



## Animals finding permanent homes as Longmont Humane Society slowly reopens

By PATRICIA LOGAN  
Editorial@lhvc.com

The day before the Longmont Humane Society reopened on Saturday, there were a suspicious number of animals already on hold for adoption. The animals weren't being seen by the public. The majority were not even in the building. They were staying in approved foster homes after the shelter closed to the public in March due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The key to solving this mystery may have something to do with one of the shelter's worst kept secrets. In normal times, the regular volunteers, the ones who walk dogs, play with cats and cuddle furry friends, have



Photo by Patricia Logan

Longmont Humane Society is slowly reopening with new protocols in place.

been known to bring their work home with them. For good.

According to Carrie Blackenridge, who does communications for the shelter, a similar story is behind the green banners that say "I'm on

hold" across the portraits of adoptable animals on the LHS website. "Of those on hold, a great many of them have been placed on hold by their foster families," Brackenridge said, "a really wonderful outcome

of all this."

The foster program has been a silver lining during a chaotic time for the shelter. The animals in foster care got extra

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## Coronavirus affects Boulder County's Latinx community differently

By HANNAH STEWART  
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Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, lay people and experts alike have said that this is a virus that does not discriminate based on age, sex, race or class. But just by looking at the numbers alone, it's obvious that this belief isn't exactly the case.

"When you look at the population of Boulder County that are people of color and positive cases, those numbers are shocking," said Manuela Sifuentes, the language access program manager for the City of Boulder. "I think that, to me, they're not surprising."

Philanthropiece Foundation's Operations manager Laura Soto echoed Sifuentes, saying, "Now that we have an epidemic that does not discriminate, we are seeing that the most affected communities are those affected by racism in the past."

Boulder County's Latinx (the gender-neutral variation of the ethnic label "Latino/Latina") population is one of those groups most affected. A large reason for that is because this population tends to be in "essential service" roles or positions that do not allow them to work from home, and in many cases, put them in harm's way.

Even under normal circumstances, Latinx workers especially, but bilingual employees, specifically, often have fewer economic opportunities. For example, while bilingual frontline employees serve a

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## LEFT HAND LAUREL Diane Zimmermann

By PATRICIA LOGAN  
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She howls, sews masks, plots to honor grads, helps kids learn, gets them moving, organizes the occasional birthday car-parade, and that's just some of the stuff Diane Zimmermann does during a pandemic. Supporting others is a way of life for the Niwot resident.

"Anywhere there is room for helping out. I'm always up for that," Zimmermann said.

Some of her volunteering is organized, such as her work for the Niwot Community Association and the Niwot Historical Society, and some she does on her own.

Since March, she's sewn over 400 face masks to help people in health care, older neighbors, friends and family. Essentially,



Photo courtesy of Diane Zimmermann

One of Diane Zimmermann's (left) volunteer jobs is with the Niwot Community Association where she helps with communications and various projects.

anyone who has asked. The Courier wrote an article about how she answered the urgent need for [homemade masks](#)

at the beginning of April. "I thought holy cow, I can totally do that," she said.

Zimmermann said a lot, finding a way to contribute any way she can. "I don't like seeing people who need something and can't get it -- someone who struggles and needs a little help. I have a lot I can give. It doesn't have to be money. Why not share the bounty that I have as a functioning, smart, loving, human being?"

Helping others was a part of her upbringing in Maryland. "My father, in particular, gravitated to people who didn't have a family to celebrate [holidays] with or were struggling with some great loss. He was this empathetic person who wanted to lift people up in their despair," Zimmermann said. "I marvel how my parents knew how to

comfort and take people in. Not try to fix them, but let them be and see what their gifts were, how valuable they were as human beings because they were losing that in their own vision."

Her father couldn't resist helping his daughter too. "He was a Girl Scout leader, because the moms wouldn't do it. So he was my scout leader," she said.

Zimmermann remembers her first big volunteer job when she was in her early teens. She taught swimming lessons to kids with disabilities. "More than anything it was how not to be afraid of the water. It got to the point they couldn't wait to get in the water. To see that transition from terror to thrilling, I loved knowing that I could help with that," she said.

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# NBA launches Niwot gift card initiative

Special to the Courier

In April, the Niwot Business Association had record attendance for its first ever Zoom meeting, due to the

effects of the coronavirus pandemic. Amongst the lively discussions, Josh Morin from We Love Trees asked how we could help businesses circulate gift cards. NBA Vice President Deborah Read

Fowler suggested a central location in Niwot Market, and owner Bert Steele instantly agreed. There, the idea was born, and Fowler volunteered to lead the project and bring the idea to life.

"This is a wonderful project, as Niwot Market is the heartbeat of Niwot—such a well loved, treasured jewel of our town," Fowler said. "It is the ideal place to centralize the gift cards. Everybody goes there, and so it makes it super easy for residents to support our local businesses in such a critical time. Everyone is busy, and to be able to walk into the market and buy several gift cards in one place, knowing you are supporting the local business, it's shopping you can feel good about."

The project is one of several underway that directly supports NBA members and is in line with the "Keep Niwot Strong" campaign. As an NBA funded project, this initiative is open to any member willing to participate. For the initial launch, 15 local retail stores and services are offering cards, and Fowler is hoping to see the list grow.

To keep the process simple, all the gift cards are



Courtesy Photo

Alison Steele, Bert Steele and Deborah Read Fowler with the display for Niwot merchants at Niwot Market on Friday, May 8.

in \$25 denominations only. Cards are available now for Begin Fitness, Bella Salt & Sauces, Bootstrap Brewing, Fly Away Home, Inkberry Books, Lefty's Pizza, Niwot Massage, Niwot Jewelry & Gifts, Niwot Tavern, Niwot Wheelworks, Old Oak Coffeehouse, Osmosis Gallery, Pebble Jewelry, Pinocchio's and Wise Buys Antiques. Shoppers can stop by the display board at Niwot Market and simply tick the boxes and quantities of gift cards on the order form, then bring the form to the cash register to

pay for and pick up the cards. Complimentary gift bags are available to customers who decide to buy multiples.

Not only do the gift cards help local merchants, they also make ideal gifts, so if you're shopping for teacher appreciation, graduation, Father's Day, birthdays, thanking frontline workers, or even doing a bit of early holiday shopping, you can stop by Niwot Market and do your part to help Keep Niwot Strong.

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## COMMUNITY PET SPOTLIGHT

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Meet Lalya. Layla is a 16 year old Welsh Pony who saved the heart of her guardian, Lady Cat Powers. On Aug. 17, 2008 Lady Cat was with her Arabian, Ebony, when she happened to notice a pony in the pasture of the Colorado Horse Rescue. Now Cat had no interest in having a second horse, especially a pony. But something about Layla compelled her, and the next day she went over to the Horse Rescue and adopted her. Exactly four weeks later Ebony died in a tragic accident, and since that day Layla has been rescuing Cat's heart.

*We would love to feature your pets in our spotlight. Please email your photos and captions Editorial@lhvc.com.*



# Boulder County offers grants to small businesses

By JOCELYN ROWLEY  
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Last week, the Boulder County Board of County Commissioners launched the [Small Business COVID-19 Emergency Relief Grant Program](#) to provide “immediate financial support” to small businesses in unincorporated parts of the county, including Niwot, Jamestown, and Ward. Companies with fewer than 50 employees that have experienced substantial financial hardship due to the coronavirus pandemic are encouraged to apply.

