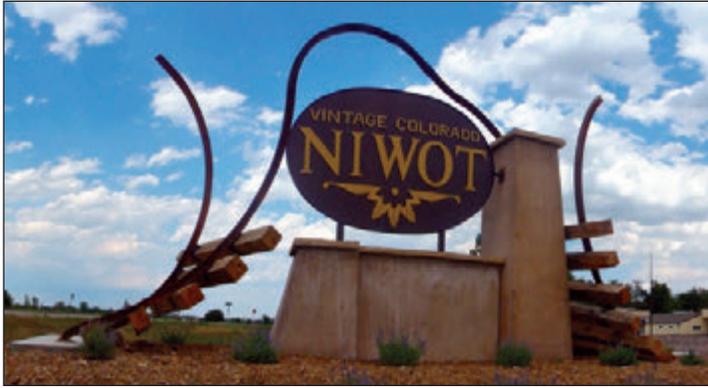




## Incorporation feasibility study available



Courtesy Photo

To incorporate or not to incorporate.

By JOCELYN ROWLEY  
Editorial@lhvc.com

Converting the Town of Niwot into a statutory municipality and funding its initial years of operation will “almost

certainly” require an increase in local property and sales taxes, according to the Exploratory Incorporation Feasibility Study, an online report released last month by the Niwot Incorporation Committee (NIC) at

www.Niwotstudy.com.

Billed as “a grass roots effort to understand the costs, benefits and long-term implications of an incorporated Town of Niwot,” the study goes on to conclude that those potential increases could be offset by local control of road repairs and maintenance, especially in the area’s subdivisions, which could otherwise be subject to a Public Improvement District levy or other county-wide tax hike.

“The hope is the residents of Niwot see the results of the Exploratory Incorporation Study as a top level overview of the some of the options available for ending our worsening roads problem as well as presenting an option to preserve

and improve Niwot through local self-rule,” wrote committee member Steve Lehan in an email interview. “The niwotstudy.com website is a tool to help them to quickly distill down a lot of the questions that come up when trying to figure out what local self-rule would look like financially and operationally. Niwot is a thoughtful town, and the website is meant to be a starting point to facilitate our thinking and discussion.”

Conducted over several months, the feasibility study seeks to compare the potential revenue and service impacts of creating a “focused local government” in Niwot with remaining under the purview of Boulder County and the

Board of County Commissioners. It includes a draft budget, with projected costs for holding elections, hiring town staff, and then providing or contracting for municipal services such as fire and police protection.

In its analysis, the NIC used publicly available budget and tax records for Niwot and similarly sized Colorado towns, as well as information from the county finance and assessor’s offices. The group also received assistance from a college researcher and Jacque Wedding-Scott, CEO of White-stone Strategies and former City Manager of Centennial, Colorado, which incorporated in 2001.

Continued on Page 6

## Building community by building the East Side Art Institute



Photo by Hannah Stewart

Board members Nancy Utterback and Kathy Griffin are excited for the East Side Art Institute’s future; especially the prospect of a building.

By HANNAH STEWART  
Editorial@lhvc.com

President John F. Kennedy once said, “If art is to nourish the roots of our culture, society must set the artist free to follow his

vision wherever it takes him.”

Unfortunately for many artists, they are often limited by financial means, thus preventing them from pursuing the activities they love. This phenomenon is not limited to professional

artists, many of whom find art later in life after working in “practical” career fields like finance or education. It’s well known that schools are often limited in resources and that the arts are often the department to take the first cuts.

That is exactly what the East Side Art Institute (ESAI) seeks to change. The institute was founded in March 2016 and has status as a nonprofit, charitable organization. But it is more than simply that, as President Nancy Utterback explained, it is a place for established and aspirational artists to come together under one roof to share and expand their knowledge and skills.

“This institute is as much about becoming more human as anything else: being able to take

Continued on Page 7

## Airport noise may decrease with Neguse’s proposed act

By HANNAH STEWART  
Editorial@lhvc.com

According to statistics from the Boulder Municipal Airport (BMA), in 2017 there were 33 total complaints regarding aircraft noise. These statistics go back as far as 2009 and even though the number of complaints fluctuate over the years, frustration with the noise is consistent, if not growing.

“There’ve been a lot of strong feelings about this for quite a long time,” said Gunbarrel resident Kate Chandler. “I want to move, I can’t sit on my porch, forget it. I can’t have a conversation, that’s how loud it is.”

