



Mwebaza Foundation fosters cultural understanding

By ABIGAIL SCOTT
Editorial@lhvc.com

Next week's (Aug. 22) Rock & Rails Tip Jar recipient is The Mwebaza Foundation, founded right here in Niwot. The Mwebaza Foundation seeks to unite Colorado students from four elementary schools with students in Uganda to foster a better understanding of each group's culture.

Before he started The Mwebaza Foundation, Dale Peterson, first-grade teacher at Niwot Elementary, fostered cultural exchange through a pen pal program. He knew this type of exchange gave children the opportunity to learn about other people and places while offering an engaging writing experience. After a pen pal exchange during 2006 with a Kenyan school, Peterson realized his students were receiving much more than little glimpses of another culture. They were actually forming strong bonds with their pen pals, gaining broader perspectives on the world and its diverse make-up.

Peterson noted that before the pen pal experience, his students believed much of the population lived similar lives, with ample opportunities for education, access to good health care, and a stable home life. Through this pen pal project, his class learned that their pen pals did not have corresponding experiences, but rather were at a disadvantage regarding education,

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Niwot LID meets with Boulder County Commissioners



Photo by Vicky Dorvee

A tentative deal to turn the Meisner property (376 2nd Avenue) into a mixed use development fell through earlier this year as a result of the NRCD moratorium.

By JOCELYN ROWLEY
Editorial@lhvc.com

The NRCD development moratorium and its repercussions dominated the discussion between the Niwot LID Advisory Committee and the Boulder County Commissioners at their annual joint meeting Aug. 6, but there were tentative signs that relations between the two boards might be on the mend. In concluding remarks, Commissioner Deb

Gardner expressed remorse for the "acrimonious" process and pledged to work for improvements going forward.

"We have some definite questions to bring to the land use department," she said as the Aug. 6 meeting drew to a close. "We don't intentionally become roadblocks to what anybody wants to do, but I think it's the hard dilemma we get into when trying to represent everyone in the county and, in particular, this part of Niwot."

Joining Gardner for the 90-minute meeting at the Left Hand Grange were her BOCC colleagues Elise Jones and Matt Jones, as well as eight of the nine current LID board members and representatives from the Niwot Business Association. (LID Treasurer Bruce Rabeler was absent.)

Murray Street parking lot

LID member Biff Warren opened the meeting with an update on plans to build a public parking lot on county-owned land west of Old Town, which are being spearheaded by the NBA.

Warren indicated that the current thinking is that the parking lot would be developed in phases, and only expanded on an as-needed basis. The first phase would consist of a lot with 14 parking spaces, since anything larger triggers a requirement for a costly EV charging station. If needed, additional spaces will be added in the future. The plan is still short on some specifics, but the NBA plans to engage with the residents of Murray Street during the application period and hopes the lot's final design will be the result of a "collaborative process."

"They've been good to work with," Warren said. "They

weren't all happy about the parking lot going in across from some of their homes..., but in working with them, we've talked about such things as how to landscape it so that it has the least impact."

Last month, the NBA had a pre-application conference with a Land Use staff planner, the first step in the county's special use review process. Warren called the meeting "helpful," but less helpful, he said, is the land use department's four-month waiting period for applications to actually be submitted.

"We have a date now to apply, which is at the end of November. So we can't do anything besides prepare the application until then, so that was on the disappointing side."

The NBA is moving ahead with the lot despite the fact

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LEFT HAND LAUREL Emily Sewell

By VICKY DORVEE
Editorial@lhvc.com

Gunbarrel's Leslie Sewell, this month's Left Hand Laurel, is a round-the-clock mother, with a full-time career. For the last eight years, she's also given her time to Voices for Children as a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA), transforming the lives of abused and neglected children in Boulder County.

Program Director Dana Walters said, "Emily has quietly worked to help victims of child abuse and neglect recover from trauma. She never seeks recognition and she doesn't require much direction, but she's always been one of our most effective advocates. Other

volunteers love working with her and staff depend on her."

Boulder County's Voices for Children program was established in 1985 by members of the Junior League of Denver following the launch of a national CASA program. It's eye-opening to know that more than 1700 Boulder County children experience neglect or abuse annually. It's legally mandated that every child found to be a victim must be assigned a CASA to advocate for the child's best interests.

Sewell and her husband Andrew are native Texans and met in junior high. Andrew, a graduate of CU Boulder, went back to Texas to get his degree in dentistry. Emily earned her undergraduate and master's

degrees in anthropology from Vanderbilt University in Nashville, TN. The couple would often take camping trips to Colorado and in 2001 they decided to make Gunbarrel their home. Their ten-year old daughter, Eleanor, is a fifth-grader at Boulder Country Day.

Sewell is the Chief Financial Officer for Bull Publishing in Boulder, a health and nutrition publishing house primarily focused on chronic disease and self-management.

Her positive experiences working with children on literacy through the Junior League of Dallas fueled Sewell's desire to continue volunteering. The CASA program was exactly

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Photo by Eleanor Sewell

This month's Left Hand Laurel goes to Gunbarrel resident Emily Sewell for her volunteer work with Voices for Children, an organization dedicated to improving the lives of children who are victims of abuse and neglect in Boulder County.

Community Calendar

ROCK & RAILS

Niwot's summer concert series, Rock & Rails, continues its 14th season on Thursday, Aug. 15, at Whistle Stop Park. Nalani and her bass will take the stage around 5 p.m., followed by headliner FACE. The Niwot Historical Society will receive donations from the tip jars for the evening. The Thursday night concerts are free and open to the public.

fellow dancing enthusiasts for a free 45-minute swing dance lesson, followed by dancing until 9:30 or 10 p.m. The free community event continues on Friday nights through August, alternating salsa and swing dancing. Sponsors are Niwot Business Association, Cottonwood Square, Niwot Tavern, Porchfront Homes, DRF Real Estate, and Catherine McHale Marketing.