“The county has been very active in the emergency response for the pandemic...but we’re starting to really dig deep into what [economic] recovery looks like,” county policy analyst Summer Laws in a presentation to the Niwot LID board on May 5. “We know it’s a small fund, and the board recognizes that, but we wanted to be able to do something.”

Online applications for the funding opened on May 8, and closes at 11:59 p.m. on May 18. Grants in the amount of \$2,500, \$5,000, and \$7,500 will be awarded to help eligible businesses with short-term operating costs, such as rent, utilities, equipment, or payroll. As of May 11, Mark Ruzzin of the county commissioners’ office reported that 40 applications had already been submitted.

“It’s not enough to ensure sustainability,” Laws said of the grants. “It’s probably part of a larger sustainability plan.”

Applications will be evaluated by a committee composed of county staffers, as well as independent advisors and community business owners “at arms length from the applicants.” Any for-profit small business can apply, but Laws said certain businesses will be given priority, due to the high anticipated demand for this funding.

“We’ve put together some criteria to ideally identify which businesses are most critical in their communities, probably tending toward brick and mortar businesses, and tending towards businesses that are already



Photo by Karen Copperberg

*Small businesses in Niwot can apply for Boulder County’s Small Business COVID-19 Emergency Relief Grant Program to receive a “gap funding” grant of up to \$7,500.*

providing protections for their employees in terms of personal protective equipment. We’re also looking for those that have plans in place for their financial sustainability, and supporting those that were unable to secure PPP [Paycheck Protection Program] and the EIDL [Economic Injury Disaster Loan] funds.”

Recipients will be notified on May 29. Later, those businesses will be required to submit a survey about their use of the funds, and whether they were impactful.

For more information about this initiative, or to fill out an application, visit [www.boco.org/EmergencyReliefGrant](http://www.boco.org/EmergencyReliefGrant). For additional support for small businesses from the federal and state government and from other sources, please visit the [Boulder Small Business Development Center](#) and [Colorado’s Office of Economic Development and International Trade](#). Non-profit organizations may be eligible funds from [Boulder County Community Foundation](#) or [Help Colorado Now](#).

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## #DoingMyPartCO

STOPPING THE SPREAD OF COVID-19 IN COLORADO



# To the Rescue: Local organization helps animals during tough transition

By KRISTEN ARENDT  
Editorial@lhvc.com

There is just a hint of green in the fields where the small herd of horses stand basking in the sunshine. Longs Peak looms to the west, still covered with snow. The horses seem to not care about the impressive view from their backyard, more concerned with finding the tasty spring greens popping up in their pasture.

These are the pastures of Colorado Horse Rescue, located off of N. 65th Street north of Niwot and west of Longmont, a 501(c)(3) impact organization dedicated to the rescue and rehoming of at-risk horses. The 55-acre property can house up to 60 horses at one time, and as I drive by on N. 65th Street, the three main pastures and the group of small pens that compose their horse training camp are full of equine residents.

As a kid who grew up more than a little horse crazy, CHR is my happy place. I had been volunteering there since last summer, until around mid-March per COVID-19 state regulations. Out of consid-

eration for the safety of their team, CHR asked me and the nearly 100 other volunteers to stay at home.

Director of Development Shawna English emphasised how much the rescue relies on this group of volunteers. "They basically do most of the care for the herd every week. It's a significant service that volunteers provide," she said.

Since mid-March, the rescue has been staffed by eight full-time staff members and a skeleton crew of volunteers, who have stepped up from working a single shift one day per week to working multiple shifts several days per week. "We have whittled it down to a very small group of volunteers coming multiple times per week, and our staff are part of the barn crew every day for every shift," English said. "We have to ensure we have consistent care for the 60 horses we have on the property."

From my vantage point on the road, the horses look happy and healthy, no worse for the wear. The people, on the other hand, are starting to feel the strain. Normally, a volunteer

shift at CHR consists of six to eight volunteers mucking pens, filling waters, feeding all 50 to 60 horses, tossing upward of 20 bales of hay in the pens and pastures. There is normally a morning and an evening shift every day of the week. In light of the circumstances of the last two months, the rescue has had to find other ways to support its mission.

Since it was established in 1986, CHR has placed over 1,600 horses in new homes. At any one time, about 65 to 70 percent of the herd might be made up of privately surrendered horses. Private surrenders can happen for any number of reasons—divorce, medical emergencies, changing job situations, or other unforeseen expenses.

Increasing unemployment rates, pay cuts, and other financial insecurity caused by the coronavirus are having an impact, and CHR is stepping up to help alleviate the financial strain faced by many horse owners. As part of its mission, CHR works with owners to provide short-term financial assistance through the Leg Up Program, which helps owners pay for things like hay or board when they hit a rough financial patch. English notes that normally they budget around \$2,500 annually for the program. As of this month, the rescue has already given upwards of \$8,000 in support of horse owners. "Our hope is their horse doesn't fall into the



Photo by Kristen Arendt

Colorado Horse Rescue main entrance sign.

system and become a surrender or go to auction," she said.

All this aid comes at a time when CHR's own operating budget is taking a hit. The rescue relies heavily on donations, many of which come from drop-in visitors, a luxury that the rescue doesn't have now. Other sources of revenue that have been impacted are their regularly scheduled horsemanship clinics and the Lead-Change corporate leadership and professional development program led by English. Both programs have had to be cancelled at this time.

But even as their revenue is decreasing, the number of at-risk horses is increasing. "The need out there is rising. As people lose their jobs or their

health is compromised, their horse is now in a vulnerable situation because they can't pay for board or hay," said English.

CHR recently took in 11 horses from a dude ranch that had to shut down its operation. In partnership with Drifters Hearts of Hope, Terolyn Horse Rescue, Safe Landing Horse Rescue, and DDFL Harmony Equine Center, the five rescues were able to save all 58 horses surrendered by the ranch with the aim of re-homing all the horses. It was a team effort that English is clearly proud of. "We're all in this together," she said. "We're all trying to save horses."

As with every horse that

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# ZIMMERMANN

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She looks back on that experience and sees early seeds that led to her career life and other volunteer opportunities. Zimmermann put her minor in education to work as a school volunteer in Niwot, working with academically challenged kids. Eventually, she was hired as a paraprofessional, doing behavior coaching in the autism program. "I had a lot of patience and lots of love," she said. "I discovered that I had a passion for helping kids find their own potential. So much of the time they are told what they can't do. When you focus on what they can do, surprising things happen."

She left a lasting impression with Niwot Elementary School teacher Dale Peterson. "She's got a big smile on her face. She's willing to jump in and be willing to do whatever needs to be done. The epitome of kindness -- the kids loved her and the staff loved her," said Peterson.

Today, Zimmermann runs a business teaching a movement technique called neurofitness. She works with children with disabilities, older people and those who want to feel better and stay healthy. While her in-person business is on hold, she's volunteering her neurofitness skills to get a class of first-graders moving -- a sort of fancy recess that doesn't require a playground.

Before neurofitness, Zimmermann ran a health website. Her communications skills are being used to support local events and promotions for the Niwot Community Association. She is especially proud of an NCA project last fall that honored veterans.

People could buy banners for their loved ones that featured biographical information and how they served. The banners were displayed in downtown Niwot. "It didn't matter political

affiliations, it was all about celebrating people who have given us the freedoms we have and cherishing that," Zimmermann said.

