



▶ LEFT HAND LAUREL Tom Theobald



Photo by Vicky Dorvee

Niwotan Tom Theobald has contributed his time and energy to our community for nearly five decades and is being honored as this month's Left Hand Laurel recipient.

BY VICKY DORVEE
Editorial@lhvc.com

Tom Theobald only will allow the Courier to bestow a Left Hand Laurel to him if his community involvement is qualified as being historical. Not a problem, because he did begin making a difference quite a while ago. But, we can't resist saying he's still a force for what's good and continues to contribute greatly to this community and beyond.

Seventy-six year old Theobald reminisces about his days growing up on a lake in Delavan, Wisconsin roaming the fields, wearing a bathing suit all summer long, and the total freedom he felt spending time

outdoors. One of the unquestionable themes of Theobald's life is his adoration of and sense of responsibility to nature.

Adjustments lead to life all abuzz

In 1965 Theobald moved to Colorado where IBM was on a tear to bring on talented young people as quickly as possible. Like many of the new hires, Theobald was fresh out of college, having graduated with a degree in psychology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Wanting to live closer to work, in 1970 Theobald, his wife Barbara, whom he'd

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County seeks historic designation for Boulder Country Club



Courtesy Photo

The Boulder County Planning Commission recommended approval of renovations to the 55-year old clubhouse at the Boulder Country Club.

BY JOCELYN ROWLEY
Editorial@lhvc.com

At a public hearing on June 19, the Boulder County Planning Commission gave its go-ahead to proposed renovations at the Boulder Country Club that will add approximately 2,000 square feet to its main clubhouse. How-

ever, because the 55-year old structure is a "relatively intact and significant example" of local architect Hobart Wagner's work, the country club must agree to seek formal landmark status before building permits will be issued, according to the conditions attached to the planning commission recommendation.

"It's a structure Historic Preservation Advisory Board has deemed significant for the history of the county," senior county planner Summer Frederick said during her presentation to the panel. "It has gone through the review process for HPAB, and they have determined that they would like to see it designated a landmark."

Owners of the private club in Gunbarrel are seeking renovations to the main clubhouse in order to serve the "changing needs of membership." Architect Adrian Sopher, speaking on behalf of the BCCs application, said that the interior will be refurbished with more open, family-friendly spaces in mind.

Built in 1964, the structure

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The Burgundy Park PID

The devil is in the details

BY MARY WOLBACH LOPERT
Editorial@lhvc.com

The following is part of an ongoing series dealing with road conditions in Gunbarrel and Niwot. The Courier previously has covered what types of road problems are currently being fixed. The following article covers how the Burgundy Park subdivision created a PID to fix and maintain its roads.

While everybody talks about the poor conditions of subdivision roads, there is one small community that has done something about it. In 2017, the Burgundy Park subdivision in Niwot formed a Public Improvement District (PID) to ad-

dress the deteriorating roads.

PIDs are created to help finance community infrastructure, such as roads, parks and other amenities. While new developments frequently sell bonds to finance these improvements, with property owners paying back those bonds through assessments, the Burgundy Park PID was created in partnership with Boulder County where the county acted as the bank.

The Back Story

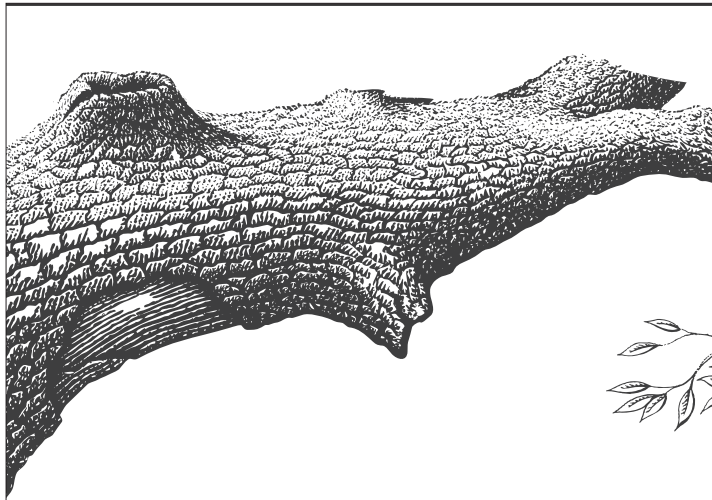
In 1995, the then Boulder County Commissioners and Planning Commission changed the Comprehensive Plan policy with respect to roads in unincorporated Boulder County, essentially declaring that the county would no longer re-

build rural subdivision roads that the county had accepted from the developer. As reported in the Courier's May 1 issue, county road crews will do some maintenance, such as filling potholes and sealing cracks, but short of being a highly dangerous road, the county will not repair roadbed issues.

The county's change in policy has been unsuccessfully challenged in court, and all appeals have been turned down. What the county did do initially, was to create a \$1 million incentive fund as a way to share the cost of fixing deteriorating rural subdivision roads. That fund was short-lived.

According to former NCA

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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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PRODUCTION: Nessel Calara
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Community Calendar

FIRST FRIDAY ART WALK

Niwot's July First Friday Art Walk takes place on 2nd Avenue and in Cottonwood Square Shopping Center on Friday, July 5, from 6 to 9 p.m. with live music on the streets.

NIWOT HIGH TRACK CLOSURE

The track that launched two state championship teams in 2019 is getting a little TLC this summer. Starting on June 10, the 1,600 meter track at Niwot High School will be closed for

resurfacing and restriping. Work is expected to continue through July 18.

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.

ROCK & RAILS - NO CONCERT JULY 4TH

Niwot's summer concert series, Rock & Rails, continues its 14th season on Thursday, July 11, at Whistle Stop Park. Strangebyrds opens at 5 p.m., with Chris Daniels & The Kings headlining at 6:30 p.m. The Niwot Community Association will receive donations from the tip jars for the evening. The Thursday night concerts in June, July and August (except July 4th) are free and open to the public.

