

Courtesy Photo

The Davies family turned their grief into purpose for others.

Loved and not forgotten

By DANI HEMMAT
Editorial@lhvc.com

When the tragic loss of a child happens, immediate sympathy focuses on the parents who experienced that loss. But the siblings of that child suffer more than the profound loss of their brother or sister--they might also lose their parents' attention and focus to their parents' grieving process.

It is why Gunbarrel residents Kjerstin and Shaun Davies created Charlie's Guys, a 501(c)3 non-profit that works diligently to remind bereaved siblings that they are loved and not forgotten.

In August 2017, the Davies lost their 23-month old son,

Charlie, to a virus that took him in his sleep. At the time, their other son was only 21 months older, and Kjerstin was pregnant and due with their daughter in two months. As is every parent who suddenly loses a child, the Davies were terrified and stunned. Their friends and families showered not only them, but their son and unborn daughter, with love and compassion in the form of gifts, clothes, books and experiences to help ease them through the grieving process and to see love in the midst of such a loss.

Inspired by that compassion, the Davies founded Charlie's Guys in May 2018 and have since served 84 children from 40 families in that time.

Charlie's Guys provides meaningful and memorable gifts to bereaved siblings under the age of 18. Gifts can be experiences, such as a trip to a favorite place or horseback riding lessons; or items such as a laptop computer or a special toy. The aim of the gifts is to spark a positive memory for the grieving child and also

Continued on Page 9

Ripple effects of the Niwot moratorium

By VICKY DORVEE
Editorial@lhvc.com

At the March 12 meeting regarding the building moratorium in downtown Niwot, Boulder County Commissioners were clear that alley access by all parties between the residential area on 3rd Avenue and the commercial area on 2nd Avenue was essential. One of their directives was for land use staff to develop a solution for alley use. Unfortunately for commercial property owners, the first meeting addressing a solution on the matter didn't satisfy them.

The upshot of the April 3 alley meeting with Boulder County Land Use and Transportation staff, was that 3rd Avenue residents and 2nd Avenue commercial property owners also put the kibosh on one divisive development being proposed.

Working with Dr. David Meisner, owner of property at 376 2nd Ave., Bob Von Eschen,

owner of Von's Colorado Concepts, proposed a project that included up to seven residential units and several commercial spaces, and access through the alley. The Meisner property would have been combined with 364 2nd Ave. (Lefty's Gourmet Pizza), property Von Eschen presently owns. Von Eschen said he pulled the cord on the deal, because of the protracted route the county is taking establishing new land use code provisions, which are deemed too restrictive by commercial property owners at this point and because of the lack of progress addressing permission for commercial property owners to access the alley.

"Our contractual date came, and I wasn't willing to put my purse strings out there for it," Von Eschen said. "And even though they (the county) said it wasn't affecting everything, it had a 25 to 35 percent reduction in what we could do to the property, and what we were

Continued on Page 7

An egg-cellent tradition celebrates 40th year



Photo by Karen Copperberg

Second graders run to find the Golden Egg at the 39th Annual Niwot Easter Egg Hunt on March 31, 2018.

By JOCELYN ROWLEY
Editorial@lhvc.com

When local realtor Pat Murphy started hosting the annual Niwot Easter Egg Hunt, she wanted to give something back to the community that

had supported her growing business in its formative years. Now, after four decades of watching both Niwot and the event flourish, she also feels grateful for the opportunity to create cherished memories for

multiple generations of area families.

"I am blessed that I've be able to work in this town all this time, and as a thank you for everybody's business and

Continued on Page 5

Courier reporters win BIG at CPA awards



Photo by Karen Copperberg

Congratulations to Vicky Dorvee, Dani Hemmat, Bruce Warren and Mary Wolbach Lopert for their winning entries in the 2018 Colorado Press Association Better Newspaper Contest. Dorvee picked up three awards on the night—for Best Headline, Best Series (Left Hand Laurel) and Best Investigative Package (local leasing issues). Hemmat won for her piece on Gunbarrel sisters who participate in ninja training, while Warren won for Out in Left Field column, and Lopert won for the Where in The World column. Kudos to all and to everyone who works so hard at the Courier.

Pictured, though not necessarily there, are Selene Luna, Karen Copperberg, Mary Wolbach Lopert, Dani Hemmat, Vicky Dorvee, Vicki Maurer, and Bruce Warren.



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Community Calendar

ART SHOW

“UNFRAMED”, an art show featuring the work of students from St. Vrain Valley Schools, is ongoing at the Boulder County Fairgrounds Exhibition Hall through April 21. Public viewing hours are 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. through April 20, and 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. on Sunday, April 21. The public is also invited to an Open House on April 18 from 5 to 6:30 p.m.

SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS

Front Range Community College is hosting Take Back the Night on Thursday, April 18 from 4 to 7 p.m. at its Longmont campus (2190 Miller Drive). The event is designed to “raise awareness, offer support to survivors, and foster conversations about ways to end sexualized violence,” and will end with a candlelight vigil. For more information,

visit <https://www.frontrange.edu/calendars-and-events>.

HISTORICAL LECTURE

The next presentation in the Niwot Historical Society’s Then & Now Lecture Series is “Dinosaurs of the Rocky Mountain West: New Discoveries and Old Approaches,” by Dr. Joe Sertich of the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, scheduled for Wednesday, April 24 at 7 p.m. at the Left Hand Grange (195 2nd Avenue, Niwot). General admission is \$5 (free for NHS members), and doors open at 6:30 p.m.

ROAD CONSTRUCTION OPEN HOUSE RESCHEDULED

An open house to discuss several upcoming street paving and other road work projects in the Niwot area, including the reconstruction of North 95th Street between Plateau and

Lookout Roads, resurfacing of Niwot and Neva Roads, and the construction of quiet zone railroad crossings will be held Wednesday, April 24 from 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. at Rocky Mountain Christian Church (9447 Niwot Road) For more information, visit www.BoCoConeZones.com.

COMMISSIONERS HEARING

The Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) is holding a public hearing to consider proposed text amendments to Land Use Code Article 4-116 Niwot Rural Community District and related provisions on Tuesday, April 23, at 3 p.m. at the Boulder County Courthouse (1325 Pearl St., Boulder.) Public testimony will be taken. For more information or to leave a comment, visit <http://bit.ly/dc-18-0004>.

More potholes for posterity

By Nellie Nibnose
Editorial@lhvc.com

Another subdivision heard from. Thank you Gary Northup of Gunbarrel Estates for the following submission.