Learning new things is one of the benefits of volunteering. One of Zimmermann's friends at the Niwot Historical Society asked if she would be interested in helping. She admits that she's an unlikely membership director for the organization. "I'm not a history buff. I could not give you dates or any kind of battle or anything. It's not about that, it's a new way of finding out about the history of where we live. It tapped into a different way of learning, so that's good."

"Diane is sunshine with a warm heart and positive attitude," said Kathy Koehler, who works with Zimmermann at the Niwot Historical Society and NCA. "Her creativity and organization skills are key and she is always supportive, responsible and helpful on any project."

The volunteer work reflects Zimmermann's appreciation for being part of Niwot for 14 years. "We love the community of Niwot. We love the children coming up in Niwot. I am so grateful I got to raise my three kids here. For the most part people really want to have community. They want to have a nice experience with their neighbors and celebrate. I get to be part of planning that," she said.

Zimmermann loves a good celebration, whether it is a local parade, a birthday or graduation. She is currently hatching a plan to honor local graduates who lost out on ceremonies this spring. Every night at 8 p.m. she joins in to celebrate health care workers who are on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic. "We sit by the fire pit and wait to howl," she said.

It's not quite a howl, but we're happy to honor Diane Zimmermann with a Left Hand Laurel for all the ways she gives to individuals and the community.



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# Niwot LID debates small business relief

By JOCELYN ROWLEY  
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On Tuesday, May 5, the Niwot LID advisory committee gathered via videoconference for its first monthly meeting since March. Unsurprisingly, the coronavirus pandemic and its ongoing economic impact on Niwot drove the discussion.

## Summer Events

Noting a paucity of funding requests on the board's official May agenda, chair Laura Skaggs opened the meeting by asking LID members Bruce Warren and Eric Bergeson (presidents of the Niwot Cultural Arts Association and Niwot Business Association, respectively), to update the

committee on the town's annual slate of summer concerts, parades, and art walks.

First up was Warren, who reported that the NCAA's premier event, the Rock & Rails weekly concert series, is in a "holding pattern." Now in its 15th year, the 2020 series was originally scheduled to kick off in Niwot's Whistle Stop Park on June 4 and run for 13 weeks through August 27. Typically, the NCAA requests and is granted \$10,000 to help offset costs related to promoting Rock & Rails.

"It appears that we won't be able to have concerts in June—July would seem to be the earliest possible date," Warren said. "But it could be August, or it could be that we don't have a concert series.... We thought it was appropriate to postpone consideration of our funding request, because if the concert series is shortened, it will probably reduce our funding request accordingly."

The NCAA has also postponed its monthly First Friday Art Walks until further notice, as well as an upcoming Family Art Walk. Warren left open the possibility that funding requests for these events could be considered in future months, depending on the prevailing public health orders, but said these would likely be substantially smaller than expected.

"We're anticipating, as I'm sure you all are, that revenues from the one-percent sales tax are going to decline sharply, starting with March...and probably for the foreseeable future. We want to be respectful of the other funding requests, and take those into consideration when we know more about what we're going to do."

Bergeson reported that the NBA, which co-manages Rock & Rails with the NCAA, is also planning to scale back its upcoming activities in light of the potential revenue concerns Warren mentioned, as well as the uncertainty regarding the pandemic. But two projects still in the works for the summer are planting flowers for Cottonwood Square and 2nd Avenue businesses, and a coat



Photo by Karen Copperberg

1914 House is serving customers again after the state and county shut-down orders forced the popular Niwot eatery to shutter for most of March and April. The Niwot LID board is considering how to use local funds to help such businesses survive the near-term.

of paint for the caboose, though a more extensive makeover was originally proposed.

"We're taking an "assume the worst" view from a budget standpoint," he said. "We want to be optimistic, of course, but from a funding standpoint, we want to just assume that things are going to get pushed out for quite a while."

Another event still on the docket, at least for now, is the town's annual 4th of July celebration. Appearing for the Niwot Community Association with the only funding request for the month, Kathy Koehler asked for \$1,970 to go towards advertising and other promotional materials for the day-long event, which typically kicks off with a pancake breakfast at Niwot Market, followed by a patriotic parade down 2nd Avenue.

Koehler acknowledged that the festivities will likely be postponed until a later date, but said the NCA still wants to have all of the funding, permitting, and planning paperwork filed on time. However, they don't plan to incur any expenses until the date for the event is firm. The request was approved unanimously.

## Treasurer's Report

LID Treasurer Bruce Rabeler was unable to attend the May meeting, so county liaison Mark Ruzzin delivered his monthly report. As of April 30, the board has approved \$91,909.61 in funding requests, leaving \$57,403.39 in its 2020

budget of \$149,313. On the revenue side, collections continued to surge in January, after breaking the monthly record in December 2019. The district earned \$18,802 in the first month of 2020, up more than 50% from the same period the year before (\$12,492). In February, LID revenues were a more moderate \$14,307, up 9% from 2019, but down from 2018 (\$16,218).

"You're still ahead year to date after two months," Ruzzin said. "Obviously, it's going to be in March when you start to feel the effects of the pandemic."

But it could be several months before the extent of those effects are known, as the State of Colorado extended its monthly sales tax filing deadlines in light of the mandatory business closures during March and April. According to Ruzzin, it is likely to be late summer before spring revenue reports are available, and subsequent reports are also likely to be delayed. "Unfortunately, it's going to handicap planning a little bit, but there's obviously not anything we can do about that."

## Small Business Emergency Relief

Ruzzin then introduced Boulder County policy analyst Summer Laws to discuss the launch of a \$200,000 emergency fund to provide grants to small

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# HISPANIC

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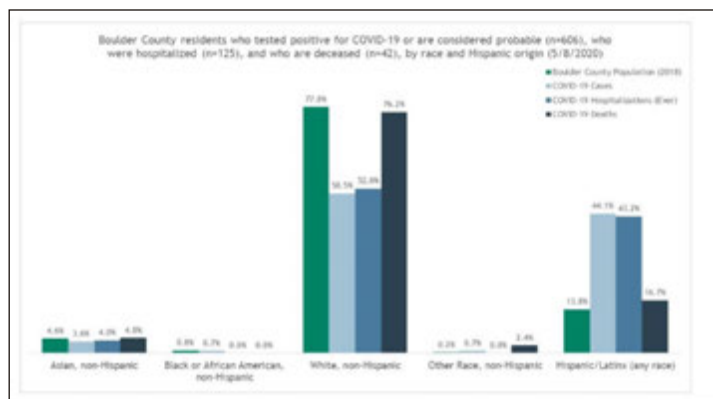
need to help people coming into an organization, it is often difficult for them to move up in leadership positions because of the potential loss of help in customer-facing positions.

Another way in which many Latinx community members are affected relates to education. Since moving online, the City of Boulder, for example, has set up a number of hotspots for children to do schoolwork. But even if the matter of internet access is partially solved, for many students and families, there is also the issue of limited equipment.

"The expectation that K-12 and our higher education kids should be doing a full-time job [of being a student] is problematic," said county commissioner candidate Marta Loachamin.

However, the arguably larger reason that this community is affected is because of the lack of effective language access and lack of access to resources.