Letter to the Editor

The Niwot Cookie Moms received this letter after a recent batch of local care packages was delivered overseas.

Dear Sirs,

I cannot thank you enough for the wonderful package we received the other day. It was such a blessing. We are stationed in Okinawa, Japan

and it was such a surprise. We opened the package with our kids and they enjoyed it also very much. We explained that some wonderful ladies put those packages together to bless us overseas....they were so surprised that people would do that for us. So it was not only a blessing, but, on top, a great teaching moment for us as parents to teach them

to be kind, thoughtful and generous. We are keeping the little piece of the flag on our magnet board.

We THANK YOU again and wish you a HAPPY 4TH OF JULY. God bless you all!

Best wishes,
The Ahlgrim family

Obituary

Susie Jane Wilcox Banks (Dec. 21, 1927 - June 6, 2019)



Susie Jane Wilcox Banks passed away on June 6, 2019 in Longmont at age 91.

She was born December 21, 1927 in Rockport, Arkansas. She was the first child of Doyle L. Wilcox, and Julia Jane (Hoskins) Wilcox. Susie was a graduate of Malvern High School (Malvern, AR) and earned a BA degree from Hendrix College (Conway, AR) in 1947.

In August 1947, Susie married C. Wayne Banks, a United Methodist minister and educator. The young Banks couple were the proud parents of a son and daughter. Susie was a homemaker and minister's wife during their childhood. Her career at WFAA-TV (Dallas, TX) began in 1970.

Following her retirement in 1990, they moved to Colorado to be near their daughter and granddaughters. Susie and Wayne enjoyed their life and home in Gunbarrel. Hers was a familiar face in the community, and she was a friend to neighbors young and old. Gardening was among her favorite activities. Her gardens provided an abundance of food and flowers for many to enjoy.

She is survived by her son, Charles W. Banks, Jr., of Sulphur, LA and daughter, Jane

E. Banks Roberts of Longmont; two granddaughters, Julia J. Wollenhaupt Mulholland (Dave Mulholland) of Austin, TX, and Whitney J. Nutter of Longmont. She is also survived by her sister, Modine Pawlak of Sun Lakes, AZ. Her husband of 59 years died in 2007. She is also predeceased by her parents, brother Carl D. Wilcox, and sister Ruth Wilcox Brandenburg.

A memorial service will be held at 11:00 am on Friday, July 12th at D-Barn Reception Hall, 136 S. Main St., Longmont.

At her request, Susie's body has been gifted to the Anatomical Board of the State of Colorado to be used for the purpose of teaching and research in the training of physicians at the University of Colorado Medical Center.

LAUREL

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met in high school, and their daughter Tracy moved to the corner of 3rd Avenue and Franklin Street in Niwot. But not long after, he walked by a “mostly derelict little old farmhouse” for sale on Neva Road. He said he felt a genuine connection to the land and the home that had been built in 1895. So he moved his family to what was originally called Shady Nook Ranch, and it has been his home ever since.

Theobald worked in IBM’s personnel department and eventually focused on management development. In the era when buzzwords like “corporate team building” became popular, Theobald came up with the idea to build teams in a wilderness environment, away from their usual work life. He was given a leave of absence to get the idea off the ground in the remote Flat Top Wilderness area. But he said the program was too ahead of its time.

“I came back to work and I wasn’t happy,” Theobald recalled. IBM put Theobald in their systems’ programming school. Halfway through the program, Theobald called his manager and resigned.

When asked what his heart wanted that he wasn’t getting from his work, he answered simply, “The outside.”

While taking a break after his 10 years of corporate employment, Theobald said he observed that his big garden could use a colony of bees. To find out what that would entail, he met with a couple of longtime beekeepers in Boulder.

“What I came away with was the strong impression that these two people had done something with their lives that they just loved, and I thought, ‘This is worth a try.’” So he took what money he had left, bought 40 bee colonies and started the Niwot Honey Farm.

“Most women would be down the street with their hair on fire,” Theobald said about the moment he told his wife about the decision. “Barbara

was wonderful. Anything that I decided, she’d support and follow me.”

At the business’s peak, he had 200 colonies spread throughout the area producing an annual harvest of several tons of high-quality honey. The business thrived and so did his reputation in the beekeeping world, making Theobald a much sought after expert. He helped found the Boulder County Beekeepers Association in 1975, served as its president for 30 years and was the Boulder County Bee Inspector for nearly 20 years.

He developed one of the nation’s first spray alert systems, which gave beekeepers the notice they needed to protect their colonies from dangerous toxins being spread on nearby crops. Seasonally, Theobald would often take several calls a night from the applicators of the chemicals and then make dozens of calls to area beekeepers. With all of the calls and covering his own beehives, he worked long nights to be sure area pollinators were kept safe.

Sadly, his bee colonies died off, but not from the chemicals being sprayed. Theobald said his research and experience showed that genetically modified seeds containing neonicotinoids and other chemicals instigated the decline of bee colonies. His expertise in this area is now called on by people around the world.

Navigating Niwot’s development

Niwot was mostly farmland when Theobald first arrived. What’s now Johnson Farms was a cornfield, and Somerset was alfalfa fields. He said initially he reluctantly became involved in helping to steer residential development by

participating in community discussions.

It didn’t take long before Theobald was elected president of the Niwot Community Association (NCA). He acknowledged there were several divisive issues during those days. But he quickly added, compromises were made and community members maintained respectful, friendly relationships as they navigated the changes.

“We all knew growth was coming, and we didn’t have the right to prohibit landowners from profiting from their own land. There’s part of the county comprehensive plan that specifies the preservation of the semi-rural character of Niwot,” Theobald said. “That was my objective.”

While he had hoped Niwot would consist of large lots, like “mini farms” with chickens, ducks and sheep, it didn’t unfold that way and instead became suburban.

“I don’t want to seem too critical about that, because a lot of the new people who came have become lifelong friends and were it not for the growth they never would have entered my life.”