DANCING UNDER THE STARS

Dancing Under the Stars continues in Niwot on Friday, Aug. 9, at 7 p.m. in Cottonwood Square (7980 Niwot Road). Join

ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT GROUP

Alzheimer's Association Dementia Caregiver Support Group meets on the first Wednesday of each month from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Ni-

wot United Methodist Church (7405 Lookout Road). This free service is for family members and friends who care for and care about people with Alzheimer's Disease and other forms of dementia.

YESTERYEAR FARM SHOW

The 2019 Yesteryear Farm Show will be held on Aug. 23-25 from 9:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Dougherty Museum (8306 N 107th St, Longmont). Admission to the outdoor show and exhibits is free; food and beverages are available for purchase. The Slepicka family of Niwot will have a

dozen of their vintage vehicles on display, including a newly restored 1936 Case CC.

REMEMBER IN SEPTEMBER FESTIVAL

The third annual RISE Music & Art Festival benefiting The J.A.R.E.D. Foundation will be held on Saturday, Sept. 7 from 12pm - 7:30pm at the Boulder County Fairgrounds (9595 Nelson St., Longmont). There will be two music stages, local artisans, food trucks, petting zoo, 300 Suns Brewing beer tent and more. The J.A.R.E.D. Foundation is a Colorado non-profit that provides music lessons and scholarships to students in need. For more

GREEK FESTIVAL

Sts. Peter & Paul Greek Orthodox Church (5640 Jay Road, Boulder) is hosting the 16th annual Taste of Orthodoxy, a free festival to celebrate the food, dance, and music of Orthodox culture. Join them Sept. 6-8 for Greek food, pastries, soft drinks, beer, Greek wine, dancing, live music, and church tours. There will also be merchandise available to purchase.

Death Notice

Michael James Ratliff, 61, of McKinney, TX passed away, Thursday, August 8, 2019, at Baylor T. Boone Pickens Cancer Hospital surrounded by his family. Mike was a long-time coach and board member of Niwot Youth Sports. A memorial service will be held at at 1:00

p.m., Monday, August 26, 2019 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 312 West 3rd Street, Ogallala, NE. Memorial donations can be made to www.niwotyouthsports.org or

To Pheasants Forever at www.pheasantsforever.org.

Letter to the Editor

To the Editor:

What Mr. Maxwell, BoCo Transportation Director, in his August 7th front page Left Hand Valley Courier did NOT tell you is the following: The road construction in each subdivision within the County was originally paid for by the developer with the cost of that construction passed through to the purchase price

of each house. It was not an insignificant amount. Then the roads were deeded over to the County FREE, with the understanding the County would pay for maintenance, including whatever was required to keep them in good and safe condition.

Many years later, the County UNILATERALLY, without a County wide vote, decided to re-define the original meaning

of the word "maintenance", to eliminate any responsibility for keeping the roads in good and safe condition. Thus, each of you homeowners paid for your road construction once, and now the County in its beneficence is saying you have to pay for them again if you want them in good drivable condition. Such a deal!

Richard Eggers, Niwot



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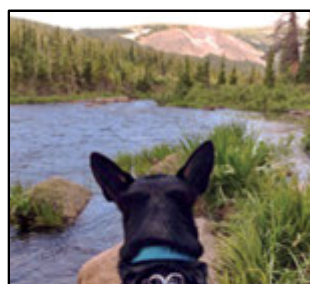


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COMMUNITY PET SPOTLIGHT



Meet Bruno the Chiweenie, a chihuahua/dachshund mix. Owner Natalie Gilbert writes, "As he is still a puppy, he spends most of his day exploring and learning about his surroundings. To calm his boundless energy, he usually joins his family canoeing on a local lake or hiking in the backcountry. He is quite the athlete and shows off when playing tug of war with his older fur sibling. If his curiosity isn't getting him into any mischief, he loves to snuggle and chill on any available lap. His favorite summer treat - enjoying a doggie ice cream on the back patio. So far, we think he is doggin' this Colorado lifestyle."

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

Osmosis soaks in two milestones



Courtesy photo

Osmosis Art and Architecture employees (front left to right) Maria Wells, Architectural Designer, owner Anne Postle, Tucker Huey, Project Manager, (back left to right) Katie Kessler, Architectural Designer, Michelle Henzel, Office Manager and Jennifer Nusz, Project Manager.

By VICKY DORVEE
Editorial@hvc.com

Thirty years ago, Anne Postle was new to her career and a transplant to Colorado. Moving from Tempe, Ariz., after finishing her education at Arizona State University and becoming a licensed architect, she journeyed to Boulder to work for a large firm. She got her feet under her and after five years was ready to start her own firm.

"Sometimes I look back and think, 'How on earth did I ever think I could run a gallery or

open my own firm?'" Postle said. "I honestly don't know. I think that sometimes when you're younger and you have these dreams, you just go for it. I've never regretted it, that's for sure."

Her search for office space brought her to Niwot, where Postle's architecture business first settled in a leased space. In 2004 Postle bought the property at 290 2nd Avenue, where Osmosis thrives today. Osmosis Art and Architecture has become a fixture of fancy and steadfastness in Niwot and this

year is celebrating its 25-year anniversary.

Originally a church, then a home, now Osmosis, the red brick building's lines are tidy, but onlookers' eyes can't help but wander to the whimsy that adorns the yard. Terra cotta birds sit atop metal posts, a steel woman looks up at a kite in a tree, and cairns of stacked blown glass fuse with the plant life. It's the perfect entrée to what the business has become – a merger of architecture with art.

Postle said, "We are one of the new models for retail where it's retail that's also supported by a service business, so that you can weather the ups and downs of the shopping economy because you have a steady business that also brings in a revenue stream."

With a business model aimed at predominantly designing residential buildings, the firm is comprised of eight mostly longtime employees.

"Everyone in our office absolutely loves figuring out ways to create solutions that make housing better for the people who live there," Postle said.