Boulder County alone is home to approximately 5,000 undocumented or mixed status families. As such, many of these families have been left out of the stimulus check and other benefits associated with the CARES act. "They were set up strategically from our federal



Graph courtesy of Boulder County Public Health

Boulder County residents identifying as Hispanic/Latinx make up less than 14% of the population, but constitute 43.2% of all COVID-19 hospitalizations. "Boulder is a very resilient community," said Cultural Brokers Resilience Program Coordinator Guillermo Estrada-Rivera. "But sometimes we don't see that all sectors of the community recover in the same way... People who are ethnically diverse, who are in mixed-status homes, are going to be affected differently."

government [so] that they will not receive relief [or] protection, and putting them at a higher risk of infection," explains Maya Sol Dansie. Dansie works with Boulder County public health and is the program coordinator for the Genesister Program through the county.

As a result, many of the community partners like Philanthropiece have partnered with the county's Cultural Brokers Resilience Program, led by Guillermo Estrada-Rivera to create a massive index with resources, specifically aimed at helping the Latinx community, but particularly, monolingual Spanish speakers. "It's so hard and overwhelming for a person

to navigate, then add the barrier of language and culture and the fear of exposing yourself," said Soto.

What is most exciting about this resource database is that it's language accessible and the cultural brokers are finding ways to effectively get that information out to the community, Estrada-Rivera explained, "Cultural brokers have been in the picture since about the 80s, but they weren't acknowledged until after the [2013] floods. It was institutionalized this year to help people connect communities and act like bridges between the services provided and the communities they serve."

One reason cultural brokers are so important and useful is because they often come from a background where they already understand the community. So in distributing information, they often know which channels work and know how to best explain situations.

Sifuentes described how many of our immigrant neighbors might interpret guidelines too strictly, or they might not understand. For example, saying "six feet," makes sense to many, but if a person is more familiar with the metric system, it is more meaningful to say "two meters."

"The main tool is google translate, for any language, it's not accurate," explained Loachamin. "Boulder County now has a group of community volunteers to donate time to translate now under COVID. The issue with that plan is that it's not sustainable to ask volunteers to do the work of the local government, and it's [disrespectful to translators who translate for a living]."

Dansie agreed, "It's not just language translation, it's a whole cultural literacy that's needed to be inclusive."

Estrada-Rivera explained that language access should be the minimum for the county to strive for. However, more important is creating trust and a relationship between commu-

nity members and the boards and organization which serve them. "If people don't trust you, they aren't going to access it [the resources]. It's a multilayered process. You need to invest in cultural brokers and create those relationships where the community can feel at ease accessing those resources."

In addition to the resource database, Philanthropiece has raised \$75,000 for the "Undocu-Relief Fund," which was created to give cash assistance to families most in need but ignored by the CARES act. Soto stressed that it is a supplemental fund, and one they designed to strategically connect community members with other resources.

It is the hope of all these community members that stronger relationships can be built between the various levels of Boulder County government and the various sub-communities they serve.

"It takes time to work through government," said Sifuentes. "Rebuilding that trust with our community is going to take time, but we're in it for the long run."

For more information about the "Undocu-Relief Fund" and the culturally appropriate information in Spanish about resources, ordinances, safe practices, etc., please visit [www.facebook.com/bocosuma](http://www.facebook.com/bocosuma)

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## LID

Continued from Page 6

businesses located in the unincorporated parts of the county, including Niwot. The fund was approved by the Commissioners on May 5, and opened to applications on May 8. County businesses with fewer than 50 employees are eligible to apply, and could receive up to \$7,500 in "gap funding" to help support operations in the short term. Laws said preference will be given to those companies "most critical" in their communities. (See page 3 for more information about this fund).

Laws noted similar initiatives in other Boulder County communities, such as Nederland, and offered to assist the LID board if it were to recommend launching a Niwot-based small business

relief program, an idea first proffered by Skaggs.

"I sent Mark [Ruzzin] an email a while ago, saying is this a time we take a look at some of our LID funds and see if we can feed some back to the community that has provided these funds now that they are in need," Skaggs said. "It's been a wonderful fund to have, and we have used it very effectively and creatively in town, but right now, the businesses themselves are hurting, and our funds are small, but is there at least something we can do as a gesture to show that we understand, and we're in this together."

Skaggs opened the floor to suggestions for such a program, and board members chimed in with several, including free consulting and marketing services for local businesses, especially those who need assistance

with applying for emergency grants or loans. Direct cash grants were also a popular suggestion, and probably the most efficient way to get help to those businesses most in need, according to Bergeson.

"It would certainly be a very powerful way to prop things up in Niwot," he said. "This isn't about sustainability, so much, it's about getting through a certain period. My biggest concern right now is that there are a number of businesses who just might not make it through this two or three-month period, and we need to pull them out."

Discussion ensued over the many logistical hurdles that administering such grants would entail, such as how to identify such businesses and how to fairly distribute the funds. There is also a question about the legality of such a program.

"We are trying to get clar-

ity from the attorneys about whether or not you can actually use LID funds and do a grant program with direct payments to businesses," Ruzzin said. "Some of this is caught up in state statutes, and what sales tax-funded Local Improvement Districts are permitted to spend their money on."

The group considered more details for another hour, but eventually decided to discuss and resolve the issue of a Niwot-based relief fund at the next monthly meeting, when more data is available.

### New Business

Ruzzin announced an upcoming county transportation study that will help inform the upcoming bus rapid transit (BRT) program connecting Longmont and Boulder along State Highway 119 (the "Diagonal").

"The study is going to take a look at enhancing the 'first

and final mile' connections to transit on the Diagonal Highway," he said.

The county is seeking a Niwot resident to participate in the study. For more information, contact Ruzzin at [mruzzin@bouldercounty.org](mailto:mruzzin@bouldercounty.org).

### Old Business

Warren provided a brief update on the proposal to build a public parking lot in Niwot. Several residents along Murray Street have requested a sidewalk on the east side of the facility, which the NBA has agreed to add to its plans if there is support from the community. The group is also working with new owners of the Excel Electric building to improve access to downtown, and has applied for grant funding to build an electric vehicle charging station.

The LID will meet next on Tuesday, June 2 at 7 p.m.

## HORSE RESCUE

Continued from Page 4

comes onto the CHR property, there are plenty of expenses that the nonprofit has to balance. Generally, a single horse might cost anywhere between \$400 to \$600 per month if an owner is paying for both feed plus board. For owners who have their horse on their own property, feed typically runs about \$200 to \$250 per month. And this monthly average doesn't take into account vet and farrier bills for horses needing regular check-ups, medication, and routine hoof and dental upkeep.

To add to the complexity of the issue, as English said, "We need to adopt horses in order to save more horses." With CHR at capacity and potential adopters unable to visit the property in the last six weeks, English said that they have had to resort to phone calls to court prospective adopters—which they have done successfully although at a slightly slower rate than normal. With the Boulder County stay-at-home order lifted as of May 8, CHR plans to allow adoption visits for one visitor per day—hoping to connect the right person with the right horse as part of the ongoing adoption program.

Another primary avenue CHR is leaning on to support at-risk and in-transition horses during this time is foster homes. Private individuals or stables with the capacity to take on the short term care of one or more horses saved by CHR can be a temporary lifeline for a horse that might otherwise go to auction and be at risk of going to slaughter.

"Because we can't take volunteers right now, giving financially is foremost," English said when asked how people could help. "Second, there is so much need, and we have a capacity, that we are trying to locate as many foster homes as possible. If everybody could open up their barns to one horse, it would make a huge difference in the amount of intake we could do for at-risk horses."