One of those longtime friends is Biff Warren. “Tom was very active in the NCA and was instrumental in establishing trails in and around Niwot. Subdivisions in unincorporated Boulder County were growing fast, and Tom led the NCA in negotiating with Boulder County to accept a limited number of Transferable Development Rights,” Warren said. “If I recall correctly, the number of housing units that could be transferred to land adjacent to existing Niwot subdivisions was 73, with the condition that they come from

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properties that would then become open space, either through purchase, or through conservation easements. Most people don’t realize it, but Tom and others in the NCA back then are really responsible for keeping Niwot the small community surrounded by open space we know and love today.”

In the early 1970s, the fire department was a volunteer organization and Theobald joined the force. Earning great respect from fellow volunteer firefighters, Theobald became the fire chief. Barbara was the secretary and the treasurer, and the two of them were a team making sure the department ran smoothly.

“Tom is a treasure,” Victoria Keen, longtime Niwot resident wrote. “Many of the relatively new folks in town don’t know him and his incredible depth and breadth of knowledge.”

Warren recalled a story about Theobald’s kindness, “A few years ago I had a swarm of bees in my backyard, right before my son’s wedding with a lot of people coming over. I called Tom for advice, and he was over the next day to remove them. He refused any payment, and told me to make a donation to Niwot Youth Sports instead, which I did.”

Other undertakings

A year of beekeeping adventures journaled in letters to his mother prompted Theobald to write a column in the Niwot Recorder. The popularity of his columns led to a 27 year stint in the agricultural newspaper, The Fence Post, where Theobald created a collection of over 1300 columns.

Seasonal lulls in honey production allowed Theobald to partake in other outdoor activities – running whitewater river trips for trout fishermen and leading annual elk hunting expeditions.

You’ll still find him outdoors every day working in his backyard, tending to his thriving vegetable garden, his chickens, and splitting firewood to heat his home.

When he’s not being physically active, he’s engaged intellectually communicating with people internationally about bees and the detrimental effects of agricultural chemicals. He testifies at county commissioner hearings and meets with local stakeholders helping to protect all beings on the planet.

Fellow Niwotians, Brad and Jane Langdon wrote, “After devoting years to supporting the preservation of the quiet, historic community of Niwot, Tom turned his devotion to educating people of the deadly effects of pesticides on bees, long before it was in the mainstream news. Tom perseveres alone, without fanfare. We love him for his passion for what is right. Tom is one of the precious “old timers” of Niwot and a nationally known “bee whisperer.” Tom maintains a great sense of humor in spite of the plight of his friends, the bees.”

Theobald’s wife Barbara passed away in 2006 and is buried in the Niwot cemetery. He continues his community activity as a member of the Niwot Cemetery Association. Theobald’s daughter, Tracy Briggs, her husband Brian, and their daughters Justine and Erin live in Berthoud and the family enjoys spending time together.

BCC

Continued from Page 3

consists of six interlocking hexagonal wings and has

29,277 square feet in floor area. The proposed improvements will increase the clubhouse's square footage by seven percent (to 31,367), but nearly all of that will fall within the building's existing

footprint, with no increase in height, scale, or mass.

"If you look at who would be impacted, very few people would even see this," Sopher said. "The vast majority of this is screened by trees. ...

The impacts to neighbors are pretty non-existent in what we're proposing here."

That's due to a 1993 agreement with the county that allowed the BCC to continue operating after revisions to county zoning ordinances removed Membership Club as an allowed use in rural-residential zones. The club had to submit a Master Development Plan and agree not to expand or enlarge its existing facilities. These proposed renovations fall outside of the scope of the plan, so a special use review was required to update it. In contrast, proposed renovations to the BCC pool house are allowable under the 1993 agreement.

"As you might guess, there's been plenty of changes in the club in 20 plus years," said BCC general manager Michael Larson during his remarks to the planning commission. "Essentially what we're trying to do, it's a remodel of the clubhouse. We're expanding areas of the club based on how the club's being used. The operation of the club is not changing in any way shape or form. ... We don't need to be bigger, we just need to improve a little bit."

Initially, the owners of the BCC were skeptical of the county's landmarking process. The designation is voluntary, but places restrictions on exterior alterations. It also adds HPAB review to the county's extensive special review process, potentially delaying or adding costs to

any future improvements. Noting prior renovations to the clubhouse, Sopher said the request to landmark the building came as a surprise to the current board of directors.

"There's questions coming from the board," Sopher said. "They want to continue to be able to treat this as a living facility and, we hope, still be around when we're all gone. We are not looking to change the population size; we are looking to have some kind of accommodation and recognition that this building can continue to serve the needs of its members."

Larson later confirmed that the BCC's ownership has no further objection to the process, and noted that the BCC is "proud of Hobie Wagner."

With the planning board's approval in hand, the BCC will go before the Boulder County Commissioners at a public hearing scheduled for 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, July 16 at the Boulder County Courthouse. If approved, construction on the clubhouse is slated to start this fall and be completed during the summer of 2020. Construction on the BCC's pool house is slated to move ahead in September, with completion in spring of 2020.

For more information about the proposed renovations and the Land Use staff recommendation, visit landuse.boco.solutions/boco.lu.docketlistings/app/index.html and search for docket SU-19-0003.

4TH OF JULY in Niwot



Activities Start In Cottonwood Square

- 7:30-10:30 AM **Pancake Breakfast** at Niwot Market
- 8:00AM-Noon **Pedicab Service** will be available
- 8:30-10:30 AM **Bike Decorating** is courtesy of the NCA
- 8:30-10:30 AM **Bongo Balloon Man** is courtesy of Niwot Realty
- 9:00-10:00 AM **Concert** by Niwot Semi-Marching Free Grange Band
- 9:00-10:30 AM **Sparky & classic Engine #10** from MVFPD
- 10:30 AM **Parade Line Up**

Parade is at 11:00 AM

from Cottonwood Square, west on Niwot Road, onto Second Avenue to Murray Street



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Three Graces



Courtesy Photo

Sue Quinlan's sculpture "Three Graces"



NBA SPONSORED SCULPTURE PARK ARTICLE -BY CATHERINE MCHALE

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.

