



▶ LEFT HAND LAUREL Jim Thomas and Archie



Courtesy photo

Niwotian Jim Thomas and his canine companion Archie are loyal volunteers with Therapy Dogs Boulder County, and are this month's Left Hand Laurel recipients.

By VICKY DORVEE
Editorial@lhvc.com

Medicine on a leash is how this month's Laurel recipient Jim Thomas refers to his faithful companion, Archie the fox red Labrador retriever. As part of the organization, Therapy Dog Boulder County (TDBC), 65-year-old Thomas and six-year-old Archie are weekly visitors at Superior Elementary School. All 76 pounds of the wagging pooch exudes love, so it's the perfect gig for him. His human partner is all about being there for others too.

"My mom and dad brought us up to help people," Thomas said about his family of six kids while growing up in Concord, NH. "It's that sense of community and camaraderie that's really rewarding."

Thomas' information technology career with IBM precipitated his move to Colorado more than 30 years ago, and he's been a Niwotian for the majority of that time.

For 10 years he helped

organize Colorado Special Olympics' state-wide events, alongside IBM co-workers. He retired in 2008, and shifted his energy to an heirloom quality furniture building business, enjoying outdoor activities, and volunteering, especially with TDBC.

TDBC founder and executive director Daryl Holle said, "Jim and Archie have been an instrumental part of the TDBC team network. I've known Jim for a long time and he's an excellent handler and works well with Archie in the toughest of situations. Volunteering with the therapy dog is not easy work. It's very concentrated work as it requires extreme focus on your dog 100% of the time while trying to find a way to have fun while doing it."

Scientific research supports why time with a dog is good for one's health. The human-dog interaction elicits oxytocin, similar to the effect infants and their mothers feel. When in the

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Deteriorating Carvings raise questions about future



Photo by Amy Scanes-Wolfe

By AMY SCANES-WOLFE
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One hundred and fifty years ago, we weren't the only place named Niwot.

Chief Niwot--or Left Hand--was an Arapaho chief. He was

a skilled linguist, a visionary, and a constant advocate of peace. He made such an impression on the local settlers that a mine, an inn, and two towns claimed his name. The mine closed, the inn is gone, and the other Niwot changed its name to Altona to appease the postman.

In the end, we are the only town that bears the name Niwot. So it is fitting that the first thing you see driving into Niwot is three spectacular wooden sculptures honoring the Cheyenne and Arapaho people.

But closer inspection reveals an alarming truth--these sculptures are deteriorating before our eyes.

According to Chuck Klueber of the Niwot Business

Association, the problem is the trees themselves. "[The trees] absorb lots of water through their roots," Klueber said. Even though the trees are dead, the roots continue to siphon water into the sculptures. They are rotting from the inside out, a problem compounded by carpenter ants.

Of course, these trees also provided the original inspiration for the sculptures. Boulder County owns the strip of land they occupy. According to Tim Wise, who was on the original sculpture committee, "They were concerned there would be issues of safety." The trees had to come down, and the community spotted an opportunity in the stumps.

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FRCC receives \$1 million for manufacturing training

By ABIGAIL SCOTT
Editorial@lhvc.com

This past year, Front Range Community College expanded its Center for Integrated Manufacturing and added new programs to fill the need for skilled labor in machining, manufacturing, and automation. In addition to this expansion, FRCC also added a bachelor's degree program for nursing and continues to be a leader in training our state's residents in these vital industries.

Colorado philanthropists Suzanne and David Hoover pledged a donation of \$1 million, to be dispersed over the next five years. This financial contribution is the largest, single direct donation that

the Front Range Community College Foundation has ever received, save bequests from estates.

David Hoover spent his entire career working for Ball Corporation and the couple understands the importance of well-trained, skilled employees in technical and scientific industries. The Hoovers acknowledged, "FRCC students need this type of specialized equipment for hands-on training so they can be ready for jobs in advanced manufacturing."

