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SPORTS
Celebrating the
Class of 2021

P. 14

Niwot brings back Dancing Under the Stars

By HANNAH STEWART

The year 2019 saw the end of Boulder's iconic Dancing Under the Stars after 35 years of offering free summer dancing nights in the middle of town. That same year Catherine McHale, a member of the local dancing community herself, decided that it shouldn't completely disappear, it should just move to Niwot.

"I saw a Facebook post of the original organizers who said they had to cancel it... They hadn't managed to get an agreement with the city," she explained. "So I approached Cottonwood Square and we did it for the first time in 2019 and



Courtesy Photo

Niwot will once again host its outdoor dancing series this summer, starting in June. Organizer Catherine McHale said, "It's a way to see your friends and neighbors in a different context and enjoy the music... It's great, I'm so excited that we're going to bring it back."

Continued on Page 11

Heroic German shepherd was beloved by Niwot Elementary kids

By PATRICIA LOGAN

He was 120 pounds of black and brown love at the end of the school day for kids at Niwot Elementary School. For the past two years Sully the German Shepherd would wait outside the school to pick up his three "sisters," Maggie, Abigail and Emma, and walk them home. The girls and their classmates would blast out of the school doors, eager to find Sully and engulf him with their affection.

"I don't really think the kids were ever scared of him, because he just had this demeanor to him that you knew he was just the sweetest boy ever," said Mom, Lucia Richardson.

"They loved him and wanted to pet him," said seven-year-old Abigail Richardson, who never got tired of petting



Courtesy Photo

Sully and five-year-old Emma Richardson enjoy a sunny day. The German Shepherd came into the family when the oldest of the three girls was a baby. Troy Richardson said Sully acted like they were his little sisters, protecting and playing with them, "They would dress him up and he would let them."

her beloved dog. "He would make my heart warm whenever I would pet him and he is so soft."

Sadly, Sully wasn't waiting at school when the semester

Niwot Jewelry 25th + Pinocchios + Ivy and Thistle = Time to Celebrate

By DEBORAH CAMERON

When you hit a major business anniversary there's reason to celebrate. When owners open two businesses in the middle of a pandemic, there's a different reason to celebrate. Adding it all together results in the triple celebrations taking place next weekend for Niwot Jewelry & Gifts, Pinocchio's restaurant and Ivy and Thistle hair salon.

Over the past few months, Jan Kahl and Jason Scarbrough, co-owners of Niwot Jewelry & Gifts, took the lead organizing the event in honor of their store's 25th year in business, and to show the connections they have with the other businesses that share their 2nd Avenue plaza location. The family-friendly festivities start on Saturday, June

12, from noon to 5 p.m. and feature music, some drinks, and treats including popcorn and cotton candy.

A highlight of the event includes a 3 p.m. gift drawing. Prizes include a half-carat diamond pendant provided by Niwot Jewelry & Gifts and a celebration basket that includes gift cards and products from all three shops.

To enter, go to the jewelry store on any day leading up to the event to submit an entry. Winners have to be present during the drawing to claim their prize.

Niwot Jewelry & Gifts, one of Niwot's longest-term retail businesses, is celebrating a quarter century doing business here.

Continued on Page 4

ended. The 10-year-old Shepherd unexpectedly passed away from cancer a few weeks ago, leaving a Sully-sized hole in the hearts of the Richardson family, the students and other Niwot community members. People have dropped off flowers in the family's backyard. "Everybody just loved Sully," Lucia said.

Sully loved going for walks around town and beyond. He attracted admirers wherever he went. "We would get more compliments on him than we ever got on all three of our kids," said Lucia.

The dog's size was matched by his enormous capacity for kindness, something the family said he offered to people, dogs and wildlife. "He was just always very calm and very sweet for how big he was. We would

have bunny rabbits and squirrels in our back yard because they all were friends with him," Lucia said.

There was one exception. The family went on a camping trip near Aspen last summer. They finished a hike and had a snack. Parents Troy and Lucia were relaxing in their camp chairs with Sully at their feet while the girls were playing in a stream when a cinnamon-colored black bear came out of the bushes.

"When I saw the bear, I was thinking, What do I do? My bear spray was back at camp. I can't punch a bear," said Troy. "It was kind of scary, because the bear was very curious about what was going on."

Continued on Page 11

Community

C A L E N D A R

ROCK & RAILS

Niwot's summer concert series, Rock & Rails, kicks off its 15th season on Thursday, June 3, at Whistle Stop

Park. Opening act Pacheco & Bower takes the stage at 5 p.m., followed by the headliner Mojomama at 6:30 p.m. Admission is free, but

donations to the Tip Jars are highly encouraged. For more information, see pages 6-7.

DANCING UNDER THE STARS

Dancing Under the Stars makes its 2021 debut on Friday, June 11 at 7 p.m. in Cottonwood Square. For more information, see page 1.

CAR SHOW FRIDAYS

Niwot Market and Niwot Tavern are hosting classic car shows on Friday nights from 5 - 8 p.m. in Cottonwood Square. Car enthusiasts are invited to park their hot rods, muscle cars, and lowriders at the Market or just come by and look, and then head to Niwot Tavern for socially distanced live music.

cash prize for early educators in St. Vrain Valley, sponsored by the Longmont Community Foundation and the Alchemy Fund. Parents, guardians, community members and organizations are encouraged to nominate a dedicated teacher who instructs preschool to third grade in the St. Vrain Valley area (as defined by the [district boundaries](#)). To nominate someone, fill out the

[application form](#) and create a short video supporting your candidate. All nominations must be received before midnight on June 4. Winners will be announced mid-June 2021. For more information, contact the Longmont Community Foundation at 303-678-6555.

JURIED ART SHOW

Submissions for the Niwot Cultural Arts Association's annual Why Not Niwot? juried art show are due June 14. Grand Prize is \$500, and

the People's Choice prize is \$100. Entries from finalists will be displayed throughout Niwot during July and August, and the winners will be announced at the Niwot First Friday Art Walk in September. For more information or to download an application, visit [niwot.com/events](#).

GOT POTHOLES? HERE'S HOW TO REPORT THEM

If it's springtime in Colorado, then there are potholes. If you have a pothole in your neighborhood, go to [www.bouldercounty.org/transportation/road-maintenance/road-service-request/](#) and fill out the online request form. Besides potholes, the form also accommodates issues with culvert or drainage problems, damage or missing street signs, traffic or speeding issues and tree or vegetation problems.

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Editor Jocelyn Rowley	Business Manager/ News of Record Vicki Maurer	Reporters Kim Glasscock Hannah Stewart Pattie Logan Vicky Dorvee Kristen Arendt Deborah Cameron
Production Nesscel Calara	Media Director Selene Luna	Sports Reporters Jocelyn Rowley Bruce Warren Jack Carlough
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Find out more about our team at LHVC.com/About

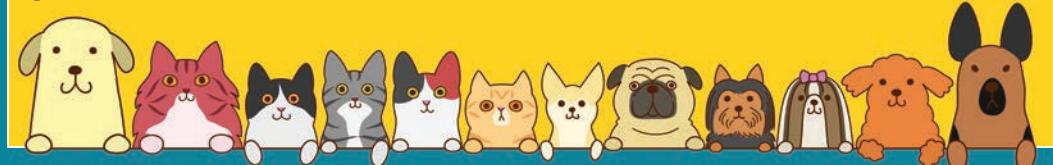
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LHVC PET SPOTLIGHT

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Meet Sky! Sky is a 3-year-old Blue Heeler mix. If you are familiar with the breed, you know that they are VERY smart and determined pups. Sky is very friendly with people and other dogs alike. He is searching for an energetic family that will give him the attention and exercise he needs. Sky's favorite pastimes include fetch, chase and snuggling with a human companion. Sky is being fostered through Farfels Farm and is currently residing with a family here in Boulder. **If you are interested in meeting Sky or any other awesome pups, please go to farfels.com or call (303)443-7711.**



LEFT HAND LAUREL

SHANA OEHMKE

By VICKY DORVEE

This month's recipient of the Left Hand Laurel is Shana Oehmke, uber-parent volunteer at Heatherwood Elementary School (HES). Living just three blocks away from the school for the last 15 years, the Oehmke children had an easy commute to HES; Henry is a third-grader this year, Charlotte is in seventh grade at Platt Middle School, and Amelia is a sophomore at Fairview High.

HES school office manager Marlys Lietz wrote, "Shana has worked hard to keep our school finances in order and has been especially attentive during this year of the pandemic when we were unable to hold our usual school fundraisers. She is quick, smart, and always serves with a smile."

Oehmke grew up in Tennessee, earned an undergraduate degree in psychology in Pennsylvania and then attended graduate school at the University of Michigan and Michigan State where she and husband Bob met. She was studying school psychology when she had her first child and decided it was more fun to stay home and play with the baby than any other option. Bob's job as a computer scientist with NCAR prompted the move from Michigan to Gunbarrel.

It comes as no surprise that with a love for children and an interest in school psychology. Shana's caring about kids and their education continued to figure prominently in her life.

"When Amelia was in kindergarten, I got my first Heatherwood volunteering job," Oehmke said. "I volunteered in the kindergarten classroom working with small groups of kids."

This year marks her eleventh year of giving time and energy to HES.

Lots of teacher directed

classroom tasks and preparing dinners for parent-teacher conference nights were ways in which she'd pitch in. Working in the school library also became a focus for Oehmke. Her younger children would come along, keeping busy with quiet activities while Oehmke helped students find and check out books.

Three years ago, much to her surprise, Oehmke became HES's Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) treasurer.

"I never thought I'd get involved in PTO because I thought, 'Oh, that's for all

the political go-getters and I like my little job of shelving books in the library where it's quiet and I see the kids."

With the encouragement of other parents, Oehmke applied for the treasurer's position, was elected, and has since found it very interesting to be part of the inner workings of the school budget, fundraising, and helping the school maintain fiscal responsibility. The job is a two-year position, but because of COVID all members of the PTO board continued in their positions.

Continued on Page 9



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Jewelry

Continued from Page 1

The third generation jewelers offer personal services such as repairing heirloom jewelry and timepieces, as well as creating custom design.