We pick up with "Three Graces" by artist Sue Quinlan. "Three Graces" features two steel and concrete pillars, covered in ancient faces, intersecting to make a "T." Fittingly, it boldly faces the bustling "T" intersection at Niwot Road and 79th Street. The sculpture is currently on loan from the artist and available for purchase.

Artist Sue Quinlan started out as a painter, and for many years was prolific in her watercolor works. In her 50s she decided to embark on a new journey – 3D design. After going back to school to get a painting degree well into her career, she took classes to try different media and fell in love with the multi-dimensional breadth of sculpture. She said she thought to herself, "Why didn't I get started on this earlier?"

As described on her website, "Sue Quinlan's work explores how artifacts can help people connect with universal human experience and explore its personal meaning. Her fusion of cultural icons illuminates the connection we all share, including our joys and struggles with ubiquitous events like birth, death and human relationships" (sculptureby-suequinlan.com). She feels these themes have frequently influenced people, especially artists, and it is often manifested in their work.

Her work often features towers or poles, which reflect her themes of universal life withstanding time. Against the natural backdrop, the steel and concrete form a timeless contrast. They stand tall amongst the other statues, nature, and the passing observer, overlooking all. The ancient faces, symbols, and hand-crafted jewelry speak to the immense shared history of the world and humankind.

"Three Graces" is no different in its contrast with nature, yet in this work the pillars lean on one another. Bolstering one another, the pillars feature faces that are both familiar, and yet unknown. The ancient quality of the designs etched into the concrete pull at a soulfully historic thread somehow known to all spectators.

Now an established sculptor in Boulder, Sue Quinlan has her work in

private and public collections across the United States. She even occasionally opens up her studio and garden for visitation. Quinlan said, "I spend time daily in the gardens during the spring and summer. This time energizes

me to create in my studio. The theme of my flower gardens is rural and natural, which plays beautifully with my cultural artifacts."

Sue Quinlan's sculpture, "Three Graces," can be seen at the Niwot Community

Corner at Sculpture Park and is available for purchase.

For more information about the art, visit www.niwot.com/sculpture and www.sculpturebysuequinlan.com

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Jody Evans Sparks Joy and Connection with Hula Hoops

By ABIGAIL SCOTT
Editorial@lhvc.com

Jody Evans didn't start hula hooping with the intention of forming a business from the activity. Instead, she took up hula hooping as a way to relieve stress and invite happiness back into her life.

During a tough period about nine years ago, Evans walked into her garage and picked up a K-Mart hula hoop. In an effort to release tension, shake off the blues and just feel happy again, she tried to hula hoop with the once-forgotten plastic ring. It was broken and aged and didn't work correctly so she set out to find a way to make her own.

That night, she created her own hula hoop and enjoyed using it so much, she made more. The next morning, she took the hula hoops to the

Boulder Farmers Market to see if anyone else might want to join her in the lively, endorphin boosting activity. They did.

Since then, Evans has shared hula hooping with people of all ages and skill levels. A former Niwot resident turned South Carolina beach dweller, Evans teaches hula hoop-based exercise classes on the beach. Now, she said, her students have become her friends. Classes are mellow, consisting of Evans chatting with her new friends while hula hooping, toes in the sand. For Evans, it's all about the human connection. "The connection is the best part. I can't believe that I hang out with teenagers through 80-year olds."

Since Rock N Rails' inception, Evans has been a welcome presence at the community

gathering. She started with a bakery and waffle booth, then switched to hanging out hula hoops and hasn't looked back. 2016 was the only Rock N Rails season she missed. After moving to South Carolina with her husband and five dogs, she opted to stay for a summer and see what the warm, coastal state had to offer. Evans found that it was a lot of humidity.

Now, she returns to Niwot each summer and Niwotians couldn't be happier. Her hula hoop booth brings joy to Rock N Rails each week and lets people try something new, move around, and laugh at the pure joy hula hooping can bring.

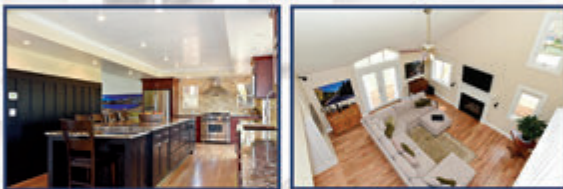
"I started sharing hula hoops, because it made me happy to have people to do something fun with. It never fails. People who are afraid to try it end up being surprised at themselves that they can do something so weird that they thought might be embarrassing. Then they realize it's more fun than it is anything to worry about."

Who would have thought something as simple as a plastic ring could bring so much joy and facilitate meaningful, human connection? Find Jody Evans at Rock N Rails each Thursday night and join her for a silly, weird, all-encompassing hula hoop experience. You're sure to share more than a few laughs and make new friends.



Photos by Abigail Scott

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Strangebyrds | Aug 8 | Something Underground (joyful rock)
Jackson Cloud Odyssey |
| July 18 | Rebecca Folsom Band (folk/rock)
300 Days | Aug 15 | FACE (all vocal rock)
Nalani |
| July 25 | The Long Run (eagles tribute)
Acoustic Soul | Aug 22 | Zimbira (afro fusion)
Jenn Cleary |
| Aug 1 | Mojomomma/Brigitte Purdy & Bobby Messano
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OPEN HOUSE	UNDER CONTRACT	SOLD/UNDER CONTRACT 2 DAYS
		
4535 PALMER COURT, LONGMONT \$853,900 Karlynn Spreder 303.517.0026	8801 LEFTHAND CANYON DR. \$468,000 Karlynn Spreder 303.517.0026	5640 TABLE TOP COURT, BOULDER \$575,000 Kathleen Spano 303.885.0876
UNDER CONTRACT	UNDER CONTRACT IN 6 DAYS	OPEN HOUSE
		