As with many nonprofits in the area, English has been humbled by the positive response of the community during this time. In a recent #GivingTuesdayNow campaign, the rescue raised almost \$13,000 from 120 donors. "It's been amazing to see the community stand up and support horses during this time,"



Photo by Kristen Arendt

Flame, one of the horses at the Colorado Horse Rescue.

she said.

Driving by the pastures as I do every so often on my way home from the grocery store, I wave out my car window at the sun-bathing horses, shouting hellos to the ones nearest the road, and think of CHR's slogan: "The only difference between a rescue horse and any other horse is a set of circumstances."

And I am glad to live in a

world where even with a set of circumstances as unforeseen and unprecedented as a global pandemic, there are people willing to set aside the time and resources to care for at-risk horses.

For more information on the Colorado Horse Rescue, to view adoptable horses, or to make a donation, [visit www.chr.org](http://www.chr.org).

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## LONGMONT HUMANE

Continued from Page 1

socialization in a more natural environment, said Brackenridge. "They were spending the time in homes and enjoying everything that comes along with that. We're so grateful. We try our hardest to provide a really great quality of life for the animals [in the shelter] but it's still an artificial environment, so it's difficult, really impossible to replicate a home setting. Their stress level, one would assume, goes down and benefits them healthwise and likely behaviorally," she said.

Stacey McBride was already a foster volunteer before the closure. She got two puppies in March. She said one of the benefits of fostering is that it helps animals be successful once they've been adopted into a new home, preventing them from being returned. "We expose them to as many things as we can - cats, grandkids, other dogs."

She also spends time training and doing the normal necessary duties. "It is a lot of work. I have picked up a lot of dog poop." She's had several pups in her home over more than a year of fostering. One she kept and two went to family members. The rest went on to find their forever homes. "It's bittersweet when it's time for them to go," she said.

As many as 128 animals have been in foster care during the humane society's closure. The shelter sent up to two-thirds of their animals to local homes so it could reduce the amount of people in the building who needed to care for the animals.

Some of the fosters have accidentally found their forever home in the process. Others will stay in foster care for now while some may return to the shelter at some point depending on new protocols for human social distancing, which will be implemented, evaluated and tweaked as needed. The shelter still plans to minimize the number of humans on site, Brackenridge said, which means fewer animals in the building than they had before the closure. For now, that means only staff. On-site volunteers are not coming back yet.



Courtesy Photo

Rusty is a four-year-old dog looking for his forever home. Longmont Humane Society is open again, but adopti are by appointment only.

On May 9, LHS started allowing [adoption by appointment](#) only. Those interested in adoption start by looking at [animal profiles on the website](#). The next step is calling the shelter to speak with a staff member about the animal. If the person is still interested, a private visit will be arranged. The shelter has installed plexiglass barriers at the public desks, and is sanitizing and taking other precautions to keep staff and the public safe during the adoption process.

Brackenridge said there have been more inquiries in the past week as people look forward to bringing a special pet into their lives. "People are excited about the opportunity," she said, but noted that reopening will take time. "It will be a very measured and slow return. We're doing our services in a different way for the foreseeable future. We're going to take some time to figure out how to do this safely," she said.

[Services and programs](#) other than adoption, like the Well Pet

Clinic, are operating on a limited basis. Training classes are still canceled. And the organization's thrift store will be permanently closed, a difficult but necessary decision according to the LHS website. "It is with a heavy heart that we must inform you that the LHS Thrift Store will not be reopening after our COVID-19 closure. This pandemic has negatively affected many businesses, including our own. It will be missed by all of us."

The organization has taken a big financial hit during the shutdown, according to Brackenridge. It had to cancel its big spring fundraiser, Homeward Bound, and other revenue streams due to the pandemic. The shelter was able to get a loan through the federal Payroll Protection Program, allowing it to keep staff and fund critical needs. But that only lasts a couple of months.

An online auction is planned for June 4 - 7 to help with the ongoing need for funding. It will feature items that had been donated and were ready to go when Homeward Bound was canceled. "We felt like we wanted to work hard and be up and available for people to participate online. It's been a lot of work. But it's exciting," said Brackenridge who added that any financial donations would be appreciated. "If they can, and feel comfortable doing it, their support right now means a lot to us."

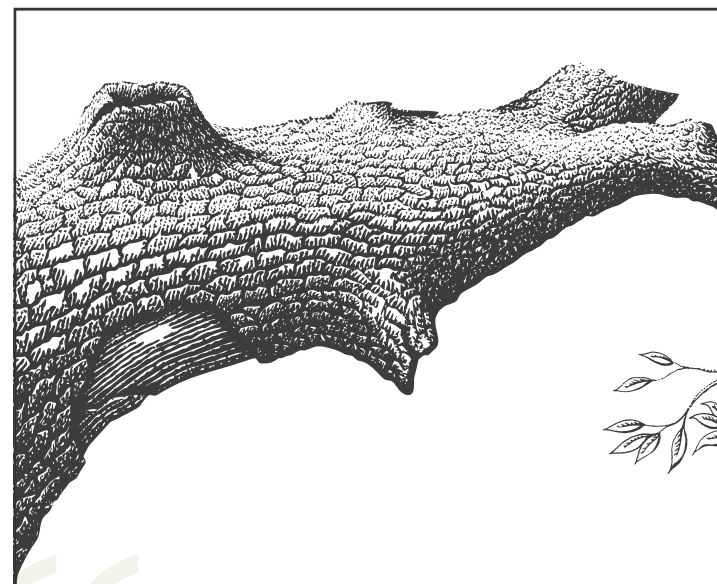
That support will mean that more animals will find their forever home, even if it takes a while. The shelter has a saying whenever a pet is adopted, Fluffy or Spot is "going home." Those happy words are being said again, a welcome phrase for the animals in need and the people who need them too.

## The BEST of ...



The pandemic has been especially hard on local business, and the "Left Hand Valley Courier" wants to help. Starting next week, the "Courier" will feature the Best of Niwot and Gunbarrel businesses. But rather than turn it into a popularity contest, the feature

will highlight what customers or clients say is "best" about the business. We will start with some of our advertisers. Feel free to chime in with your comments at [editorial@lhvc.com](mailto:editorial@lhvc.com). Tell us what you like Best about Wyatt's.



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# Food systems and priorities in the time of COVID-19

By ADRIAN CARD

Colorado State University Extension  
Boulder County

Eating at home more lately? You are not alone. Consumer food demand has pivoted abruptly over the past two months from about 50% of meals consumed outside of the home to virtually none. My experiences early in this shift revealed household purchases stripping local supermarket inventories, leaving shelves bare of produce, meat, eggs, paper products, etc.

Trade associations and supply chain experts note there is no major lack of US food supply, aside from some slowdown in meatpacking due to workforce health issues, but explain that for some products, a food producer's ability to pivot from food service types of processing and packaging quickly is a huge challenge. Think about packing lines that have been built to fill milk in cafeteria style small cartons for schools quickly adjusting to the demand for milk in gallon jugs now needed by families with kids not in school. Even if a food manufacturer has a production line to fill milk into gallon jugs it probably is not sized to the current demand for gallon jugs.



File Photo

A shift of food demand from restaurants to homes led to food shortages at grocery stores in the first week of the COVID19 health emergency.