Out of this million-dollar gift, the Hoovers specified that \$500,000 will go to purchase manufacturing training equipment for the new Center for Integrated Manufacturing at the Longmont cam-

pus. These machines will be employed in the recently and aptly named Hoover Family Automation and Engineering Technology Lab.

FRCC has earmarked the additional \$500,000 for scholarships gifted via the recently established Hoover Family Endowment. FRCC president Andy Dorsey elaborated on the importance that donations have on the school's overall impact, "Partners like David and Suzanne Hoover play a critical role in supporting our work. They provide a lifeline for our students who want to build a better life."

FRCC set out to raise \$2 million for the Center for Integrated Manufacturing

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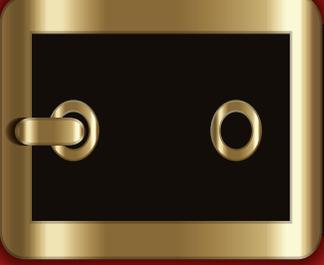


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Community Calendar

ENCHANTED EVENING

Niwot kicks off the holiday season on Nov. 29 with the Enchanted Evening celebration in Cottonwood Square and Old Town from 6 to 9 p.m., featuring musicians, a tree lighting ceremony, and a visit from Santa. Local businesses are also holding a window

decorating contest. For more information, visit niwot.com/events/enchanted-evening.

NIWOT HOLIDAY PARADE

The annual Niwot Holiday Parade will be held on Saturday, Dec. 7 at 11 a.m. Santa is once again this year's Grand Marshal, and will visit with

children at the Grange following the parade until 1 p.m.

LID MEETING

The Niwot Local Improvement District Advisory Committee will hold their monthly meeting at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 3, at the Mountain View Fire Station (8500 Niwot Rd.).

A global climate conversation comes to town



Photo by Vicky Dorvee

Climate Reality campaign organizer and Niwot High School graduate (2013) Natalie Negrelli, presented 24 Hours of Climate Reality, Truth in Action, a world-wide event discussing climate change and solutions. About 35 people were in attendance at the Left Hand Grange, including a contingent of Niwot High School's Environmental Club. Climate Reality is a global nonprofit organization focused on climate change advocacy and education which was founded by Nobel Laureate and former U.S. Vice President Al Gore. For a full 24 hours similar presentations took place around the world in more than 1600 venues to inspire additional conversation and bring about action.



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Lights, Santa, Action (for Meals on Wheels)



Photo by Vicky Dorvee

The man with the jolly Santa face on his flap hat is Chuck Rodgers, the guy behind the marvelous holiday light display on 79th Street. The brilliant electrified show is free, but spectators can donate money and food to Longmont Meals on Wheels when they drive through, beginning at sundown on Saturday, Nov. 30.

BY VICKY DORVEE
Editorial@lhvc.com

It's that time of year...the weeks leading up to Thanksgiving when Chuck Rodgers waves his magic wand and the massive extravaganza of holiday merriment in his yard just appears. If only, especially this year. But no - that's not it at all.

As has been Rodgers' tradition for more than three decades, he spends several weeks setting up inflatables, lit-up scenes and words, putting out his reindeer, and stringing thousands of lights for what becomes the area's most impressive holiday display. And this year he's doing it with a brand new hip, a recently surgically repaired wrist, and a big cuff protecting his deeply bruised

ankle - each from unrelated incidents.

So give Rodgers huge kudos for being undaunted by his conditions and give money and nonperishable food to Longmont Meals on Wheels when you enjoy the dancing lights and accompanying music. It's open to the public, free of charge, and last year Rodgers raised \$6,520 and donated 208 pounds of food thanks to the kindness of holiday revelers.

The joyful spectacle will be switched on from Saturday, Nov. 30, through the first week of January, beginning each evening at sundown until around 9:30 p.m. Look for the brilliant display at 5980 79th Street between Highway 52 and Lookout Road.

Flagstaff students collect Soles4Souls



Courtesy photo
Flagstaff Academy Special Education Manager Jeri Tagawa and sixth grade language arts teacher Leha Moskoff helped oversee the Soles4Souls project as members of the school's PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports) Team.