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Niwot marks National Night Out



Photo by Jocelyn Rowley

Representatives from the Mountain View Fire Protection District showed off their equipment and chatted with community members at National Night Out in Niwot on Tuesday, Aug. 6. National Night Out is an annual countrywide celebration that brings police and first responders into local neighborhoods

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LAUREL

Continued from Page 1

Lately much of the work is leaning toward making housing more affordable for younger buyers. That means smaller, more efficient, sometimes high-density and attached buildings.

Projects include remodels, where the homes are taken back to the studs, additions, and new construction. At any one time, there are up to ten projects in the works, all at different stages. The award winning firm works directly with clients creating custom homes, and oftentimes works with home builders. Osmosis architects work in a wide range of styles and homes built for individuals become "a portrait of the homeowner."

The art gallery was an idea

that came in the midst of the 2008 economic recession. The owner of a neighboring frame store and art gallery which was closing approached Postle to let her know that many of his exhibiting artists wished they could continue to display their pieces in Niwot. This year marks 10 years of Osmosis Art being under the same roof as the architecture firm.

"It wasn't the smartest business decision," Postle said of the gallery's 2009 launch, "because at the time, the only business doing worse than architecture was art. But we did it and we hung on by our fingernails and it was a good business for the town because it brought people in and gave people who visited Niwot a place to wander."

Being surrounded by art on a daily basis provides a creative and inspiring envi-

ronment for the architects. Curious shoppers stopping in also enhance their work days, Postle said.

A rotating display of pieces from more than 50 different artists, most from Colorado, fill the gallery and in recent years, smaller gift items have been added.

Community involvement is second nature to everyone at the business and has become its hallmark. As founders of the Niwot Cultural Arts Association's Let's Wine About Winter, First Friday Art Walk, and the annual Why Not Niwot? Juried Art Show, board members Postle and office manager Michelle Henzel are busy year-round organizing and promoting each event.

Postle also serves on the Niwot Local Improvement District (LID) Advisory Committee.

The firm also donated the architecture needed for the Niwot Children's Park restroom building, the sidewalk bump out in front of Old Oak Coffeehouse, and the concessions building now in the works for Whistle Stop Park. The Niwot Monument sign on Highway 119 was also designed by Osmosis.

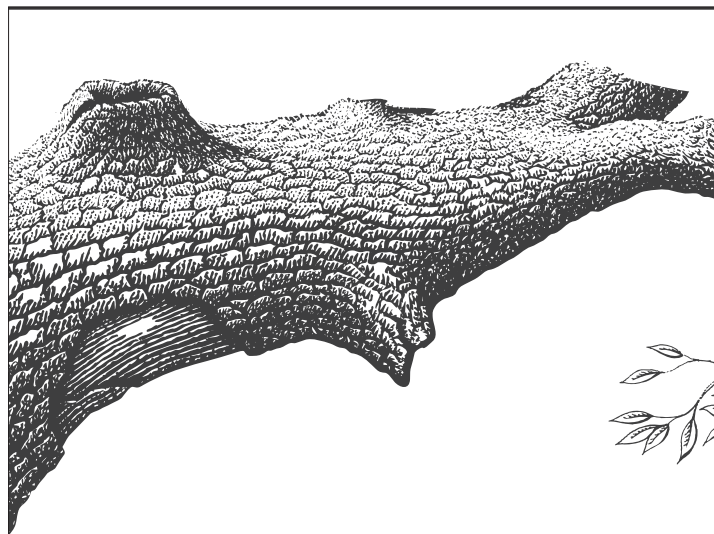
Postle said there are future plans for the art segment of her business, but they are fluid. She would love for Niwot to have an art co-op and teaching space. "We see the potential that Niwot has. I hope we've reached a tipping point and that it's time now for things to move in a positive direction."

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OSMOSIS

Continued from Page 3

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Meadow Lake Honey - A sweet place to be



Courtesy photo

Dawn and Jeff Server suit up for their bees.

By Mary Wolbach Lopert
Editorial@lhvc.com

When asked how they got into the honey business and started Meadow Lake Honey, Dawn and Jeff Server both smiled. "We bought this house and they had hives," Dawn said. The hives were technically an "add-on" to the cost of the house,

but one that both Servers were very happy to bear.

Dawn grew up in Niwot and graduated from Niwot High School in 1983. Her father, Don Reeb, was the Niwot Community School Director for many years. With the exception of college and a four-year stint in Westminster, she has lived in Niwot most of her life.

While neither Dawn nor Jeff thought honey was in their future, Dawn said, "We've always liked bugs." So it was a natural extension for them.

"This is our third time harvesting honey," Dawn said. "This year we're going to do two harvests." In the past they only did one, because it is a bit of a production. They just finished their first harvest at the end of July and they'll do another one at the end of August.

Colorado's harvesting season is fairly short. "You can really only get honey from June to August," Dawn said.

"That's when the nectar is flowing and the bees can harvest it," Jeff added.

Above all, Dawn, who is a

member of the Boulder County Beekeepers Association, appreciates all the Niwot residents who plant bee-friendly flowers, who don't use pesticides and who make a conscious effort to be good pollinators. "Honey that you buy locally has a flavor as

opposed to what you buy in the grocery store," she said.

A sweet deal all around. Meadow Lake Honey is located at 7922 Meadow Lake Road, Niwot. For more information call 303-305-8988 or email Meadow-lakehoney@hotmail.com

Pies get a reprieve



Photo by Abigail Scott

My Mom's Pies has reopened temporarily. The establishment is accepting cash-only purchases for now and hoping to sell the entire business to a new owner.

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LID

Continued from Page 1

that the town hasn't met the utilization threshold for public parking set forth in the 2011 Niwot Transportation and Connectivity Plan (NTCP). Warren explained that utilization studies did not capture the true scope of Niwot's parking problem.