Our food system, like much of our modern food supply chains, has developed into specific processes for specific markets. As such, our lack of patronage at restaurants has thrown a huge wrench into the food service supply chain – its producers, packagers, and distributors – that now needs to figure out how to repackage or reroute product to buyers who don't want pre-cut onions in 20-pound bags, flats of 3

dozen eggs, or a 25-pound box of steaks.

The USDA saw this mismatch of product specifications along with record unemployment and increasing need for food assistance and recently put \$1.2B to work, tasking food distributors to create boxes of fruit and vegetables, meat, and dairy and in sizes suitable for households. In addition, distributors needed to deliver those boxes at no cost, to

food banks and other eligible non-profits. This redirect of the supply chain through the Farmers to Families Food Box program will help farmers, ranchers, distributors, food banks, and those in need of food during this disruptive time.

Coloradans love to eat out and many of us are bemoaning curbside pickup and home delivery versus the experience of dining in some place other than our home. For our restaurants to stay in business they need our patronage. In addition to the curbside and delivery experiences, consider buying gift cards that provide some

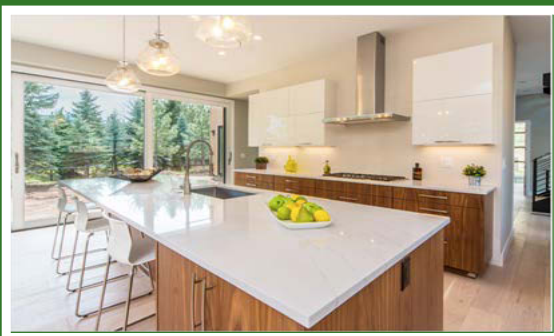
cash flow now for restaurants to be there in the future for us.

Similarly, our farms and ranches that create the value for the restaurants that feature Colorado products need your support. An April 8 statewide survey of 63 farms and ranches conducted by the Colorado Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association and Colorado State University Extension indicates there is a 20% slowdown in wholesale channels, 32% slowdown in restaurant sales, and 25% slowdown in farmers market sales, with 30% reporting no sales at that date and thus no reference for reporting impact of COVID-19 on sales. Many farmers markets have created online sales platforms, and some are reopening to live marketplace sales on site. All are faced with sales volume constraints due to public health protocols in place. Now more than ever Colorado agriculture wants you to know that it is open for business, and needs your patronage.

In any given year, farming and ranching is risky business. Weather, markets and increasingly, the workforce makes this essential business a very fragile occupation.

We now have a small glimpse of what food scarcity might look like in a food-abundant country. What will we learn from this pandemic? We might learn that food is a national security issue and consider more often the stability of the Colorado farms and ranches that feed us.

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# SPORTS

## Kalyca Zarich runs 100 miles for health care workers

By BRUCE WARREN  
Editorial@lhvc.com

When COVID-19 cancelled the 100-mile run she had been training for, Kalyca Zarich decided to plan her own run, and benefit health care workers at the same time. Zarich, a furloughed manager and fitness coach at Orange Theory Fitness, and her boyfriend and one-man support crew, Logan Craven, live in south Longmont and often run and bike the trails in and around Niwot.

Zarich set out to run 100 miles in one day. She started her run at Niwot High School at 8 a.m. on May 8, setting out on the Niwot Loop Trail, heading to the LOBO Trail. She finished the grueling run just over 24 hours later, at 9:45 a.m. on May 9, running the final mile on the NHS track.

"I was looking for something positive to do, and decided to do this," Zarich said. "I got the fundraising contact through a friend so I could do something that would go directly to front line health care workers."

The friend put Zarich in touch with Project Helping, a Denver-based non-profit that uses volunteer opportunities to help people dealing with depression, and in turn, benefit the larger community. "Our mission is to improve mental wellness through the practice of kyndfulness," according to the Project Helping website. Zarich herself started running in college to help deal with depression and anxiety. The connection with Project Helping was a natural fit.

"This all came together in about 10 days," Project Helping Marketing Manager Olivia Venturini said. Venturini explained that pledges were made by donors, in many cases a dollar per mile, with an extra fifty dollars pledged if Zarich completed the run. Several donors had matching funds from employers.

"She raised almost \$10,000,"

Venturini said, and more funds are expected to come in. The funds are used to send Kynd Kits to front line health care workers. "A Kynd Kit is a care package for the workers," Venturini explained. "We put together a list of items they asked for most, based on a survey we did." The kit includes such items as a mask, coffee, chapstick, lotion, stressball, protein snack, toothbrush and toothpaste, as well as a card written by the donor, which adds a personal touch. Donations can be made at <http://coloradogives.org/kalycazarich>

Project Helping board member Michael Warren of Niwot was on hand to see Zarich off and returned for the finish on Saturday. Project Helping Founder Justin Kruger, who describes his position as "Chief Bottle Washer," came by later with his family to offer support. Several other Project Helping volunteers were on hand to cheer Zarich on, including Lorenz Delaney and Sue Venturini.

Zarich and Craven mapped out a route that measured 10 miles out and back, then added variations, including the Overbrook Trail, Cougar Trail, Somerset Trail, Legend Hills Loop and Niwot Hills Trail. Several friends ran with Zarich for part of the run, including physical therapist Kevin DeGroot, who paced Zarich on Friday. DeGroot said, "My goal is to go at it for the first half of the day." Another friend and co-worker, Casey Baldwin, ran the final 22 miles with Zarich. "I got here about 4 a.m. and ran with her the rest of the way," Baldwin said.

At the end, six members of the Niwot High track team, who showed up at the school to do a time trial, ran with Zarich and Baldwin for the last few laps around the track. Craven was ready to congratulate Zarich with a bottle of champagne, but noted, "She will probably want a Gatorade."



Photo by Jocelyn Rowley

Michael Warren and his son Bear Warren (left), Olivia Venturini, Lorenz Delaney and Kat Atwell of Project Helping were on hand to send Kalyca Zarich off at the start of her 100-mile run.



Photo by Jocelyn Rowley

Kalyca Zarich runs on the LOBO Trail at the start of her 100-mile fundraising run. "I'm smiling under the mask," Zarich said.



Photo by Jocelyn Rowley

Project Helping Founder Justin Kruger (left) greeted Kalyca Zarich and her boyfriend, Logan Craven, when she stopped to refuel at Niwot High School.



# Niwot Senior Sports Spotlight: Baseball

By JOCELYN ROWLEY  
Editorial@lhvc.com

The 2020 Niwot baseball team had just three seniors on the roster, but what they lacked in numbers, they more than made up for it in baseball and leadership talent, according to head coach Adam Strah. Unfortunately, the coronavirus pandemic put a premature end to a promising season behind the trio, and ended their chance to leave a winning mark on the Cougars program. Bidding farewell to the program in 2020 are Felipe Castro, Tim Stokes, and Ben Strid. We asked the departing seniors to reflect on their time at Niwot and share their future plans.

## Felipe Castro, INF

**What are your plans after graduation?**

I plan on attending the University of Wisconsin after graduation. I'm not gonna be playing baseball.

**Before it was canceled, what were you looking for-**



Courtesy Photo

Third-year varsity senior Felipe Castro spent most of his time with the Cougars manning third base.

**ward to most about the 2020 season?**

I was excited to be a senior this year with nothing to lose. Over the past couple of years I tend to overthink or become

stressed in games. This was going to be the year where I could have let that all go and play some ball.

