their fitness. We have this mindset that we can continue to develop fitness and the results will take care of themselves with that consistency. That being said, they're kids and they want to have some sort of outcome goal as a result and they both (girls and boys) want to win state titles."

While Christensen centers his attention on stamina and Henriques focuses on developing speed, the two make a solid duo in producing well-rounded runners. The potential of

R.E.A.L. is high, and growing the program is a goal for both of them.

"We want to create a community and a culture (where) everyone gets faster together (and) give(s) all kids an option to do something in the offseason," said Christensen. "We're hoping really that we can branch out and we'll just keep sending emails and making phone calls to all our neighboring schools."

Target schools include Longmont, Centaurus, Lyons, Silver Creek, Boulder and Fairview according to Christensen. Finding room to grow is not a problem to say the least. Boulder County has never been short of talented runners, so it's no mystery why Henriques and Christensen have dedicated so much work to the area.

Watching their runners flourish is another reason the two enjoy coaching.

"It's awesome. Every year we get to see kids break through that have been sticking with

it for two years," said Christensen. "I'd be lying if I didn't say I don't cry at least once or twice every time I see that happen in the moment."

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QUEEN

Continued from Page 11

in varsity intermediate reining and picked up a custom saddle valued at \$4,200.

When she's not embroiled in court intrigue, Nusser keeps busy in the classroom as a member of Niwot's demanding IB diploma programme. She has also competed for the Cougars' gymnastics, dive, and track teams, and is in the National Honor Society and FFA. She is planning to pursue her equestrian career in

college, and is currently considering offers from the University of California-Davis and Texas A&M.

Nusser is looking forward to sharing her passion for horses and farming during her reign and educating the community about agriculture and western lifestyle while promoting the fair. However, it will be bittersweet as her 4-H career comes to a close, and she spends her last months with a group of friends she considers as close as family.

"The days may be long but the weeks are short," she said. "So cherish the friendships you make."

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