Kahl simply said, "It's pretty amazing to reach 25 years."

Scarborough, who is Kahl's son and business partner, added, "We certainly didn't realize we'd last through the ups and downs of life as a small business. We were tested."

He cited both the economic downturn of 2008 and the recent pandemic as examples. "Those are big challenges for a business to pull through. We were shut down for two months, but we were still working even though we couldn't see customers. We were able to keep going due, in a large part, to the community here."



Photo by Katie Scarborough

Jason Scarborough and Jan Kahl are celebrating Niwot Jewelry 25th anniversary.

The pandemic has proven to be a challenge to the other businesses as well. Opening at a time

when in-person customer interactions are limited brings a host of issues to work through.

In a previous Courier article,

Kelsey Deboard, Pinocchio's new co-owner, said they had to cut back hours and relied on help from family.

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Now that the pandemic appears to be on the downturn and community activity is starting to open up, all three businesses continue to have their doors open and are thriving.

Deboard said they have more staff generally, but they're still looking for some team members, such as a cook. "But with as busy as it's getting and with things turning around with Covid, I think it will all work out. We're excited to celebrate our new lives, our big change and being a part of the community here in Niwot."

Progress like that provides all the more reason to celebrate next weekend. Hopefully, community members can join them and show their support for this latest example of resilient small and family-owned businesses that are part of Niwot's healthy downtown community.



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HOW DOES NIWOT WORK?

PART 13 - THE NCA

By BRUCE WARREN

The Niwot Community Association (NCA) began as a reaction to a regional shopping center proposed by an out-of-town developer in the early 1980s.

The concept put forth was that the property kitty-corner from the IBM site on the Diagonal Highway would be developed into a regional shopping center as part of a plan to incorporate the town of Niwot, with a sales tax providing all the revenue the newly incorporated town would ever need. At the time the City of Boulder had not yet annexed the IBM site or the would-be shopping center property and Twin Peaks Mall in Longmont did not exist.

The shopping center idea

did not sit well with most Niwotians, and a group of residents organized to oppose the proposition. The designation of Niwot as "semi-rural" in the Boulder County Comprehensive Plan, adopted in 1978, did not seem to include a regional shopping center.

The group was successful in forcing the developer to abandon the proposal, and the loose-knit group continued to meet. It began organizing other events in the community, including sponsoring a community-wide celebration known as Niwot Nostalgia Days, which had first been organized in 1968 by the Niwot Volunteer Fire Department. The summer event continued for many years, with the NCA taking over sponsorship,

but eventually fell by the wayside after 2012 as volunteers willing to coordinate the event were found lacking.

The NCA, as it is common-

ly known, was incorporated as a non-profit corporation on May 23, 1988, with Howard Morton, Selene Hall, Bruce Warren, Jerry Sinor, Mary Kay

Cialone, James Martinsen and Donald Reeb as the board of directors. The stated purpose

Continued on Page 12



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Rock & Rails 2021: know before you go



File photo

The 15th edition of Rock & Rails kicks off with Mojomama on Thursday, June 3.

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By JOCELYN ROWLEY

Niwot's popular summer concert series Rock & Rails kicks off its 15th season on Thursday, June 3 with local duo Pacheco & Bower at 5 p.m. followed by headliner Mojomama at 6:30 p.m. Admission is free, and gates open at 4 p.m., but before you fold up your camping chair and head to Whistle Stop Park, organizers from the Niwot Cultural Arts Association are asking guests to be courteous and exercise reasonable COVID safety precautions.

"We're strongly encouraging people to be safe," NCAAA

officer and event co-manager Vicki Maurer said, adding that they are following current Colorado and Boulder County public health recommendations on outdoor public gatherings. "We're going to encourage concert-goers to wear masks, and encourage social distancing between groups."

With Boulder County getting the all-clear for outdoor gatherings on May 16, Maurer said that the NCAA's leadership decided only at the last minute to go forward with the full 13-week concert series. Before the restrictions were lifted, the group had considered requiring reservations or even charging admission to control crowd size and enable contact tracing. But as county vaccination rates rose and COVID cases fell during the spring, having a more-or-less "normal" Rock & Rails became an appealing choice. As of now, there are no plans to limit attendance, but Maurer said that could change if crowds get too "out of control."

"Our whole goal is just to let everybody come out, have a reasonably priced night, be able to get food and drink and not spend 100 bucks," Maurer said. "At first, I was a little nervous when we started talking

about it earlier in the year. But now, I'm pretty comfortable that we'll be able to provide safe concerts."

Masks will not be required of volunteer staff members, except for the Gargoyles, who are mostly under the age of 18. The NCAA has placed additional handwashing stations in Whistle Stop Park, and will be making more hand sanitizer available. Other changes to the park could also make distancing easier to maintain, Maurer said.

"With the building now, I think there's actually going to be more room for social distancing," she said, referring to The Depot, a permanent beverage station constructed in the park last spring. "In front of the building, they've taken away the electrical panel, and a tree, and it just seemed to open it up more in that area."

That should also keep beer, wine and margarita lines further apart, and moving more quickly, she continued.

Otherwise, the 2021 Rock & Rails experience will be familiar to returning guests. The opening act takes the stage at 5 p.m., followed by the headliner at 6:30 p.m. Seating is on a first-come, first-serve basis, and if you want a chair, you'll need to bring it yourself, as there are only a few picnic tables and a couple of benches for seating.

A variety of food vendors will be on hand once again, including Abo's Pizza, Savory Saigon, Georgia Boys Barbecue, and Sweet Cow, plus a rotating series of local food trucks. Beer and hard seltzer from Bootstrap Brewing Company and guest brewers will be available for \$6, as will wine and margaritas. (Prices are \$5 during "Happy Hour" before 6:00 p.m.)

Attendees are welcome to bring in their own food, but outside alcohol is strictly prohibited. Nor will patrons be allowed to leave with alcohol they purchased at a concert, even if it's just to check on their kids at

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Continued on Page 7

ROCK & RAILS

Continued from Page 6

the adjacent Niwot Children's Park. Alcohol is not allowed at the Children's Park either.

The NCAA has also decided to extend the ban on dogs at Rock & Rails to prohibit all animals, regardless of size, to ensure the safety of both concert goers and the animals. Service animals are the only exception, and emotional support animals are not considered service animals.

As for getting to Rock & Rails, attendees are strongly encouraged to walk, bike, or take one of the pedicabs, operated by Niwot's Robbie Vinson. Rides are free of charge, but tips to the drivers are encouraged. If you drive to the concert, the best place to park will be the vacant lot west of Murray Street, future home of Niwot's 14-space public parking lot, which is currently under construction.

Rock & Rails is also bringing back the Tip Jar program in 2021. Thanks to the generous donations of concert goers over the past 15 years, this program has raised tens of thousands of dollars for non-profit organizations in Niwot and surrounding communities. In 2019, a total of \$19,888 went to 16 local groups, an average of over \$1,200 per concert. This year, 17 groups have applied to collect funds, hoping to make up for lost fundraising opportunities in 2020. (For a complete list of organizations and dates they will be collecting, visit LHVC.com/calendar.)

Maurer acknowledged that there are still some unknowns about Rock & Rails in 2021, and the NCAA is taking a "wait and see" approach to stricter safety measures. But if all goes according to plan, it should be another great year of free entertainment in Whistle Stop Park.

"I'm really looking forward to it," she said. "People are ready to get out and have fun. It should be a great year."

June 3	Mojomama (funky blues rock) Pacheco & Bower	July 22	FACE (all vocal rock) Strangebyrds
June 10	Augustus (indie rock) Niwot Community Semi-Marching Free Grange Band	July 29	The Long Run (eagles tribute) Dean Himes
June 17	Crick Wooder (grateful dead/eclectic rock) Wrenn & Ian	Aug 5	Bluez House (high energy blues) Nick Dunbar & Friends
June 24	Los Chicos Malos (cuban jazz, salsa, cha-cha) Jenn Cleary	Aug 12	Girls On Top (rock, pop rock, blues) Legitimate By Friday
July 1	One on One (motown) Alan Knight & Company	Aug 19	Last Men On Earth (rock) Blue Train Jazz Quartet
July 8	Selasee & The Fafa Family (reggae) Wendy Woo	Aug 26	Hazel Miller & The Collective (soul/blues) Nalani
July 15	Chris Daniels & The Kings with Freddi Gowdy (funk/blues) Tim & Jenny		



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GUEST OPINION

Stop expanding the Urban Heat Island effect in Boulder

The Urban Heat Island (UHI) effect arises when natural environments are replaced with artificial surfaces such as concrete and buildings, which absorb solar radiation differently. When nature is built on, the benefits of natural evaporative cooling and carbon absorption are lost. In addition, the heat produced directly by new human activity in the area (including transportation and air-conditioning) creates “islands” that are warmer than the surrounding areas -- an effect that has major adverse effects.

The Celestial Seasonings development (LUR2020-00063) as proposed will strengthen the UHI effect in this part of Gunbarrel and accelerate climate change. The developers will cut down mature trees and dig up the entire parcel and then pave parking lots, sidewalks, and wider streets. Most of the land that's left will become buildings (siding and roof-

tops). A few new small trees and a plot of grass will not compensate for the UHI effect all this development will bring to the neighborhood.

Comparable developments have recently been built in this area: Gunbarrel Center, Boulder View, Apex, and Diagonal Crossing. Then add the construction at 30th and Pearl and the planned Odell Place and Waterview developments and you can see Boulder is on a building spree. The UHIs are adding up.

UHIs are a serious problem here in Colorado. Denver has one of the most intense UHI effects in the nation, making summers for Denverites hotter and keeping the city unseasonably warm during the winter. As you've probably noticed, “Denver has faced rising temperatures, a record 75 days above 90 degrees this year, with projections showing 20 to 35 days a year topping 95 degrees by 2050.” This

is unfortunate given that heat-related illnesses are the number one killer of people from natural disasters, more than all others combined.

