



## Smash-and-grab burglaries hit Niwot and Gunbarrel

By JOCELYN ROWLEY  
Editorial@lhvc.com

Two Boulder law enforcement agencies are investigating a string of “smash-and-grab” burglaries that occurred at seven area businesses in the overnight hours of Tuesday, Oct. 30, and at least one more on the night of Nov. 5.

Three businesses in the Cottonwood Square shopping center (7960 Niwot Road) in Niwot and four businesses in Gunbarrel’s King Soopers shopping center (6565 Gunpark Drive) suffered damage to glass windows or doors, and an unspecified amount of money and property was also stolen in the Oct. 30 incidents. An empty cash register was stolen from Old Oak Coffee House in Old Town Niwot after a break-in Nov. 5.

Tom Smathers, owner of Abo’s Pizza in Niwot where the front door was smashed, said nothing was taken from his establishment. Neighbors Winot Coffee and Raza Fresa Mexican restaurant weren’t so lucky. Smathers was also annoyed that the would-be thief or thieves resorted to other means after the theft-deterrent bars on his front glass door thwarted them.

“I hope they catch that skinny mofo,” he said, referring to the narrow front window that was shattered.

The Winot coffee shop sustained damage to one of its two front doors, and was closed on Wednesday in the aftermath. The front window of Niwot’s Mexican restaurant was also destroyed, but it was open as normal by midday Wednesday, with a board in place of the glass and a decorative display for the upcoming Day

of the Dead on the window sill.

In Gunbarrel, Sancho’s, Up Dog Café, Yurihana, and Cutter’s Edge Hair Salon were similarly targeted.

The Boulder County Sheriff’s Office is heading the investigation in Niwot, while the Boulder Police have jurisdiction in Gunbarrel. The agencies consider the incidents related, according to Sheriff’s spokesperson Carrie Haverfield. They are also consulting with law enforcement agencies across the Denver metropolitan area, which has seen a rash similar crimes in recent weeks.

Anyone with information about the Niwot burglaries can contact Det. Fiegel of the BCSO at 303-441-3650. To give information about the Gunbarrel crimes, contact the Boulder Police at 303-441-3333.



Photo by Jocelyn Rowley

Thieves targeted three Niwot eateries—Abo’s Pizza, Winot Coffee and Raza Fresh—in “smash-and-grab” burglaries during the overnight hours of Oct. 30.

## Niwot building moratorium upheld with modification

By VICKY DORVEE  
Editorial@lhvc.com

More than two dozen people stepped up to the microphone in the Boulder County Commissioners’ hearing room on Oct. 30 regarding a temporary halt of development in downtown Niwot. The commissioners could vote to maintain, modify or rescind the moratorium they initially approved on Sept. 20.

Dale Case, Boulder County Land Use Director said his department’s recommendation was to uphold the six-month moratorium on development in the Niwot Rural Community

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## Sculptures installed at Community Corner

By BRUCE WARREN  
Editorial@lhvc.com

Niwot’s Economic Development Director Catherine McHale welcomed a crowd of over 30 people to the dedication of nine pieces of public art installed at Community Corner, at the intersection of Niwot Road and 79th Street. “We wanted it to be accessible to people, something they can experience,” McHale said. “We tried to choose pieces that fit with the community. All pieces are available for sale, but should be here between six and nine months.”

The Sculpture Park Committee, consisting of McHale, Anne Postle, Scott Deemer, Chuck Klueber, Lisa Rivard, Laura Skaggs, Nick Whitaker and

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Photo by Bruce Warren

Artist Joshua Pass stands with his sculpture, “Feather”, which won the Sculpture Park Committee’s \$750 stipend at Community Corner.

## 2018 State Champs!



Photo by Jocelyn Rowley

The Niwot gymnastics team claimed their second state title in four years and the school’s second state title in a week at the Class 4A state championship meet on Nov. 2. From left: Mallory Christopher, Mia Curry, Maddi York, Izzie Mitchell, Zoie Stowe, Tiffany Schluckebier, Olivia Sroka, Lindsay Chohon, Maddie Green, Samantha Khoudary, Olesya Larson, Grace Stephenson, Taylor Green, Marisa Purcell, Sasha Delman, Hattie Katechis, Amber Nusser. For more coverage, see page 12.

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## Community Calendar

### ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT GROUP

Alzheimer's Association Dementia Caregiver Support Group meets on the first Wednesday of each month from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Niwot United Methodist Church (7405 Lookout Road). This free service is for family members and friends who care for and care about people with Alzheimer's Disease and other forms of dementia.

### NHS MUSICAL

Niwot High's fall musical "Cinderella" takes the stage starting Nov. 8 through 11. Tickets are \$10 for students and \$15 for adults, and may be purchased at the door or online at [www.nhs.svvsd.org](http://www.nhs.svvsd.org). For more information, call: 303-652-2550.

### STARGAZING

Front Range Community College will have a free public stargazing from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 12, and Wednesday, Nov. 28 at the observatory, located in the courtyard of the Classroom Building of the Boulder County Campus (2121 Miller Drive, Longmont). For more information, visit <https://blog.frontrange.edu/category/news/>.

### INTERDENOMINATIONAL DISCUSSIONS ON END-OF-LIFE CARE

The Conversation Project is partnering with faith leaders in Gunbarrel for a series of five public information sessions related to end-of-life care. For more information, visit <http://theconversationprojectinboulder.org>.

### SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

Boulder Country Day (4820 Nautilus Court North, Boulder) will be holding an open house for students in preschool through 8th grade on Nov. 14, from 9 - 11 am and again on Dec. 1. For more information and to RSVP, visit [www.bouldercountryday.org](http://www.bouldercountryday.org).

### ENCHANTED EVENING

Niwot kicks off the holiday season on Nov. 23 with the Enchanted Evening celebration in downtown Niwot from 6 to 9 p.m., featuring musicians, a tree lighting ceremony, and a visit from Santa. Local businesses are also holding a window decorating contest. For more information, visit [niwot.com/events/enchanted-evening](http://niwot.com/events/enchanted-evening).

## Real Estate

THE FOLLOWING DATA IS SUPPLIED BY COLORADO WEEKLY HOMEBUYERS LIST, INC., 303-744-2020. THE NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF REAL ESTATE BUYERS ARE AVAILABLE ON GUMMED LABELS THAT INCLUDE PHONE NUMBERS. LISTED ARE THE BUYER, THE PROPERTY ADDRESS, THE SELLER, AND THE PURCHASE PRICE.

### GUNBARREL

ALEXANDER NORTON -- 4898 Brandon Creek Drive, Colo Affluent Real Estate, \$568,000.

SCOTT & SARA LOCKWOOD -- 5440 Glendale Gulch Circle, Allison C Breed, \$635,000.