These strong feelings that Chandler described are held by more than just individual

community members. In fact, a number of residents have banded together to form Citizens for Quiet Skies (CQS). Boulder’s group is just one of a myriad of groups protesting aviation noise and trying to find a solution for it. In fact, one of the largest groups doing this is the Quiet Skies Coalition. This group is made up of the national organization as well as at least 12 official state branches and various other associated or similarly minded groups. It is also affiliated with the Congressional Quiet Skies Caucus.

As for Boulder’s group, CQS formed in 2011, with many of its original members hailing from North Boulder,

Continued on Page 6



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## Community Calendar

### FIRST FRIDAY ART WALK

Niwot's January First Friday Art Walk takes place on 2nd Avenue and in Cottonwood Square Shopping Center on Friday, Jan. 3, from 6 to 9 p.m. with live music on the streets.

through Jan. 5, Chuck Rodgers' drive-through holiday light extravaganza at 5980 79th Street in Niwot is on display for free to the public. For the fourth straight year, Rodgers will be accepting donations of money or canned food on behalf of Longmont's Meals on Wheels program, a service that provides meals to the elderly and disabled in the area. .

### ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT GROUP

The Jan. 1, 2020 meeting is cancelled due to the holiday. 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.

### HOLIDAY LIGHTS FOOD DRIVE

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### BOARD SEEKS NEW MEMBERS

The Aging Advisory Council (AAC), which serves in an advisory capacity to the Boulder County Area Agency on Aging, is currently recruiting a new Niwot representative and at-large members. Applications will be accepted through Friday, Jan. 10, 2020. To apply, visit [www.bouldercounty.org/government/boards-and-commissions/](http://www.bouldercounty.org/government/boards-and-commissions/); click "View Vacancies" under the "Recruitment" section. For more information, contact Lindsay Parsons at [lparsons@bouldercounty.org](mailto:lparsons@bouldercounty.org).

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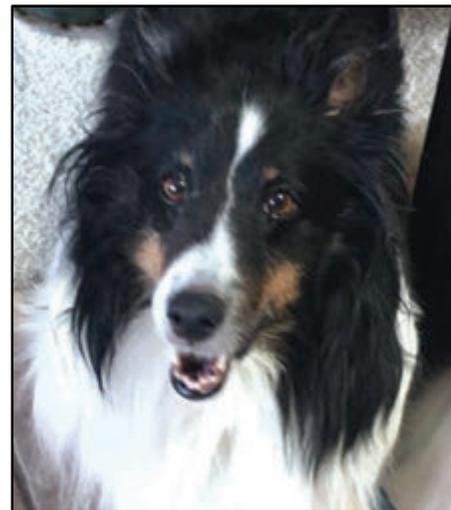
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## COMMUNITY PET SPOTLIGHT

Sponsored by Niwot Rental & Feed



This is Mist, a 9-year-old Sheltie pup who looks like she's all sugar and spice, but is super spunky. During one car trip, not only did she snub a complimentary treat from a friendly banker, she also jumped up on the dashboard of her owner's car. Hunkered down beneath the windshield, Mist refused to move back to the safety of the passenger seat or floorboard. Think Mayhem from the All-state commercial, but cuter. Despite all this, Mist is a loving dog who enjoys naps in the sun and playing with her brother Jax.

We look forward to seeing your pets in our spotlight. Please email your photos and captions [Editorial@lhvc.com](mailto:Editorial@lhvc.com)

# Pair yourself with the perfect pet

By VICKY DORVEE  
Editorial@lhvc.com

According to the American Pet Products Association, in 2019 nearly 112 million U.S. households had a bird, cat or dog as an inhabitant. With horses, fish, reptiles, and small animals included in the statistic, more than 65% of homes have a non-human being of some sort living with them.

Homes with dogs outnumber those with cats by a third - 63.2 million versus 42.7 million. Birds are a smidgeon of the statistic at 5.7 million and horses are just 1.6 million.

Experts have learned that our selection of pets says quite a bit about us. Their studies prove that pets are a reflection of us. The animals we choose mean that we - their humans - either are or fancy ourselves to be outgoing, introspective, funny, adventurous, impulsive, and independent for instance. According to the website Quirkology, it's no coincidence that owners often even look like their pets.