Despite being fairly close to Denver, the open space around Boulder allows it to cool off better. However, as suburbs keep sprawling and natural vegetation and soil are paved over, Boulder will heat up more. Boulder averages about four days per year when the heat index reaches at least 90 degrees. However, if Boulder responds slowly to curbing climate change, we can look forward to 27 days above 90 degrees by mid-century.

Even more concerning, as Boulder works to be a racially sensitive city, the UHI effect deepens the racial divide. Yes, communities of color and low-income individuals suffer more from the UHI effect. UHIs create ideal conditions for formation of smog, which acts as a heat-trapping barrier, concentrating pollut-

ed air, and Black Americans in particular are more likely to have preexisting conditions that are exacerbated by heat and air pollution.

And if all that is not enough, Black, Native, and Latinx Americans are more likely to be uninsured than other populations, making them less likely to receive adequate health care.

Here's what this comes down to:

Every piece of natural land lost exacerbates the UHI effect. Wherever roofs and pavement replace natural vegetation and soil, we contribute to this problem. The Celestial Seasonings proposal sprawls onto undeveloped land that now supports a vibrant wildlife population and protects against the UHI effect. This ultra-high density development will bring man-made heat and congestion to these parcels, as well as to roads and neighborhoods nearby. Boulder should not break new ground, especial-

ly when many locations in Boulder need to be redeveloped. Sustainability and climate sensitivity tell us to not build on natural places, but reuse areas we have already disturbed.

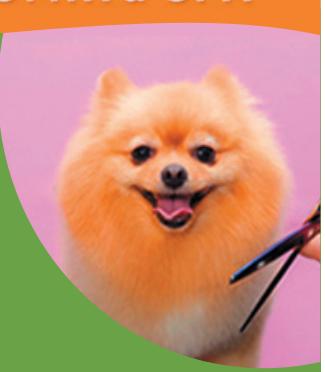
We have a responsibility to future generations and to our minority population to be smarter in our development decisions. For Boulder to continue to be one of the most coveted places to live, we need to be careful how we use our scarce land resources. Gunbarrel needs a sub-community plan immediately before any high intensity projects are considered. The Celestial Seasonings proposal, LUR2020-00063, should be shelved for the time being.

Thank you.
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Laurel

Continued from Page 3

In her treasurer's role, Oehmke manages all aspects of the PTO's money. She had experience doing her family's finances, but no formal background in accounting. Still, Oehmke got her arms around the tasks she needed to perform.

As a board member, one of Oehmke's responsibilities is to assist in fundraising in order to supplement the school district's budget. In a typical year, the PTO facilitates numerous fundraisers like the Boosterthon running event and auctions. In lieu of in-person events, other creative virtual fundraising events took place over the last year, including a dance

party, along with game night and yoga events.

In particular, Oehmke said, the majority of the funds raised are needed to ensure the school has more para educators on hand. Para educators support teachers in numerous ways such as facilitating break-out math and reading groups, supervising on playgrounds, and offering individual attention.

Funding also goes toward enrichment programs such as the outdoor education program and a new program called No Place for Hate, as well as helping to shore up classroom supplies for students who are unable to afford them.

Elections were held in early May and Oehmke will be passing on the treasurer's position to another parent

volunteer before school begins next fall. Going forward, she'd like to take on other volunteer positions within HES, especially in classrooms again.

Volunteering at HES is a family affair. Bob Oehmke serves on the school accountability committee. The committee includes parents, teachers, the principal, and community members, who assess school performance, recommend improvements to the school, and evaluate the school budget. Shana's mother, Sheila Hunter, who also lives in Heatherwood, is a retired teacher volunteering in the HES health room.

"We love volunteering at school, our whole family does," Oehmke said. "I think that partnership between school and home is

so important, and we've really learned that this year. Once everybody had to be at home, it definitely was a whole involvement of parents and staff working together to keep the kids interested and progressing in school."

In addition to giving time to HES, Oehmke has a love for music and sings in her church (Immaculate Conception in Lafayette) choir and

has recently joined the Virtuosity Choir run by Stephen Ross of FACE. She's a hiker, reader, baker, and knitter. She just rejoined the Boulder Community Knitting Group, meeting once a month to make warm items which are donated to local charities.

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Heroic

Continued from Page 1

He was 120 pounds of black and brown love at the end of the school day for kids at Niwot Elementary School. For the past two years Sully the German Shepherd would wait outside the school to pick up his three "sisters," Maggie, Abigail and

Emma, and walk them home. The girls and their classmates would blast out of the school doors, eager to find Sully and engulf him with their affection.

"I don't really think the kids were ever scared of him, because he just had this demeanor or to him that you knew he was just the sweetest boy ever," said Mom, Lucia Richardson.

"They loved him and want-



Courtesy photo

Sully the German Shepherd went everywhere with his family. Last summer he charged an enormous bear that was coming toward the kids, getting within a couple feet of the bear before it ran off. "He was willing to give his life," Troy said.

Dancing

Continued from Page 1

it was absolutely a resounding success."

In addition to the locals, Niwot's first Dancing Under the Stars saw people from Denver, Fort Collins, Boulder and other areas come to the event. Some of the busiest nights had approximately 200 people.

"People were super grateful saying, 'Thank you so much for saving this event,'...It's a wonderful event and wonderful feeling for people," McHale said.

Similar to the last dancing series, there will be an actu-

al dance floor and a dancing lesson at 7 p.m. before open community dancing. Spanning from June 11 to Sept. 10 every Friday, there will be a number of salsa and swing dance nights, along with waltz and folk dancing nights.

"I saw all generations, families, people who were superb dancers and who were beginners. I'm so excited that we're going to bring it back," said McHale.

The event is set to be sponsored by the Niwot Business Association, with additional support from the Niwot Local Improvement District and various local businesses. In addition to being announced twice

ed to pet him," said seven-year-old Abigail Richardson, who never got tired of petting her beloved dog. "He would make my heart warm whenever I would pet him and he is so soft."

Sadly, Sully wasn't waiting at school when the semester ended. The 10-year-old Shepherd unexpectedly passed away from cancer a few weeks ago, leaving a Sully-sized hole in the hearts of the Richardson family, the students and other Niwot community members. People have dropped off flowers in the family's backyard. "Everybody just loved Sully," Lucia said.

Sully loved going for walks around town and beyond. He attracted admirers wherever he went. "We would get more compliments on him than we ever got on all three of our kids," said Lucia.

The dog's size was matched by his enormous capacity for kindness, something the family said he offered to people, dogs and wildlife. "He was just always very calm and very sweet for how big he was. We would have bunny rabbits and squirrels in our back yard because they all were friends with him," Lucia said.

There was one exception. The family went on a camping trip near Aspen last summer. They finished a hike and had a snack. Parents Troy and Lucia were relaxing in their camp

each evening, the sponsors will be featured on the Dancing Under the Stars social media pages. McHale reported that there has been an increase in interest in the page and messages inquiring about the event series.

"You don't have to know how to dance, you can just come and hang out," she said. "It's a community dance event, a chance to come together to enjoy music, dancing, and the beautiful Colorado summer."

For more information about the event, you can follow @dancingunderthestarsniwot on Facebook, and an Instagram page will be established soon.

chairs with Sully at their feet while the girls were playing in a stream when a cinnamon-colored black bear came out of the bushes.

"When I saw the bear, I was thinking, What do I do? My bear spray was back at camp. I can't punch a bear," said Troy.

"It was kind of scary, because the bear was very curious about what was going on."

Troy said the bear was enormous, perhaps 500 or 600 pounds, and it was heading toward the children.

"I accidentally dropped a blueberry and, the bear, he

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NCA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

of the organization was "to promote the general welfare of the Niwot Community, to pre-

serve its semi-rural character, to disseminate information to residents of the community and to respond to issues of concern to the community, and to promote and encourage charitable, social, cultural, civic and ed-

ucational activities within the community." Others who joined the board in the early years included Robert Parich, Scott Tennant, Joel Maguire, Nancy Smith, Lisa Kauffman and Tom Theobald.

The NCA worked with Boulder County to establish a transferable development rights (TDR) program to allow landowners in the vicinity of Niwot to transfer the right to build homes on rural property to land in the Niwot Community Service Area. The NCA, led by Tennant and Theobald, negotiated the number of housing units that could be transferred into Niwot, which was set at 93 units, many of which have since been transferred, providing additional open space surrounding Niwot. In addition, the Comprehensive Plan was amended to encourage an Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Boulder that would limit the city's expansion toward Niwot.

In 1996, a new slate of officers and directors was elected, including Rob Helmick, Debbie Quackenbush and Marty Kannowitz, with Bruce Johnson soon joining the group.

The NCA later became at odds with the Boulder County Commissioners and contentious issues such as a proposed recreation district and a proposal to dump biosolids on Gunbarrel Ridge divided the community. By 2000, a new group of officers, led by Jerry Sinor, Ed Kennedy and Sue Wilson, was elected with a stated goal of fostering an improved relationship with Boulder County officials.

Since then, the NCA has focused on presenting information to the Niwot community rather than advocating a position on issues. To that end, the NCA regularly hosts candidate forums, conducts surveys and sponsors community events.

Area representatives are elected to give the organization a broad base of input from the community. Membership for an individual is \$30 per year, with all 2020 members having been automatically renewed for 2021 without further payment of dues.

Some of the NCA's most important work involves working with Boulder County to establish and improve the trails in and around Niwot, which has resulted in an extensive network providing exceptional outdoor recreation in the com-

munity. The underpass mural on Niwot Road is also the result of NCA efforts to work with the Niwot schools and Boulder County.

The most popular event now sponsored by the NCA is the annual 4th of July celebration. Though the event was cancelled in 2020, the NCA plans a modified return of the event in 2021, complete with pancake breakfast in front of Niwot Market and a motorcade through residential areas replacing the traditional parade through the commercial district. The event will include a Grand Marshal, and in the past has also included an appearance by U.S. Supreme Court Justice Neil Gorsuch, a former Gunbarrel resident.

The NCA also sponsors an annual clean-up day in Niwot in May at the Niwot High School parking lot, and hosts National Night Out in August in conjunction with the Boulder County Sheriff's Department.