MATTHEW KLEIN -- 7182 Old Post Road, Kimberly & Clay Thompson, \$808,000.

MICHAEL JABLONSKI -- 7800 Durham Way, Joseph & Cynthia Angell, \$584,000.

### NIWOT

RACHEL GART -- 8060 Niwot Road Apt 25, Tred Properties 25 LLC, \$190,000.

SCOTT QUILL -- 6967 Fairways Drive, Wallace & Beryl Clark, \$610,000.

KIM & NICHOLAS ADCOCK -- 8362 Greenwood Drive, Mullins Sebor Family Trust, \$1,760,000.

## Death Notices

**Edgar William McGill** of Erie died Oct. 23, 2018, at age 68 after a battle with Lewy Bodies Dementia. Ed was the owner, operator and artist at Canvasback Fine Art and Framing in downtown Niwot, before moving the business to Hygiene. Services will be held

Nov. 16 at Darrell Howe Mortuary, 1701 W South Boulder Rd., Lafayette. Visit [www.darrellhowemortuary.com](http://www.darrellhowemortuary.com) to share condolences.

**Dick Hicks** of Niwot, longtime resident and community volunteer, died Nov. 3, 2018, at age 85.

Dick was one of the founders of the Niwot Volunteer Fire Department, and helped organize Niwot's youth baseball program. Condolences can be sent to the Hicks Family at P.O. Box 31, Niwot, CO 80544. Services are pending.

## ENGAGEMENT



Courtesy photo

Jessie Slepicka and Jenna Carlson

On October 24, 2018, Mr. Jessie Slepicka asked Ms. Jenna Carlson to continue their adventure in life by becoming his wife and moving to a yet to be decided state as he pursues his PhD. (She said yes!)

Jenna is the daughter of Ms. Traci Carlson of Colorado and Mr. Jarrit Carlson of South Dakota. Jessie is the son of Jerry & Marsha Slepicka of Niwot.

Jenna is a 2014 graduate of Rapid City Stevens High School

and a 2018 graduate of the University of Northern Colorado. She is currently employed as a teacher in the 27J School District.

Jessie is a 2014 graduate of Niwot High School, a 2017 graduate of the University of Northern Colorado and will graduate with his master's in criminal justice from UNC in 2019.

The couple plan to be married in Rocky Mountain National Park in May 2019.



# Mila's miracle brings hope for others with genetic diseases

By VICKY DORVEE  
*Editorial@lhvc.com*

Shortly before her family went to Boston early this year for Mila Makovec's experimental treatment of Batten Disease, Mila's symptoms worsened to the point that her mother, Julia Vitarello, thought she might be losing her daughter to the fatal genetic disease. The quantity and severity of seizures Mila was having skyrocketed to 30 times a day for two minutes at a time. Seven-year old Mila slumped forward most of the time, was losing her ability to hold herself up when standing and walking, and was choking on her pureed food so frequently that she was put on supplemental nutrition through a feeding tube.

The family has been back in Colorado since June and Mila's seizures have lessened in severity and decreased to five to 12 per day, each lasting only a few seconds. Mila stands straight again, with much less support. She holds her head up and is

more alert, her mother said. Her swallowing has improved and she's back to eating pureed food without choking.

"It feels pretty unreal," Vitarello said. "The fact that there's good reason to believe that this treatment has actually stopped her disease and has allowed her some improvements...that may seem small to some people given how much she's lost, but it feels huge to me."

"In the last week, she's been unbelievably alert, happy, smiling, wide-eyed, and listening to everything we're saying. She's been walking up the stairs with support, but alternating her feet all the way to the top," Vitarello said.

Batten Disease is diabolical; it slinks in around age three and usurps a child's development by killing neurons and causing the brain to atrophy, eventually shrinking it down to nothing. Sufferers revert to infancy and become unable to walk. The parts of the brain that support speech and sight gradually dete-



Courtesy photo

Julia Vitarello posed with her daughter, Mila, who dressed as her favorite character Elsa from Frozen to celebrate Halloween.

riorate. Children with Mila's type of Batten often die by age 12.

Through a Facebook post in January 2017, Dr. Timothy Yu, a

neurologist and neurogeneticist at Boston Children's Hospital learned that Mila's family was looking for a way to undergo genome sequencing quickly. One mutation in a Batten-causing gene had been located from Mila's father, Alek Makovec. But two mutations in that gene were needed to cause the disease, and no lab was able to find the other mutation passed on from her mother. Yu stepped up to help and his lab uncovered the extremely tough-to-find mutation, which was the missing clue. And then unexpectedly, Yu took it one step further and told Mila's parents he might be able to help with a treatment.

Yu knew of a recently approved drug called Spinraza, developed to treat another devastating childhood disease. Spinraza was showing remarkable success. He surmised that if he was able to develop a different version of Spinraza, customized to Mila's specific gene mutation, it might work effectively to hide the error and change the course

of Batten Disease in Mila. In January 2018, Mila began treatment using the new drug, affectionately named milasen.

"It's kind of like a little Band-Aid to cover up her mutation," Vitarello said. "One of the reasons this is an ice-breaking treatment is because it's a fully customized genetic treatment. This idea has been dreamed of for decades, and now Mila and milasen have proven that it can happen and it may work. On top of that, it was realized in less than one year from diagnosis, which is unheard of."

Beyond the scope of saving her daughter, Vitarello's goal has been to pave the way to help others with rare diseases. Although it's early and more work needs to be done, the fact that Mila is showing promising signs is incredibly hopeful.

When asked about the future of diagnosing and curing genetic diseases, Vitarello said, "The future looks brighter by the day."

*Continued on Page 4*



*Holiday Celebration with Family*

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# SCULPTURE

Continued from Page 1

\$750 stipend had been given to artist Joshua Pass for his sculpture, "Feather." A People's Choice Award of \$250 will be presented at the December First Friday Art Walk based on voting from the public. Ballots are available in this issue of the Courier (see below), or locally at Osmosis Art & Architecture and at Niwot Market. One lucky voter will be selected at random to receive a \$25 gift certificate at Osmosis.

Deemer, who co-owns Outdoor Craftsmen with his wife Paula Deemer, donated all of the labor for creation of the landscaped corner, and when funds ran short, donated most of the labor for installation of the artwork, and also loaned a sculpture from his personal collection. "It's a great asset to the community," Deemer said. "It was a pleasure to support the community as we have in

the past, and hope to do in the future."

The effort to fund the landscaped corner and sculptures has included the Niwot Business Association, the Niwot Cultural Arts Association, the Niwot Community Association, the Rotary Club of Niwot, Cottonwood Park West HOA, Boulder County Transportation, and the Niwot Local Improvement District.