“I see the same pothole on Mt Sherman filled year after year. There’s a low spot in the road there so it is always filled with water or snow after storms. Just down the street I see a large rectangular patch that was probably filled due to sewer problems. It has lasted for years.

“Why not fix vs (sic) repair the low spot so pothole crews don’t need to come out every year. Isn’t that cheaper?”

At least the potholes on Mt. Sherman are filled. The county doesn’t make (it) to



Photo by Gary Northup

An example of the many potholes found in Gunbarrel Estates.

Mt. Meeker, one block away. getting in touch with Boulder County to give them a goose about fixing them.
Keep sending us your pothole photos. We’ll be

The Rotary Club of Niwot



Honors

Sophia Jones

Senior at Niwot High School

As the April

Student of the Month



CASA volunteers make a world of difference

By VICKY DORVEE
Editorial@lhvc.com

Each year, hundreds of youngsters in Boulder County enter the child welfare system. It's a complex and fraught system, but Voices for Children (VFC), a non-profit organization based in Gunbarrel, helps children and their families find a path out.

Niwot-based Debra Reed Fowler Real Estate (DRF) has been an active supporter of VFC's Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program for three years. In March, her team donated \$1,000 to help the organization continue to advocate on behalf of neglected and abused children.

Gillian Marie, DRF's Team Administrator explained that CASA is important to Fowler because, "She talks often about how one person in your life, who believes in you, can

change your life and she believes in giving children the best start they can have."

CASA's executive director, Jacob Harmon, said, "We serve abused children in Boulder County by providing qualified, trained volunteers to advocate for them throughout the court system. The work we're doing is really building a healthier community. There's recent research that has shown that the kids we're serving live an average of seven years less than their peers." They also have higher levels of substance abuse and incarceration, but with the help of CASA volunteers, that dynamic is changing.

While social workers are assigned to each child, they may have a caseload of 20 to 30 kids at once, and there's frequent turnover. But CASAs are assigned to just one child or one family at a time, allowing them to be more



Courtesy photo

The team from DRF, Colorado Landmark Realtors presented CASA with a donation of \$1,000. From left to right: Deb Fowler, Betsy Folsom, Kendra Bajcar, Viktoria Lawson, Gillian Marie, Katie DePoy, and CASA Executive Director Jacob Harmon.

detail-oriented and available for the children.

Harmon said, "CASAs create better outcomes for our most vulnerable citizens. The CASA is that objective, independent, and constant presence in the kid's life."

Children most often enter

the welfare system, because their parents are struggling with substance abuse and their home environment has become unsafe. Or parents may have mental health issues, the child may have been physically or emotionally abused by family members,

or they may have experienced sex trafficking. As a result, the child is placed in a foster care situation while their parents are getting their lives in order.

Any time a child is removed from a home in Boulder County, there's an emergency hearing and CASA is called into action.

Harmon said, "The magistrate of Boulder County has decided that the service CASA provides is so valuable that she now automatically appoints a CASA to every new case."

Two years ago there were 125 CASA volunteers, but today there are 267 in the ranks. The organization's goal is to serve every child in Boulder County's child welfare system, which means 100 more recruits are needed in 2019. So far this year, they've brought on 30 new CASAs.

Continued on Page 11

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71st Street project pushed back to 2020

By Mary Wolbach Lopert
Editorial@lhvc.com

According to its 2017 original schedule, 71st Street in Gunbarrel was due for complete reconstruction beginning in spring 2019. Instead, the project has been rescheduled to start in early winter 2020.

In terms of the total project, it still included:

- Full reconstruction of 71st Street from Lookout Road to Highway 52
- Widening the road to include paved shoulders
- Improved pedestrian crossing for the LoBo Trail
- New mixed-use path on the west side of the road from Lookout Road to the Gunbarrel Business Park

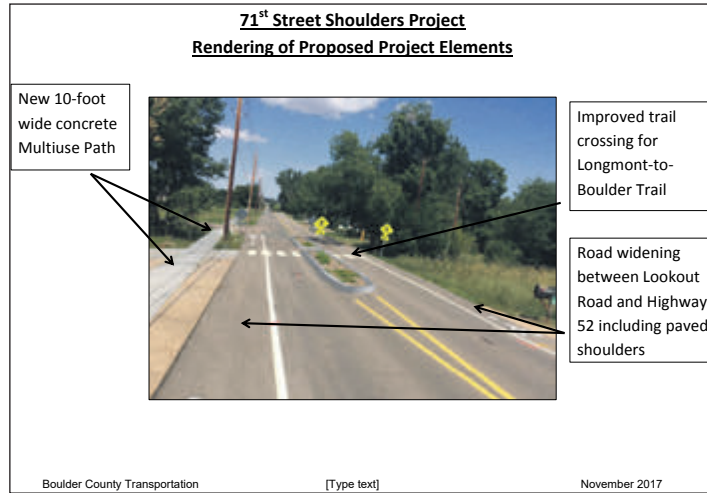
It will, however, will be completed in two phases.

Tim Swope, capital program coordinator for Boulder County Transportation Department, said "We hope to be under construction for the first phase from Lookout Road to Winchester Business Park sometime this winter, so early 2020." The second phase, Winchester Circle to Highway 52, "will start soon after the first phase."

The project is being split into two phases to ensure that the companies in the business park have access for employees and deliveries.

The cost of the project has gone up some since the 2017 estimate. The project was originally funded at \$3 million. In an email, Swope said. "Construction of both phases of the 71st Street Project is anticipated to cost \$3.9 million. Funding includes \$860,000 federal grant from the Colorado Department of Transportation; \$260,000 from the City of Boulder; and \$2.8 million from Boulder County's Countywide Transportation Sales Tax.

"The Countywide Sales Tax was passed by voters in 2007 and funds a specific list of projects and programs including the 71st Street Shoulders.



First-phase changes for 71st Street, from Lookout Road to Winchester Circle, include a multiuse path, improved trail crossing for the LoBo Trail, and paved shoulders when the street is widened. The project is scheduled to start in early winter 2020.

Information on the Sales Tax projects is available on the County's website www.bouldercounty.org.

"Nothing has changed other than the timeline has been pushed back a little bit," Swope said.

This is the second time the project has been pushed back. According to Andrew Barth, construction was supposed to begin in this September and run through December. Swope said that they had run into some "snags", those being finalizing the agreement with CDOT and some of the environmental permitting.