By JOCELYN ROWLEY
Editorial@lhvc.com

The students of Flagstaff Academy showed that a little Respect can go a long way, after collecting more than 1,000 pairs of new and gently used shoes for Soles4Souls, a Nashville-based charitable organization that distributes shoes and clothing to those in need around the world.

Spearheaded by the charter school's National Junior Honor Society, the shoe drive took place during October, when the school was focusing on Respect as a part of their ongoing Dragon PRIDE core virtues initiative.

"Every month is a different service project," Flagstaff's Lisa Trank-Greene said. The core virtues are Perseverance, Respect, Integrity, Dependability, and Empathy. "Respect was part of our second month. The first month we delivered thank-you cards and produce baskets to first responders...and we're just finishing up a canned food drive

for Our Center, and next month we'll be delivering a place mat and decorated bag for Meals-on-Wheels. It's wonderful because we're connecting with organizations throughout the community."

The projects are run in turn by NJHS or Flagstaff's Student Council, with oversight from members of Flagstaff's Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports Team. In October, NJHS officers Mya Blair, Ellery Hora, Jeslyn Haux, and Molly Slupik connected with Soles4Souls to coordinate the month-long drive, which often overwhelmed the large collection boxes set-up throughout the school.

"It was school-wide, so every classroom participated, from preschool kids up to eighth grade, and staff and parents, too, so it was definitely a community-wide initiative."

According to Trank-Greene, more than 50 volunteer hours went into the project, with about half coming from NJHS students.

FRCC

Continued from Page 1

and, with this recent gift, is even closer to meeting this number. Suzanne Hoover knows how much of a positive impact scholarships can have in helping students attain a better quality of life. "I've been working with FRCC for quite a long time, and have gotten to know the school and its students. I've been able to hear their stories and see firsthand the impact scholarships have. For students who wouldn't have access to this type of education otherwise, it really makes a difference. FRCC fills a niche that's different from four-year schools—one that's very much needed."



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Thanksgiving traditions of the Left Hand Valley

By AMY SCANES-WOLFE
Editorial@lhvc.com

Thanks to the Niwot Historical Society archives, we get a glimpse into Niwot's bygone Thanksgiving celebrations. On Nov. 22, 1957 "The Niwot Tribune" reported

an evening church service at the EUB Church, a middle school rendition of "Wildcat Willie Carves the Turkey," and advertisements from Curtis Confectionary encouraging readers to "Start Now with Your Christmas Lay-Away."

First and second grade teacher Dora Chappell reported, "Last Friday we made many vegetables and fruits for our Horn of Plenty. Now they are on our tack board--all tumbling out of our horn. This reminds us that we live in a land of plenty, where there's food

enough for all."

That was not always the case. One hundred years prior, the American bison was already on the decline. The discovery of gold in 1859 would condemn Native Americans and settlers alike to scarcity as 50,000 people flooded

the Pike's Peak Region. "Many times we didn't have a dollar in the house and were eating wild game and what we could raise," reminisced Herbert Terry, son of Longmont's first president, in "They Came to Stay."

In 1863, Abraham Lincoln standardized the date of Thanksgiving to the final Thursday in November. Early settlers probably spent many a Thanksgiving making do and praying for the demise of the Rocky Mountain Locust, a grasshopper species that descended in black clouds as large as California and devastated everything in their path.

The prayers must have been answered, because the species wasn't extinct by 1902. Around that time, as agriculture thrived, Longmont initiated its own autumn tradition--Pumpkin Pie Days. The affair began in 1899. Longmont's housewives baked 5,000 pies to serve at present day Roosevelt Park alongside horse races and other entertainment. The affair grew every year, and the Empson Canning Factory donated canned pumpkin to feed crowds that came in droves by railway.

Pumpkin Pie Days gave way to the Boulder County Fair in 1914, but other Thanksgiving traditions took hold. In 1972, the Longmont Chamber of Commerce "...awarded 117 turkeys to lucky Longmont shoppers" as part of an annual give-away. Eventually the give-away replaced whole turkeys with \$10 gift certificates, but the "Longmont Times Call" continued to print the lucky winners in the newspaper. Longmont also initiated a non-denominational Thanksgiving church service hosted by a different church every year.