Postle noted that one sculpture, entitled "Spirit of the River Does Not Live Long in a Drain-

age Pipe," had been donated to the Niwot community through the NCAA by the family of artist Scott Reuman, who passed away in 2013. His brother, Peter Reuman of Nederland, was on hand for the dedication, as were several other featured artists.

VINTAGE COLORADO  
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Community Corner at Sculpture Park

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Your Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Turn in ballots at Niwot Market or Osmosis Art Gallery by  
Dec. 1, 2018

# MILA

Continued from Page 3

I think there's a combination of things happening. One of them is that rare diseases are getting a ton of attention because although each rare disease affects only a tiny group of people, if you look at rare diseases as a whole, it's like cancer. There are 30 million people in the US alone who have a rare disease. And the technology to identify the underlying genetic cause of these diseases is taking off. More families are going to bat for their children; they're raising money and putting together scientists to come up with treatments. Most are focused on one disease. But some

treatments, like Mila's could be slightly modified and cut across hundreds to thousands of diseases."

Mila has a lot of challenges ahead of her, and being able to communicate well is probably the biggest one, because Mila is blind and nonverbal.

"Once again we're entering uncharted territory. Rehabilitating a child who had these skills and lost them isn't something therapists are trained to do," Vitarello said.

Vitarello described the group effort to support Mila. She has built a team of people who are dedicated to giving Mila the best chance possible. Mila often has a caregiver by her side who works together with her parents and a mobility specialist who has experience using restorative yoga with children with neurological conditions. She rides a horse named China every week, sometimes with a speech therapist walking beside her and engaging her. Mila also works with more traditional physical and occupational therapists. The process is constantly evolving.

Mila goes to Boston every three to four months with her family for a single injection treatment that takes an hour to administer with no overnight hospital stay.

Vitarello said the short-term goal of Mila's Miracle, a foundation the family started after Mila's diagnosis, is to treat more children and confirm that this technique is as successful as it seems. But, like any new path in science, it will require raising millions of dollars and the foundation is committed to doing that.

The long-term dream, Vitarello said, would be to have clinics offer customized genetic treatments to children.

"I will keep working hard so Mila and those that follow her will have a brighter future," Vitarello said.

To donate to Mila's Miracle Foundation, and help to pave new treatment path for kids with fatal genetic diseases visit: [www.stopbatten.org](http://www.stopbatten.org).

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# FAMILIAR FACES: Vic and Joyce Johnson



Photo by Vicky Dorvee

Joyce and Vic Johnson are longtime Niwot residents and familiar faces to many in the community.

By VICKY DORVEE  
Editorial@lhvc.com

A close friend of Joyce and Victor Johnson's brought them to the attention of the Courier, knowing the couple would be interesting to profile in our Familiar Faces column. They've made the most of the area by building strong friendships, strolling around town, and enjoying local restaurants and businesses. Their love for each other and the community are inspirational and heartwarming. Here's a glimpse into their lives.

### Can you give us a little background on yourselves and how you met?

Vic Johnson (VJ) - From the time I was five years old until I was 17, I grew up in New York City. I graduated from high school and went into the Marine Corps in 1945. I stayed in the service for four years and came back for college. But then the Korean War started so I went back into the Marines until I retired in 1967.

I'd been to Colorado in the 1950s. Back then Boulder was a little college town and I liked it so this is where I brought my family. After my [first] wife died, I was looking for someplace to live. I came to Niwot and there was a rental sign on the building next door.

After I moved in, my landlady told her [Joyce] that "a live one had moved in." So she laid in wait

for me at the communal mailbox.

Joyce Johnson (JJ) - I came from Connecticut and had lived in New England for 58 years. I moved here with my [late] husband, because his son lived in Boulder and owned this townhome. We were only going to stay until my husband retired, but he died three years after we got here.

Vic moved next door, we met and married three years later. I ambushed him. I was ready to meet someone, so I thought I'll watch for him.

### What did you do prior to retiring?

VJ - When I went back into the Marines, I requested flight training. I wound up back in Korea flying several different aircrafts all over the world.

I worked for Ball Aerospace in Boulder as a production engineer making one-of-a-kind-type of things go round and round in space.

I have six children and most of my children still live around here.

JJ - I had five children when I was very young so I didn't finish college. But, I went back to college and became a teacher when I was 54. It was an exciting part of my life, because I'd always wanted to do that.

When I came out here, I took care of people's children in my home. I also worked in a corrections library in Longmont. It covered everything you'd ever

want to know about jails and prisons.

One of my daughters moved here with her children. One of my daughters and one of my sons died, and my two surviving sons are still in Connecticut.

### What are your days like now?

VJ - Our neighbor arranged for our paperboy to put the paper between the doors. About six in the morning I go down, get the paper, some coffee and we go back to bed to read the newspaper until eight o'clock.

JJ (laughing) - Sometimes I'm the one who goes down to get the paper...not very often.

VJ - Three days a week we go to the therapy pool at the Longmont Hospital and exercise. The other days of the week, we're supposed to walk a couple of miles, but now it's become one mile.

JJ - We used to walk up Niwot Road to downtown and back home on Neva so a lot of people saw us. All of the business people knew us because we'd

walk by almost every day. But since Vic turned 90 we don't go downtown anymore.

VJ - Every year we've made trips somewhere around the world. We've gone to Europe 23 times and we've been to China and Thailand.

JJ - We've been to 31 countries. Walking on our trips became hard, so we're not doing that anymore. But we'll still travel around the country.

We each volunteer at the Longmont Hospital. I work in day surgery keeping the nurses supplied with whatever they need, changing beds and wiping down rooms. Vic helps people in a surgery waiting room.

### I hear you're very close. How do you cultivate your relationship?

JJ - We hold hands everywhere we go. People stop us on the street and comment on that, can you believe it? When we'd walk downtown, quite often there was a woman we'd see and she'd say, "Oh, hello you love birds...I love seeing you holding

hands!"

We're very affectionate with each other and he does many kind things for me.

VJ - She decided she'd cooked dinners long enough, so she no longer cooks dinners. I generally make breakfast and frequently, I make lunch.

JJ - And you take me out to dinner!

VJ - How many restaurants did we go out to while we were dating?

JJ - While we were dating, I started keeping track and on our honeymoon in Italy, I realized we'd been to 120 restaurants.

### Do you have plans you're looking forward to?

JJ - We're thinking of taking a train trip from LA to Seattle. And we're looking forward to Bronco season when we always have people over to watch the games.

VJ - Everyone likes to come here for Bronco's games and drink wine.

Please send suggestions for Familiar Faces profiles to Editor@LHVC.com

**NIWOT REAL ESTATES' SMOKE SIGNALS!**



The Niwot Cookie Moms are packing holiday boxes to send to our troops. We are looking for more names to receive boxes. Send info to Niwot Real Estate before December 1st!