"When you drive down 2nd Avenue, can you find a place to park?" he said. "Or is it all filled up, so you decide to drive down the diagonal to Longmont...? That's the kind of thing we're concerned about."

The commissioners were amenable to the idea of waiving the utilization trigger so the parking lot can go forward, especially in light of the recent land use code update and its new parking requirements.

"I feel like the landscape has shifted somewhat, making the case for Murray Street parking timely," Commissioner Elise Jones said.

The case might be timely, but the construction won't be. With the land use application delay and six-month review process, the earliest possible start date for construction is in the second half of 2020. Financial considerations could also delay the lot, depending on final cost projections.

Effects of NRCD Moratorium

The discussion moved next to the NRCD moratorium and new land use codes, which drastically changed the development outlook in Niwot, according to LID members and 2nd Avenue property owners Mary Coonce and Cornelia Sawle, who delivered a dreary moratorium postmortem on behalf of the town's business community.

"As a result of the moratorium and the restrictions, Niwot was on its way, and in my opinion, it's now taken a few steps back.... It's not really a good buy right now," Coonce said, after listing several developments in the NRCD that were

canceled or scaled back within the last year, including those at the Meisner property, the Excel Electric building, and her own property, Porchfront Homes (102 2nd Avenue). "I know my building, pre-moratorium, was worth 30 percent more than it is now."

Vice-Chair Jim Eastman and LID members Scott Firle and Lisa Rivard largely echoed these sentiments when they spoke for Niwot residents, with each noting a sense of "lost momentum" and a divided community.

"I tried to think of something positive," Rivard said. "I lost a ton of friends on 3rd Avenue ...and this damage that has been done here is going to take a long time to repair itself."

In response, each of the commissioners acknowledged the moratorium's negative impact, but Elise Jones pushed back some on Coonce's contention that it had wreaked widespread economic damage in Niwot. Specifically, she cited the fire and "inadequate insurance" as the major factors in Colterra's demise, and blamed Colorado property tax laws for the declining economic outlook.

"There are some things you all have brought up that are ongoing things that had nothing to do with the moratorium," she said. "The Gallagher Amendment is hurting small businesses everywhere.... So, there are certain things that exist, and we want to work with you on them, but we also want to acknowledge external circumstances."

2nd Avenue Alley

As it has throughout the nearly year-long moratorium drama, access to the 600-foot long and 20-foot wide alley

between 2nd and 3rd Avenues east of Franklin Street once again proved the most contentious issue of the discussion. LID member Anne Postle, owner of Osmosis Art & Architecture (290 2nd Ave.), spoke candidly to the commissioners about her frustration with slow action from the land use department, despite what seems like a clear mandate.

"Enough is enough," she said. "Tell us what we can do, and we'll decide whether we're going to do it or not. But we don't need another meeting." Earlier in the day, the county land use staff announced plans to reveal results of the alley traffic study at a public meeting later this month, to be followed by another public meeting in September.

Postle and Warren then went on to describe how a lack of formal guidance from land use on the alley and other new code provisions has effectively extended the moratorium beyond its formal April 23 end date and turned the relationship between county planners and property owners into an adversarial one.

"There are things we know—we know F.A.R. and we know lot coverage, and we know percentage of parking and how many residential units, but we don't know what it looks like for the meeting with the neighbors," Postle said as an example. "We know we have to have one, but we don't know what that means.... There are a lot of things in this new code that need definition."

The commissioners' resolution adopted April 23, 2019, included a provision stating, "The County will conduct an initial traffic count within 3 months of the adoption of this amended Code section."

Postle noted that the "update" on the alley was emailed to interested parties a mere four hours before the meeting with the commissioners, and that it gave no new information except a plan for a future meeting with the community to present the alley traffic study. Requests for a copy of the study from several interested parties were declined by the land use department. This prompted a pointed response from the commissioners, but not directed at the business owners. Gardner expressed surprise and "confusion" about land use's delay in revising the codes, while Elise Jones noted the "irony" of the ongoing alley discussions, since the "dysfunctional" state of the roadway has been clear from early on.

"Change and transition is tough," she said. "The 3rd Avenue residents are very mad at us, but we heard you, it doesn't make sense from a land use standpoint. We need to get to the point where an alley is an alley, and by this fall, that should be the case."

State of the Community/Vision 2027

Hoping to move the conversation to "ground that we can all feel good about," Skaggs asked NBA President Tony Santelli to defer his discussion of the State of the Community to the presentation of Vision 2027, the group's aspirational proposed addendum to the Niwot Strategic Plan.

"This is not colored by the moratorium," she said. "This is the Niwot that is vibrant and attracts multi-generational [visitors]. These are some big thoughts, and we are proud

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Peppers have it made in the shade



Photo by Jocelyn Rowley

High solar intensity and temperatures work against getting the most out of our pepper crops.

By CAROL O'MEARA
Colorado State University Extension
Boulder County

If you look forward to perfect peppers, but are disappointed when they get sunburn, there aren't as many as you thought, or they aren't as big as you'd

like, chances are that you have sunlight to blame. High solar intensity and temperatures work against getting the most out of our pepper crops.

Research on shading peppers is casting light on the benefits of cooling things off a bit on leaves and the root zone. Heat stress reduces the plant's ability to photosynthesize and cool itself efficiently, which in turn limits root development. Increasingly higher temperatures in summer limits root growth and damages fruit.

Colorado's research into solving this problem is led by Dr. Mike Bartolo, senior research scientist and manager of the Arkansas Valley Research Center in Rocky Ford. He's been

researching the development of chili peppers since 1992.

Bartolo's research into preventing sunscald on the fruit of peppers led him to using a 30-percent shade barrier over some plants to protect the fruit from harmful rays. But now that shade is proving effective in shielding plants from high temperatures as well – the transplants he covered with shade in early June aren't showing the stress the exposed peppers are.