"We are still in discussions with the City of Boulder Open Space to make sure we do everything correctly when we replace culvert Dry Creek Number 2 that carries water underneath the road." Both the Dry Creek and White Rock culverts will be extended out to fit the new road. Flood mitigation work on the Left Hand Ditch has already been completed,

While the overall design of the project hasn't changed, Swope said, "We are working with some of the property owners who live along Glacier View (in Gunbarrel Estates) to make some drainage improvements and to add a sidewalk to the first block to add to the new multiuse path. The sidewalk

would be on the north side of Glacier View. It would extend from 71st Street into the neighborhood."

In terms of other county funded projects, Swope said, "Construction of a second multiuse path along Williams Fork Trail in Gunbarrel is also scheduled for construction this summer. The concrete path will connect the Twin Lakes trail to Spine Road. Anticipated cost is \$1.5 million with funding from CDOT, the City of Boulder and Boulder County's Countywide Transportation Sales Tax."



Phase 2 of the 71st Street project includes a wider road, with paved shoulders and a redesigned access to Highway 52. Phase 2 will begin sometime after Phase 1 has been completed.

95th Street construction slated to start May 1

By JOCELYN ROWLEY
Editorial@lhvc.com

Warmer temperatures and increased sightings of yellow-vested flaggers in the area can mean only one thing—the 2019 road construction season is officially underway. This year, Boulder County Transportation is gearing up for a busy one in and around Niwot, so drivers may want to plan ahead.

95TH STREET

The longest project of the summer—the rebuilding of 95th Street between Lookout and Plateau Roads—is set to launch on Wednesday, May 1, with a projected completion date in October. During that roughly five-month period, the four-mile stretch will be widened to increase shoulder widths and also stripped to gravel and repaved.

Transportation communication specialist Andrew Barth said that contractor Brannan is planning to do the project in four phases, with each lasting five to six weeks. Phase one will be the 1.5 mile stretch between Monarch on the south and Oxford on the north, and including the intersection with Niwot Road. That is expected to take the majority of May. Phase two will be Oxford to

Plateau, and is expected to last until early July. Phase three from Monarch to Lookout is scheduled for July and August and then it's on to phase four where they will put on the finishing touches.

"When you fully strip a road of paving down to the dirt, there's two paving runs you have to do—a bottom lift and a top lift," Barth explained about the upcoming project. "We're going to do the bottom lift and then leave the top lift and do the whole thing in one felled swoop...then there's the the final striping, signage, landscaping, and all of that good stuff."

This project will require frequent lane reductions, so flaggers will be on hand to direct traffic and conduct safety escorts. Drivers who frequent 95th Street during this time can expect delays during daytime hours between Monday and Friday.

"No nights or weekends anticipated with this one," Barth said.

Nor does he expect any outright closures during the project, although workers will have to briefly shut down intersections during paving operations.

"So that east-west movement will be affected. It takes about 15 minutes to get through an intersection with a pave, so we're hoping 15-20 minute closure is the longest they'll have to do."

Drivers can also expect to encounter gravel on the roadway periodically.

QUIET ZONES

Work is finally underway on the long-anticipated railroad quiet zones planned for six intersections along the Diagonal.

On April 8, crews started erecting warning signs and painting brighter stripes at what Barth called "the three easiest ones"—2nd Avenue in Niwot, and 55th Street and Independence Road in Boulder. These crossings are just in need of surface enhancements to comply with Federal Railroad Agency quiet zone standards.

Continued on Page 11

EASTER

Continued from Page 1

their referrals I wanted to make it a community event that kids remember," Murphy said of the annual Hunt, which is now in its 40th year. "Now, people that did it as kids are now bringing their kids back, and they'll say, 'I got a golden egg one year'—and that makes me feel good. It's a good memory for them, and that's part of what makes Niwot special."

Murphy and her crew are gearing up for this year's hunt, which will be held "come rain, snow or sun" on Saturday, April 20 at Niwot High School. The fun kicks off at 7:30 a.m. with a pancake breakfast, featuring Bert Steele of Niwot Market on the grill. A petting zoo will be open starting at 8:30 a.m., and entertainers Sami Ann the Clown and Eddie Spaghetti will also be on hand.

The main event is slated for 10 a.m., and Murphy said children of all ages will find plenty to fill their baskets, including authentic hard boiled eggs.

"The good thing is it has different age groups—the two-year-olds aren't fighting against the fifth-graders. So we separate them into age groups so that most everybody can find something. It's pretty organized and it's not chaotic."

That's not always the case behind the scenes. In fact, Murphy said, "there's always something," to challenge organizers in the run up to the yearly event, from conflicts with Niwot High activities, to equipment malfunctions, but they somehow always manage to pull it off. Still, the process of boiling and dying 2,000 eggs is often "stressful" and has generated a fair share of comic misadventures over the years.

"One year we couldn't go to the school to cook, so we had to boil them ourselves at the Fire Station, and that was hysterical," she recalled. "Don Reeb made these wire baskets to put them in and we were out by the fire station cooking in these big pots. I couldn't believe we were doing it, but there we were, boiling the eggs."

Ironically, Colorado's notoriously antagonistic springtime weather has not been one of Murphy's main challenges.

"We've only cancelled one time and that was couple of years ago," she said. "We've had it in the snow—they love it in the snow—but there was one time it was way too much."

Indeed, it's the more seasonal conditions that are often more problematic.

"When it's hot the chocolate melts, so it's always interesting, but it comes across okay."

For that, Murphy was quick to credit "the best volunteers ever," including Julie Bailey at Niwot High, where the eggs are cooked each year. Murphy was also grateful for the help and support of her family, especially husband Larry, who recently retired from hauling the "huge, heavy" pancake grill back and forth from the high school.

"I've been blessed, because you need other people to help put on an event, and because I have such dedicated volunteers that I can count on,



Photo by Karen Copperberg

Marsha Slepicka (upper right) and a crew of 4H volunteers after dying 2,000 eggs for the annual Easter Egg Hunt in 2018.

this event can go on," she said. "There's the Girl Scouts and Jeanette Walters and Eve Lempiere and Julie Breyer; the Slepicka family and 4H have been the egg dyers; Chris Klatt and Ralph and Surinder Dahiya and all the other helpers for

the pancake breakfast are just Johnny-on-the-spot. I couldn't do it by myself. We stress a little bit but everybody has been so great over the years."