1851 COLLYER ST LONGMONT \$354,900 Ed Weaver • 303.717.4304	833 DAWN AVE, ERIE \$539,000 Deborah Read Fowler 720.378.1217	7147 OVERBROOK, NIWOT \$819,000 Deborah Read Fowler 720.378.1217
GREAT VIEWS & BACKYARD	OPEN HOUSE	HUGE PRICE REDUCTION
		
7180 LONGVIEW DR. \$1,075,000 Deborah Read Fowler 720.378.1217	7988 JAMES CT, NIWOT \$799,000 Deborah Read Fowler 720.378.1217	8400 SAWTOOTH LANE, NIWOT \$1,150,000 Phil Booth 303.817.8307
UNDER CONTRACT IN 9 DAYS	UNDER CONTRACT	SOLD
		
7122 ELM ST, NIWOT \$1,499,000 Deborah Read Fowler 720.378.1217	5506 MUSTANG, FREDERICK \$619,000 Kendra Bajcar 970.571.0525	417 PINYON ST., FREDERICK \$363,000 Kendra Bajcar 970.571.0525

Taking it off the grid with Dunraven Campers



Photo by Michael Robson

The first model of a Dunraven Camper set up off the grid in Yellowstone National Park. The Niwot-based company specializes in campers that comfortably sleep five and take adventurers to secluded locales.

By VICKY DORVEE
Editorial@lhvc.com

Is getting away from it all, being one with nature, spending time off the grid appealing to you? Do a toilet and shower, a comfy full-size bed, a well equipped kitchen and easy portability of your outdoor toys also register high on your happiness meter? Dunraven Campers, a Niwot-based business, specializes in hand-built, customizable campers that meet all of those desires.

Created by Niwotians Abbie Wathen, an aerospace engineer, and her husband Bob Petty, a software developer, the aluminum sided, 3,400 pound camper is named to reflect their love for Dunraven Pass in Yellowstone National Park.

The family's lifestyle embodies their company's tagline, "Life is for exploring." Avid campers with three kids (ages seven, nine and 11) and four dogs, Wathen couldn't contain her engineering ingenuity when it came to designing an off-road camper that suits her family's needs.

Knowing others would also appreciate the recreational vehicle that they were unable to find elsewhere meant Wathen was destined to make it her business to help others get out of the confines of campgrounds. It took Wathen about a month to concoct her dream

camper, and now the family can truly be in the wild, but with the amenities that make their outings comfortable.

The camper sits on a steel trailer with a differential axle making it ready to hit bumpy forest roads leading to secluded locales. The camper is towed by a mid-size SUV or truck, and once it's parked, virtually indestructible solar panels can be set up and moved if necessary to best capture the sun's energy and provide power to the rig. That means the camper can be parked in the shade while the 180 watt solar panels can be basking in the sun.

The set up includes a rechargeable battery, and for places where electricity is available, there's also an outlet which will charge the battery while providing immediate power. Skylights bring in natural light, and there are USB and 110 power outlets throughout the interior.

Aside from being a self-sufficient vehicle, the biggest differentiator is sleeping accommodations for five people, where typical large campers max out at four. One person can easily set up the entire camper; there's just not much to do to make it usable once parked.

Kayaks, canoes, and bikes can be safely loaded on top.

Continued on Page 10

PID

Continued from Page 1

president Dick Piland, who spearheaded the effort to reverse the county's ruling on road repair, "The county withdrew [the incentive fund] ... and the reason they give is that FEMA has not reimbursed them for the road repairs [the county] made after the September 2013 floods. Something like \$35 million is what the county thinks FEMA owes them."

The Burgundy Park PID: The devil is in the details

Dick Lentz, long-time resident of Burgundy Park, was instrumental in working out the details of a remarkable PID. Lentz said, after the failed court challenges, in 2016 the county proposed a Willing Partner Arrangement where "the county would pay for 30 percent of the reconstruction of your roads if you'll join us in a partnership."

Creating a PID involved months of research. Starting in 2017, Lentz said he, Lance Carl-

son and HOA president Steve Ekman looked into other PIDs as well as the legal aspects for regulations that affect the formations of PIDs in Colorado, so that they could create a petition for a PID for Burgundy Park.

To create a petition for the county, there were numerous meetings with other Burgundy Park homeowners to get their input and concerns. "We took every one of their issues and went back to the county and said the homeowners would like 'this' or, they like 'that.' We found that the county was very agreeable to tweak this petition before it ever got on the ballot," Lentz said.

One of the issues Burgundy Park residents were concerned about was making sure that once passed, taxes for the PID would not go up. There is a provision in the PID, which states that taxes will go down if the cost of the work is below the estimate.

Another stipulation was to make it very clear that the residents would not be charged for routine maintenance, but only

for an additional overlay.

Once the homeowners were in agreement, a petition was created that went to the county to have the county's legal team review it. Boulder County then put out a resolution. Lentz said they were very careful and made sure that the wording of the county's resolution matched that of the original petition and any tweaking the county might have done would be dealt with.

As an example of the tweaking, Lentz said, "Because of Tabor [the county] had put a provision that said taxes may be reduced. We said, 'No.' Our understanding is [taxes] will be reduced and it's permanent, which is a pretty significant difference, because they wanted the ability to raise it back up. They took that back out."

What's the upshot?

Lentz said the PID "is an agreement between us and the county and it restricts them. It gives us a service, but it restricts what they can do. They can't raise our taxes. They can't charge us beyond a certain amount. They have to do the work within a certain time frame."

As for approving the PID, out of the approximately 110 residents in the subdivision, Lentz said 72 voted and out of that number, 80 percent approved it.

In addition, Lentz said that the residents agreed to postpone the repairs from 2018 to 2019, because the county was going to be repaving Niwot Road. Burgundy Park would profit from what Lentz describes as a bulk discount.

"To do the road independently," Lentz said, "would have been very expensive. They said they're doing Niwot Road and they'll swing by ... and do your roads while we're doing Niwot Road."