Globally, researchers concerned with the effects climate change could have on crop production are exploring ways to buffer hotter temperatures. Growing under shade cloth has garnered interest, and researchers are working to find the type

of shade cloth that gives the most benefit. The University of Georgia has shown that the color of the shade netting doesn't make much difference; however, leaf surface temperature remained higher under white shade cloth.

In our gardens, peppers covered with shade cloth or floating row covers are also in much better shape. Popping a tent of 30-percent cloth over your crop might help get things growing again, Bartolo said. "As long as the stem is ok and not injured by sunscald, things should get moving again once things cool down or you shade the plant."

A bit of shade is helpful to other plants as well, such as basil or tomatoes during fruit production. Mulching also helps keep

the plant cool since it protects roots from water loss and soil cracking.

Shade cloth is available at garden centers in various lengths. It's a durable fabric that can be used for several years. When covering your plants, remember that this is to be suspended above them, unlike floating row covers that can sit right on the plants. Create a frame for holding the shade barrier two to four feet above the plants, taking care that it's secure for wind.

Floating row covers provide about 15 to 19 percent shade, which might not be enough at this time to break the grip of heat. Early in the season it would help for root development, so keep it handy for next year.

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LID

Continued from Page 6

and happy to share some of these ideas."

Postle, who serves as the NBA's representative on the LID, then gave the commissioners an overview. Based on results from a 2017 survey of residents, the vision includes 10 "hubs," or local attractions designed to bring visitors to the town's business districts.

"The Children's Park is a fantastic example of a hub..." she said. "But we can go even further.

How about a splash park?"

Other suggested hubs included a community pool, a skate park, an ice skating rink, a dog park, a climbing wall, a ninja warrior playground, a collective space (e.g. Rayback Collective in Boulder), a co-working space, and a library/information center. Postle said the NBA is hoping that cooperative action from the Niwot community will get one or more of these projects off the ground, much as it did with the Children's Park five years ago.

"This vision provides a pathway for Niwot to meet the needs and desires of its residents, es-

pecially families, into the future. ...All of these hubs can become a reality when it captures the imagination of the community."

Skaggs concluded the meeting following Postle's presentation. The commissioners offered some parting thoughts, mainly their desire to "get to a better place," with the residents and property owners of Niwot.

"I think we had to hear all of this, and there's nothing like doing it face-to-face," Matt Jones said. "We'll work on the land use side and actually just to stay engaged."

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NIWOT YOUTH SPORTS

Willowdale Live wowed Niwot



Photo by Vicky Dorvee

Niwotian Andy Mann presented "Summits to Seas" to a full house at the Left Hand Grange. Mann will be touring the country with his show through National Geographic Live beginning later this year through 2020.

By VICKY DORVEE
Editorial@lhvc.com

Niwot-born Willowdale Live took to the stage with its opening show at the Left Hand Grange in Niwot on Friday, Aug. 9. Co-creators Andy Mann and Nick Dunbar presented a free double feature to the full house.

First, award-winning National Geographic photographer-filmmaker Mann captivated the audience with the saga of his unconventional and awe inspiring career path in the presentation "Summits to Seas." These days Mann's camera captures his undaunted expeditions with cutting edge marine scientists

making him a powerful vanguard in the protection of the earth's oceans.

Next up was Dunbar's band 300 Days playing the original bluegrass, folk, and Americana tunes they perform across the Front Range. With Dunbar on guitar, Melissa McGinley on fiddle, and Dave "Pump" Solzberg



Photo by Vicky Dorvee

Willowdale Live's co-founder, Nick Dunbar performed on guitar and vocals with his trio 300 Days in the inaugural show of the series.

on upright bass, they filled the hall with their foot stomping and sweet melodies.

Willowdale Live has booked a monthly show featuring nation-

ally known performers through the end of the year at the Grange. For more information on upcoming performances, visit www.WillowdaleLive.com

Seventh Songwriters Showcase



Photo by Vicky Dorvee

Bruce Rabeler performed with Bitterroot band members Caroline Quine and Kevin Johnson during the seventh episode of Songwriters Showcase at Old Oak Coffeehouse on 2nd Avenue in Niwot. The audience listened to the music up close inside and the notes spilled outside to sidewalk tables in the evening air. Libations and snacks are served during the monthly musical series featuring local musicians, which takes place every second Friday of the month from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.



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Pretty purses with a purpose

By Mary Wolbach Lopert
Editorial@lhvc.com

If you've been into Osmosis Art and Architecture lately, you've probably seen some interesting purses displayed on the wall. Created by Anne Postle, all the purses are made from plastic bags. But not just

any plastic bags.

Wondering about Wall Street (and who isn't), the Wall Street Journal delivery bags are now a purse. Searching for a super supper? The brown purse, with just a hint of red, is from King Soopers.

But don't forget the best bag of all. There are little green ones

made from the Left Hand Valley Courier's green delivery bag, so nothing goes to waste.

As for the purpose, 100% of the proceeds from the sale of these purses, which Postle

makes while she's watching the Rockies play baseball, go to the building fund for the new concession stand at Whistle Stop Park.

Go by and then buy these

great bags. The beer you drink next summer will appreciate it.

Osmosis Art and Architecture is located at 290 2nd Ave. in Old Town Niwot. Call 303-652-2668 for more information.



Courtesy photo

These are just a few of the handmade purses available at Osmosis Art and Architecture. All proceeds go to building the new concession stand at Whistle Stop Park in Niwot.

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SCHOOL NEWS

Niwot Nifties strut their stuff at the 150th BoCo Fair



Photo courtesy of the Niwot Historical Society, Doyle Hornbaker collection.

The Tip Top Sewing Club of Niwot (ca. 1920). Left to Right: (first names only in the archives) Thyrsa, Edith, Josephine, Mildred, Maurine, Melissa.

By JOCELYN ROWLEY
Editorial@lhvc.com

About 100 years ago, Esther Anderson formed the Tip Top Sewing Club of Niwot, and the

town's long relationship with 4-H was born. Over the decades, the local group has gone through various iterations, including the Niwot Calf Rustlers (ca. 1939), the Niwot Left Hand Challenge



Photo by Mary Klingbeil.