*Barb Ponesse, Pat Murphy, Charlotte Woodward, Tara Littell, Ann Mills, Todd Goad, Pat McCarthy*

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LIVE GREEN IN NIWOT. Walk to schools, town events and trails.



# Keep them safe: pets and wildlife

By DANI HEMMAT  
Editorial@lhvc.com

Colorado is a beautiful place. It is filled with open, wild spaces, and that unbridled nature is why many of us live here. With open, wild spaces comes wildlife. Lately, our local news has been filled with sightings of mountain lions and foxes in our own backyards. Much of this is attributed to human development encroaching on their habitat. As winter approaches, they need to hunt a lot now to survive later. Learning how to coexist with these non-domesticated critters is essential if you're a pet owner.

## CATS

Most cats love to be outside, because they love to hunt. Your household feather duster hasn't got what it takes to satiate Fluffy's instincts when there are birds and squirrels outside her

window. However, letting Fluffy outside is setting her up to be a snack for a coyote, a fox or a mountain lion. The signs for missing cats plastered on street lamp posts are abundant this time of year, when predatory animals are trying to build up their fat stores for winter. The Left Hand Valley is also blessed with fantastic birds of prey, but it's important to understand that a large hawk, eagle or owl could snatch up your feline friend and fly her home for a feast without any regard for her place in your heart. For them, it's just dinner.

The best solution? Keep your cat indoors. If you can't bear to do it all the time, then keep her indoors from early dusk until late morning. There are special cages that can be easily attached to your windows, so that your cat can enjoy fresh air and sunshine without endangering herself or others (birds and small

animals). A lone cat is no match for even one coyote, let alone a well-trained pack of skilled, hungry predators.

## DOGS

A Heatherwood resident recently reported that his puppy encountered a fox in the backyard during a late-night potty break. Letting small dogs of any age out into a fenced yard at night is risky, so it is best to supervise them with a flashlight or keep them leashed while they do their business. If a raccoon or fox is rummaging around in the dark corners of your yard, being surprised and cornered by a dog probably won't end well for the dog. Supervision is key.

Most Left Hand Valley residents can hear the coyotes howling, yipping and even laughing some evenings. This back-and-forth "group-yip-howl" is a way for a group of coyotes to reunite, claim territory so that they don't have to rumble with other coyote groups, and disperse as they go off to hunt. However, these wild canines have such a broad range of vocalizations that they tend to attract off-leash dogs with their songs. While it's an urban myth that a pack of coyotes will lure a dog to its death, an off-leash domestic dog can get riled up and chase after those yappy wild dogs. If your dog gets too close to a pack of coyotes, he might get killed. That's not nefarious

of the coyotes; it's opportunism. The safe practice is to keep your dog on a leash during that dusk to dawn time frame, when his chances of encountering these predators is greatest.

## CHICKENS

You'll never convince any of us who have owned backyard chickens that these silly fowl aren't pets. Backyard chicken farming has grown in popularity over the past 10 years, and now owning a handful of chickens is no longer a novelty hobby. However, those nice fat hens are an dinner invitation to foxes, raccoons and coyotes who can

*Continued on Page 10*



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L to R: Tom Moore, Jewel Ng, Laura Moore, Hannah Valadez, Vicki Maurer, Jeff Foltz, Bruce "Biff" Warren, Laura Guentchev



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# Getting garden ready for winter



Photo by Dani Hemmat

Don't bag them all! Chopped up leaves make for inexpensive and useful mulch to overwinter your garden.

BY DANI HEMMAT  
Editorial@lhvc.com

When the last of the harvest has been pulled from the garden, it's time to put those beds to, well, bed. Preparing your garden for winter will make for healthier, heartier plants and soil next spring.

If you put in a little extra work now, it will pay off once the weeds usually make their appearance when the weather warms. Believe it or not, weeds don't wake up in the spring. They start planning garden domination during the quiet winter months, when no one is giving them a second thought.

First, pull out the annuals and leave the perennials. If you begin early enough, you can throw some seeds for cover crops, such as clover or winter wheat, over the garden. This has the double benefit of holding moisture and protecting your soil over the winter, and adding nitrogen and loft to your soil when you till it under in the spring.

However, you don't have to use cover crops. You can simply get rid of the weeds you see now, then cover the garden with a two to four-inch layer of mulch, such

as chopped leaves, prepared mulch, straw, or pine needles. The idea is to keep moisture in, and keep the ground frozen. This is especially important during our sunny Front Range winters, when a warm spell can goad dormant plants into waking up too early. Wait until after the first frost, then cut dead and dying material back—except for sunflowers and coneflowers, because birds in winter can use them for food and shelter—and spread that mulch around.

If you really want to boost those vegetable garden beds that will remain fallow throughout the winter, weed them, spread out a layer of compost, and then mulch. You'll be preventing erosion and desiccation (drying out) during our predictably unpredictable Colorado winters.

It's impossible to predict when you'll need to rake off all that mulch in the spring when it's time for tilling and planting, because we've all been surprised by a snowstorm in April. However, a good rule of thumb is when you start to smell mud, it's time to remove that winter layer so that the soil can warm up and we can start all over again.

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## MORATORIUM

Continued from Page 1

District (NRCD), but with the exclusion of the historic portion of the district. The historic area is defined as 2nd Avenue between Murray Street and Franklin Street with the addition of one lot on the corner of Franklin Street and 2nd Avenue, the site of Colterra Restaurant.

The county has stated the moratorium was needed in order to revise existing building regulations it believes give inadequate guidance on building density and use, as well as poor direction on how to regulate the use of the alley separating the mostly commercial area on 2nd Avenue from the residential area on 3rd Avenue. The county's rationale for recommending only the non-historic area remain under the moratorium was that it is "subject to less review and also has a greater potential for change which poses the greatest risk of altering community character."

Case also said there's been a "shortcoming" in how neighbors have been involved with development in areas adjacent to their homes. As a result, he stated new regulations would likely engage residents sooner in the process.

Speakers repeatedly expressed a sense of urgency to rebuild Colterra Restaurant which has been closed for a year due to a fire. Niwot residents and business owners, out of town patrons, a local meat vendor, and even a competitor, Howard Treppeda of Treppeda's Ristorante, each explained that the eatery's absence is a big loss financially because it draws shoppers to Niwot, its suppliers have lost sales, and tax revenue is lost which would help fund local improvements and events.

A sometimes see-sawing commentary took to place with apprehensive Old Town 3rd Avenue residents calling for a continuation of the moratorium and frustrated 2nd Avenue business owners who are ready to move forward with their development plans taking to the podium.

Jim Kalinski spoke of the changes he's witnessed as a 3rd Avenue resident for the past 41 years, some buildings he dubbed well done and others not. "Please allow the county planning staff



Courtesy photo

*Third Avenue resident Jim Kalinski was one of many public speakers to come before the Boulder County Commissioners at a hearing regarding the building moratorium in Old Town Niwot.*

time to properly address all of the issues and save our connection to the past," Kalinski said in his appeal for the moratorium to be upheld.