In an email dated June 19, Lentz writes that the projected cost for the project is estimated at \$1,082,000 and has resulted in a tax increase of \$120 per year per \$100,000 of property value for each home in the subdivision..

Ultimately, Lentz feels the subdivision got "a pretty good deal." Homes are being as-

sessed between \$200 to \$900 dollars per year for the roads, depending on the value of the home. Having the county do the repairs piggybacked onto the Niwot Road repaving "probably saved us hundreds of thousands of dollars," he said.

In the end, Lentz said, "Although I don't believe that forming a PID is the only solution for addressing the problems with our subdivision roads, it is one of the options

available. But if we are going to have a reasoned discussion about all of our options, it would be best if it started with an accurate representation of them."

The following link to the Burgundy Park HOA home page provides information for other subdivisions considering implementing a Public Improvement District. <https://burgundypark-hoa.wordpress.com/pid-proposal-faq/>



Photo by Mary Wolbach Lopert

Burgundy Park resident Dick Lentz holds a binder showing some of the research that was needed to create a Public Improvement District.

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❖ **11:00 AM, Parade**
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► COMMUNITY PET SPOTLIGHT

This week the Pet Spotlight goes to Missy, Smokey, and Jackson, the three rescued cats of area resident Nancy Arata.

The Lefthand Valley Courier is pleased to announce its new Pet Spotlight. Each week we are asking our readers to send in their cutest photos of their pet(s) accompanied by a short caption explaining what their pet(s) of choice are, what their names are and any other fun information you would like to share with our readers.

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



Courtesy Photo

Smokey cooling off in the sink. 16 yr old male. Adopted from the pound.



Courtesy Photo

Jackson, 10 yr old stray. Newly adopted.

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Courtesy Photo

Missy, 9 yr old female stray. Enjoying the view in the garden.

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A Kid's Eye View of Rock N Rails

He might have been a little too short to see the stage, but budding photographer Summit Boerner, age three, had a good eye for the goings on in the crowd at Rock & Rails on June 27. Courier reporter Abigail Scott bravely handed her camera to Boerner, who came back with this perspective of Niwot's weekly concert series.



Photo by Summit Boerner

The historic caboose stands testament to Niwot's railroad past.



Photo by Abby Scott

Summit Boerner, age three.

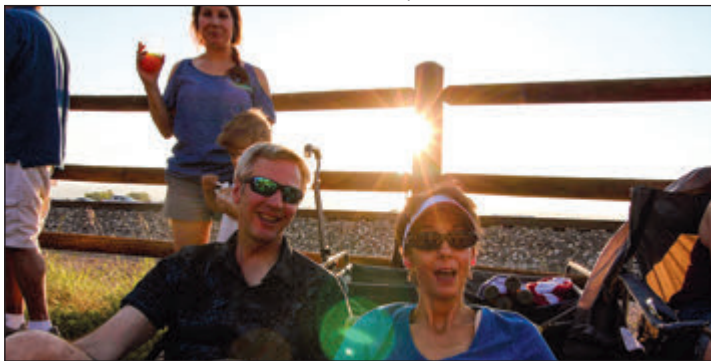


Photo by Summit Boerner

Guests enjoying the live music, cold beer, and thankfully setting sun.



Photo by Summit Boerner

Residents chatting in a blessedly shady spot while enjoying live music.

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SCHOOL NEWS

Niwot High Grad Launches Companion Care Program Mon Ami



Courtesy Photo

Mary Gillett and Mary Crawford at knitting club.

By ABIGAIL SCOTT
Editorial@lhvc.com

In 2018, Mary Gillett graduated from Niwot High School and headed west for Stanford University. During her first year, she joined a local volunteer program called "Mon Ami" that pairs senior citizens

with college-aged companions.

Started by two Stanford graduates, Mon Ami - meaning "my friend" in French - places activity companions with isolated and lonely seniors to provide social engagement that the seniors may currently be lacking. Gillett was paired with a woman named Doris in

the spring of 2019 and immediately knew the program was a great fit. She spent the next months getting to know Doris and providing much needed friendship and attention.

Gillett said, "It was awesome for me to get off campus and get away from Stanford. It's a very hectic, go-getter, competitive environment. It was nice to get away and slow down. To be with someone who was lonely, to make her day and form a friendship with someone a lot older and wiser than myself was great."

Mon Ami is not a medical group or caretaking service. Companions who work for Mon Ami are purely there to provide the isolated senior with easy conversation, engaging activities and enjoyable companionship.

Gillett returned home to Niwot this summer and is working to open a Boulder group of Mon Ami companions who can provide much

needed engagement for Front Range senior citizens. She is the first-ever launch intern for Mon Ami and the Boulder group will be the first satellite organization for this companionship organization.

Mon Ami in the Bay Area currently has 500 companions signed up, and the group is just over a year old. So far, Gillett has signed up three companions in Boulder County and she's only just getting started. She is reaching out to assisted living facilities, spreading the program across social media platforms, and connecting with college-aged students to share information about Mon Ami.

The activity companion position is a paid one, and at \$17 an hour, makes for a fantastic college job. Compared to many area volunteer programs, Gillett feels that Mon Ami's hourly rate helps the company retain trustworthy, reliable activity companions, while ensuring families that utilize the service

can plan on their companion showing up regularly and on time.

Gillett's favorite part of Mon Ami is maintaining a connection with an age group different than her own and feeling close to her own grandmother, who lives far away. "I always feel really good after visiting Doris. I know for her it's a bright spot in her day, which is otherwise kind of lonely. It also makes me feel very happy. My grandma has alzheimers and she was a big part of my childhood. In the last couple years she'd had to move out of state to be closer to her primary caretaker. So it's keeping a connection with a grandmother figure as well."

Her long-term goal for the program is to set it up as fully functional before she returns to Stanford in the fall. If you or someone you know could benefit from a social companion, reach out to Gillett at mary.gillett@monami.io.