The Niwot Easter Egg Hunt is free and open to the public. Tip jar proceeds from the pan-

cake breakfast will benefit the Niwot Patriotic Cookie Moms, who prepare and ship care packages to military personnel stationed overseas. For additional information about this event, contact Pat Murphy at 303-589-2025.

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Courtesy Photo

Blooms emerging from the snow is a common Colorado spring tableau.

Spring is transpiring

By JOSH MORIN
Editorial@lhvc.com

How do you know it's spring in Colorado? The days have become longer, flower buds are opening and snow is on the ground. After we experience those first few days over 70 degrees, a tense expectation can linger in the air. "OK, when is it going to snow?" It turns out the "bomb cyclone" wasn't too bad this time. Maybe we can all breathe a sigh of relief?

For many of us the slow greening of the land and the awakening of dormant plants in the spring beckons us to get outside. It also happens to be a great time to check in on your trees to see what they are up to.

If you look closely at trees in our area you might notice small linear scars and swollen bumps on the upper sides of the twigs and branches. These are the marks left by last year's hail storms. As trees grow this year they will continue to develop wound wood over these old injuries. In fact trees don't

actually heal from wounds but instead compartmentalize or close off damaged cells. This is referred to as CODIT or compartmentalization of decay in trees. The final step of this process is for the tree to grow over the wounds with living tissue.

Since water is the greatest limiting factor for tree growth, it helps to give the roots of trees a good soaking in the spring. This helps them get enough water to the newly forming leaves. The upward movement of water in trees is in many ways the engine that allows the other functions like photosynthesis to take place. As the leaves and buds expand in the spring, their cells are being filled with water.

Transpiration is the process of water moving from the soil up through the roots and stem and evaporating, mainly through stomata in the leaves. Stomata, the tiny openings on the surfaces of leaves, are opened and closed by guard cells. This opening allows for water to evaporate and the

absorption of CO2 which is required for photosynthesis. It's a seemingly miraculous process to contemplate that a mature cottonwood tree can move more than 100 gallons of water up to the top of its crown in one day. The bulk of this water evaporates from the leaves, while about one percent of the water transpired by a tree is actually used for photosynthesis.

There is an easy way to prove transpiration and see how much water is evaporated from leaves. A plastic bag can be tied around a group of leaves on the branch of a tree. Leave the bag on for a day and when you return you will see that water vapor from the leaves has condensed inside the bag. All of this water has been pulled from the soil up through the stem and out of the leaves. Perhaps the next time you find yourself taking a breath under the shade of a tree you'll be aware of all the water being released into the air.

Josh Morin is an ISA Board Certified Master Arborist and co-owner of Taddiken Tree Company, a locally owned and operated company.

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MEISNER

Continued from Page 1

doing to the property wasn't that significant."

Along with a sign out front offering the Meisner property for lease or development, Meisner sent a letter to commercial property owners which read, "I now have a fresh opportunity to develop the gateway to downtown Niwot. I am open to suggestions on how to develop the property, ie [sic], a joint venture or sale."

Von Eschen said, "Meisner had attempted to sell that property for years. I stepped in, because I came up with a program that worked. But, I've got to make a living. I've got to keep my employees employed. I can't sit there and lollygag along on projects that don't make any sense. I'm kind of disheartened by it for sure, and I'm very, very disappointed."

Victoria Keen, whose property backs up to the alley, was one of many 3rd Avenue residents critical of Von Eschen's proposed development. Keen responded to the withdrawal of Von Eschen by saying, "The redevelopment of the Meisner property presents a great opportunity to design an attractive gateway development. We hope to see a development that all Niwotians can all be proud of, and one that creates a lasting, positive legacy for the Meisner family."

Niwot Real Estate owner Pat Murphy, whose office is directly to the east of Meisner's property said, "I've been in touch with David (Meisner) and we're thinking about the project. I'm hopeful that something great will be there."

Regarding the county, Von Eschen said the problem is "they placate people and think 'Oh we're doing a good thing when in reality all they're doing is messing it up.' I feel like there's got to be some things that could have been done for the people on 3rd Avenue. The trouble is there was no compromise on their side, and what happens is that they end up wagging the dog. My concern is very, very simple. I need to use part of the alley for parking. It's that simple."

Von Eschen said in contrast to his experience with Boulder County Land Use, "The city of Lafayette has been a joy to work with. The city of Longmont - wonderful. They put on a hat that says, 'we can figure out how to make it work.'"

Von Eschen is extracting himself from Niwot by selling his existing property as well. It was confirmed this week that Dan and Dr. Ashley Niles are under contract with Von Eschen for the Lefty's Gourmet Pizza property. They are scheduled to close on the property at the end of April.

Dan Niles said, "We don't really have definitive plans yet. We don't know what the property is going to be used for at this time." Lefty's is expected to stay open for now, according to Niles.

Second Avenue commercial property owner Anne Postle said, "It makes me sad that this whole process has been so painful and negative that someone who had an interest in doing something with one of our gateway sites has found it's not worth it."

Following the joint meeting regarding the alley, commercial property owners sent two letters to the county commissioners. The first, signed by Jim and Anne Postle, Ashley and Dan Niles and 2nd Avenue property owners Tim and Mary Counce of Porchfront homes, begins with the heading "Moratorium to be extended forever." It explains that initiating an alley traffic study will in essence continue the moratorium, because without access to the alley, any



Photo by Vicky Dorvee

Two 2nd Avenue properties, previously proposed to become one mixed use development, are now slated to go their own way.

new projects would result in design decisions that will be unalterable once constructed. It requests that there be "rapid and clear intervention" by the commissioners to direct the land use staff.

The second letter signed by Bradford Heap, Cornelia Sawle, Dan and Ashley Niles, Tim and Mary Counce, Bob Von Eschen, Brian Bair, Jim and Anne Postle and Tony Santelli, proposes a detailed "reasonable alternative plan" in which the moratorium be ended and initial alley improvements be paid for by the commercial property owners, after which all parties may use the alley.