Developer Anne Postle read an excerpt from the county's comprehensive plan regarding Niwot sidewalks which "encourages developing a network of pedestrians and bicycle pathways that are protected from vehicle encroachment." Postle cited the provision in support of 2nd Avenue businesses' right to use the alley, rather than the Land Use department's current policy of limiting vehicle access to 2nd Avenue where driveways cross sidewalks.

"I would suggest that a six-minute moratorium is appropriate, not a six-month moratorium to increase the safety of our pedestrians. Compromising the safety of our sidewalks should not be negotiable," Postle said.

Postle said she was confident that the land use department had made a decision regarding a proposed setback requirement. "Just tell us," Postle said. She said residents want a large setback and commercial parties want to maintain the current zero-foot setback, but she felt a decision could be made without a moratorium so that developers can plan accordingly. Postle is proposing a development in the non-historic section of 2nd Avenue.

About ten Old Town residents' comments expressed the senti-

ment that the moratorium will result in a much needed thoughtful revision of regulations. Two residents were not in support of the amendment to the moratorium and felt every developer, regardless of which block they are on, should be treated similarly.

Bruce Rabeler, a 2nd Avenue business owner and a 3rd Avenue resident said, "The focus should be on the plan review process which has failed us in the past when the public wasn't given proper notice." He stated that setback requirements, access to the alley, and the addition of residential properties are the biggest clarifications that should result from revamping the regulations.

Developer Bob Von Eschen, whose company Von's Colorado Concept is proposing a mixed-use development in the non-historic district, said his company has been in the application process for over a year, but that Land Use staff turnovers and delays have prevented him from getting his company's plans approved and now he's unable to move forward. Tim Coonce, owner of Porchfront Homes in the historic district, said because of a moratorium anywhere in Niwot, his bank will not extend a loan for development of his property.

Treppeda said he was in attendance to support the rebuilding of Colterra and said he is in favor of allowing businesses access via the alley. "I've seen a lot of close calls," he said regarding pedestri-

ans, bikes, and vehicles in front of his business.

Tony Santelli, owner of the Niwot Tavern, former LID board member, and president of the Niwot Business Association said, "Colterra needs to open fast. This is a crisis for Niwot."

Business owners also noted that the Land Use Department does not allow a developer to simply file an application for Site Plan Review, even without a moratorium, citing a delay of up to three months while waiting for "permission" to file.

After apologizing for the surprising manner in which the moratorium was initially announced, the commissioners unanimously accepted the Land Use Department's recommendation to uphold the moratorium with the exclusion of the historic area. Speedily completing the code update was encouraged, as well as giving developers already in the queue a place at the front of the line.

"Two or three projects could make a huge difference and could change that neighborhood charm," Commissioner Deb Gardner said. "Knowing that we don't really have as restrictive processes and codes on that second block gives me pause that we don't have in place the regulations we need."

"Great places may happen by accident, but they don't stay great by accident. We need to be sure we have that vision," Commissioner Elise Jones said.

With the amendment to the moratorium, Colterra can move forward with plans to rebuild, according to the county as original plans submitted to the county for rebuilding Colterra have been approved. However, Bradford Heap, owner of Colterra announced that new plans will be submitted which may include a larger building and residential units because "the insurance offer won't make it financially feasible to reconstruct in its prior form." In addition, Colterra relies on leasing parking spaces from neighboring properties which continue to be subject to the moratorium. With the uncertainty of possible changes to the NRCD regulations, those parking spaces may not be available to Colterra.

Tim and Mary Coonce of Porchfront Homes have been working on plans to add an addition to their property at 102

Second Avenue, and had been waiting on a response from county planners since June 11, 2018, to get an appointment to file their application. On September 20, 2018, the temporary moratorium went into effect, and they still awaited a response. As a result, they were delayed another 40 days until the moratorium was lifted for the Historic District.

Tim Coonce reported that he emailed planner Denise Grimm shortly after the hearing, once again requesting a date when he could submit his plans. In response, he was given a date of Feb. 4, 2019. When he responded that Commissioner Elise Jones asked the Land Use Department to expedite applications for those property owners affected by the moratorium, he was given a new date of Jan. 2, 2019, when Porchfront will be able to submit its plans.

Case laid out a timeline for the moratorium with completion in March 2019. Jones asked if there was a possibility of doing it more quickly. "I'd be hesitant to say that we could do this much faster," Case said.

Gardner asked if the few projects already planned could make some progress during the moratorium. Case said it was possible to do some preliminary planning, but "it would be at their risk."

Following the commissioners' decision, 3rd Avenue resident Victoria Keen said, "I think the moratorium decision reflects the best possible outcome. Colterra will be excluded and will be able to proceed with their plans."

"I was floored by the outcome, Von Eschen said, "The part that really is disturbing is the short-sightedness of the decision." Von Eschen said his expectations are that regulation revisions will increase setbacks and restrict use of the alley. "If they downzone the area we can develop, then we lose green space and walkways. The one thing we realize is that we have to separate pedestrian traffic in order for them to be safe."

"The continuation of the moratorium is very disappointing," Postle said. "I don't think the land use staff or the commissioners understand the harm they are doing to our local small businesses. This moratorium is a dark cloud over all of our businesses."



# Real understanding helps eliminate poverty

By DANI HEMMAT  
Editorial@lhvc.com

Poverty is a very real, yet complex issue in Boulder County. The federal government considers the poverty level to be a family of four living on \$25,000 or less a year. In Boulder County, however, that family of four would need to earn over \$86,000 a year to pay for all the things needed to raise a family--housing, medical care, food, transportation, clothing, taxes and all those necessities that add up.

Every year, the Boulder County Circles Campaign presents a poverty simulation event that is open to anyone in the public, in an effort to help foster a deeper understanding of what it means to be living in poverty in this place we call home.

The Boulder County Circles Campaign helps small groups of people lift themselves out of poverty to maintain a thriving life here in Boulder County. This year's event was held on

November 4 at the Mapleton YMCA in Boulder and had about 43 participants.

Each participant is given a budget, and then faced with simulated situations that low-income, working individuals encounter every day. Participants must navigate different stations while working with their limited and meager budgets. Tough choices that many face every day have to be made during the simulation. How to pay for child care in order to go to work, or choosing between paying rent or paying for health care are part of the day. Standing in line and waiting for transportation or rent vouchers is time that could be spent taking care of one's children or working to earn money, but those transportation vouchers are needed to get to that job. Paying the heat bill is essential, but so is feeding a family and paying car insurance. Choosing between these necessities is a daily, harsh fact of life for many who live here.