The man behind Quirkology, Professor Richard Wiseman of the University of Hertfordshire, UK, re-



Courtesy photo - Amazon

Dog or fish? The perfect pairing of pet and people says a lot about our personality.

searched 2,500+ pet owners and concluded that pet owners see themselves and their animals as being very analogous when it comes to personality traits such as their levels of sociability and emotional stability, as well as how prone they are to employing a sense of humor.

Wiseman said, "Interestingly, this similarity increased over time, suggesting that pets may slowly

come to adopt their owner's personality, or vice versa." That supports the principle that feeling akin to another creature leads to a sense of fondness for them.

Wiseman's Pet Personality Project resulted in some sweeping findings. In the world of guardians of domesticated animals, dog people are the most fun and cat owners tend to be emotionally delicate and reliable. Reptile

caretakers do the best on their own and fish possessors are the happiest of the bunch,

stating that their pets' antics are very entertaining.

Following its survey of more than 2,000 pet owners, Scientific American (SA) concurred that pets are outward projections of their guardians. SA added some insightful traits when it came to companion animals and their owners. The survey reported bunnies live with owners who tend to see themselves as compassionate and open to new experiences, and if you own a horse, you're more likely to have an assertive personality while also being more inwardly reflective.

According to YourDost, an online mental health support resource, your choice of pets is also rather revealing of your place in the world. For instance, bird owners tend to get along well with

Continued on Page 5

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# Grief is love with nowhere to go



Photo Courtesy of Sarah Echsner

"Grief is just love with nowhere to go." -Jamie Alexander

BY AMY SCANES-WOLFE  
Editorial@lhvc.com

In the fall of 2013, Sarah Echsner lost her younger brother to suicide.

"No matter how much time goes by, it doesn't really change how deeply wounded I feel,"

said Echsner. "It's something that I carry with me all the time."

Our community carries the collective grief for many who have chosen to take their own lives. We feel it, we think about it, but often, we don't talk about it. "Talking about him is helpful

for me," said Echsner, "and I think a lot of people feel that way. Especially around the holidays, silence is worse."

The numbers say suicide is on the rise nationwide. Since 2000, the age-adjusted suicide rate in Colorado has jumped from 14 to 21.2 per 100,000 population. This rate is consistent with the other Rocky Mountain states, that collectively see more deaths by suicide than other states. Since 2015, there has been a concerning increase in suicide deaths among youth under-age the age of 18.

Suicide affects all age groups, but it is skewed significantly by gender. Men represent 76% of all suicide deaths in Colorado. Half of suicide deaths in Colorado are by firearm. Other major methods of death include hanging, strangulation or suffocation (27.7%) and drugs or other biological substances (12.7%). The three industries with the highest rates of suicide among employed Coloradans are construction, agriculture — forestry, fishing, and hunting — and transportation/warehousing.

So why is suicide on the rise? Lena Heilmann grew up in Niwot and graduated from Niwot High School in 2003. She also lost her sister to suicide in 2012. She is now the Colorado Youth Suicide Prevention Coordinator

at CDPHE.

Heilmann stresses that suicide is a complex issue, and multiple factors contribute. Among these are financial stress, economic instability, isolation at home or in the workplace, sleep deprivation, and food insecurity — really, anything that makes life more challenging.

But for Heilmann, it is important to realize that experiences of suicide are on a continuum. Some feel suicidal despair, some feel suicidal despair along with ideation, and some attempt suicide but survive. For every one person who dies by suicide, 200-300 find themselves somewhere on the continuum. "There is embedded in that a more hopeful message, that the vast majority of those who have suicidal thoughts will not die of suicide," said Heilmann.

So what is the best way to help someone struggling with suicidal thoughts?

"I wish I could say really helpful things about how to prevent it," said Echsner. "I've certainly thought about it a lot, but every situation is just different. The one thing they might have in common is that nobody needs to feel alone."

Echsner also hopes that, as a society, we can let go of the stigma against mental illness

and embrace people as they are.

One resource the state provides is Colorado Crisis Services, a 24-hour hotline: 1-844-493-8255. The state also has providers who work with people suffering from suicidal despair. The period after someone has attempted suicide can be very challenging, and follow-up care is important. "We want to make sure all efforts are culturally appropriate and that the person can decide what sort of treatment that works best for them," said Heilmann.

For those dealing with suicide loss, language is important. Heilmann was quick to point out that people don't "commit" suicide, which makes it sound like a crime or a sin. 'Died by suicide' is the preferred terminology. "Framing it as a death seems like the most direct and authentic way to talk about the experience," said Heilmann.