Most recently the NCA has sponsored a Veteran's Banner Project in conjunction with the Niwot Business Association, honoring veterans with local ties on banners hung throughout the Niwot business district.

The NCA worked with Boulder County to develop a parade permit process, complete with maps, guidelines and traffic control devices, which the NCA has made available to other non-profit groups and schools in Niwot.

NCA boundaries extend to Highway 52 on the south, to the Lake Valley subdivision to the west, to Oxford Road to the north, and to Highway 287 to the east. Current board members of the NCA include David Limbach (President), Tom Sesnic (Vice-President), Leonard Sitongia (Secretary), Terry Larsen (Treasurer), Diane Zimmerman, Craig Rahnkamp, Kim Hawksworth, Liz Schmidt, Mark Brigham, Derek Curd, Johnny Barrett, Laura Skaggs, Liz Marr, Kathy Koehler, Julie Breyer, Lynne Palmer, Pat Murphy, and John Barto. Recent past presidents have included Dick Piland and Neal Anderson.

For more information, or to join, visit www.niwot.org.

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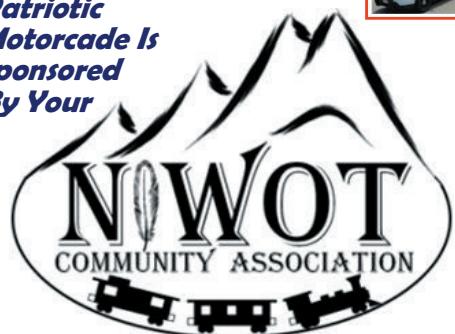
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Sidewalk Sale reveals some savvy places to shop

By NELLIE NIBNOSE

It wasn't exactly a dark and stormy day, but even with some

threatening clouds, plenty of folks braved the turn in Colorado's weather to enjoy themselves. From food to live mu-

sic to clothing, and of course catching up with neighbors, there was plenty to keep people busy.



Joan's Petite Sweets offered some tasty pick-me-ups for the hungry.

Photo by Nellie Nibnose



Long time Niwotian Pam Tennant shows off her handicraft featuring ancient Roman glass.

Photo by Nellie Nibnose



In-coming Silver Creek freshman Secorra Heinrichs and her organic Bean Tree Tea.

Photo by Nellie Nibnose

Rowley continues tradition of excellence in reporting



By MARY WOLBACH LOPERT

Congratulations to the Courier's editor Jocelyn Rowley for her first-place win in the Colorado Press Association's Better News Media Contest. Rowley's Sept. 9, 2020, article ["St. Vrain parents group seeks return to in-person learning"](#)

won first place in the Best Education Story.

The awards committee said, "Excellent, timely and comprehensive coverage of a critical issue for the community. Wonderful use of interview material and links. Strong analysis of the underlying issues. Very well done!"

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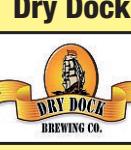
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"We were separated physically, but always connected in our hearts"

Celebrating the Class of 2021

By JOCELYN ROWLEY

After a school year filled with upended routines, unprecedented challenges, and, above all, uncertainty, 270 students from Niwot High came together on May 29 to mark the end of their high school journeys. For IB programme valedictorian Carter Kruse, graduation was also a chance to reflect on the positives that emerged during the pandemic year, and the importance of connectivity beyond Webex and Zoom.

"Without question, our senior year was a memorable one," the future Dartmouth student said during his address. "The coronavirus pandemic dramatically impacted how we attended school. We were separated physically, but always connected in our hearts through our experiences. I applaud all of you for overcoming the personal challenges you faced given the obstacles of this year. Despite the difficulties, you persevered, and you did so with grace and alongside others."

Perseverance in the face of adversity was a common theme among both the student and administration speakers,

but for Niwot principal Eric Rauschkolb, it was also important to remember that there had also been "a lot of good news," during the year, including athletic championships, international Thespian awards, and record-setting scholarship amounts.

"And lastly, we were able to safely return to in-person learning," he said. "All sports were played, the fine arts soldiered on, we had a senior luncheon, we had a senior class photo, we had a car parade, and we had a great prom that about half of our seniors attended thanks to [student council]. So we finished in a really great fashion."

With very few state or coun-

ty restrictions on outdoor gatherings, the 2021 ceremony was more traditional than not, with no mask or social distancing requirements. However, graduates were limited to six guests, and groups sat in small pods on the football field, then seniors lined up in small groups for their diplomas.

The crowd also heard from Niwot's IB Coordinator Elizabeth Towlen, and Karen Ragland, doing double duty as the parent of graduating senior Cynthia Ragland and a St. Vrain Valley school board member. The student speakers were student council president Ben Goff, who is headed to the University of South Carolina

on a ROTC scholarship, Kruse, and traditional program and Tufts-bound Victoria Isuani, who thanked Principal Rauschkolb for "giving us the most normal senior year possible under the pandemic circumstances," and urged her classmates to "be kind" as they venture out into the world.

"High school was hard. Today we celebrate the end of an era. But it's also the beginning of new chapters in our lives. Let's continue to be kind as we embark on new journeys. Let's be kind always. Be kind to yourself, to others, to those you know and don't know, and to our planet."

Continued on Page 29



Photo by Jocelyn Rowley

Niwot track stars Joaquin Herrera, Lucca Fulkerson, Connor Grant, and Curtis Volf skipped the Pomona Invitational on May 29 to attend their graduation ceremony instead.

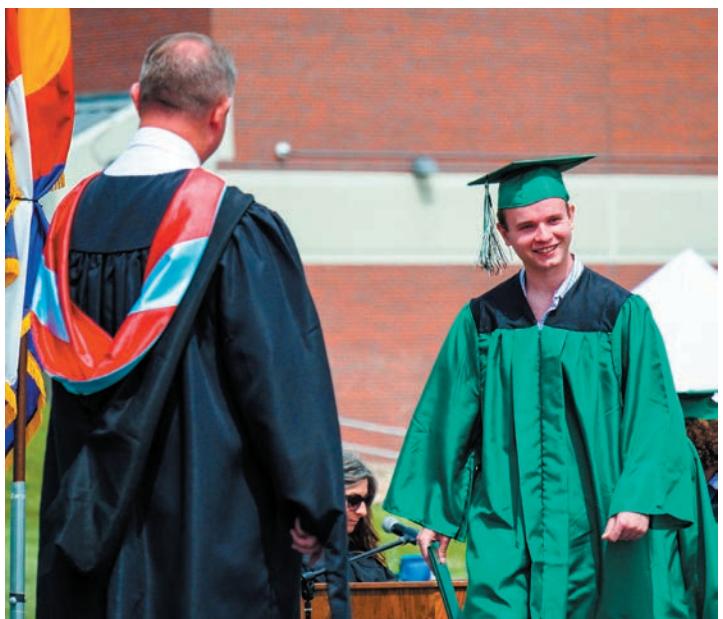


Photo by Jocelyn Rowley

Graduates-to-be wait patiently for their chance to shake hands with Principal Rauschkolb and receive their diplomas during Niwot's graduation ceremony on May 29.

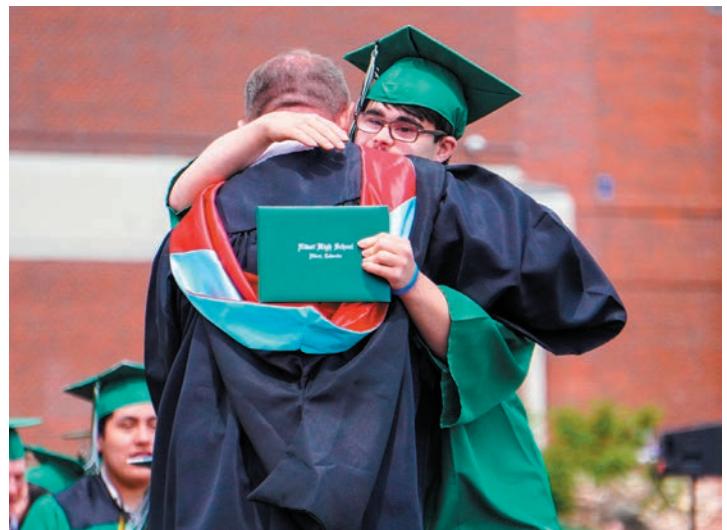


Photo by Jocelyn Rowley

Special needs students Donovan Schwartz (left) and Michael 'Misha' Barrett were thrilled to receive their diplomas from Principal Rauschkolb at Niwot High's 2021 commencement on May 29.



Photo by Jocelyn Rowley

Three Niwot High seniors pose for a graduation day photo before the official ceremony on May 29.



Photo by Jocelyn Rowley

Siblings Madison (center) and Donovan Schwartz pose with Niwot IB Coordinator Elixabeth Towlen after receiving diplomas.



Photo by Jocelyn Rowley

Ashton Campie and a group of friends chats while waiting for Niwot's 2021 graduation proceedings to formally begin.

Presenting the Caps of 2021



Photo by Jocelyn Rowley

One-size-fits-all gowns are flattering to no one, so those Niwot students who wanted to show a little flair at graduation took to the flat top of their caps. About half of the headpieces were decked out with sequins, flowers, glitter, or images. Many advertised the wearer's future place of study, but other students went for something more esoteric.

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To the Class of 2021



Photo by Jocelyn Rowley

Benjamin Goff served as Niwot High student council president in 2020-21, and is also a two-time state debate champion. After graduation, he plans to attend the University of South Carolina on an ROTC scholarship.

SPECIAL TO THE COURIER

The following is text of Niwot High Student Council President Benjamin Goff's commencement address:

In the years of 2002 or 2003, what would eventually be the Class of 2021 came into the world. We came into radically different circumstances from one another. It led us all here. The last 18 or so years have led to the end of the beginning of the journey which we will spend the rest of our lives on. I'm sure many questions will be asked, some without answers, but perhaps the most crucial will be, "How do I live well?"