Circles Coordinator Marnita

Rodriguez said, "People are frustrated. They want more (vouchers, etc.) than we can give. Things aren't going their way (in the simulation), it's difficult and frustrating. But that's poverty."

She added, "One family that signed up was missing some money in their packet. It wasn't intended, but we let it be known that sometimes you lose money. It's a reality."

Poverty is almost always an endless cycle unless someone gets the help they need and learns the tools necessary to lift themselves out of that cycle. In 2017, Boulder County Circles Campaign helped 18 people graduate from the program. Those graduates remain free from public assistance and are continually improving their assets, income and quality of life.

Although the guests at the simulation didn't know it until closer to the end of the three-hour event, the people who ran each station at the event were all either graduates or current participants in the Circles Cam-



Photo by Dani Hemmat

Participants in the Boulder County Circles Campaign Poverty Simulation learn that a lot of time is spent standing in lines when you're living in poverty.

paign.

"It's a big part of the simulation," said Rodriguez, "to have people running the booths that have been through our program. They're the ones who know what it's really like to live like this."

Jennifer Kelly, who will grad-

uate from the program in about six months, was in charge of the booth that offered payday loans, which purports to help people make ends meet when they have more month than money, but ends up putting them deeper

Continued on Page 10

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## POVERTY

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into a financial hole each time.

"This program (Circles) really works," Kelly said. "It's amazing, and I'm trying to get my friends that would benefit from it to sign up. It helps people help themselves and change their lives." Kelly started the program while working at WalMart, and is now in a higher paying job because of the work she's done with Circles and the Community Action Plan.

The purpose of the annual poverty simulation is to help people gain a deeper understanding of what barriers the working poor here in Boulder County face constantly. People with housing and multiple jobs are still struggling to put food on the table and buy shoes for their children.

Lara and Brian Van Matre participated in the challenge along with three of their children. The idea that their kids could be exposed to a different side of life was appealing to the Van Matres, who hoped that the day would impact them all for the better.

"It really drives home the point," said Lara Van Matre, "that time is a commodity, and you can't be everywhere you need to be at once in order to make ends meet and get what you need."

Brian Van Matre agreed, "It's very, very frustrating."

Having to experience what that feels like, even if it's just for a few hours, can help inform each participant with a clearer understanding. According to Rodriguez, about 5-10 percent of the poverty simulation participants end up volunteering with the Circles Campaign each year. The Circles Campaign hopes that with that better understanding, people will work harder to support a more effective response to poverty in their own communities, because by lifting each other up, we lift ourselves up.

To learn more about the work of Boulder County Circles Campaign, which meets at the Vinelife Church on Lookout Road in Gunbarrel, and how to participate in the 2019 poverty simulation, visit [www.buildingliveablecommunities.org](http://www.buildingliveablecommunities.org) or email [circlesinfo@bouldercounty.org](mailto:circlesinfo@bouldercounty.org)

## SAFE PETS

Continued from Page 6

can deftly hop over or squeeze under a fence. Most chicken-snatchings happen at night, so be sure that all your girls are accounted for and locked up securely for the night. It's also a good idea to leave them in a pen during the day if no one is typically home. Having activity around the house in the daytime will discourage most predators, but if there's no human activity and a handful of tasty birds milling around the backyard, a starving fox will grow bold quickly.

### WILDLIFE

In the true spirit of coexisting, we need to keep wildlife safe, too. Almost 20 percent of injured wildlife brought into rehab facilities were hurt by a cat or dog, not to mention the countless orphans created when their parents are killed by household pets. A 2013 study by the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service suggested that free-ranging domestic cats kill an estimated 1.3 to 4 billion birds and 6.3 to 22.3 billion mammals (such as rabbits, voles, mice, shrews) annually. Keeping cats inside not only keeps them safe, but it keeps the wildlife safe.

And while the seemingly annoyed felines and leashing of dogs might feel inconvenient, it is only fair that we try and share this great place with those that were likely here before we were.

## Where in the world...?

By Nellie Nibnose  
Editorial@lhvc.com

Hint: Smiling helps.

We also received the following from Laura Haller. "I have walked by that bottle tree a million times on my way to Niwot Market. It is next to the sidewalk between 2 houses on Johnson Circle before you get to the little duck pond before you get to Niwot Rd."

Greetings intrepid travelers and thank you for letting us know you found the mysterious bottle tree.

Bruce McKay, despite your request, I wouldn't think of not using this fine photo. As Mr. McKay indicated, the tree is in the backyard of a house on Johnson Circle in Niwot. Selfie

A big thank you to all the great detective work.



Photo by "Smiling" Bruce McKay

Bruce McKay was the first to find the bottle tree.



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# Making Halloween happen for every child

By **DANI HEMMAT**  
Editorial@lhvc.com

Halloween is an exciting time for most children - running through the dark streets with friends, knocking on doors, getting free treats, and being someone else for one day a year.

And two local community volunteers believe it's a day that should be available to any child who wants to participate, regardless of whether or not their family can afford a snazzy costume.

Leesah Patt and Peri Shaplow met over a post on the NextDoor social media app, quickly connected and after a short phone call, got to work to make their latest community effort a reality.

Their goal? Making Halloween happen for every child who wants. They are collecting used and new costumes in good condition to be distributed to kids in need for Halloween 2019.

Both women are passionate about helping their community through volunteer work, and they both sit on several boards

of community organizations. Patt was recently featured in the Courier's Left Hand Laurel column with her family for their extensive and generous work in the local community.

The women connected when Shaplow posted on NextDoor about collecting costumes, and after talking with her, Patt realized she'd wanted to start up something similar. The idea seemed a natural fit for both of them.

They've set their sights on collecting hundreds of costumes

in the coming months. Additionally, they will be working on setting up pop-up shops that people can "shop" at throughout the community and working with local partners to host these events.

They are currently working on setting up donation centers

throughout Boulder. If you want to start your own drive in your neighborhood or school, they will pick up gathered donations in Longmont, Boulder, Lafayette and surrounding areas. To connect with the effort, email [donations@costumespitch.org](mailto:donations@costumespitch.org)

## New Postmaster in Niwot



Photo by Karen Copperberg

New Niwot Postmaster Bill Trent (center) is flanked by Mike Patten (left) and Martha Knapp. Trent comes to Niwot from the Lyons post office, where he worked for three years. Patten has been in Niwot for six months, after two years at the Longmont post office. Knapp has been our friendly post office face for two and one-half years, after spending three and one-half years previously in Ward and Nederland.

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# SPORTS

## Niwot gymnastics wins Class 4A state title



Photo by Jocelyn Rowley

Junior Hattie Katechis, a newcomer to the team this season, does a jump during her beam performance at the Class 4A state championships at Thornton High on Nov. 2.