Niwot Nifties Poultry Members: Eva Klingbeil, Ben Klingbeil, Tessa Everett, Harrison Falborne, August Falborne, and Wyatt Falborne.

ers (1948-51), and the Niwot Needlers and Nibblers (1965-72), to name a few. For the past four decades, the club had been known as the Niwot Nifties, and

they just wrapped up a highly successful stint at the 2019 Boulder County Fair.

The Niwot Nifties is one of 25 4-H clubs active in Boulder County. 4-H got its start in 1902 as a school agricultural club in Ohio, and now bills itself as the nation's largest youth development organization, with nearly six million participants. With the support of Cooperative Extension System and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the organization emphasizes the development of leadership skills through "hands-on projects in areas like health, science, agriculture and civic engagement."

Currently, there are 22 members of the Niwot Nifties, ranging in ages from eight to 17. Each fall, participants choose up to four comprehensive "projects" in animal care or general arts/sciences that they complete over several months and then submit for judging the following summer at the BoCo Fair. Winners there are then eligible to compete in the Colorado State Fair in Pueblo later this month.

According to co-leader Mary Klingbeil, 2019 will go down as

especially memorable for the Nifties.

"It was a good year," Klingbeil said after the 10-day Fair wrapped up on Aug. 11. This year, Nifties submitted general entries in drawing, painting, ceramics, photography, outdoor adventures, cooking, decorating, archery, .22 rifle, and film, and 13 of those projects are advancing to Pueblo.

They also brought 46 chickens, four turkeys, one cavy, two rabbits, and one "lease-a-goat," for their animal care projects, where members choose one or more small animals to feed, water, and provide general care for, while carefully documenting their daily activities and needs. Older and more experienced participants may also choose to breed their animals, for another level of difficulty.

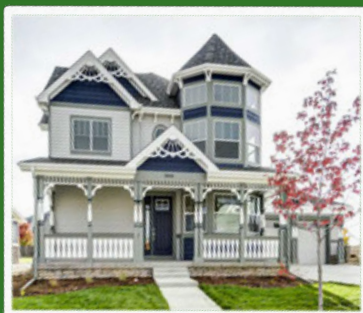
"This is just what our club is doing," said Klingbeil, co-leader of the Nifties with Cindy Shepherd. "There are so many projects. So really, kids can navigate the whole 4-H program following their interests."

In all, the Nifties picked up about two dozen ribbons and awards at the 150th BoCo Fair, including a Grand Champion in ceramics (Violet Byrnes-Scott), film (Zach Shepherd) and food preparation for Reese Duckworth's banana bread, which was later sold at a live judge's choice auction.

Longtime Nifties member Eva Klingbeil also picked up a Grand Champion ribbon in poultry. Indeed, Klingbeil, who will be a sophomore at Niwot High, seems to have a way with chickens. She is also active with the Colorado Poultry Association, as well as Feather Fanciers of Colorado. She has been raising poultry for the past "five or six years," and went all the way this year with a birchen modern game bantam, thanks to a little extra coaching.

Continued on Page 11

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NIWOT NIFTIES

Continued from Page 10

"He's a really nice bird, and he's got really nice type compared to the other modern game bantams here," she said. "He also posed for the judge really well, which is something they're judged on. I used treats to get him to stretch his neck and show off his body, and it worked."

Other poultry ribbon winners include Eva's brother Ben Klingbeil; Tessa Everett, who also took fourth place in small animal round robin; Harrison Falborne, who received the Herdsman Award; August Falborne, champion turkey, and Wyatt Falborne, grand champion turkey. Eva and Ben also have general projects headed to Pueblo next month in drawing, painting and advanced photography. Other animal care winners were Everett, who received first and second place ribbons for her rabbit, Jax; Caroline Haller with a Reserve Champion ribbon for her guinea pig, Cookie; and Audrey Haller, who received fourth place in showmanship

with her fiber goat, Stacey.

When the Nifties aren't working on their individual projects, the group also engages in quite a bit of community service in the area. During the winter and Easter holidays, the Nifties make gift baskets and bags, which

are delivered to the residents of Eagle Place in Niwot and Peaks Care Center in Longmont.

They also write letters to soldiers stationed overseas in their Military Mail program, and are a reliable source of volunteer labor for various community events,

such as Niwot's 4th of July and holiday parades.

The Nifties will take a few weeks off to recover from the hectic fair week, but they'll be back at it in October, when members start choosing their new projects for the year. In

the meantime, Mary Klingbeil is looking forward to getting a little rest.

"It can be hard to find balance during this crazy week," she said. "But the kids just take away so many great things from it."

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TIP JAR

Continued from Page 1

health care, and career opportunities. Many of Peterson's students suddenly wanted to help their pen pals and others who live under the oppression of poverty.

The next year, Peterson connected with People to People International, a cross-cultural youth exchange founded by President Dwight Eisenhower, to find the next group of pen pals for his incoming students. These first-graders would be matched with students at the Mwebaza Infant Primary School in the village of Kyengera, Uganda.

As the exchange began, Peterson also befriended the headmistress at the school, Namatovu Catherine. "It quickly became clear to me that

Namatovu and her staff were exceptionally dedicated to the well-being of their students and to the development of the cross-cultural relationship with Niwot students," Peterson said. "My class raised funds so that Mwebaza School could have a camera. Namatovu sent photos, not only of the students at school, but in their homes, doing their chores and engaging in community life."

Peterson said that many Niwot Elementary parents and students approached him within the next few days after the photos arrived, inquiring about ways to help The Mwebaza School and its students. Peterson and Nomatovu came to an understanding that a financial exchange would not prohibit the current pen pal program, and Mwebaza would review potential improvement projects pitched by Peterson

and his students before anyone proceeded with fundraising.