Schools celebrated with everything from school-made feasts to paper turkeys. In 1983, Spangler Elementary encouraged students to dress up as pilgrims and share their gratitude. "I am thankful for myself," said one student, "because I make my mom happy."

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Photo courtesy of Longmont Museum

Sixty-six guests enjoy Thanksgiving dinner at the J.O.V.Wise home in 1927.

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6:15 PM - TREE LIGHTING
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6:30 pm to 9:00 pm

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Niwot's Holiday Parade

Saturday, Dec 7
11:00 am - 1:00 pm

11:00 AM - PARADE
Santa at the Grange
11:30 am to 1:00 pm

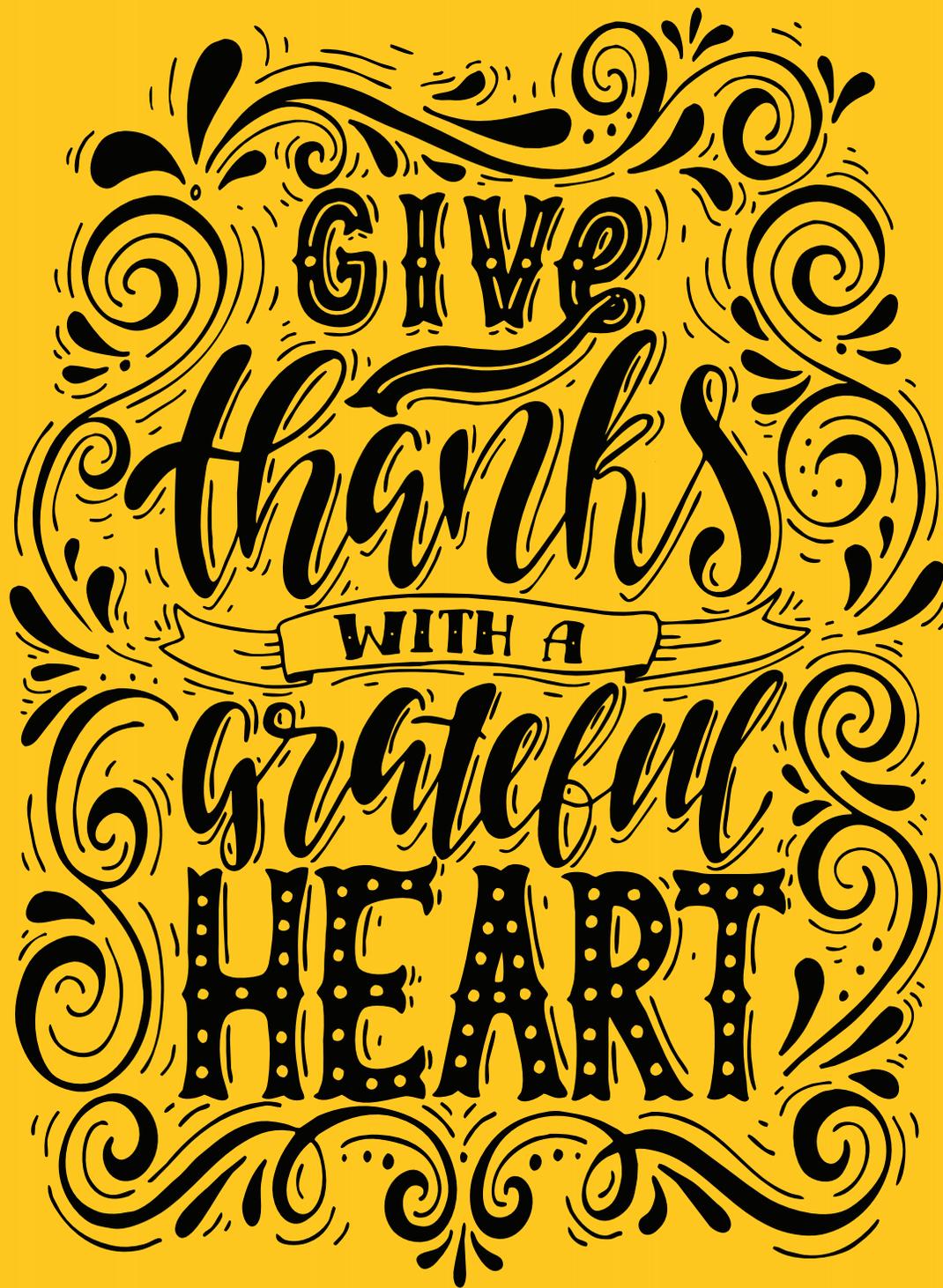


More Info at Niwot.com

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Last, but definitely not least, we give our thanks to the many selfless volunteers who put on so many wonderful community events, parades and celebrations - Enchanted Evening, this Friday, being just one.

Local Holiday Gift Guide ↪

Local Holiday Gift Guide

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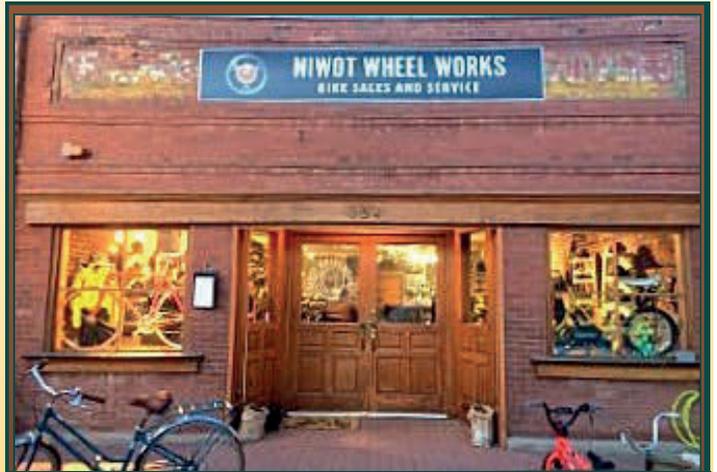
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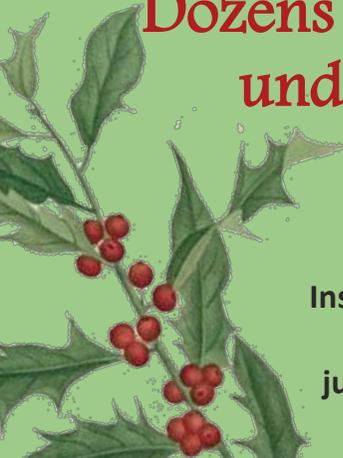



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Niwot girls basketball preview

Coach Ward professes excitement ahead of 2019-20 season

By JOCELYN ROWLEY
Editorial@lhvc.com

The Niwot girls basketball team hasn't been to the Class 4A postseason tournament since 2013, but longtime head coach Terri Ward thinks 2019-20 will be the season the team's playoff drought ends. With an influx of talented newcomers, plus a host of hard-working returners, the recent CHSAA Hall of Fame inductee said she expects the Cougars to be in the mix for the Northern League title for the first time in years.

"I am very optimistic about our chances this season....I like the group, I like



Courtesy Photo

Seniors Nikki Sims, Lily Sieben, and Jasmine Ferrer-Ortega head the varsity lineup for Niwot this season.

the people, and I like the way they're working."

To be sure, it's a group that doesn't look much like last year's varsity squad, after three of those players graduated and another four left for other reasons. That left Ward, who won her 300th game as head coach last January, with a core of five solid veterans,

including seniors Lily Sieben and Nikki Sims, but without much depth or experience at some key positions, making her initial outlook for the upcoming season a little bleak.

"I'm not going to lie—it was probably going to be a struggle," Ward said.

As the 2019-20 team has come together, however, her

outlook has changed dramatically.