At 9:00PM on March

5, 2021, I embarked on a journey that would be the hardest 48 hours of my life. In those 48 hours I would run 48 miles in 4-mile increments, with limited sleep, and limited recovery. Running every 4 hours meant I ran at 1 and 5 a.m., where the only light source you have is a bouncing headlight wrapped around your head, the light slightly moving left and right with every footfall and movement forward. By the end of my third leg, or 12 miles in, I knew how difficult it was gonna be. My calves had started locking on the run, and I knew I was in for what I had just experienced 3 more times. I dismissed the

thoughts of the remaining miles as quickly as I could, remembering that the only step that mattered was the next one, and the one after that, and eventually I would be done.

Lesson 1: Don't let the time or effort something requires intimidate you into not attempting or completing it.

Not one run on my challenge was done alone. On separate legs I was joined by my father, my sister, a male Irish Ultramarathoner with a fantastic sense of humor, a female winner of the Footlocker Cross Country

Continued on Page 19



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For IB valedictorian Kruse, math classes add up to success



Courtesy Photo

Carter Kruse, Niwot High's 2021 IB valedictorian on his speech: "My main message that I wanted to pass along to everyone is the idea of connectivity..."

By JOCELYN ROWLEY

Carter Kruse didn't set out to get the top grade point average in Niwot High's International Baccalaureate programme this year, but his penchant for hard work and precocious talent for advanced math made that outcome literally inevitable. Nonetheless, he was humbled by the honor, even though it seemed more a function of statistics than anything else.

"I am fortunate to be up there simply just because of some of the classes that I took," he said of being named IB valedictorian for 2021. "I took a couple of AP and IB classes in my sophomore year, and I think that helped to boost me above some of my peers. I don't think class rank is necessarily a reflection of someone's ability.... I know plenty of other students that have always gotten A's in classes, and they will be super successful."

Kruse's modesty obscures an academic career dotted not just with Niwot's advanced math classes, but also independent study in discrete

Continued on Page 23

ARTS STUDENT OF THE WEEK Zoe Craven

By JOCELYN ROWLEY

Recent graduate Zoe Craven is the Arts Student of the Week. Writes her teacher Laura Collier:

Zoe Craven is a very

talented Visual Arts student. Her work is skillfully executed and well thought out. It has been a pleasure to watch her and her work mature. I think maybe she has taken nearly every art

class we have here at NHS! It is definitely time for her to stretch those wings and fly! I will miss her, but I can't wait to see where she goes next.



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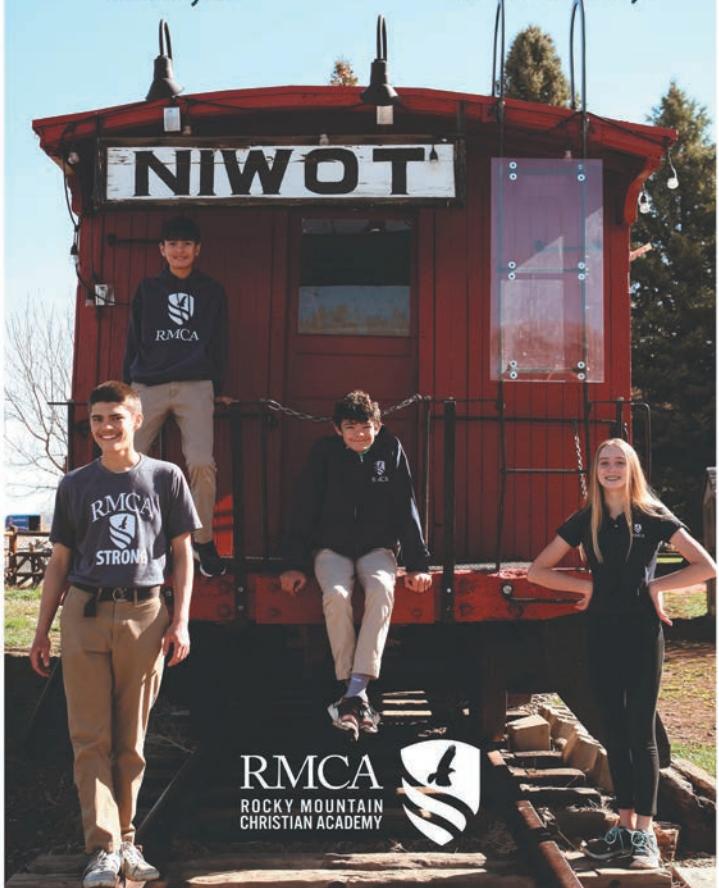
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Valedictorian Isuani motivated by new perspectives

By JOCELYN ROWLEY

Not many high school students relish the idea of delivering an important speech in front of a large crowd of strangers, but Victoria Isuani isn't like many high school students. When the Niwot senior learned she would have an extra responsibility at the 2021 graduation ceremony, she quickly went to work crafting a message that was "inspirational, but still lighthearted."

"The day that my principal told me that I was going to be valedictorian, right away, I started coming up with ideas and I was really excited to share my views with my class," Isuani recalled. "A big aspect of my speech is all about being yourself, and so I wanted to make sure that my voice really shines through and that I was authentic in my speech."

For her remarks, Isuani said that she drew heavily from her own experience during the COVID-19 pandemic and the disrupted school year. Early on, she opted to stay fully remote for her entire senior year, and that has been "a little bit isolating, especially socially," she said. At the same time, the new routines allowed Isuani to learn more about herself and gain new perspectives.

"I was able to develop my own personality and find my likes and dislikes, in a separate environment that I'm normally in," she said. "Being able to find myself was really important to me because now I'm more true to myself than I was before."

Apparently one of Isuani's likes is getting things done, and by the second semester of her senior year, that included high school.

"I actually found the at-home learning method pretty motivational because I had a lot more time to complete my work," she said. "This past semester, I actually took 10 class-



Courtesy Photo

In her valedictory address during Niwot's 2021 graduation ceremony, Victoria Isuani urged members of the class of 2021 to "be kind always," as they move through the next stages of life.

es. Finding that motivation was a little bit difficult at first, but then I just had to realize that I'm so close to being done with high school and starting the next step of my life."

The next step of Isuani's life will take her to Tufts University in Boston, Mass., where she plans to study international relations and film and media studies, with a minor in French or computer science. She's been studying foreign languages for several years, including four years of IB French and two years of IB Spanish at Niwot.

"I just love the language classes because they're so culturally oriented, and you really learn how to develop your conversational skills," she said of her time at Niwot. "All the teachers are just so nice. And they're very kind, and they really open your eyes to the world, not necessarily what's in the textbook."

As for her interest in computer science, Isuani said taking Intro to App Development from Niwot teacher Teresa Ewing last semester had been an eye-opener.

"I wasn't really interested in computer science because I'm much more of a liberal arts kind of student, but I loved programming and learning how to code in different programming languages. I spoke to my

teacher, and she told me that with my language background, I could go into a lot of different fields with some programming and international relations."

But Isuani hasn't settled on any of those fields just yet. She said she hopes to find something that allows her to keep learning about culture and languages, and also involves travel. She also sees the potential for graduate school and an academic path in her future.

Unfortunately, moving across the country means that Isuani will be giving up two things she has loved for a long time: her Jack Russell-lab mix, Ginger, and an accomplished ballet career that saw her make regular appearances with the Longmont Dance Theater Academy and the Centennial State Ballet, but also consumed up to 40 hours per week of her free time.

"This year has given me a lot of perspective, and I've realized that I have a lot of other interests that I'd like to pursue," she said. "So I might be closing that door a little bit. But dance will always be part of my life, and I'll still make sure to keep in shape."

In the meantime, the Tufts-bound Isuani is looking forward to a low-key summer spent reconnecting with friends and family.

LETTER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

championships and doting mom, my coach and mentor, a friend since elementary school, and a school counselor of which I have never heard utter a pessimistic thought. The thing that brought all of them together was that they were willing to suffer with me. To endure some level of pain so that I may not walk the road I had chosen alone.

Lesson 2: Make friendships with people who are willing to run with you in the dark.

Much had led me to that challenge I completed 2 months ago. A breakup in sophomore year, a book which changed my life, and a decision to join the cross country team. In high school I experienced my highest highs, and my lowest lows. My best answer to the question of how to live well, is to live with purpose, and be willing to put in the work.

Lesson 3: Be willing to put in the work.

There are many by-products of living with purpose. One of them is something I call "earned happy". It's the smell of the air after it rains, or the sunshine on your skin after a long winter. "Earned happy" is the soreness in your legs that you feel after a workout the day before. It's ending a relationship you know you should've ended a long time ago, or fighting to keep one going that you know is worth it, even if it's hard. It's settling into bed after a long day's work, especially if it's next to someone you

love. Happiness is being kind to someone, or falling really hard for the right somebody, or taking a run when you know everyone else is asleep. It's being the person you've always wanted to be, and putting the work in to make that possible. True happiness is not the un-earned happy, the fleeting feeling that is simply borrowed and paid back with damage to your body or relationships. Earned happy is created by putting in the requisite work, and by the investment in yourself and the things you care about.

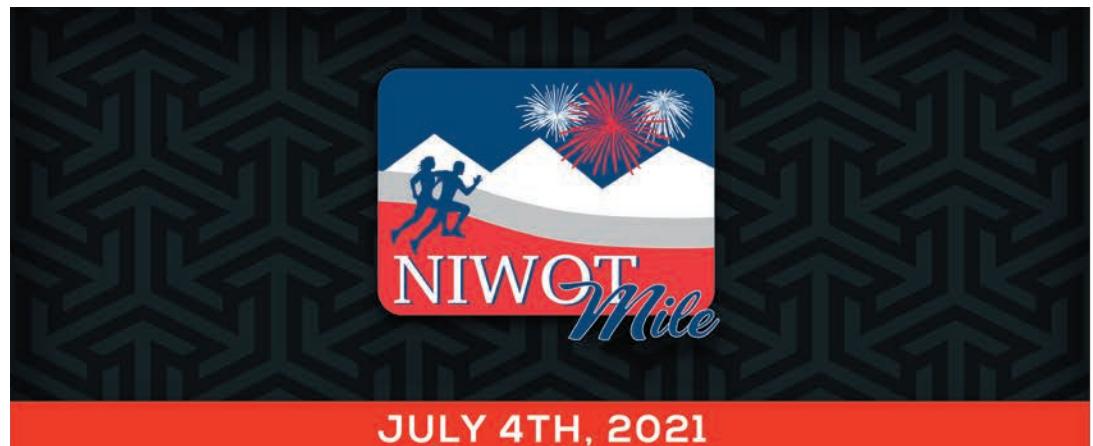
Living with purpose will not mean you are happy all the time. That, in and of itself, would render happiness meaningless. But it is a matter of making decisions which will pay dividends and give you purpose. It is only then, when the work is done, the sweat spent, and the hands calloused, that the happy comes with no strings attached, and you know you are living well.