The first improvement project would raise money for concrete floors to replace Mwebaza's dirt floors which often caused students to get bit by burrowing fleas. After the initial fundraising of a family-run garage sale and lemonade stand, both Peterson and Namatovu realized that enough money was raised to allow the school to replace its unsafe, small building with a more spacious one.

Peterson explained, "At this point, I concluded that an accountability mechanism was needed for the management of the funds being raised and for oversight of the projects undertaken. With the help of others in the Niwot community, I created a 501(c)(3) corporation through the State of Colorado called The Mwebaza Founda-



Courtesy Photo

The two-story container classroom building created in Niwot was recently arrived and was refabricated in Uganda.

tion after Mwebaza School."

Under the foundation, the relationship grew to include all students at the Mwebaza Infant Primary School and Niwot Elementary School. The Mwebaza Foundation also expanded to incorporate the neighboring schools of Coyote Ridge Elementary (Broomfield), Coronado Hills Elementary (Thornton), and Eagle Crest Elementary (Longmont). Each shares a unique partnership with a specific Ugandan school. "The students at all four Ugandan partner schools are poor and many are orphans," Peterson said. "Many students cannot afford to pay the meager tuition payments and are allowed to attend for free."

Throughout the years, The Mwebaza Foundation has assisted its partner schools in a variety of projects such as constructing new classrooms to relieve overcrowding, installing compostable toilets, starting small businesses, planting gardens, implementing solar energy methods, and building wells to provide clean drinking water.

Peterson believes the biggest struggle in this line of non-profit work is constantly seeking out donations to accomplish the betterment projects at these Ugandan schools. "It can be awkward and humbling to ask others for financial help," he said. "But, when people see that their donation is really making a difference, there is a great sense of satisfaction, for them and for us. People really do want to help, and we give them that opportunity. It becomes a real

partnership between nonprofit and donor."

Peterson described the most recent project as a huge community effort that took time, patience, fortitude, and a village to make it happen. "We worked with several schools in the St. Vrain School District and the non-profit, Homes of Living Hope, to create classrooms inside shipping containers to help relieve overcrowding at Mwebaza School. Between students, staff, and community volunteers, we estimate over 1000 people had some role in this project."

Peterson and The Mwebaza Foundation have many goals for the growing non-profit but overall, they hope to create a sustainable environment throughout their partner schools by encouraging curriculum that includes creation of flexible microindustries that will provide income and support to the schools and villages.

The Mwebaza Foundation already has a few up and running Peterson said. "Two of our schools run taxi services that we have helped them start. One is looking to start a shoe-making industry, and another is raising goats and cows for sale. We are really just starting to work through the possibilities, but hope that the future involves the development of student entrepreneurs and more self-sufficient schools."

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SPORTS

Niwot boys golf teams seeks to build experience in 2019



Photo by Jocelyn Rowley

Niwot Junior Luc Blondeau sets his ball on the green before putting during the Cougars' 2019 season debut at the Olde Course on Aug. 8.

By JOCELYN ROWLEY
Editorial@lhvc.com

There weren't many Niwot names on the top half of the leader board after Northern League event #1 at the Olde Course on Aug. 8, but Ed Weaver didn't expect there to be. With three inexperienced golfers in the varsity lineup, the fifth-year coach is working on a new strategy that

probably won't produce many tournament titles in 2019.

"We are a young team, with basically no seniors, so we have the opportunity to develop some new players," he said. "I want to try to get as many kids tournament experience as I can."

It's a strategy that could require some patience. The Cougars finished fifth overall in the team standings, a far cry from

their first place finish in the 2018 season opener on the same course. However, that was less important to Weaver than the fact that he now has three more golfers with a taste for high school competition.

"They're not necessarily young from a class standpoint," he said. "But they're three guys who've hardly played any events."

Fortunately for Weaver, graduation didn't leave his cupboard completely bare. The Cougars were led on the day by sophomore Christopher Gunlickson, one of two returning players with varsity experience. Impressive down the stretch during his freshman season, Weaver projects he will be Niwot's number one golfer for the foreseeable future and expects to see him contend for a state tournament berth.

Gunlickson carded an 80 (+8) at the Olde Course to finish fourth overall, a 21-stroke improvement from his 23rd place finish the year before. He was a symmetrical +4 on both the front

and back, and stayed out of double-bogey territory for the most part. Weaver was happy with the sophomore's round, and said he expects to see Gunlickson's scores come down even further as the season progresses. "Christopher played well, and his score would have been even lower if he'd made some putts."

Also back for the Cougars is junior Luc Blondeau who has been thrust into the role of elder statesman for the Niwot boys golf team. He will fill the number two spot for the Cougars this season and also has postseason potential. However, like his coach, Blondeau's focus is a little further down the road.

"It's exciting because you can see all the potential in the players coming up," the third-year player said. "It's going to be a good rebuilding year, so we'll be set up to do well next year."

Blondeau was happy to be back in Loveland at his favorite league course, and had fond memories of the thunderstorm that cut short his high school golf debut in 2017. Back in the present, he finished in 13th place, with a 92 (+20), a score Weaver also expects to see come down.

"Luc has to take the big numbers off the card—that's the biggest thing for him," the coach

Continued on Page 16

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High expectations surround Niwot softball in 2019

By Jack Carlough
Editorial@lhvc.com

Reaching the state tournament is a goal for any team, but especially for Niwot softball head coach Bobby Matthews and his Cougars. Coming up just one game short of making state last year will only fuel the fire in 2019. With a solid core of returning starters, their goal could soon become reality.

With a small graduating class from last season, the Cougars will return all but two starters. This year's returners will also have the experience and knowledge of how to compete for a postseason spot.

"It was tough, but I think that where we were the year before, we didn't have a good season," said Matthews. "The year before (2017) we won six games so to win ten more and get to that point kind of returned us back to our traditional being in the postseason was huge. It was hard but I think it helped these girls have a taste and some

hunger because they weren't happy about the way it ended."