"Our offense is going to be better, and we're going to score this year," she said. "The defense will be the icing on the cake. That's my goal anyway."

Fueling much of her enthusiasm are transfer students Adeline xxx, a freshman, and sophomore from Wisconsin, who fill most of the team's gaps, much to Ward's relief.

"I'd been emailing and contacting them, but I wasn't quite sure. You just don't know until you see them practice in person. But they walked through the doors, and I was very happy."

The two will be joining Sieben and Sims in the varsity lineup, along with returning players Rachel Nobel, a sophomore, and juniors Grace Wardell and Julia Wilson, all significantly improved from last year and ready to contribute right away, according to the coach.

"Rachel looks great," Ward said of the 10th grader. As a freshman, she played in all 23 games for Niwot, ending with 58 points, 32 rebounds, and 17 assists. "She played this summer on a club team with Lily, and her skill-set is now good. I think her understanding of how it is to play high school basketball—she's had a year under her belt—and she's kind of figured that out really well."

The coach was similarly upbeat about Wardell and Wilson, and looks for the latter to lead the team in offensive rebounding, which hasn't always been the Cougars' strength.

"Julia's another one I'm impressed with," Ward said. "She's going to surprise people. She always seems to be in the right place at the right time."

Continued on Page 14



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LAUREL

Continued from Page 1

company of a dog, heart rates slow, blood pressure drops, and it's proven that anxiety, stress, and depression are eased.

Archie was a Christmas gift

from his son and daughter-in-law, Jason and Krystal in 2014. As it turns out, Archie's litter sister Maggie was equally irresistible and came home to live in Mead with Jason and Krystal, and their two daughters, Jillian and Alexis.

Thomas discovered the calming effect Archie has on

others when he was a 10-week old puppy. While watching the filming of the movie "Dear Eleanor" in Niwot, an unplanned scene played out when a frustrated actress was having a hard time on the set.

"I remember her shaking her head, and she looked across the street and saw Archie,"

Thomas said. "She just hugged on him and hugged on him. You could see the change in her stress level. That was the moment I thought, 'This dog would be good for people.' I thought this is really magical."

Archie attended dog obedience classes and, as all dogs in the TDBC program are, he was tested and certified as a safe dog citizen prior to volunteering.

Thomas and one-year old Archie visited the residents at AltaVita Memory Care Centre, a Longmont memory care facility for their first weekly assignment and it lasted two years. When TDBC set up a new program in Boulder Valley schools, Archie was one of the pioneering dogs to visit students at Boulder's Superior Elementary.

That was three years ago and since then, once a week the pair spends time with all of the second and fifth graders, including special education classrooms. Each visit is a little different - sometimes Thomas discusses dog safety or a few students mingle with Archie, and often students read to Archie.

"Every one of the experiences blows me away," Thomas said. "Like I go in one day and a kid is having a bad day, for whatever reason...home life, they can't get math, whatever it is and the teacher provides one-on-one time with a team." For some students, dog visits get them excited to go to school where it had been a struggle before. No matter the ailment or issue, Thomas said, dogs are able to take the edge off.

Thomas and Archie also participate in TDBC's special events: dog visits with

CU-Boulder students, camps for children with medical challenges, and calming harried holiday travelers at Denver International Airport.

Thomas also volunteered with the Indian Peaks Wilderness Alliance, and for the past two years has been with the Eagle Summit Wilderness Alliance, supporting the forest service by providing information to fellow hikers.

In addition to Jason and Krystal, Thomas has a daughter and son-in-law, Jessica and Bartley and his grandson Egan, in Portland, Maine. Spending part of his summers in Maine has been a tradition for Thomas. He takes his volunteering on the road when he and Archie make the drive to the east coast each June and Thomas joins the Appalachian Mountain Club on the trails. Archie loves the ocean and hiking, so his annual trips to the coast are extra-special.

Holle said, "Jim and Archie have brought tens of thousands of smiles to children of pre-kindergarten age all the way up to Alzheimer's patients over 100 years old. I am very proud they're part of our community and the TDBC network."