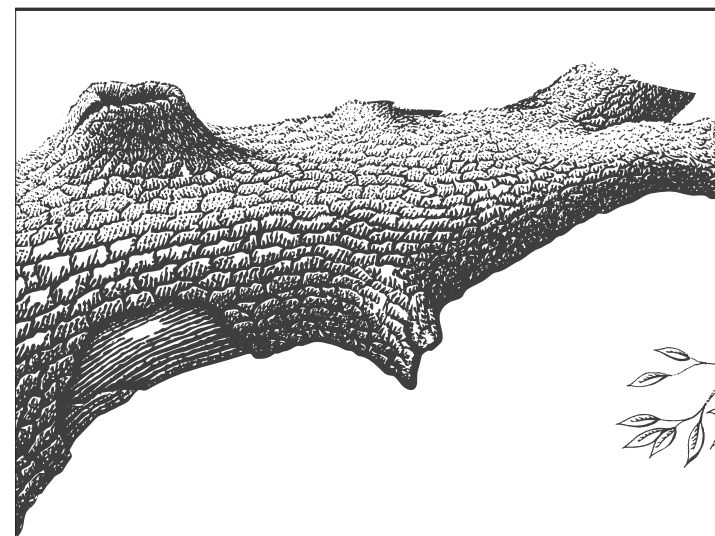
The letter stated an alley traffic study should be conducted and initially funded by the Local Improvement District (LID) capped at cost \$20,000. As property owners add structures, make changes to parking, and remove curb cuts along 2nd Avenue, they would reimburse the LID in increments of \$5,000 until the alley traffic study is completely repaid.

It also recommends the study of three specific possi-

ble alley scenarios: First, an alley with traffic proceeding in one direction from Franklin Street onto either Niwot Road or 2nd Avenue; second, that option in reverse originating from Niwot Road; or third, a two-way dead-end alley with a turnaround. Each of the three options would require an easement on the Meisner property.

Meisner has not responded to additional questions posed by the Courier.

Third Avenue residents have mentioned several ideas for the Meisner property to the Courier: live-work artist cottages, a common area for gatherings or music offerings for first Friday, an artist cooperative, an Arapahoe Nation cultural heritage and educational center, and a mixed use development similar to the Slater Building model.



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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Colorado craft cocktails elevate outdoor happy hour



Photo by Greg Lipinski

Slalom Fox's colorful cans contain fresh ingredients for portable cocktail hour.

By DANI HEMMAT
Editorial@lhvc.com

Sitting around a campfire with a high-quality, cold craft beer can in one hand can be considered one of the great simple pleasures of living in Colorado. But not everybody enjoys beer, and glass bottled cocktail ingredients don't really work on a backpacking trip.

That's where Slalom Fox jumps in. Crafted and canned in Longmont using fresh juices and premium liquors, this small company wants to fill a niche that has been left empty by overly sweet, malt-liquor based canned cocktails that

are currently on the market.

Slalom Fox's co-founder, Katie Burns, created the cocktails with her husband, John, after leaving many a liquor store feeling disappointed. Searching for a convenient cocktail that wasn't loaded with artificial flavorings, Burns came up empty-handed every time. The Longmont mother of five began using her experience in natural foods and her and John's homemade syrup recipes to create portable cocktails that contained spirits, real juices and herbal extracts.

The brightly colored cans can be found throughout the state at spirit retailers,

and are sold in 4-packs that range from \$15.99 to \$19.99. Currently both Wyatt's Wet Goods and Hazel's Beverage World are selling Slalom Fox's Vodka Collins and their Bourbon Revival.

The Vodka Collins is a twist on the original, with a hint of thyme that lends a subtle depth. The Bourbon Revival contains bourbon, lemon and black currant, making it "both sweet and tart, similar to a whiskey sour," noted Katie.

The company has two other cocktails waiting in the wings for an early summer release: the Gin Fizz and the Colorado Mule.

"Our Colorado Mule and Gin Spritz will be available in May," John said. "The Colorado Mule is similar to a Moscow Mule but made with whiskey instead of vodka.

The Gin Spritz is a gin and grapefruit juice cocktail."

While the company is currently focusing on the Colorado market, the owners hope that Slalom Fox cocktails will be available nationwide in the future. Until that time comes, they're working hard and enjoying the new things that Slalom Fox has brought to their lives.

"It has been exciting launching a new category of products," said John. "While ready-to-drink cocktails did exist, the concept of a canned cocktail using real juices and real spirits is relatively new. Retail stores have been very receptive!

We've also enjoyed getting to know local professionals and business owners and taking part in tasting events." Cheers!

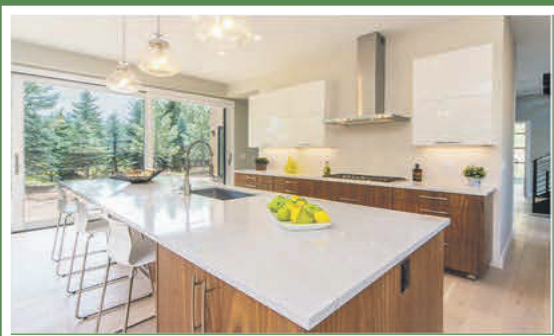
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CHARLIE'S GUYS

Continued from Page 1

meet a need they may have.

The non-profit, named for how Charlie referred to his favorite toys, is a family endeavor that has drawn in several friends as board members and administrative officers, and even the Davies' eldest son, who is now five, has input into the choosing of the gifts for the recipients.

"Occasionally, when appropriate, we will ask his thoughts about gift ideas or take him shopping with us if we are physically purchasing an item for a child," said Kjerstin. "He is mostly curious, though, about how these siblings lose their brother or sister. He wants to know all of the details: age, gender, cause, age and gender of the siblings, etc. It helps him process, relate, connect, and not feel so alone. He is proud of Charlie's Guys and talks about the charity all the time and wants to be involved as much as possible."

To celebrate the one-year anniversary of launching Charlie's Guys, they are organizing a social media campaign to bring their community together.

"This organization was created through the strength of community. To honor the one-year anniversary of its launch, we want to bring together our community. Leading up to our anniversary, we will feature stories from families affected by child and sibling loss," said Kjerstin.

"To participate, we ask that people email us a story of their loved one along with a



picture or pictures to post, or we ask that people post their own story and photo, using the hashtags #lovedandnotforgotten #charliesguys #oneyearstronger," she added.

While the loss of a child is something that no one ever fully recovers from, the work that Charlie's Guys does helps more than just the families it serves.

"Grieving and healing is a process. It will never end, it will never be something we conquer. It doesn't get easier, but we do get stronger," said Kjerstin. "Charlie's Guys has given us an outlet for this grief. It has transformed something painful and meaningless into something powerful and meaningful. Grief is debilitating and if we can help bring a tiny bit of light into something so deafening and dark then we have not only made Charlie's death purposeful, but we have also made our lives purposeful."

To be featured in the anniversary social media campaign, families can email their stories to charliesguys@gmail.com by April 28. For more information, visit www.charliesguys.org.