Because living well is perhaps all we can really hope to do. Right now, we are at some point in the journey which is the dash on our headstone—the dash between the date we were born and the date we will inevitably die. The inevitability of an end, the finality of life, gives it its meaning; the same way the pain of life, whether the breakups and lost loved ones, or the long workouts and runs where it feels like your feet are full of cement gives you meaning. This dash is where every promise is made and kept, every heart broken and pieced back together, and every hope and dream is either realized or forgotten.

Perhaps no poet has put our journey in this dash better than Ursula K. Le Guin, who herself died in 2018. "When I take you to the Valley, you'll see the blue hills on the left and the blue hills on the right, the rainbow and the vineyards under the rainbow late in the rainy season, and maybe you'll say, 'Let's stop here, this is it!' But I'll say, 'A little farther yet.' We'll go on, and you'll hear the quail calling on the mountain by

farther.' We'll go on, I hope, and you'll see the roofs of the little towns and the hillsides yellow with wild oats, a buzzard soaring and a woman singing by the shadows of a creek in the dry season, and maybe you'll say, 'Let's stop here, this is it!' But I'll say, 'A little farther yet.' We'll go on, and you'll hear the quail calling on the mountain by

the springs of the river, and looking back you'll see the river running downward through the wild hills behind, below, and you'll say, 'Isn't that the Valley?' And all I will be able to say is 'Drink this water of the spring, rest here awhile, we have a long way yet to go and I can't go without you.'"



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Niwot Salutatorian Isobel Tuck on graduating



Courtesy Photo

Senior Isobel Tuck was one of Niwot's salutatorians for the class of 2021. When reflecting on her high school experience, she said, "High School goes by really fast and I didn't expect that, you're going to be in for a wild ride." Next year, she will be attending UNC Chapel Hill.

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By HANNAH STEWART

When Niwot High School principal Eric Rauschkolb told senior Isobel Tuck she was salutatorian, it was a surprise. "I didn't expect it at all," she said. "It was a really big shock, but I was really excited."

Tuck has had a fruitful high school career. She laughed saying her freshman year that she was intense about her grades, adding that she wished she had chilled out a little.

"Relax...trust the process," she advises current and future students. "One of the things that made me successful was when I put down my pride and asked for help from my teachers....That really helped me build connections with my teachers and understand the material."

Beyond her notable academic achievement of being one of the two NHS salutatorians, Tuck also has been involved in the school community. For three years, she has been involved in speech and debate, saying that the partner-acting event "duo" was definitely one of her favorites. She has participated in Link Crew, which is a student group that helps welcome freshmen. Tuck has also been on the golf team, and even started her own club.

As co-founder of the World Wide Women Club, Tuck and her peers focused on women's empowerment, and the club "strives to inspire girls to take on more leadership positions." Due to their goal of partnering with organizations that do international outreach and empowering all women, regardless of varying ethnic and economic backgrounds, they seem to be embracing a kind of intersectional feminism.

Rather than focus generally on imbalances due to gen-

der (e.g., pay gap, access to feminine hygiene products, etc.) intersectional feminists also look to see how women of different backgrounds might specifically be affected, and how to best cater outreach to groups with more specific needs.

Tuck said some of their most memorable moments were making shirts for National Women's Day and wearing them to a pep assembly. Another notable accomplishment of the club was when they partnered with a charity in Kenya and raised \$5,000 to support their programs.

Due to COVID, it's been more difficult to meet with their fellow club members. "I hope it continues after we leave," said Tuck. "It was great, it was a really safe space for girls to come and share their experiences."

One of her favorite memories was simply experiencing the Niwot community, especially at pep assemblies, saying that she felt so much school pride and love for all her peers during those events. "I'll miss the events... high school did a good job of getting students excited...and [events] allowed the community to get together in a non-academic setting, which was really amazing." She said that she's going to look back on high school fondly, but that she's excited to graduate and close this chapter of her life.

Next year, Tuck plans on going to the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, to study business administration and political science. Long term, she hopes to do something in management, saying, "I really like to collaborate with people on projects and often take a leadership role. To do that as a career would be interesting and would hopefully help the world."

Niwot salutatorian Siddartha Bushan talks linguistics

By JOCELYN ROWLEY

Technical-minded Siddartha Bushan never gave much thought to his grades during his four years as a student in Niwot's competitive International Baccalaureate program, so he was mostly surprised but also a little relieved when he learned that he was named the 2021 IB salutatorian. The Courier caught up with him shortly before graduation to hear his thoughts on his four years at Niwot High and what the next four-years has in-store.

LHVC: Did you know your class ranking before the announcement?

SB: I never thought about who the valedictorians would be, and then Mr. Rauschkolb showed up one day with a sign saying I'm salutatorian. It was never something I was aiming for. I did not want to be valedictorian. I don't want to give a speech at graduation.

LHVC: I heard that you



Courtesy Photo

After graduating from Niwot, Siddartha "Sid" Bushan plans to study linguistics and computer science at the University of Illinois.

are planning to study linguistics and computer science at the University of Illinois after graduation. What got you into linguistics?

SB: I've just really enjoyed studying foreign languages and

just learning about languages too. Then for IB, one of the things we have to do is write an extended essay about a topic of our choice. And so I wrote mine on linguistics. I wrote it in Spanish about linguistics and

minority languages in Spain. And I've also just worked on a few things involving linguistics and computers, too. And I really enjoyed all that stuff. So I thought it would be interesting to study more about it in college.

LHVC: The University of Illinois is also not a common choice for Colorado students. What drew you to the University of Illinois?

SB: One of the big things is that the computer science and linguistics program is not actually a double major. It's a single major that combines both. Because doing a double major in the two, I found is pretty difficult to do, just because there's almost no courses in common between them....The University of Illinois has a very strong Computer Science program.

LHVC: What do you want to do after you get your degree?

SB: I'm not really sure. I think I want to go to grad school

afterward, and then after that, I don't really know. Probably industry, maybe not, we'll see.

LHVC: Thinking back to your time at Niwot, what have been some of your favorite classes? And then as a little follow up to that, what is a class that maybe you'd like to take over again, or you didn't want to take but ended up enjoying?

SB: I really enjoyed my Spanish classes, and they're one of the things that got me into linguistics. Same thing with computer science classes, like AP Computer Science and stuff. And I've been involved in robotics throughout high school following my interest in computer science and programming.

One of the classes, actually two classes, that I most enjoyed that I didn't think I would enjoy as much were my IB history classes. I took them mainly because I had to for IB, but I

Continued on Page 31

Salutatorian James Magee gets ready to take off for the great white north

By JOCELYN ROWLEY

By his own admission, Niwot class of 2021 salutatorian James Magee doesn't have the best sense of time management, but he managed to overcome that shortcoming in high school with a good mindset toward his work, his classes, and his school experience in general. The Courier caught up with him on graduation eve to talk about his time as a Cougar and what the next four years have in store as he heads to the University of British Columbia to study math or computer science.

LHVC: Obviously, you've maintained super high grades throughout your time at Niwot. Do you have any particular tips or tricks? How do you balance your time?

JM: I think I'm probably not the best time management person. I think one thing that helps is trying to have a good mindset. And either have a good mindset about the classes you're taking



Photo by Jocelyn Rowley

Technically talented James Magee was named co-salutatorian for the Niwot High Class of 2021 traditional program.

or take classes that you'll enjoy. And you'll enjoy homework for those classes and enjoy the lessons in class.

LHVC: What have been your favorite classes or who are your favorite teachers at Niwot?

JM: "Honestly, I don't think I've had any teachers that I disliked, really. I really liked economics with Mr. Benson, and physics with Mr. Rice. And Mr. Rasmussen, who's a new teacher this year, I really liked his

chemistry class. Those are some of the ones that stand out. I also took statistics and calculus this year, and I also really like those classes.

LHVC: Are there any classes that you would like a do-over in, or you just want to take it again, because you enjoyed the subject so much?

JM: Probably my French class with Mr. Beauvineau. I don't think I'm quite literate in French totally, so I want to keep working on that in college and beyond. But that's definitely a class I'd go back and do again.

LHVC: Can you pinpoint a favorite memory of Niwot? When you're talking to your own kids about your high school experience, what will stand out to you from your four years as a Cougar?

JM: I think it might have been, my last day in calculus class, we had a scavenger hunt. And it was really fun. And we were running all over the school

to find these hands that are like little riddles. Some of them were math problems, and then we'd have to figure that out and then run to this other place in the school. That was a lot of fun."

LHVC: What was it like navigating your senior year with remote learning and then hybrid in-person and then back to remote, and then back to in-person? What were some of the biggest challenges?

JM: I think online school is hard. It's hard to stay motivated and to get things done. But I think the biggest struggle is probably going back to time management, actually. It seemed like I should have a lot of time in the day to get things done, but the day went by quickly. But also for some people, being social is difficult in that situation. I've heard that having people to talk to and being social is really important for mental health and for doing

Continued on Page 31



CONGRATULATES THE CLASS OF 2021

- 100 percent graduation rate
- 100 percent college bound
- \$6.5 million in merit scholarships earned by the class
- 73 percent of the class earned at least one merit scholarship
- 6 students playing sports at the collegiate level
- 6 students pursuing visual and performing arts as a major or minor
- 1 student received appointment to US Naval Academy
- 2 students received four year ROTC scholarship

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Members of the Class of 2021 received offers of admission to the following colleges and universities (*bold* indicates attending):

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Kruse

Continued from Page 17

mathematics and combinatorics at Front Range Community College, and courses in multivariate calculus and abstract mathematics through the Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth. That is in addition to the IB program's regular course load, advanced placement (AP) classes in physics and computer science, and a full slate of volunteering and extracurriculars, including three years of varsity soccer.*

"I think in terms of staying balanced, it was certainly a challenge at times," Kruse said. "There were some late nights in which I would get home from a game and still have some things to do. In terms of staying organized, I tend to use a planner like I think a lot of students do, but I wouldn't say that I did anything super special. I think just working hard pays off quite a bit of the time. And dedication to everything that you do, whether it be soccer or academics."