**What is your favorite memory from your time on the Niwot baseball team?**

I have memories on the field, but the bonds I have formed with teammates and coaches off the field are priceless. Through my three-and-a-half years of Niwot baseball I have made connections with people older than, younger than me, and people I normally would never have a chance to meet if it wasn't for baseball. I will say watching a freshman Will Smith on the mound be taken 450 [feet] over the left field scoreboard his freshmen year is always a favorite.

**What advice do you have for incoming freshmen?**

For incoming freshmen, never take anything for granted. Nothing is guaranteed in this world and I made the mistake of realizing that too late. You will have four years of high school and it's not gonna



Courtesy Photo

Senior Tim Stokes played infield for the Cougars and was a solid contributor at the plate.

be perfect but make the most of it because you never know what you have until it's gone. If things get tough keep your head up. The years go by fast and you'll be graduating before you even know it.

## Strah's comments

"Felipe loves playing the game. He keeps it light and puts a smile on everyone's faces. He has intangibles that not every player brings to a line up,

which is why he found himself in ours since his sophomore year."

## Tim Stokes, INF

**What are your plans after graduation?**

I am going to Notre Dame to study business.

**Before it was canceled, what were you looking forward to most about the 2020 season?**

Playing baseball as a senior and one of the leaders of the team. I was also looking forward to spending time on the field with my friends playing the game we love most.

**What is your favorite memory from your time on the Niwot baseball team?**

My trip to Arizona last year was one of the best times I have had with the team.

**What advice do you have for incoming freshmen?**

Baseball is a game of failure so don't be afraid to fail. Give every play your best effort.

Continued on Page 14

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## STUDENT-ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

## Maedee Trank-Greene

By JOCELYN ROWLEY  
Editorial@lhvc.com

Pringles® may not represent the Platonic ideal of a potato chip, but its stackable shape makes for a fascinating computational challenge, according to Niwot senior Maedee Trank-Greene. The self-described “total math nerd” investigated the hyperbolic paraboloid structure of the famous “potato snack” for her senior-level IB math class, and called it one of the highlights of her four years at Niwot.

“I loved writing my math IA, which is not usually what people say,” Trank-Greene said, referring to an “internal assessment,” or self-directed project. “I love investigating something I didn’t really know much about or how to do.”

That love of learning has served Trank-Greene well during her time in Niwot’s rigorous IB diploma programme, but has also led to its share of stress. When things get tough in the classroom, the busy student often turns to her other passion and takes out her academic frustrations on the court.

“Tennis and all the exercise and activity definitely helps relieve stress,” she said. “That’s why I love playing sports so much, because it

lets me have my mind on something else, rather than how many assignments I have or how many tests I have. I’m just playing tennis and that’s what my focus is.”

Trank-Greene picked up her first racquet as a kindergartner, and has loved to play ever since. She has been a formidable presence in Niwot’s doubles lineup for three seasons, which she attributes to a strong backhand and good taste in partners. She even has hardware to prove it, but earning that hardware meant dealing with some disappointment first.

“After my freshman year, we were a good enough team to win state, but we all pretty much choked at the beginning,” she said. She and her partner were bounced after the first round in 4 Doubles. “We were really ready to come back that next year and use our anger to win the championship.”

A risky strategy, but it paid off for The Cougars, who stormed to an undefeated season, and then stormed their way to the top of the Class 4A podium with a dramatic win over nine-time defending champion Cheyenne Mountain. Trank-Greene and her partner also took home the trophy in 3 Doubles without dropping a single set.

“It was a really great feeling,” she said. “I remember



the moment when we all realized that no one else could beat the amount of points we had. It’s such an amazing feeling to put a bunch of work in, and get the outcome that you wanted.”

The feeling was somewhat less amazing the next year, when Niwot was edged out of first place in the team standings, even as Trank-Greene repeated as individual champion, this time at 2 Doubles.

“I was really really happy for myself and the other lines that won as well,” she said. “Unfortunately, a lot of people were sad when we didn’t win as a team. So I just let everyone feel their emotions, because I didn’t want to make anyone upset.”

Whether that disappointment could have led to another Niwot tennis championship in 2020 will remain forever unknown, as will the ultimate disposition of Trank-Greene’s quest for a third state title. What is known is that she no longer has to worry about a potential conflict between state tennis and IB testing, a Pyrrhic victory at best.

“It was pretty frustrating and difficult to deal with at the beginning of the season, because I wasn’t really sure if I’d be able to play. Unfortunately, both got cancelled. I’m not too sad about my tests, but it didn’t really work out.”

When she’s not on the court on in the classroom at

Niwot, Trank-Greene enjoys spending time with identical twin sister Julea, a sprinter on the track team. Though the two share a lot of interests, that wasn’t the case when it came to their sports of choice.

“Julea used to play tennis as well, but she didn’t like it, so she stopped playing,” Trank-Greene said. “And I did track in middle school, but I wasn’t as fast as her. When you’re a twin, people constantly compare you to each other. It’s really nice to have separate sports, where no one is concerned about who is better than the other.”

Trank-Greene is now looking ahead to life after high school. She plans to enter CU’s College of Engineering in the fall, and avail herself of as many math classes as possible. She also hopes to make tennis a regular part of her life, whether on CU’s club or intramural teams. Until then, she will content herself with memories of a high school career that may have been bookended by disappointment, but was filled with a lot of triumph along the way.

“It was really fun being a part of Niwot tennis,” she said. “I’ve had a really strong team my four years of high school, and it’s just such a fun energy with everyone. It’s just a fun competitive environment.”

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# Niwot track coach Henriques and wife battle COVID-19 diagnosis

By Jack Carlough  
Editorial@lhvc.com

When Niwot High School track coach Maurice Henriques discovered he had contracted the coronavirus, he was neither surprised nor intimidated. Henriques's wife Christina works as a nurse and with her increased exposure, they were both prepared for a COVID-19 diagnosis.

Fortunately for Henriques, he believes his week-plus stretch of mild symptoms is improving and his wife's symptoms have subsided after just a few days. His wife has even been cleared to return to work as soon as next week. "She's a lot tougher than me I guess," Henriques said with a chuckle.

Nurses are certainly one of the many heroes during this pandemic and Henriques's wife has taken working from home to a whole new level. She watches her husband's symp-

toms closely and even urges him to set up appointments with his doctor.

"If I'm sleeping she'll wake up and go, 'Yeah I was listening to your breathing last night,'" Henriques said. "I feel completely safe if she sees something. ...That makes me not worry about anything."

His good spirits were evident but Henriques wants to assure everyone that the coronavirus is nothing to take lightly. Symptoms can differ between people and Henriques has fought through fevers, fatigue and shortness of breath.

"It can be scary for some people, like just walking up a flight of stairs can completely knock you out and then you have to go lay down, and in your chest it's just so heavy," Henriques said. "For me it's just weird. I've never felt anything like that. I've never had a cigarette in my life, never smoked. It's crazy to see how

much it affects your lungs."

A former football player at the University of Colorado and a dedicated morning runner, Henriques is thankful that he has stayed in great shape to fight the virus. His advice to people looking to gain an edge is simple, "Get out there and run, walk, do something."

Most days for Henriques now consist of near complete isolation in his room and away from his mother who is quarantining in a separate area of the house. To stay on the safe side, Henriques said they sometimes don't even see each other for days.