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Dinosaurs of the Rocky Mountain West lecture at the Grange



Courtesy Photo

Vertebrate paleontologist, Dr. Joe Sertich, Curator of Dinosaurs at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science working at the Thornton Torosaurus site.

fossils at the museum's lab, Sertich will be giving a lecture as part of the Niwot Historical Society's series on Wednesday, April 24.

Sertich said, "Dinosaurs lived through a really amazing dynamic period in our history when the continents were rifting apart, the sea levels were changing, the climate was much warmer than today. So by studying those ecosystems we can learn about how evolution works, a lot about how the world is changing today and how our impact on the world is relevant in a broader, long-term context."

Sertich's presentation will be appropriate for all ages. It will feature Colorado's rich history of dinosaur paleontology, highlighting recent discoveries and the prevalence of dinosaur remains in our area.

DMNS is one of the most active field research institutes in the country and is home to the recently discovered Torosaurus, as well as some of the first dinosaur specimens ever found about 100 years ago.

Sertich's research takes him to exotic locations in Europe and Africa. But he's mostly focused on the Rocky Mountain region - New Mexico, Wyoming, Utah, and Colorado where for paleontologists,

there are bountiful opportunities for discoveries because there's an ancient seaway that connects those areas. Dinosaur Ridge for instance, was the shore of that seaway.

The upcoming lecture will be accompanied by illustrative reconstructions of the ancient Rocky Mountains region, and in particular of Sertich's favorite time in geologic years, the Cretaceous period. This stretch of history occurred toward the end of the era in which dinosaurs lived and as the landscape was heaving up to form the Rocky Mountains. Sertich said it's a remarkable time when dinosaurs overlapped with more modern plant and animal groups like birds, snakes, and crocodiles, and flowering plants were starting to flourish.

"It's a unique window into a time period that's similar to today, but was dominated by dinosaurs instead of large mammals," Sertich said.

Sertich got his bachelors of science degree at CSU, his mas-

Continued on Page 12

By VICKY DORVEE
Editorial@lhvc.com

Like a lot of kids, Dr. Joe Sertich had a thing for dinosaurs. But his childhood fascination didn't subside and the Colorado native turned his inquisitiveness into a dino-lover's dream career as a Curator of Dinosaurs. Now his life is filled with paleontological learning, researching, and the uncovering of bones for the same institute that fed his curiosity as a child, the Denver Museum of Nature and Science (DMNS).

Thanks to the suggestion of Niwot volunteers who clean



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CASA

Continued from Page 3

CASAs are prepared for their roles with 40 hours of training, which covers how the child welfare system operates, the psychological ramifications of trauma and ways to support children experiencing it. VFC has attorneys and social workers on staff to support CASAs in their efforts around the clock.

"CASAs can be really effective and transformational in kids' lives in about 20 hours a month, that's just four to five hours a week," Harmon said, dispelling the myth that volunteers have to be retired or independently wealthy to participate.

The most fundamental role of a CASA is to build a relationship in which the child feels heard and trusted unconditionally. "So many of the kids in the child welfare system have been ignored to the point where they feel they have no ability to advocate for themselves because no one listens to them and nobody trusts them," Harmon said.

CASAs and their kids often spend time just hanging out together, going to museums, playing games, or taking a walk. Many of the children in the program haven't been given an opportunity to enjoy these types of experiences so that time together solidifies a relationship.

Reuniting families may take up to 18 months, and during that time it's essential for children to know they are not going it alone; they have a mentor, a friend, and an expert to help them, so they stay in school, pursue their interests, heal emotionally and feel valued.

The role of a CASA is also to coordinate with other parts of the system - social workers, attorneys, parents, and foster parents - to make sure the child's needs are met. Given what each CASA knows of the child and the child's situation, their advice to the court is critical in deciding what is best for the child.

"The courts really rely on the CASA volunteer to get a sense of where the kid is in the process. They know what the child needs in order to

succeed and thrive," Harmon said.

While governmental funds provide 40 percent of their operating revenue, VFC primarily relies on the community's generosity to offer their services. This year's annual operating budget will come to more than \$500,000.

Donations to CASA fall

under the Colorado Child Contribution Credit and may qualify for a 50 percent tax credit on state taxes.

CASA will be holding its 6th annual Light of Hope luncheon at 1 p.m. on Thursday, April 25, at Folsom Field. This event is one of two critical fundraising events held each year. During the event, highlighting the compelling work

of the organization by profiling CASAs and the children they've worked with will bring home the importance and success of the organization.

To learn more about CASA, to volunteer or donate, and to attend the upcoming fundraising event, visit: www.ofccasa.org.

Presented by the **Niwot Historical Society**

Dinosaurs

Of The Rocky Mountain West: New Discoveries and Old Approaches

Wednesday, April 24th

7:00pm, Doors open at 6:30pm

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Like the pages of an upturned book, nearly the entire history of dinosaurs and their lost ecosystems were revealed by the uplift



and erosion of mountains across the Rocky Mountain region. The fossils of Colorado were among the first to be discovered over a century ago, revealing fantastic forms like the plated Stegosaurus and the giant, long-necked Sauropods. However, numerous new discoveries along the Colorado Front Range, and elsewhere in the West, have begun to reveal new dinosaur species and ecosystems that can teach us about life on a dynamic planet. The dinosaur section of the Denver Museum of Nature & Science has leaped to the forefront of discovery.



Presenter: Dr. Joe Sertich, Curator of Dinosaurs at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science.
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For more information go to: niwothistoricalsociety.org

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Courtesy Photo

Nick Bottom and Titiana are just two of the characters in the woodland realm of fairy fantasy in CSB's ballet performance.

Four plots, fairies and the forest

By DANI HEMMAT
Editorial@lhvc.com

The Centennial State Ballet (CSB) will be presenting A Midsummer Night's Dream as its final performance in the season on April 27 and 28 at Niwot High School auditorium.

The ballet, originally choreographed by George Balanchine to Felix Mendelssohn's music, originates from Shakespeare's play of the same name, wherein the audience follows the complex love story in the world of elves and fairies culminating in a wedding celebration.

Featuring the impish Puck, magical dragonflies and fireflies, a slumbering donkey and lovers from both the fairy and mortal worlds, audiences of all ages will be entranced as the beloved story comes to life onstage through the artistry of the CSB performers.