Dawson Students to compete in Wildwater World Championships



Photo by Lillian Sutcliffe

Charlie Sutcliffe, Dawson Class of 2020, preparing for the World Championship while competing at the National Championship in Salida, CO, in June.

Special to the Courier
Editorial@lhvc.com

Dawson School's canoe and kayak team, which recently celebrated its 25th anniversary, will be represented by

four students at the Wildwater World Championships in Bosnia this July. Dawson's Charlie Sutcliffe (Class of '20) and Kartik Raghavan ('22) will compete in solo Men's Kayak, Olivia Spencer ('21) will com-

pete in solo Women's Kayak, and Peter Coggan ('19) in solo Men's Canoe. The team has had another exciting season of competition this year to earn this opportunity, including racing in nearly unprecedented water levels at Nationals earlier this month in Salida, definitely earning the 'wildwater' moniker.

Team coach Nate Lord - an Upper School English teacher at Dawson - has worked in conjunction with Team Colorado Whitewater Racing club to make a national impact on the sport by making it more popular, diverse, and inclusive over the years. The Dawson School Canoe and Kayak Team is known as an important contributor to the sport, and to the USA Wildwater organization,

in particular.

Wildwater Canoeing is an International Canoe Federation discipline; there is a Junior and U23 Wildwater World Championship every other year. This year, 14 junior and U23 athletes are going to worlds in Banja Luka, Bosnia. Along with the four current

Dawson students, there are also Dawson alumni on the National Team: Joslin Coggan (WK1), Ben Deitsch (MK1), Amanda Creek (WK1), and Ben Peeples (MC1).

Follow along on their journey from July 23-28 with #ICF-wildwater on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram.

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Vandals damage Niwot Children's Park

Special to the Courier
Editorial@lhvc.com

Recent vandalism at Niwot Children's Park, and at Whistle Stop Park across the street, has prompted the Niwot Cultural Arts Association (NCAA) to install security cameras at the sites.

Tim Wise, a member of the Children's Park building committee who continues to monitor the park for maintenance issues, removed graffiti from the boys bathroom earlier this year. Jim Fletemeyer, another member of the building committee, noticed that someone had placed pornographic material in the Little Free Library at the park, which was promptly removed. And a neighbor of the park recently reported late night activity at the park to the Boulder County Sheriff's office.

Then on July 1, Bruce Madison of Bruce's Lawn Service, which takes care of the landscaping, reported that someone had painted suggestive pictures on the sidewalk at the park. Those crude drawings are in the process of being removed at press time.

The NCAA, which manages the park for Boulder County, is prepared to prosecute vandals who damage the park. "We had

hoped that people would respect the park, and the effort that went into building it, enough that vandalism wouldn't be a problem," NCAA President Biff Warren said. "Sadly, that has not been the case, so we are prepared to add security cameras to the park to apprehend those responsible."

Activity at the Children's Park has been high now that school is out, but Warren noted that many park users seem to ignore the "Pack it In, Pack it Out" signs, as there are no trash receptacles at the park. The cleaning service for the park reports that people are scattering trash inside the restrooms, which causes additional cleaning expense.

On a more positive note, Warren noted that donations to the maintenance of the park are increasing, especially among those who reserve the park for birthday parties or other occasions. "It costs us over \$10,000 per year to maintain the park," Warren said. "That includes water, sewer, cleaning, mowing, landscape maintenance, electricity, wood chip replacement, minor repairs, and insurance. Most of those expenses are paid from Rock & Rails revenue by the NCAA. Now we will have to

come up with additional funds to install security cameras."

Across the street at Whistle Stop Park, which is owned by the NCAA, several reports of children climbing on top of the caboose were received back in May. Bill Whitener, who prepares the park for Rock & Rails

every year, noticed that someone had broken the plexiglass panel that prevented people from climbing up a ladder to the top of the caboose. No sooner had Whitener replaced the plexiglass panel than it was broken again. Since then the panel has been replaced again, and it has remained intact.

Warren urged community members to be vigilant and report any suspicious activity at the parks to law enforcement. He also asked that park users respect the property of the park neighbors, and asked that everyone enjoy the park responsibly.



Photo by Bruce Warren

Recent vandalism at Niwot Children's Park is prompting the NCAA to install security cameras.



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Bike MS rests in Niwot



Photo by Becky Weeder

Dozens of volunteers were on hand to assist hundreds of riders during the Niwot pit stop for this year's Bike MS Colorado.

By KAREN COPPERBERG
Editorial@lhvc.com

The 2700 registered riders, 150 to 180 of whom are "riding with MS," had a rest stop in Niwot's Whistle Stop Park on Saturday, June 29, while riding from Arapahoe Community College in Westminster to Ft. Collins; by far,

the most popular route. Left Hand Brewing is one of the sponsors. Many of the volunteers have been helping with this ride for 20 or more years. On a mission to end MS forever, most riders start their own fundraising so they can donate to research to fight the disease. Riders could choose from a 30-mile

Ft. Collins route; a 70, 89 or 11-mile ride all on Saturday, or a 71-mile route on Sunday only, in Westminster. Most of the riders that came through Niwot ended their day on the Colorado State University campus, where the dorms are open for showers.



Photo by Becky Weeder

Whistle Stop Park served as a rest stop for riders in the 2019 Bike MS ride from Westminster to Fort Collins



Photo by Becky Weeder

Hundreds of riders in the 2019 Bike MS tour made a stop at Niwot's Whistle Stop Park on June 29 during their journey from Westminster to Fort Collins.

CAMPERS

Continued from Page 8

The bathroom comes standard with a hot water shower and a cassette toilet. Easily accessed and generously sized (27 gallon) fresh and gray water tanks are onboard.

An outdoor kitchen module pulls out to reveal the hot water sink, an electric refrigerator, a double-burner propane stove and a prep area. A

retractable awning above the kitchen shields campers from sun, rain and snow and drop down walls may be added to create an enclosed outdoor room. A sizeable pantry accessible from outside the unit provides storage for shelf stable items.