In September, Kruse will be taking his prodigious talents to the Ivy League's Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire. Earlier this spring, he was selected for Dartmouth's exclusive Jack Byrne Scholars Program, an elite mathematics fellowship that gives undergraduates both financial aid and opportunities for independent study and special mathematics projects.

"They typically choose six to eight in each class, that are high achieving in mathematics," Kruse explained. "They provide some financial assistance to help with going on trips or travels and things like if I wanted to do a math conference. It's not necessarily a scholarship. It's more of an award program that will allow me to continue to explore my interest in math and other fields of study."

Those other fields of study include economics and computer science, which Kruse could pick up as minors. The

latter is an interest he put to use designing a course to teach younger students how to code in the computer language Python as part of his Creativity Activity and Service project, a requirement to receive an IB diploma.

The Colorado-native hasn't traveled to the east coast much, but relishing the chance to spend the next several years in a new environment, and broadening his horizons inside and outside the classroom.

"I'm really looking forward to meeting a bunch of new people. In Colorado, I've been around a bunch of people that might share similar interests, and at Dartmouth, I'll really get a wide-range of people that share some interests, and then also have very different interests. It'll be nice to meet some of those people and make some new friends."

But Kruse, a self-described "outdoorsy person," will also have some of the comforts of home when he gets to the Granite State.

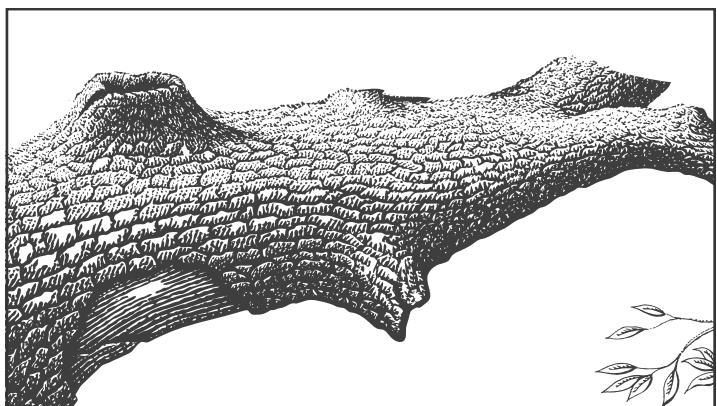
"I like the smaller community," he said. "It's in a

little bit more of a forested, rural area in New Hampshire, so I thought that was kind of unique, and it gave me the opportunity to be in a place where I would fit."

In the meantime, Kruse is hoping to enjoy a low-key summer as a day camp counselor for the City of Longmont, where he will be overseeing school-aged kids in various activities. He has also been reflecting on his valedictory speech, and, more broadly, lessons from the trials and tribulations of the Class of 2021.

"I wanted to talk more on the positive side of things rather than some of the more negative things that had come up this year," he said. "My main message that I wanted to pass along to everyone is the idea of connectivity or being connected with others, and staying connected in challenging times."

*On May 28, Kruse received Class 4A All-State Soccer honorable mention for 2021.



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'In a year where the world made it so hard to connect with each other, we managed to do just that...'



Photo by Jocelyn Rowley

The Flagstaff Academy eighth grade class of 2021 marked the official end of middle school with a graduation ceremony on May 26.

By JOCELYN ROWLEY

Eighth grade graduation is already a celebratory occasion, but for the 93 members of Flagstaff Academy's class of 2021, the May 26 ceremony was also one last chance to celebrate together, after being kept apart for so much of the past year. For co-valedictorian Olivia DeRose, it was also a chance to reflect on some of the unexpected lessons she learned in and out of the classroom.

"This year has taught us many things," the future Niwot Cougar said in a speech to her classmates. "Some of these things are less important, such as how to avoid having our cameras on during class, and how to complete

five hours of schoolwork in under two hours. We also learned about the importance of community. In a year where the world made it so hard to connect with each other, we managed to do just that, even while six feet apart for most of it. After a year that was difficult for so many, we finally made it....And while we're all moving on to different schools, I hope that the friendships we made here continue."

DeRose's optimistic tone matched the mood of the crowd, as they gathered in Flagstaff's parking lot during a rare bout of mild spring weather to watch the proceedings. The in-person ceremony

Continued on Page 25



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Flagstaff

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 24

was a refreshing return to normalcy for many, including longtime Dean of Students Keven Pugh, who noted the contrast to Flagstaff's drive-by graduation for the class of 2020 during his opening remarks.

"It's really good to see everybody get out of their cars," he said. "And I can see faces. Dragons, I would like you to recognize just what this looks like right now, and what this feels like right now. Having all of the family, and staff, and board of directors, and your peers, your fellow Dragons, all here together with each other is a fitting tribute to all of the support that helps you get where you are right now."

For Flagstaff executive principal Katie Gustafson, the 2020-21 school year was filled with extraordinary chal-

lenges for eighth graders, but it was also filled with extraordinary accomplishments and will undoubtedly lead to "wonderful future adventures" for Flagstaff's newest alumni. During her remarks, she echoed DeRose's comments about learning beyond the classroom.

"You asked questions to find out how things work. You've solved numerous equations. You've written essays, read the classics, and discuss the causes of war. But some of the most important lessons you've learned at Flagstaff cannot be taught in our classes. You found out what makes a true friend, how to manage your time, and how you learn best. You've also learned to do this from home, even when we all would have much rather been together in person. Middle School has been a time to find out who you are and where this life will take you. You have a solid foundation, and we believe

that you Dragons are now ready to take flight."

Niwot High 2021 salutatorian and 2017 Flagstaff graduate Siddartha Bushan also addressed the graduates, telling them how the school's core virtues of perseverance, respect, integrity, dependability, and empathy had helped him navigate the rough-and-tumble world of public high school.

"These values helped me see opportunities to succeed and become the person I am today," Bushan said. "Perseverance in particular was important to me throughout high school. Like any endeavor in life, there were plenty of difficult times between school-work and extracurricular activities and personal responsibility, but the value of perseverance I learned here at Flagstaff helped get me through."

Gustafson and Pugh then recognized several individual student accomplishments, in-

cluding the Decade Dragons (students who have attended Flagstaff since preschool) and the 10 valedictorians, among them Olivia's sister Grace DeRose and student coun-

cil president Mark Rohklenko, who told his classmates, "Success is not final, failure is not fatal. It is courage to continue that counts."



Photo by Jocelyn Rowley

Niwot High 2021 salutatorian and 2017 Flagstaff graduate Siddartha Bushan was invited to address the class of 2021 as the alumni speaker.



Photo by Jocelyn Rowley

Executive Principal Katie Gustafson described Flagstaff's eighth grade Capstone Legacy Project, the COVID Plane: "The journey of COVID is marked on this plane by COVID viruses. The airplane also symbolizes the various electives and learning opportunities that Flagstaff provides."



Photo by Jocelyn Rowley

Members of the Flagstaff Academy Class of 2021 make entrance to the school's in-person graduation ceremony, held May 26.



Photo by Jocelyn Rowley

Kye Toothaker received the Flagstaff Academy 2021 Good Neighbor citizenship award.

Niwot girls escape with a win at Todd Creek

By JOCELYN ROWLEY

The Niwot girls golf team learned some painful lessons about their short games at the Longs Peak League event at Thornton's Todd Creek

Golf Course on May 27. Be-deviled by lightning-fast greens and what were described as "challenging pin placements," the Cougars gave up some strokes where they normally don't, and that

was reflected in their higher than average final scores. Unfortunately, it was also reflected in the mood of the players, who weren't much in the mood for chit-chat between shots.

Luckily, it didn't seem to be a handicap for Niwot alone, and senior Hailie Ostrom (85) and junior Sydney Rothstein (86) finished first and second respectively. That was good enough

to keep Niwot in first in the team standings for their fourth league title of the year.

Niwot wraps up the regular season on June 3 at Quail Dunes in Fort Morgan.



Photo by Jocelyn Rowley

Niwot head coach Ed Weaver and freshman Mina O'Dell watch as Sydney Rothstein hits her drive at the 5th hole at Todd Creek in Brighton.



Photo by Jocelyn Rowley

Junior Sydney Rothstein found a bunker more than once at Todd Creek on May 27, but there were a lot to find.



Photo by Jocelyn Rowley

The Niwot girls golf team put coach Ed Weaver's diplomatic skills to the test at their Longs Peak League tournament at Todd Creek on May 27.

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Cougars fall to league foe Northridge

By JOCELYN ROWLEY

The Niwot girls soccer team faced its first test of the 2021 season when they traveled to Northridge for a match against the undefeated Grizzlies, one of the Cougars' opponents in the new Class 4A Longs Peak

League. Unfortunately, the Niwot girls couldn't keep up with Northridge's attack, and went home on the wrong side of the 3-1 final score for the first time all season. Afterwards, Niwot head coach Jenna Machado said her young team has a lot more to

learn about winning.

"It's really hard when your first actual high level varsity game is your fifth game of the season," she said. "We did a lot of good things tonight and I think we've a lot of places to work on. But what I am happy about is that

we did the things we've been working on this last week. But now we need to work on speed of play, and being secure in ourselves."

Senior Maddie Borncamp scored Niwot's lone goal against Northridge. With the loss, the Cougars moved to

5-1 on the season and second place in the Longs Peak League.