The CSB interpretation is choreographed by Kristin Kingsley, CSB's executive artistic director, who took her inspiration from George Balanchine. The event's musical accompaniment features the CSB Chamber Orchestra with score by Felix Mendels-

sohn under the direction of Conductor Rick Thomas.

A special free final dress rehearsal performance is available for high school students and faculty on Friday, April 26 at 6 p.m. Regular showtimes are Saturday, April 27, 2018 at 2 p.m. and Sunday, April 28, 2018 at 1 p.m. The performance will take place at Niwot High School Auditorium at 8989 Niwot Road in Niwot. For tickets and more information, visit centennialstateballet.org or call 303-772-1335.



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DINOSAURS

Continued from Page 10

ters degree at the University of Utah and then earned his Ph.D. at Stony Brook University in New York before returning to Colorado.

The day-to-day life of the Curator of Dinosaurs is split between planning and doing field research expeditions about four to five months a year and then cleaning the unearthed finds, writing about the discoveries, naming the dinosaurs, and collaborating with other scientists.

Discovered by a construction crew breaking ground at a Thornton housing development in September 2017, the Torosaurus is one of the most complete and rare horned dinosaurs ever found. When that type of event occurs, the museum is notified and Sertich goes to the scene where he and his crew can quickly do their paleontological excavation and then allow the construction project to proceed with very little delay.

Sertich said finding the Torosaurus underscored that Colorado is one of the most densely populated areas sitting on dinosaur bearing rocks and is one of the few places in the world where you can find dinosaur remains in your backyard.

“There are dinosaurs popping up all along the Front Range,” Sertich said citing the digging along Highway 36 that widened the road and led to finding a treasure trove of fossils and dinosaur parts.

The museum relies on almost 400 volunteers to help assist experts with digs around the country, to help in the laboratory, and with researching and publishing. For DMNS Paleontology volunteer opportunities, visit: www.dmns.org/support/volunteer-at-the-museum.

The lecture will take place on Wednesday, April 24. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., for pre-lecture coffee, snacks, and conversation. The presentation begins at 7 p.m. Admission is free to Niwot Historical Society members and \$5 for non-members. The hall is handicap accessible.

For additional information, please visit NiwotHistoricalSociety.org.



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STUDENT-ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Laure Bourgin

By JOCELYN ROWLEY
Editorial@lhvc.com

Niwot senior Laure Bourgin wasn't sure what to expect when she took up golf a little over a year ago, but she wasn't expecting to uncover a hidden talent. Now the senior is one of the rising stars on the emerging Niwot girls golf team and the sport she once thought of as "relatively interesting" has become a daily habit.

"It's time consuming, but unlike most sports, it's—I don't know—elegant, for lack of a better term. I just really like a sport where I can really hone a skill....Golf is one of the few sports that's individual and it helps me to be able to depend on myself and my skills and it's something I can develop on my own."

Bourgin's first season with the Cougars was notable for the sharp downward trajectory of her 18-hole scores, from the 100s in the early weeks to the low-90s after just a few competitive rounds. By the end of the season, the newcomer had solidified her spot on the Cougars' varsity roster, and just narrowly missed qualifying for the Class 4A state championships.

By then, Bourgin was firmly in the grip of golfing fever, and continued daily practices and weekly swing lessons during the offseason. She even had some success on the local junior competition circuit, and was the surprised but gratified winner of last summer's Longmont city championship.

Suffice it to say, Bourgin's expectations are high for her senior season, and so far she has been living

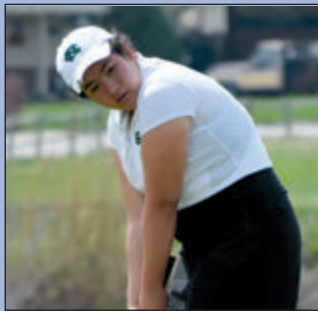


Photo by Jocelyn Rowley

Senior Laure Bourgin has been an important factor in the Cougars emergence as a Class 4A title contender in 2019.

up to them. Nearly every tournament she's played in so far in 2019 has meant a new personal best, and she is quickly closing in on another major milestone: breaking the 80-shot mark in an 18-hole round.

"What I hope to really improve on is just the consistency of my game," Bourgin said of her focus for the year. "It seems that I'll do good on the irons, but my putting won't be so good on that day, or it will be the opposite. My goal for this year is to just be consistently good in all of the aspects of golf—putting and hitting my long shots. Hopefully with the combination of most of them, I'll be able to hit in the 70s this season. I'm really excited for that."

Not that you'd know it from looking at her. Bourgin's serene demeanor on the course, especially in the face of adversity, has been almost as remarkable as her rapid rise through in the Northern League rankings. According to Bourgin, it's also one of the more useful skills she's cultivated over the last few months.

"I think that being calm during a tournament is very

important. There are many people who have the skills but because they get so mad, it messes with their game."

Head golf coach Ed Weaver agreed, and added that her serenity has also been a big asset to the team.

"She brings a calming and mature element to the team, and she's a great contributor in that regard. Earlier in the season, I gave her a leadership challenge with one of the younger players, and she stood right up and took it."

When she's not out on the course, Bourgin is probably somewhere studying for the seven IB exams she has coming up later this spring. If she survives that and graduates, Bourgin plans to attend college, though is still deciding between her top choices (DU, University of San Francisco, and University of British Columbia). She is also still trying to decide what she wants to study when she gets there, and is weighing international affairs or education.

As for golf, Bourgin plans to keep playing and competing whenever possible, and is looking forward to indulging her passion for a long time to come.

"Even if I don't decide to play professionally, I can always play it on my own, and I think that's really cool," she said. "I might not ever be the top of the top, but I do think I can play golf on the side or perhaps teach it. I've always liked working with other people, so perhaps I can use my skills to help other players get better at golf."

95TH STREET

Continued from Page 4

Work should be done within two weeks, though the weather may have different ideas.

Later this spring, the county will launch more extensive construction projects at Jay, Monarch, and Niwot Roads in order to bring these crossings into compliance.

"Those are going to be the bigger lifts," Barth said. "Monarch will be the tricky one because we're going to have to close the road for two weeks at that crossing. They are going to install a whole new median, new asphalt, and signing and striping—the whole works there."

The Monarch Road closure is slated for May 6 through May 22, and cars will be detoured to 79th Street.

Work on the Niwot Road quiet zone is scheduled for June 10-21, and while there won't be any prolonged closures, there will be lane shifts during the

day, so drivers can expect delays there as well.