Heilmann added that going to a support group helps many people process their grief. The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and the Suicide Prevention Coalition of Colorado are both wonderful resources to that effect.

Echsner reiterated the sentiment. "I've created some relationships with people who

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# PETS

Continued from Page 3

others and be very social, while those who live with a reptile need less in the way of touchy-feely interactions. Turtle folks are especially hard workers and snake people are not predictable and tend to pursue unique experiences in life.

A long list of considerations comes into play when pondering adding a new heartbeat to a home. Choosing a pet to fit your lifestyle is the first and foremost deliberation. That primarily takes into account how much space, energy, time, and money you have to give.

Do you live in an apartment or a house with a yard? Do you get out and about most days or are you a homebody?

Dogs, cats, birds, and smaller mammals need loads of love and routine care. Fish and reptiles can go through life with nary a hug, but they're going to need clean places to live and some food tossed their way.

Does a dog that requires grooming sound acceptable? Can you stomach the possibility of cleaning up bodily fluids or feeding living creatures to your pet?

In the category of "just for fun", check out these online resources to whittle down what sort of pet would dove-

tail well into your life:

Quizrocket: <https://www.quizrocket.com/what-pet-quiz>

Zimbio - [http://www.zimbio.com/quiz/J3S59\\_tWSS2/Kind+Pet+Right](http://www.zimbio.com/quiz/J3S59_tWSS2/Kind+Pet+Right)

Quizony - <https://www.quizony.com/what-pet-should-you-have/index.html>

Once you know your best pet-counterpart, you can refine your search to what breed best suits you. Online guides and pet store employees can help you decide which small mammal or a reptile will work for you based on each animal's specific habits and needs, such as fondness for being handled, type of habitat, and how spunky or shy they tend to be.

If you'd pair well with a dog or cat, lucky you because there's a plethora of online screening resources to figure out if you'd be well matched with a Mastiff or a Maltese, or if your new feline roommate should be a Manx or a Maine Coon.

After answering 21 questions, the Dogtime.com dog breed selector tool (<https://dogtime.com/quiz/dog-breed-selector>) comes up with five breeds to focus on. For cat seekers, visit <http://www.animalplanet.com/breedselector/catselector.do>, and you'll be surprised to learn the wide variety of characteristics for each cat breed.

Don't let the full-breed selector results be more than a guideline. There's no need to go to an AKC breeder when there are plenty of nearby humane societies and pet rescues. Mixed breeds are a fun way to get a bit of several personality inclinations. Adopting an adult or elderly

cat or dog will have very well-determined personality taking some of the guesswork out of what to expect.

Pets come in many packages and finding the perfect match can lead to a pair of eyes peering through a fishbowl or gazing up while drooling or shedding on

your lap. People who share a space in their lives with pets are healthy and content because having a critter gives their guardian a sense of purpose and a reason to get out of bed. Animals provide companionship, amusement, someone to come home to, and comfort.

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## AIRPORT

Continued from Page 1

Gunbarrel, unincorporated Boulder County, and Longmont. Organizer Kim Gibbs said, “We work with some groups [who seek aviation noise regulation], are loosely affiliated with others, but support all who seek quieter skies. There are lots of groups across the country.”

They are and have been quite active, even going so far as to file a lawsuit against local company Mile-Hi Skydiving in 2015. However, at present, much of their focus has shifted toward spreading information about aviation noise, which is largely unregulated. They have been working with local communities and even Representative Joe Neguse in the effort of combating the issue.

Consequently, Neguse recently introduced legislation to the U.S. House of Representatives that proposes that general aviation airports may self-impose restrictions regarding noise. At present, airports must go through the Federal Aviation Administration in order to pursue restrictions of this nature.

Some airports like BMA and Rocky Mountain Metropolitan Airport (RMMA) have voluntary noise abatement programs.

However, given their voluntary status, it is unclear how strongly they are enforced. BMA’s web page describing noise abatement procedures simply says that “pilots are asked to be aware of noise-sensitive neighborhoods,” but little else is said about the program’s implementation.

Some people are skeptical that the act will pass and believe it will instead face ardent protest from the FAA and other aviation groups. But Neguse argues that local airports are in the best position to create noise regulations given they know what is important to their individual communities. His proposed act is already supported by a number of local leaders, including the mayors of Superior and Louisville. He is optimistic for his bill, especially given that 45 members of the U.S. House of Representatives belong to the congressional branch of the Congressional Quiet Skies Caucus.