Although he was prepared for the diagnosis, his experience with the virus has brought upon a new perspective.

"If you had asked me two weeks ago, I probably would've been like, 'Hey man, we need to get everything back to normal. Let's go.' But now I'm just like, 'Wow,'" Henriques said. "Actu-

ally going through it and living through it, like wow."

Henriques recommends the utmost caution as our community begins its return to normalcy. He wants people to recognize that just because the virus may not have affected somebody you know, there is no room for complacency.

"I just want people to be aware like, 'Hey, this is for real,'" Henriques said. "You (have to) be smart because I think they're going to start opening things up, but we really aren't set until we get a vaccine on this. Just in my own household, the effects are totally different where my wife was probably about three or four days (with symptoms) and I'm at a week now and still not recovered. It can affect people differently."

Another, more pleasant surprise for Henriques, has been the immense amount of support he has received from

the Niwot community. From friends and family to peers on the track, everybody has Henriques' back.

"(I) appreciate all the support," Henriques said. "I've even had two ladies that walk on our track reach out and send me an email. They don't even have kids at Niwot (High School) but they reached out because they heard about me. I thought that was cool."

Moving forward, Henriques feels overcoming the coronavirus will change the way he approaches life. Whether it's aiming to do things in your life for the right reason or an increase in gratitude, Henriques has found his silver lining. "We'll look back at it (and think) what did we learn? It's going to change the way that I go about life and the way I coach, especially in this situation."



Courtesy Photo

Senior Ben Strid played outfield and pitched for Niwot during his junior season.

## BASEBALL

Continued from Page 12

### Strah's Comments

"Tim listens more than he speaks. He leads by example. He is so humble that I am con-

fident he is not fully aware of how good of a baseball player he is."

### Ben Strid, OF, P

**What are your plans after graduation?**

My plans post high school

are to attend school at Mesabi Range College in Minnesota as a student-athlete playing baseball. I will be majoring in health and physical education in the coming future.

**Before it was canceled, what were you looking forward to most about the 2020 season?**

This season the team had a different feel in a really good way. Everyone was flying around the field during practice and playing the game the right way. We had just a different attitude and hunger this year. I was really excited to play the game I love with my boys, and enjoy one last year of high school baseball.

**What is your favorite memory from your time on the Niwot baseball team?**

My favorite memory with Niwot was the Arizona trip. It was so fun just to have more time with my teammates, and play some good competition out in Arizona. One of my best memories playing for Niwot was when we all gathered in coach Strah's room for some team building and we played a game, I forget the name, but it

just brought everyone together. We were all actually laughing so loud someone called and complained. Everyone always jelled better after Arizona.

**What advice do you have for incoming freshmen?**

For incoming freshmen I would say enjoy it. Enjoy the successes but also learn to find joy in failure. Failure is just an opportunity to succeed. It sounds cheesy but I found

that to be true. You never know when it could be your last game on a baseball field, so work hard and play every game like it's your last.

### Strah's Comments

"Ben is a hard worker. He never wants to let himself or his teammates down. It pains me that we missed out on experiencing his senior leadership this spring."

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# Niwot Senior Sports Spotlight: Girls Tennis



Courtesy Photo

Annie Heinritz is headed to Denison University in Ohio after graduation.



File Photo

Senior Lily Sieben was on track to win a third straight state doubles championship, but her senior season was cancelled due to the COVID-19 health emergency.

By JOCELYN ROWLEY  
Editorial@lhvc.com

Girls tennis was one of the few Niwot programs to complete matches before the coronavirus pandemic put a premature halt to the 2020 season, and if the Cougars' early 2-0 record is any indication, they were on a fast track back to the top of the statewide rankings. Leading the charge for Niwot were four highly experienced varsity seniors, who were all eager for a chance to bring home another



File Photo

Tehnley White

Class 4A championship and cement their legacies in Niwot tennis history.

"These four seniors have been a big part of Niwot girls tennis success over the past four years, all of them being a big part of winning a state title in 2018 and a runner up in 2019," head coach Aimee Keronen said. "I know they would have done amazing things yet again this season too. They will be sorely missed and I wish them the best."

We asked the departing seniors to reflect on their



Courtesy Photo

Senior Maedee Trank-Greene was 2-0 with 2 Doubles partner Georgia Lang before the season was cancelled.

time at Niwot and share their post-graduation plans.

## Annie Heinritz—3 Doubles

Annie Heinritz amassed an 20-2 record in her three seasons as a Niwot varsity doubles player, netting one state title and two regional titles. As a junior, she and her partner took third overall at the Class 4A state championships.

### **What are your plans after graduation?**

My plans after graduation are to attend Denison University and I hope to play some tennis while I'm there.

Before it was canceled, what were you looking forward to most about the 2020 season?

I was looking forward to playing with my partner Emily Creek again this year and playing at the state tournament again.

### **What is your favorite memory from your time on the Niwot tennis team?**

A highlight from my time on the tennis team was definitely winning state my sophomore year. It was such a fun team and the whole season was fun, so winning state was the perfect way to end the season.

### **What advice do you have for incoming freshmen?**

Some advice I have for any in-

coming freshman is to enjoy the sport. It can be very frustrating sometimes, so if you can't have fun during the matches the season won't be very fun.

## Lily Sieben, 1 Doubles

Lily Sieben is a fourth-year varsity veteran, who was looking to win a third straight state doubles title for Niwot. In four seasons with the Cougars, she amassed a 29-3 record and won three straight regional titles.

### **What are your plans after graduation?**

I plan to attend Merrimack College in Massachusetts to study athletic training and possibly play tennis.

### **Before it was canceled, what were you looking forward to most about the 2020 season?**

Before the season was cancelled I was most looking forward to spending my senior season with my friends and our state trip to Pueblo.

### **What is your favorite memory from your time on the Niwot tennis team?**

My favorite tennis memory from Niwot was winning state as a team and individually sophomore year.

### **What advice do you have for incoming freshmen?**

Advice I have for any in-

coming freshman is to try to have fun and not take things too seriously.

## Maedee Trank-Greene, 2 Doubles

Like senior teammate Sieben, Maedee Trank-Green was looking forward to competing for her third straight state doubles title at this year's championships. Heading into the 2020 season, she had a 30-3 overall record.

### **What are your plans after graduation?**

I will be heading to the University of Colorado Boulder to study applied mathematics and mechanical engineering. I plan on joining the club tennis team at CU Boulder.

### **Before it was canceled, what were you looking forward to most about the 2020 season?**

What I was really looking forward to this season was the state tournament. The state tournament is always the highlight of the season and I was really hoping on winning for the third time and hopefully bring home an individual and team state title.

### **What is your favorite memory from your time on the Niwot tennis team?**

My favorite memory from my time in Niwot athletics was winning state as a team in my sophomore year. I just remember the moment when all of us knew that we had won and it was the best feeling ever.

### **What advice do you have for incoming freshmen?**

Advice that I would have for incoming freshmen is to not take for granted the opportunities that you are given. High school flies by and is it important to make the best out of it. Be a part of things that you find fun and make you happy because the memories and friends that you will make will last a lifetime.

## Tehnley White, 1 Doubles

Senior Tehnley White is another fourth-year varsity veteran, who capped off her junior season with a third-place finish in 3 Singles at the 2019 Class 4A state tennis championships.