NIWOT AND NEVA ROADS

Later this summer, the county will also be repaving in three separate areas of town—Niwot Road between the Diagonal and Walker Drive; Neva Road between Franklin and North 83rd streets, and Burgundy Drive north of Niwot Road. Barth said these are just resurfacing projects, and shouldn't cause any undue delays. He also said they're trying very hard to get them completed by the start of the 2019-20 school year in August.

OPEN HOUSE

The public is invited to learn more about these projects directly from transportation officials at an open house on Wednesday, April 24 from 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. at Rocky Mountain Christian Church (9447 Niwot Road). For more information, visit www.BoCoConeZones.com, or contact Andrew Barth at 303-441-1032 or abarth@bouldercounty.com.

NHS SPORTS

SCHEDULE

Week of April 18 to April 25

Thursday, April 18

3 p.m. - Girls tennis vs. Northridge
4 p.m. - Baseball vs. Northridge
4 p.m. - Girls soccer vs. Greeley Central

Saturday, April 20

8 a.m. - Track & field, BoCo Invite, Longmont HS
11 a.m. - Girls soccer @ Palmer Ridge
12:00 - Baseball @ Northridge

Monday, April 22

3:30 p.m. - Girls tennis vs. Kent Denver
4:00 p.m. - Girls soccer vs. Thompson Valley

Tuesday, April 23

4 p.m. - Baseball vs. Berthoud
6 p.m. - Girls soccer @ Longmont

Thursday, April 25

12:00 - Girls golf, Northern League event, Highland Hills GC
3 p.m. - Girls tennis @ Centaurus
4 p.m. - Baseball @ Mtn. View
4 p.m. - Girls soccer vs. Mtn. View

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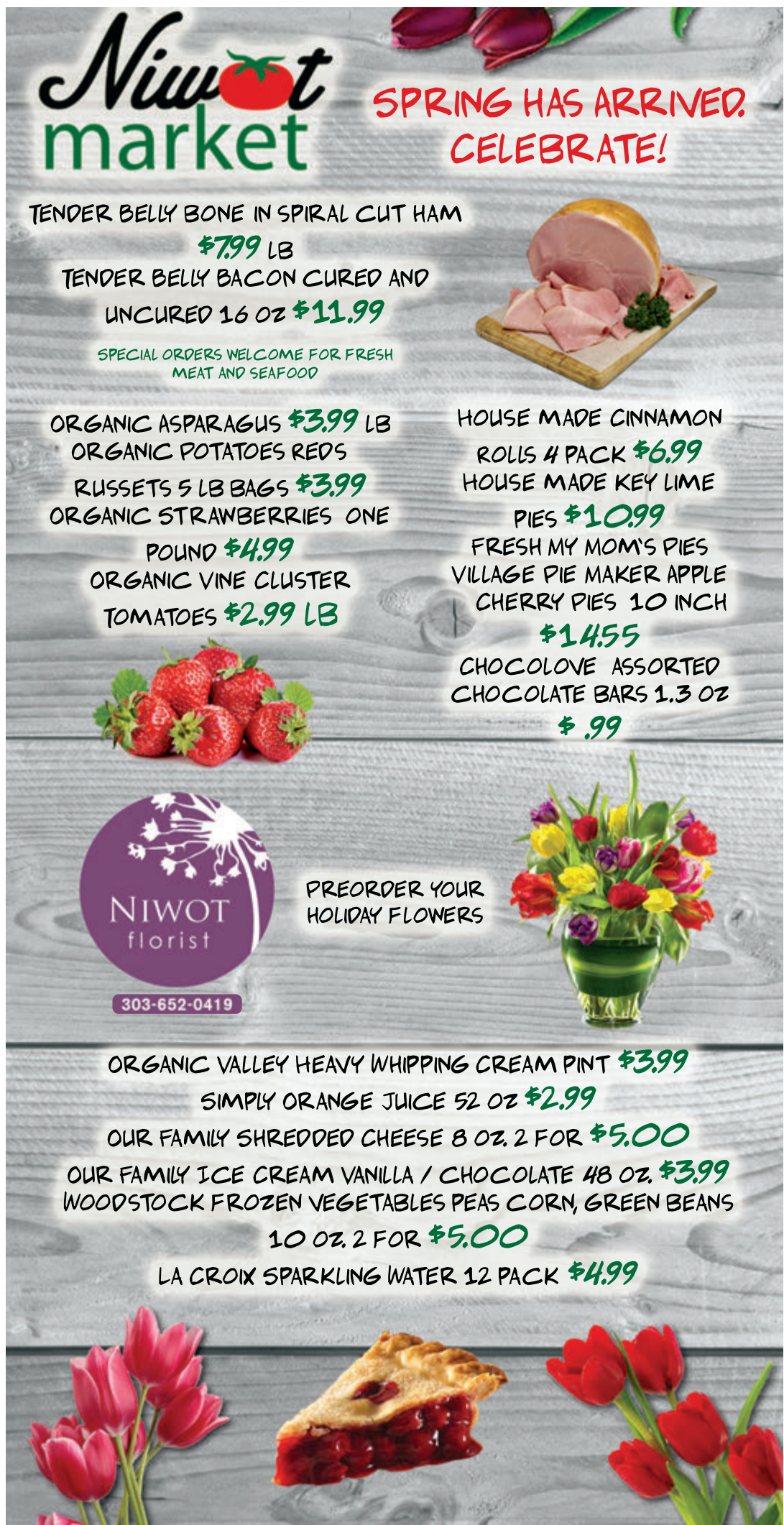
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Dawson welcomes Chinese, Spanish exchange students



Courtesy Photo

Students from Spain and China taking part in an immersion/exchange program arrived at the Dawson School earlier this month.

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Dawson School teaches language and world cultures to students K-12; by middle school, students can choose between studying Spanish, French and Mandarin, and by

upper school, they can choose to apply for Dawson's immersion/exchange program.

Dawson has had long-standing partnerships with schools in Sevilla, Spain, Tours, France, and Chongqing, China, sending Dawson students to live with host

families and attend schools there, and in turn, inviting those students to do the same at Dawson.

Earlier this month, Chinese and Spanish students arrived on Dawson's campus - an occasion marked by the flags of China and Spain joining

those of the U.S., Colorado, and Dawson at the center of campus. They live with students and their families and are integrated into campus life in every way, from attending class to going to prom - a highlight for everyone.

Dawson's educational pro-

gram looks for ways to give all of its students a global perspective, and the community values the many ways in which it is enriched by its exchange program.



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