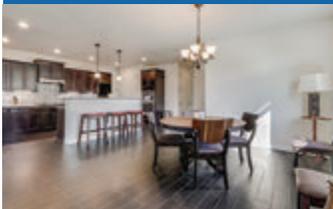
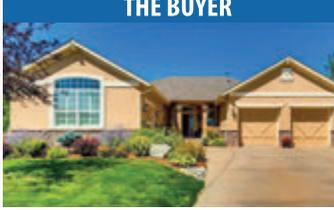
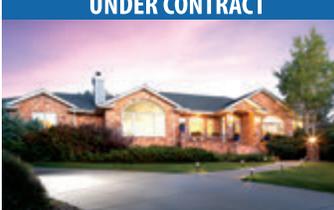
TDBC teams can be found in 26 venues including schools, hospitals, and retirement communities. More than 125 teams are onboard, but with the growing number of affiliates, there's a need to enlist more volunteers. The nonprofit organization also relies on financial donations to keep them in operation.

To learn more about Therapy Dogs Boulder County, to volunteer and donate, visit <https://TherapyDogsBoulderCounty.com/>.

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CARVINGS

Continued from Page 1

Diane Atwood headed up a committee that included Tim and Carrie Wise, Mike Anfinson, and Liz Darling. Niwot Prairie Productions, Liz Darling's non-profit organization, took over management of the sculptures. They settled on a Native American theme and soon found the sculptor for the job--Eddie Running Wolf.

Eddie Running Wolf completed the first carving, Spear Lodge Man, in 2008. "He hit the grand slam home run of art," said Wise. "We are thankful that he was the one who was able to do it."

The Eagle Catcher was next, followed by Cheyenne Holy Man.

Though Running Wolf was the sculptor, many community members have touched the space.

Quinn Kalinski was a high

schooler when the sculptures were completed. "I was looking for an Eagle Scout project," he said. And he found the perfect opportunity in constructing a footpath and peace garden to connect the sculptures--"so people could appreciate the detail and read the plaques without destroying the grass." Other scouts picked up where he left off.

The sculpture garden also memorializes Liz Darling, who died in December 2015, with a

plaque and stone bench.

So what to do about the deteriorating statues?

The artistic rights for the statues belong to Niwot Prairie Productions. Though Mike Anfinson of Niwot Prairie Productions no longer lives in the area, Klueber said, "He's very supportive of anything we would like to do to preserve the carvings."

According to Kleuber, the best way to prevent rot would be to cut the sculptures at the base, elevate them, and provide some sort of shelter. The Niwot Local Improvement District would likely be asked to fund such an operation.

It is a good option for The Eagle Catcher and Cheyenne Holy Man, but Spear Lodge Man may already be too far gone. Klueber suspects that the warrior's head can be salvaged, but not the horse. Fortunately, a 3D scan of the sculptures leaves the options open for future reproductions.

The discussion about the sculptures brings up a larger discussion about the future of the entire space. Though the county owns the land the sculptures inhabit, the grassy strip to the south is the property of the Cottonwood East Homeowners Association. There is talk of expanding the sculpture garden into that space to help connect Old Town Niwot with Cottonwood Park. "We don't want it to be over-built, we just want it to be a nice place and a connective point between this portion of town and Cottonwood," said Wise.

Old Town resident Karen Andres-Lumpe also sees an opportunity for us to consult with the Arapaho nation in our plans to move forward. "This is way bigger than the sculptures," said Andres-Lumpe. "It is a question of how do we honor the Arapaho with something other than the sculptures, which have a finite life."