Matthews believes that reaching the postseason is a "viable goal and something we should do," lofty words for the ninth-year head coach. His confidence is rooted in a slew of talent that he hopes will lead the Cougars.

Center fielder Nikki Sims and third baseman/catcher Reagan Wills are poised to impress during their senior campaigns. The duo accumulated 87 hits last year, and both hit over .400. Complimenting them will be junior pitcher Aliyah McComas, and her younger sister and shortstop, Ayva McComas. Ayva impressed in her freshman year, batting .585 and being named a CHSAA All-State Honorable Mention. Her older sister Aliyah, won 15 games in the circle while striking out 103.

Rounding out the solid lineup are returning fourth-year starters Calista Law and Esme O'Rourke, as well as Jasmine Aldama, Haley Bassett, and

Ashton Jones, who are back for their second seasons. The Cougars are certainly not short on talent that hopes to translate into success.

As in years past, this Niwot team will rely on offense to win games. And who doesn't enjoy watching the ball fly? The thrilling nature of softball has united this team according to Matthews.

"It's softball, it's fun, it's exciting, it's fast paced," said Matthews. "...I think these girls have grown as players and I have noticed a very tight-knit camaraderie from the team from the very beginning."

Alongside Matthews will be seventh-year assistant Jason Johnson and head junior varsity coach and former Niwot Cougar, Mackenzie Thorne. Both aspire to provide some much needed support for Matthews.

At the end of the day, it's seeing his players develop that will always put a smile on Matthews' face.

"Honestly for me, I get more

enjoyment out of that than during my playing career," said Matthews. "I get more out of seeing a kid work their butt off and develop and become the player that the coaching staff saw as a freshman with their

potential and live up to it. That's why I do it."

You can catch the Cougars in action for their first game on August 21 at home against crosstown rival Silver Creek.

Niwot football to host media day



Courtesy Photo

Niwot head football coach Jeremy Lanter addresses his team at media day in 2018.

Special to the Courier

Saturday Aug. 17 is the annual Niwot football family picnic/media day which brings the coaching staff, players, families and fans together to kick off the season. Everyone in the community is welcome

to attend. A full-pads practice starts the event at 10:00 a.m. followed by a cookout at 12 noon, and fun and games for the players, families and fans as they enjoy the lighter side of being part of the Cougars football program before the rigors of the season begin.

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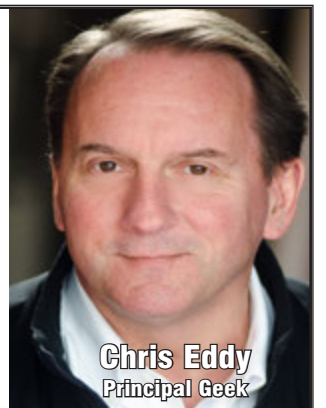
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Czech Exchange Student Seeks Host Family in Niwot Area

Special to the Courier

ASSE International Student Exchange Programs student Vojtech, from the Czech Republic, is seeking a host family in the Niwot, Colorado area. Vojtech has met all of the academic and character qualifications necessary to be accepted as an exchange student by ASSE.

Hello! My name is Vojtech! I am excited to become a member of your family in the USA. At home in the Czech Republic, I enjoy playing the trumpet in my jazz/blues band with my friends. I practice the trumpet every day after school. My band even gets to perform at local festivals and concerts. In my leisure time, I enjoy listening to hip-hop and classical music. I live in a large city but

on the weekends my family goes to our cottage in the country where I do gardening and cooking/prepare dinner for my family with fresh vegetables. I attend English classes 4 times a week. A family tradition in the spring is to go to Austria to go skiing. I have been doing this since I was a child and I love it. Now I like to learn new tricks each year. Last summer, I volunteered as an intern at a summer camp with children. I enjoyed this very much. I look forward to going to America and sharing my culture and learning about you!

ASSE, a highly respected, non-profit, public-benefit organization, is dedicated to fostering cultural enrichment and intercultural understanding through youth exchange programs. ASSE provides students from Europe, Asia and the

Americas the opportunity to spend an exchange experience in the U.S.A.

If you are interested in volunteering your time as a representative or host family—or both, please contact us, call Margot at (719) 359-0006 or (800) 733-2773, go online at www.ASSEhosts.com or email asseusawest@asse.com

Founded by the Swedish National Department of Education, ASSE International (formerly American Scandinavian Student Exchange) is a non-profit, tax-exempt, public benefit organization. ASSE is officially designated as an exchange visitor program by the United States Department of State and cooperates with the Canadian Provincial Ministries of Education.



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LESSONS

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DANCING

7:45PM - 9PM

Find out more at Niwot.com/dancing

GOLF

Continued from Page 13

said. "His swing is more solid than it was last year, and he's just got to get tournament tough."

Rounding out the Niwot quintet were junior Jesse Horn (+56), sophomore Ian Turner (+41), and freshman Ryan Lady (+46), who has been playing golf since age five, but only started getting serious about six months ago.

"I played Ryan Lady today because I wanted to give him the opportunity," Weaver said. "I don't care how he finishes, but he'll be out here competing, and we'll see what he can do."

Weaver said any of the new golfers have a chance to make the varsity lineup permanently, and he is looking forward to seeing what develops down the stretch.

"What I do see is the opportunity for a number of different players to play in varsity events this season. High school golf is cyclical, and we're just playing for the next up-cycle with some of these younger guys."

The 2019 boys golf season continues on Aug. 13, when the Cougars host league event #2 at Twin Peaks GC. On Aug. 19, the team heads to Greeley, then on Aug. 20 they are back at Twin Peaks. Weaver will be assisted this year by Chad Richart.



Photo by Jocelyn Rowley

Sophomore Christopher Gunlickson tees off on the sixth hole at Loveland's Olde Course during Cougars 2019 season debut on Aug. 8. Gunlickson finished fourth overall.