Photo by Jocelyn Rowley

Niwot junior Amber Nusser approaches the vault at the Class 4A state championships at Thornton High on Nov. 2.

By JOCELYN ROWLEY  
Sports@lhvc.com

The Niwot gymnastics team claimed the school's second state crown in less than a week with a stirring win at the 2018 Class 4A championship meet, held Nov. 2 at Thornton High School.

Led by senior captain Lindsay Chohon and newcomer Hattie Katechis, the Cougars scored 181.500 team points to win this year's title, the sixth in the program's history.

"I'm at a loss for words," head coach Marisa Purcell said after winning the championship, her second as head coach. "I'm proud of them for coming together as a team and competing and working so hard."

Cougar gymnasts claimed two of the top three spots in this year's all-around competition, and placed a total of three in the top ten. Chohon capped off her remarkable high school career by finishing runner-up for the second straight year, thanks to

top-three finishes in the floor (9.450) and vault (9.300) events, and a pair of sixth-place scores in balance beam (9.200) and uneven bars (9.050). In her four years with the program, Chohon finished in the top-ten all-around at state four times, earning All-State honors in 2017. She was also a member of the Cougars' 2015 state championship team as a freshman.

"I knew I was going to come in here with my team and be as confident as I could and hope them all up and go home a champion no matter what happened," Chohon said of her mentality heading into her final high school competition. "It was awesome being in this atmosphere for one last time. It's a great way to end it."

Finishing just behind Chohon in the all-around standings was junior Hattie Katechis, who competed with Niwot for the first time this season. She placed second overall in the beam (9.250), third in bars (9.150), seventh in vault (9.125), and 14th in floor (9.100). In seventh place all-around was junior Taylor Green (35.825), who placed third in the beam event (9.250) and fourth in floor (9.400).

According to Purcell, the team's off-season skill-building regimen was a significant factor in their success at this year's championships, as was a fortuitous draw in the rotation schedule at the meet itself.

Starting on floor "started the

*Continued on Page 14*

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# Niwot calls it a season after playoff loss to Skyview

By JOCELYN ROWLEY  
Sports@lhvc.com

If cold drizzle wasn't enough to dampen the spirits of Niwot soccer fans who traveled to see their team's playoff match against No. 2 seed Skyview on Oct. 30, then the final 15 minutes of the second half surely was. Up 2-1 heading into the home stretch, the defense allowed two late goals and the upset victory that seemed within reach of the No. 18 seed Cougars suddenly slipped away.

"I can't say that we necessarily outplayed them," head coach Steve Dimit said after the emotional 3-2 loss, their second to the Wolverines this season. "But we definitely matched them this time. The effort was a whole lot better than the first time we were here. The guys left it all out there."

When these two squads met under sunny skies back in August, the as-yet-untested Niwot defense fell victim to a quick Wolverines' attack, leading to a 1-0 defeat, their first of the season. In the more than two months since,

Skyview won 14 consecutive matches, including a dramatic 3-2 comeback win over Mullen on Oct. 24, while the Cougars went 7-6 in a season plagued by inconsistency.

Dimit and the Cougars came into the Halloween Eve rematch determined to neutralize Skyview's potent offense, which averaged more than four goals per game in 2018. They also hoped to see some signs of life from their own scoring attack, which was at times on hiatus during the latter part of Niwot's regular season.

This time, it was the Cougars with the early pressure. Senior Chuy Gonzales finally broke through for Niwot in the 13th minute with his third goal of the year, followed less than five minutes later by senior forward Manny Tapia, who netted his team-leading 16th goal to give the Cougars took a surprising 2-0 lead.

Unfortunately, that was all the scoring Niwot was able to muster. Skyview got on the board late in the first half on a penalty shot, making it 2-1 heading into the break. Niwot held its lead for

most of the second half, but a shot by Skyview's Bryan Vazquez was deflected just past senior keeper Mario Munoz to tie the game 2-2 with less than 15 minutes left. A few minutes later, another deflected shot got past Munoz, after the Cougars failed to clear a corner kick.

The Niwot offense did generate some chances as time ticked down, but they weren't able to finish. Skyview held on for the win and Niwot's season once again ended a few games too early.

"I told the guys I'm just proud of them," Dimit said. "They worked really hard to get here, and things didn't go our way. It wasn't for lack of effort."

### SKYVIEW 3, NIWOT 2

Niwot (9-7-1) 20 — 2  
Skyview (17-0) 12 — 3

Goals—Niwot: Jesus Gonzales Manny Tapia  
Goalies (Min-Goals allowed-Saves)—Mario Munoz (80-3-9);



Photo by Jocelyn Rowley

Senior Manny Tapia battles with a Skyview player for possession of the ball in Niwot's second round playoff game on Oct. 30.



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## STUDENT-ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

# Mario Muñoz

By Jocelyn Rowley  
Editorial@lhvc.com

Niwot entered the 2018 boys soccer season with four first-time starters on the back line, but stopping goals turned out to be the least of their worries down the stretch, thanks to senior keeper Mario Munoz.

Under Munoz's vocal tutelage, the untested Cougar defense was solid all year, especially against powerhouse offenses such as Air Academy and Legacy. They allowed just 18 goals in 17 games, and kept Niwot competitive even in their six losses, which were all by a single point. Munoz and the defense also posted six shutouts in 2018, including a 3-0 win over conference foe Centaurus on Oct. 4 to avenge their loss in the 2017 state semifinals.

Of course, shutouts and one-goal margins are nothing new for the veteran Munoz, who has "consistently been one of the top goalkeepers in the state," according to Niwot head coach Stephen Dimit.

"Mario has been the cornerstone of our success for the past three years," Dimit said of the veteran, who also led his team to the post-season three times. "He has a competitor's attitude, and he approaches every practice and game as a challenge to be at his best."

Munoz was elevated to the



Photo by Jocelyn Rowley

Senior Mario Munoz keeps his eye on the incoming ball during the Cougars final regular season game against Silver Creek on Oct. 16.

Cougar varsity squad as a sophomore, and then pressed into service without much warning.

"I was expecting to ride the bench the whole time and support the starter," he recalled. "Then he wasn't having a good game, so they put me in. I was still eating seeds on the bench, and I had to spit them out."

In the 48 games that fol-

lowed, Munoz recorded nearly 300 saves, while allowing just over one goal per game. He posted 15 shutouts, and surrendered two or more goals just twelve times, but never more than three in a single game.

Munoz seems to have a high tolerance for the pressure that comes with being "the gatekeeper to all the team's wins and losses," and even called being in the spotlight "fun." He said the key to success in the high-profile position is equanimity.

"There are downtimes for sure," he said. "You can't let it get to you, because if you do, then you're going to have a really bad season. There will be rough spots, but you just have to get through them....As emotional as it gets, you have to be a rock for your team."