“It’s very difficult to get action from the federal level, so we’re very grateful to Congressman Neguse,” said Gibbs, “It [aviation noise] is completely unregulated, it’s increasing, and there needs to be some kind of local control. We’re delighted that Congressman Neguse is supporting his constituents by supporting this bill.”

## INCORPORATION

Continued from Page 1

The NIC formed earlier this year, after a group of residents and business owners (Lehan, Ron Bernal, Cotton Burden, Tim and Mary Counce, Bob and Tina Di Scipio, Anne Postle and Tony Santelli) decided to “fully research” the process of forming and funding a municipal government.

“For Niwot, the Subdivision Road Policy, the restrictive residential square footage limits, and control over future decisions are key reasons why incorporation is being studied,” reads an excerpt from the site’s Frequently Asked Questions. The report also cites several instances in recent years when the county’s “lack of representation” caused it to act against the community’s interests.

“Niwot’s success has depended upon a cooperative and respectful relationship with the Boulder County Commissioners and their staff. However, the trust

and mutual respect has been broken,” the website states.

With the website launch, the NIC is now hoping for input from the Niwot community. Residents and other local stakeholders are invited to visit the Niwotstudy.com website before March 31, 2020, and fill out a brief survey. The group will also be conducting a series of public meetings and discussions about incorporation starting in the coming weeks. If the issue gains enough support, the committee will begin the next steps in the legal process during the spring of 2020.

“The idea isn’t that this is a final plan to be presented—rather it is a conversation to be had about how to best preserve and improve Niwot together,” Lehan wrote. “Niwotians have aspirations and concerns, and it all needs to be pulled together. This requires a lot more work to hold dozens of meetings, but it is the right approach for something that requires the input from everyone in Niwot.”

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# ART

Continued from Page 1

time out of the day, slow down, enjoy, be in nature, find your own way and take a breather," said Utterback.

Utterback and the rest of the institute's board are enthusiastic about their project and are hopeful for its future. However, the process has not been without difficulty. Just like the individual artists who struggle to find a work space, the institute is still in the process of property negotiations.

At the moment, various organizations and establishments will host them, often simply for the duration of a class. They are working closely with an architect to develop an extensive plan for their building. The building, which is planned to be located near Highway 287 and Isabelle Road, will be central to Boulder County, thus allowing ESAI to service all residents.

Additionally, the board recently met with the advisory board for the Boulder County Commissioners about ESAI's plans for their building and classes. Utterback reported that the advisory board was enthusiastic and complementary, so she is optimistic for the Jan. 7 meeting scheduled with the commissioners.

The commissioners' approval isn't the only thing ESAI needs; community support, especially in regard to fundraising, will be vital. She and the rest of the board believe that it is only through com-

munity involvement that the institute's goal of bringing people together will actually be accomplished. When this happens, then the institute will be able to support the community as well.

"We need all kinds of help right now," explained fellow board member Kathy Griffin. She further emphasized ESAI's hope for more involvement from the community. That involvement can come through donations, volunteering, and even just spreading the word about the institute. If the meeting with the commissioners is successful and their building plans are approved, ESAI's architect believes it possible to break ground in the next year.

It's also important to note that accessibility and sustainability are two ways ESAI plans on supporting the Boulder County community. Not only do they plan on having a myriad of art classes, but also a slew of resources for all who become involved.

One example Utterback gave regarded those with traumatic brain injuries. Often, these individuals want to pursue art, but can succeed in only very specific settings, such as what is provided with one-on-one instruction.

"We want to make it reachable for everybody.... Regardless of what you need, you should find something at the institute," Utterback said.

For more information on the institute and its mission, or how to get involved, visit their website at [EastSideArtInstitute.org](http://EastSideArtInstitute.org).

# PREVENTION

Continued from Page 4

have had significant losses, especially through suicide, there's a certain understanding, a camaraderie." Echsner also attended Hope Lights the Night, a candlelight ceremony put on by the Hope Coalition of Boulder to honor those lost to suicide.

When Echsner heard Jamie Alexander's quote, it hit home: "Grief is just love with nowhere to go."

Concerning her grief, Echsner said, "It feels like a black hole in my life, and I need to actively fill it with things that bring positivity. Otherwise, its force will fill it with coping mechanisms like addictions, toxic relationships..."