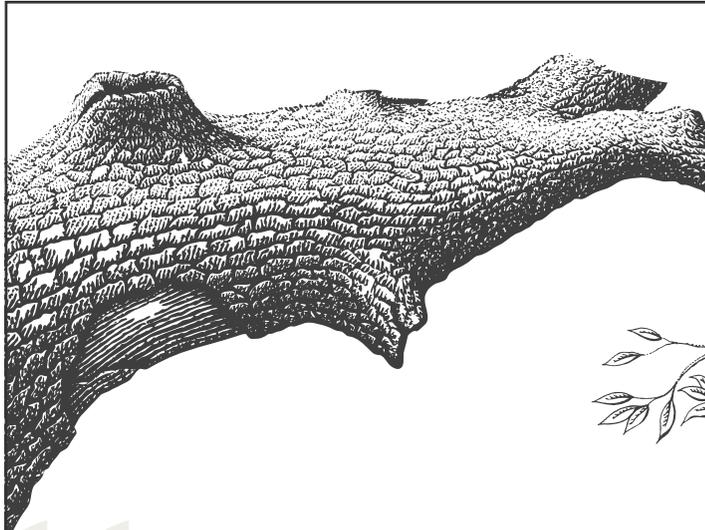


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GBB

Continued from Page 11

Rounding out the varsity are senior Jasmine Ferrer-Ortega, junior Maya Beauvin-eau, and sophomores Grace

Crall and Carly Toothaker. "The talent level, top to bottom in our program this year—C-team to varsity—is better than it was last year," Ward said. "We don't have quite the numbers, but the talent level is better."

On the court, Ward said

the incoming players give her fresh options on offense and she expects that to show up on the scoreboard. Last season, Niwot averaged just 35 points per game, and Ward said this year "will be something very different."

"It's not geared toward any one position, which some of the offenses of the past have been geared for different players and their skill sets. But this one is more open-ended and all-around—the post can score, the guards can score, and our shooters

can score."

While a strong defense remains at the heart of her strategy, Ward is hopeful that more points will lead to both a better record and higher RPI ranking for the Cougars, who finished the '18-19 season at 7-16 and 59th overall in Class 4A, well outside postseason qualifying threshold of 48. However, that was good for fifth place in the eight-team Northern League, and Ward believes the Cougars have a genuine chance of nabbing one of the top spots this year

and extending their season.

"It's wide open. I think Thompson Valley is probably the team to beat, but after that, it's anybody's...If we take care of business and win the games that we should, I think our RPI should be strong enough to get us there."

Fueling much of her enthusiasm are transfer students Addie Ruth, a freshman, and sophomore Sophie Gebhardt, who fill most of the team's gaps, much to Ward's relief.

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THANKSGIVING

Continued from Page 4

to make it our national symbol. In fact, the turkey is one of the few animals domesticated in the Americas. And until the 1930s, the only way to get it was to raise it yourself or beg your next door neighbor's wife to raise it for you.

That changed in large part due to a local entrepreneur--Ray Dougherty. Those who have visited the Dougherty Museum may appreciate the feathery industry that enabled it. Dougherty was one of the first people to pioneer

raising turkeys on a large scale, a feat he performed by constructing mobile housing and feeding his turkeys a mixture of alfalfa, grain, and sour milk mush. By 1932, he was the largest producer in the state and likely the nation. In 1978, the "Longmont Times Call" captured Dougherty's reminiscence for the bronze turkey of his early days; in the 1940s, the large breasted white turkey took over the market.

It was one step towards a modern world oriented to convenience. In 1975, the "Longmont Times Call" reported, "Motorists traveling on Thanksgiving day should have

little trouble finding gasoline. The Rocky Mountain AAA auto club reports that approximately 35% of Colorado's service stations will be open on Thanksgiving Day."

Three years later, the paper advertised, "Thanksgiving feast a snap with microwave oven... Beginner and experienced microwave cooks can shave hours off their cooking time by preparing these dishes in their microwaves."

Through the ages, the newspapers have commented on fluctuating turkey prices, the availability of gasoline, and the essential nature of football to the celebrations. But the true spirit of Thanksgiving is best expressed in an interview the "Longmont Times Call" conducted in 1978.

"Indians celebrate Thanksgiving everyday because they give thanks for their evening meal," said Lucille Yellowhorse Munoz, a member of the Sioux-Lakota tribe. "My grandfather, Yellowhorse, was the first to tell me we didn't need a special day. Every day was a day to give thanks."

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