When he's not out on the pitch with the Cougars, Muñoz is probably indulging his love for the sport via video game. In the classroom, he has been taking AP and honors courses since freshman year, and considers Mrs. Ranglos and Mr. Burton among his favorite teachers. He plans to attend college next year and study business, hopefully in a place where he can also continue his soccer career.

## GYMNASTICS

Continued from Page 12

night off great," she said. Four Niwot gymnasts finished in the top five for the event, including sophomore Grace Stephenson, who took first overall with 9.500 points. "It's what they enjoy doing and they were pumped for it. They performed marvelously."

That momentum carried them through the next three events, which all saw Niwot gymnasts place in the top ranks. On the balance beam, four Cougars finished in the top ten, including freshman Mia Curry in eighth (9.150). The newcomer also finished fourth (9.150) in bars and fifth in floor (9.375) for Niwot. Elsewhere, freshman Olivia Stroka competed in three events for Niwot and finished 12th in floor. Junior Amber Nusser finished 27th in vault, and Mallory Christopher was 26th in vault and 28th in bars.

"They came in and did their job, and I couldn't ask for anything more," Purcell said. "They were phenomenal."

The Cougars also came up big in the individual event finals held on Nov. 3. Niwot once again dominated the floor rotation, with Chohon taking first (9.600), followed by Stephenson (9.525) in second, Curry (9.500) in third, and freshman Olivia Stroka (9.350) in sixth. Chohon also placed second in vault (9.300), and third in bars (9.150) and beam (9.250), while Katechis captured second (9.2) in bars, third in vault (9.250), seventh in beam, and 10th in floor.

### 11/2—Class 4A State Championships, Team and All-Around

**Team scores** — 1. Niwot 181.500, 2. Green Mountain 179.950, 3. Elizabeth 176.300, 4. Evergreen 169.925, 5. Rampart 168.875, 6. Standley Lake 167.375, 7. Pueblo Central 165.250, 8. Bear Creek 164.550, 9. Loveland 156.875,

**All-around** — 1. Emily Graham, Green Mountain, 37.025; 2. Lindsay Chohon 37.000; 3. Hattie Katechis 36.625; 4. Lucy Meinert, Green Mountain, 36.600; 5. Ciera Babb, Rampart, 36.025; 6. Emily Belmonte, Green Mountain, 35.975; 7. Taylor Green 35.825; 8. Camille Guinet, Standley Lake, 35.500; 9. Jackie Fritsche, Evergreen, 35.250; 10. Megan Montoya, Elizabeth, 35.025



Photo by Jocelyn Rowley

Niwot gymnast Grace Stephenson was all smiles during her first-place routine in floor exercise at the Class 4A state championships at Thornton High on Nov. 3.

### INDIVIDUALS

**Vault** — 1. Ciera Babb, Rampart, 9.425; 2. Emily Graham, Green Mountain, 9.400; 3. Lindsay Chohon 9.300; 4. Grace Stephenson 9.175; 5. Lucy Meinert, Green Mountain, 9.150 (9.163).

**Floor** — 1. Grace Stephenson 9.500, 2. Lindsay Chohon 9.450, 3. Hannah Duvall, Standley Lake 9.400 (9.388), 4. Taylor Green 9.400 (9.363), 5. Mia Curry 9.375

**Uneven bars** — 1. Ciera Babb, Rampart, 9.300; 2. Emily Graham, Green Mountain, 9.200; 3. Hattie Katechis 9.150; 4. Mia Curry 9.125; 5. Camille Guinet, Standley Lake, 9.125

**Beam** — 1. Lucy Meinert, Green Mountain, 9.550; 2. Hattie Katechis 9.250; 3. Taylor Green 9.250; 4. Emily Graham, Green Mountain, 9.200; 5. Hailey Garner, Pueblo Central, 9.200

### 11/3—Class 4A State Championships, Individual Event Finals (Niwot Results)

**Vault** — 2. Lindsay Chohon 9.300; 3. Hattie Katechis, 9.250; 8. Grace Stephenson 9.100; 10. Taylor Green 9.025

**Uneven bars** — 2. Hattie Katechis 9.200; 3. Lindsay Chohon 9.150; 11. Mia Curry 8.650

**Beam** — 3. Lindsay Chohon 9.250; 5. Mia Curry 9.225; 6. Taylor Green 9.125; 7. Hattie Katechis 9.125; 9. Grace Stephenson 8.950

**Floor** — 1. Lindsay Chohon 9.600; 2. Grace Stephenson 9.525; 3. Mia Curry 9.500; 6. Olivia Stroka 9.350; 9. Taylor Green 9.250; 10. Hattie Katechis 9.225;



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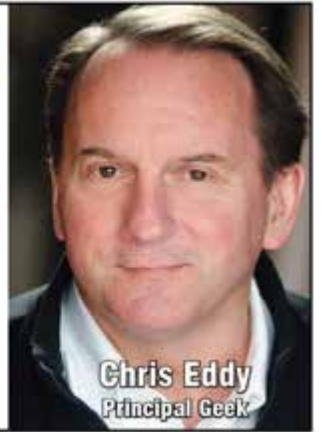
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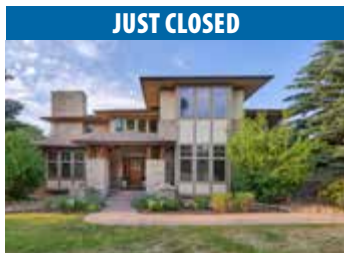
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**NIWOT CLAIMS THIRD STRAIGHT REGIONAL TITLE**

By JOCELYN ROWLEY  
*Sports@lhvc.com*

obviously the outcome we wanted.”

On Nov. 2, the No. 3 seed Niwot clinched their third consecutive bid to the state championships with wins over No. 36 Mullen (25-13, 25-13, 25-13) and No. 22 Thomas Jefferson (25-8, 25-27, 25-16, 25-17) in the Class 4A regional 3 tournament.

The 2018 Class 4A volleyball championships are slated for Nov. 8-10 at the Denver Coliseum. The Cougars head into the newly configured state tournament as the No. 3 seed and get an opening round bye. They face the winner of the Evergreen (6) vs. Cheyenne Mountain (11) match on Nov. 8 at 5:30 p.m., with a second match on Friday at 12:30 or 3:30 p.m.

“I’m very happy,” Niwot head coach Daisha Agho said. “That’s



Photo by Jocelyn Rowley

Seniors Audrey Richard and Annika Turner, and sophomore Natasha Terekhova wait for a serve from Mullen during the Class 4A regional 3 tournament on Nov. 2.



Photo by Jocelyn Rowley

Senior Zoe Gonzales takes a pass from Madison Schoeder for a kill against Mullen during the Class 4A regional 3 tournament on Nov. 2.