She has learned to channel her love for her brother

into other pursuits--nature, song-writing, playing music, story-telling, and, as some readers might remember, making documentary films. "Even if it's just a small thing, honoring the person by intentionally lighting a candle for them in the evening. And it doesn't have to be your family member, it could be someone you just heard about, or never met." One of the most comforting things to Echsner is to connect with people who knew and appreciated her brother and miss him too.

During this interview, a song came on the radio, and the chorus pulsed through during a pause in the conversation, "I don't want to live like this, but I don't want to die."

It was a poignant reminder that all of us are struggling to

find our way in life--and it is the responsibility of the whole community, as Heilmann said, to embrace "possibilities for ways to make people have lives worth living."



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# Our favorite photos of 2019



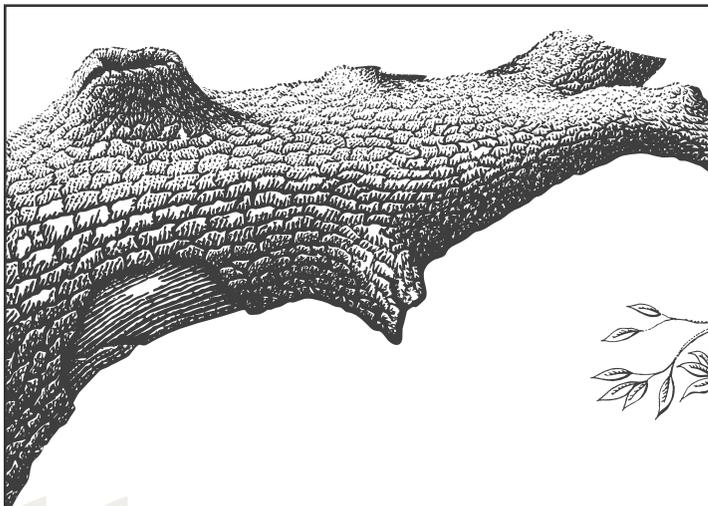
Photo by Vicki Maurer

A first responder from Boulder Rural Fire posed with one of Niwot Veterinary Clinic's furry evacuees after a small fire broke out on the roof of the Jerry Sinor Building on Jan. 2, 2019.



Photo by Jocelyn Rowley

Niwot girls basketball coach Terri Ward celebrated her 300th career victory on Jan. 25, 2019.



You know me, I think there ought to be a big old tree right there. And let's give him a friend. Everybody needs a friend.

Bob Ross



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Photo by RB Lopert

In April, the Left Hand Valley Courier received five awards in the 2018 Colorado Press Association Better Newspaper contest. Vicky Dorvee (second from right) picked up three awards on the night—for Best Headline, Best Series (Left Hand Laurel) and Best Investigative Package (local leasing issues). Dani Hemmat (center) won for her piece on Gunbarrel sisters who participate in ninja training, while Bruce Warren won for Out in Left Field column, and Mary Lopert (second from left) won for her Where in The World column.



Photo by Katie Rowley

Enjoying Niwot's 2019 4th of July bike parade in comfort and style.



Photo by Summit Boerner

He might have been a little too short to see the stage, but budding photographer Summit Boerner, age three, had a good eye for the goings on in the crowd at Rock & Rails on June 27, 2019. Courier reporter Abigail Scott bravely handed her camera to Boerner, who came back with this perspective of Niwot's weekly concert series.



Photo by Mary Wolbach Lopert

"I am a lineman for Boulder County, And I drive Niwot Road." Celebrating Halloween on Second Avenue in Niwot.



Photo by Abby Scott

Courier Reporter Abigail Scott recently hit the road in a "large, bulky, white cargo van" that she spent three months converting into a small living space.



Photo by Vicky Dorvee

One of several storms recently passing through the area knocked out power for about an hour in downtown Niwot on Sunday, July 7, 2019, and created a full arc rainbow framing the tree sculpture of Spear Lodge Man on Niwot Road.

# Trooper Tips from the Colorado State Patrol

By TROOPER GARY CUTLER  
Special to the Courier

How often do you ask yourself if you are driving impaired? I know you're asking why you would ask yourself that if you

are not drinking. But are you actually impaired and don't realize it? Think of it this way, have you ever driven when you were tired or just drove while daydreaming? Let's take a look at this idea.