Walls lined with wood (and plans for using beetle kill in future versions) make the interior look, smell, and feel homey. Each spacious bunk

space is equipped with a memory foam mattress and an LED light. There are three twin-size bunks and a short-size queen that sleeps two people.

"We think it's super important for the kids to be able to experience life outside their normal," Wathen said. "But with three kids, we thought, 'How do we do this affordably?' So we always camped. We started looking at other products and they're a lot of

money. We wanted to do it reasonably affordably, and have a good time."

Wathen said a van conversion can run \$150,000, an Airstream could cost close to \$85,000, and even a large Tear-drop camper (which would be too tight for their family) is priced around \$30,000. With those figures in mind, Wathen was confident they could develop an original design meeting all of their needs

and build it themselves at a lower cost. Dunraven Campers are priced from \$28,000 to \$40,000, depending on the desired components.

Hunters, fishermen, and mountain bikers have conveyed interest in buying the unique RV. The dimensions are 7 feet wide by 14 feet long, and with the trailer, it measures 18 feet in length and 80 inches tall inside from floor to ceiling.

The couple will manufacture each custom-made camper in their newly leased downtown Niwot location on Murray Street, in the warehouse between the post office and the former Powder Keg Brewery location. They've committed to the space for two years.

For more information, visit www.DunravenCampers.com or write Abbie@DunravenCampers.com.

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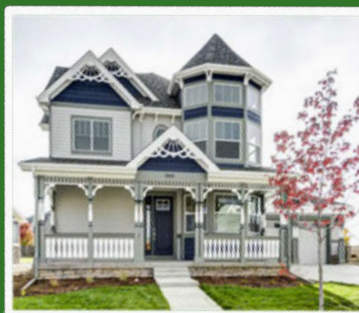
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Niwot names Clayton Wittrock boys basketball coach

By JOCELYN ROWLEY
Editorial@lhvc.com

The Niwot boys basketball team has had its share of disappointments over the past two seasons, but new head coach Clayton Wittrock is only looking ahead.

"I met with the seniors on one of my first days in town, and the thing that we agreed upon is that there's a great group of seniors here, and we want them to go out on a positive note," the longtime Grand Junction varsity assistant said. "What they've shown me in just the short time we've had this summer is that with the right kind of leadership and the right push, they will see success next year."

Wittrock joined the Cougar athletic staff last month, after a two-month search to replace Eric Hejl, who resigned in

April after two seasons with the team. During Wittrock's five seasons in Grand Junction, the Tigers went 57-62 with three postseason wins. He also coached the freshman team to a 45-24 record during the same time. Wittrock said that he has been waiting patiently for the right head coaching opportunity, and when the position at Niwot became available, he decided it was time to make his move, even though it meant a literal 400-mile move with his family from the western slope.

"I was familiar with Niwot High School as far as its performance and it being a really good school. But I also have quite a bit of family there—I have a sister in Longmont, I have cousins in both Erie and Lafayette, and a daughter at CU-Boulder. So when the job came open I thought it would be a great fit and a great oppor-



Courtesy Photo

Clayton Wittrock is Niwot's new boys basketball coach.

tunity to get closer to family."

Wittrock will be taking over a Cougar program that has seen limited success over the past two seasons, most notably in 2017-18 when the team won a single game. Niwot opened the 2018-19 season by going 6-3 in their first nine games, but then went 2-12 in the Northern Conference and finished the year with an 8-15 record. The new coach admitted that competing for a conference title is more of a long-term than short-term expectation.

"Niwot, being in the league they're in with schools like Longmont, they've had to battle to make a name for themselves and be successful, and I think the potential is there. So the goal is to, like I said, build a program that is a force to be reckoned with and is a

challenge to teams like Longmont and Silver Creek and the schools that have been really successful."

However, he doesn't discount the Cougars' chances of success next season either, especially after meeting more with the seniors.

"What's already impressed me about this group of seniors is that they are hungry, and they do have some fight in them and there's some talent there. In the short term, I want to help those guys see that success and then go out and see how far we can make it, and then use that as a point to establish that there is good basketball at Niwot and there is a place for kids who want to go to a good school and play competitive basketball."

When he's not on the court, Wittrock in an English teacher, and has joined the staff of Trail Ridge Middle School for the 2019-20 school year. He hopes to make the jump to the Niwot High School staff when an opening becomes available, because, like many coaches, he believes being "in the building" is important for team chemistry and connecting with his players. He also hopes to see his players take an active role in activities other than basketball, pointing to returning

forward Milo Ostwald's stint on Niwot's championship track team as an example.

"Getting young men to—as much time as they put into basketball—are they taking the time to be multi-sport athletes? Because in my experience, multi-sport athletes, when they find some frustration on the court, they step away for a while, and when they come back, they stay fresh, or they have a new perspective that helps them be successful on the court."

Wittrock is looking forward to settling into his new position, and becoming involved in the Niwot High family. The team plans to host youth camps later this summer or fall, and he plans to "showcase these men as leaders and as contributors in the community."

"I'm excited and honored and blessed to have this opportunity. From the moment I first met with the seniors, and now that we've spent most of the month together, they're just a quality group of young men, which makes me even more excited and more motivated to try to get this program righted or to a place where the players are going to feel successful and to put something out there that makes the entire Niwot High School community proud."

- Event Notice -

National Night Out in Niwot

Tuesday, August 6th

Event is 6pm

➤ On Murray Street, between Second Ave & Third Ave

Road Closings 5pm-9pm:

- Murray Street
 - Between Second Avenue to Third Avenue
- Detour Routes at each intersection will be clearly marked.*

National Night Out is an annual community building campaign that promotes first responders with community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer.

Free Food ~ Equipment and Staff from the Boulder County Sheriff's Office, Longmont Emergency Unit, Mountain View Fire & Rescue, Colorado State Patrol, SWAT Team, K9 Team, Niwot Semi Marching Fre Grange Band and much more!



Event
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