Box Scores

5/27 — Northridge 3, Niwot 1

Cougars (5-1, 4-1) 0 1 — 1

Grizzlies (4-0, 4-0) 1 2 — 3

Goals — Maddie Borncamp,

Assists — Margoux Boyer,



Photo by Jocelyn Rowley

Senior Kayla Osegueda tangles with a Northridge striker during the Cougars first loss of the year on May 27.



Photo by Jocelyn Rowley



Photo by Jocelyn Rowley

With a new defensive scheme in 2021, sophomore Tiffany Yie has an active role on both sides of the field in 2021.

Nora Hayden and the Niwot defense couldn't catch a break in Niwot's loss to Northridge on May 27.

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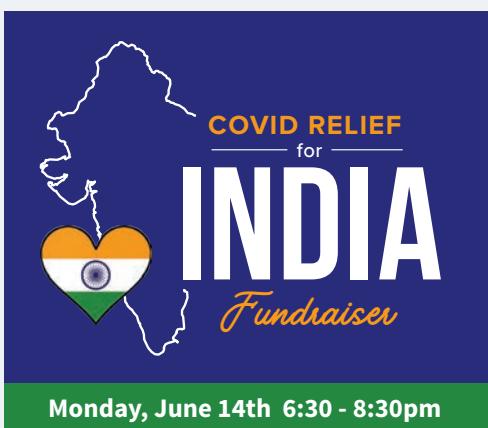
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Graduation

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14



Photo by Jocelyn Rowley

Members of the Class of 2021 stand during the May 29 commencement ceremony at Niwot High School.

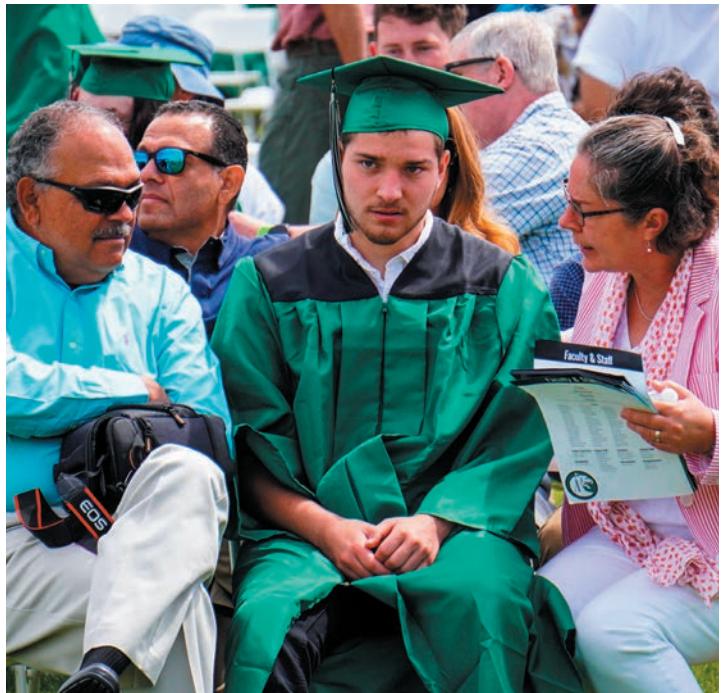


Photo by Jocelyn Rowley

Senior Marco Ramirez and his parents at Niwot's graduation ceremony on May 29.



Photo by Jocelyn Rowley

Graduates-to-be wait patiently for their chance to shake hands with Principal Rauschkolb and receive their diplomas during Niwot's graduation ceremony on May 29.



Photo by Jocelyn Rowley

Principal Eric Rauschkolb presided over the ceremonies as more than 270 Niwot High graduates gathered for the final time.



Photo by Jocelyn Rowley

Salutatorian Izzy Tuck, valedictorian Victoria Isuani, student council president Ben Goff, IB valedictorian Carter Kruse, salutatorian Siddartha Bushan, and senior Lucy Lu posed for photos before the ceremony.

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STUDENT-ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Micah Sheats

By JOCELYN ROWLEY

In his final stretch at Niwot High, the dreaded senioritis has eluded pitcher/outfielder Micah Sheats on the baseball diamond.

His two-way talent shined on May 22 when he pitched a six-inning shutout and hit a home run during a 12-0 mercy-rule victory at Thompson Valley.

The performance was nothing new as Sheats owns an over .300 batting average in 52 career games through May 30. As a freshman in 2018, Sheats hit .311 and played in all 23 of Niwot's games. He followed that season up with a team-leading 10 extra-base hits as a sophomore.

With a degree now in hand, Sheats will soon venture to Lewiston, Maine to play baseball at Bates College.



Photo by Jocelyn Rowley

Longtime Niwot varsity baseball player Micah Sheats is headed to Bates University.

Sheats attributed his success to his teammates, which include nine other seniors, for vitalizing his senior season.

"All my recent success has definitely been a credit to my teammates," Sheats

said. "We've had trouble with our defense this year but as of recent they've really been picking it up, both on offense and defense. To have basically an entire roster of seniors that we've been growing up with and

playing together, it's essentially a brotherhood."

Sheats added that leading by example is how he hopes to develop and lead his younger teammates.

Even though Niwot holds a 2-8 record through May 30, Sheats believes the Cougars' camaraderie will produce a few more wins as summer arrives.

"We haven't had a super successful season up to this point, but as we've shown, we're starting to turn it around," Sheats said. "I'm really hopeful for the next five games. Regardless, we're going to have a great time playing them because we're out of school and it's summer."

Before being promoted in 2017, Head Coach Adam Strah taught physical education at Niwot Elementary where he met the then third-grader Sheats. "I

probably tied his shoes at some point," Strah joked.

About a decade later, Strah has now watched Sheats develop into a four-year varsity starter with a college career on the horizon.

"He brings a lot of gifts to our team," Strah said. "I think he's going to continue that on to the next level as well."

Sheats, who is a member of Niwot's National Honor Society, said he is looking forward to the academic side of college in addition to playing baseball. He is interested in studying economics at Bates.

"I'm looking forward to that academic rigor," Sheats said. "I'm super stoked to see what it has to offer. I'm also excited for baseball. I was recently in contact with the team and they want to win."



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Bushan

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 21

got really interested in them. And I'd love to take them again. They were just really interesting.

LHVC: You mentioned that you were involved in the school's robotics team. Obviously, with the COVID, it was hard to have in person competitions during the past 12 months. What was the final year of robotics like?

SB: We were scheduled to have in-person competitions this year, but they canceled them back in January, since they figured COVID wouldn't improve enough, and it didn't. So what they did instead was they created sort of at home challenges, or challenges you could do in your own school, or in our case, we have a separate building. Right now, we just do them in our own building, film them and upload them. And that was just time-based mainly, on who can do some obstacle courses, who can navigate the fastest. And I worked on that. In particular, I helped work on a navigation system using cameras to track the robot. And we actually ended up having the

fastest times in the world for two of the five challenges and the second fastest time for the third challenge.

LHVC: Did you miss the in person competitions?

SB: Definitely. The in person competitions were really fun to go to. It was just a great experience. But I feel like they did a pretty good job with the home competitions. They really tried to keep people engaged.

LHVC: Is robotics something that you'd be interested in pursuing in college?

SB: There is a robotics club that I'm thinking of joining, because it just sounds fun. I really enjoyed working on robotics initially, just because the programming sort of comes to life. And that there's an actual robot you can see, and review everything that you've programmed.

LHVC: Are you doing anything fun this summer before you head off to the University of Illinois?

SB: This summer, I'm actually working on an internship at a robotics company.

LHVC: Is it Lefthand Robotics? I know it was just recently sold. Has that changed operations there much?

SB: It is. It just changed what we're working on because

now we're not working on the product when we used to sell. We're now working on stuff for Toro. But it's overall pretty similar.

LHVC: What do you like to do when you're not in school or building robots?

SB: I like to program things in my free time. I've worked on a bunch of like side projects, programming-wise. One thing that got me interested in linguistics was a couple of years ago, I worked on a project where I was using a computer algorithm to look at the difference between languages and determine how similar different languages were. I spent quite a few weeks on that. I ended up creating a whole website to display it.

Then I've also programmed a lot of games, especially this last year with COVID. That's a thing I've done for the robotics team and just with friends. And then we played them since we can't meet up.

LHVC: Are you interested in going into game design or anything like that? Or is that just more of a fun hobby?

SB: It's just more of a fun thing. I'm not sure I'd want to do it as a career.

Magee

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 21

well academically. I was able to communicate with people virtually, which I'm really grateful for, but for people who aren't able to do that, that would be a huge struggle.

LHVC: What are your plans for after graduation?

JM: Right now I'm planning on going to the University of British Columbia in Vancouver. It has a college of sciences, so I'll start there, but you apply to majors in your second and third years.

LHVC: Do you have any idea which majors that you might be interested in?

JM: Not totally. I'm thinking something maybe like math or computer science

LHVC: What drew you to the University of British Columbia?

JM: Well, a couple of things. I have some family there, which is one part of it. But also, a lot of schools outside the US and in Canada, do a co-op program, where you go to school for five years, and you can work for some of the terms. And anyway, I thought I really liked the sound of that.

LHVC: Do you see graduate work in your future? Or what would you like to do after college?

JM: Part of me likes the idea that, although I don't think I've studied deep enough in any one field to know that I really want to do that. I've done a decent bit of programming through the Up-A-Creek robotics team, and through all I have done at the Innovation Center. And so that might take me to a graduate degree. The idea sounds nice.

LHVC: So what do you want to do for a career?

JM: Part of me wants to become a computer programmer, but also, I think there's a lot of ways that you can use programming in a non-traditional engineer role. And so I'm hopeful one thing I can do at UBC is take some of the classes and see if there's a niche area where technology could be applied.

LHVC: So what do you like to do when you're not in class? Or what clubs or activities were you involved in?

JM: Robotics is probably one of the biggest things for me, but also, early in my school career, I started taking classes at the Innovation Center. That role sort of turned into an app development job that I'm working on right now. And outside of that, there's robotics. I didn't play sports throughout high school, but I did join the boys tennis team in my junior year. That was actually so much fun.

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