The official definition of Driving While Ability Impaired is driving a motor vehicle when a person has consumed alcohol or one or more drugs, or a combination of both alcohol and one or more drugs, that affects the

person to the slightest degree so that the person is less able than the person ordinarily would have been, either mentally or physically, or both mentally and physically, to exercise clear judgment, sufficient physical control, or due care in the safe operation of a vehicle.

So, when you drive when you're tired and have trouble keeping your eyes open just because you are trying to make it to your destination, isn't that impairment? Have you ever been driving and found yourself daydreaming? Ever wondered how you drove so far when you came out of your daydream? See? It's becoming a little clearer.

Let's go back to part of the above definition: affects the person to the slightest degree so that the person is less able than the person ordinarily would have been, either mentally or physically, or both mentally and physically, to exercise clear judgment, sufficient physical control, or due care in the safe operation of a vehicle.

I know that when I am tired, I qualify under the definition of impairment. I am not in a position to be doing actions in which greater concentration is needed. That's especially true when driving. I know that my motor skills are going to be lacking. I may not see things in front of me. It will take me longer to react to situations and I may not make the right choice due to having what I like to call a brain fog from being too tired.

When patrolling the roads, I have come across people weav-



ing, driving slowly, and going through stop signs all because they were too tired to drive. When I talked with the drivers, all of them had the same attributes of someone that has been drinking. So I ask you, how many of you would never think about drinking and driving, but have gotten behind the wheel and driven while tired? The outcome can be the same; you won't get a DUI or go to jail, but you may get a ticket or be involved in a crash.

So make sure you are awake and aware enough to drive prior to getting behind the wheel. If you are on a trip and start feeling tired, take the time to give yourself a break. Get something to eat, exercise, get some fresh air, or if it's bad enough, get some sleep.

The next time you're about to get into your car, stop first, and ask yourself if you are too tired to be driving. You owe it to your passengers as well as the other drivers on the road not to have a brain fog.

As always, safe travels!

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Courtesy Photo

You can be considered an impaired driver if drowsiness is affecting your performance.

# Where in the world...?

By NELLIE NIBNOSE  
Editorial@lhvc.com

What's this? Do great minds run in the same mud-puddles? Is it deja vu all over again?

Where in the world are these mirror images of dragon mailbox posts? Do they look familiar? And while they are decked out for Christmas, you can only wonder what they might do on New Year's Eve.

As always, your prize will be having your name printed in the Courier, and be given the title of "Where in the World Master Sleuth."



Photos by Nellie Nibnose

There might be dragons, but do you know where they are?

# Kid Bits

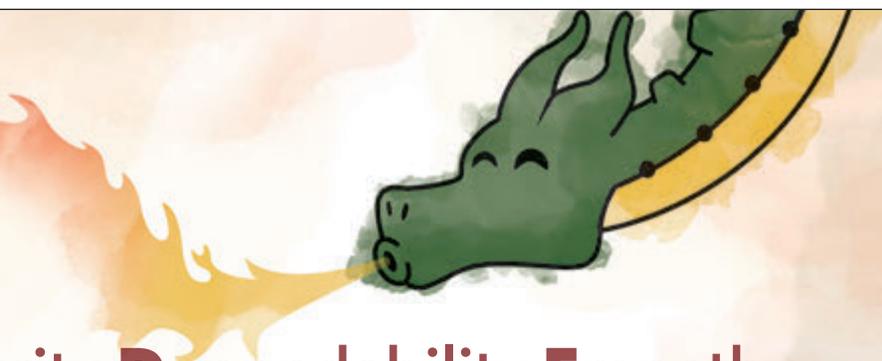
Congratulations to third grader Beau Fronckiewicz for placing in the top 10 for the K-3rd grade division for his submissions in the Creative Communication's Poetic Power contest. Beau's poem "Snowy Owl" was selected

from thousands of entries. He will receive a poetry anthology and a check for \$25.

Beau is a third grader at the Mackintosh Academy in Boulder. He and his family live in Niwot.



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# Out in Leftfield



Photo courtesy of StanfordPhoto.com

Niwot grad Mackenzie Fidelak played for Stanford in both games against the University of Colorado.



Courtesy photo

Niwot grad Skye Messinger was named MVP of the Alaskan Baseball League All-Star game.

By BRUCE WARREN  
Editorial@lhvc.com

## VOLLEYBALL

Mackenzie Fidelak (Niwot) was part of Stanford's NCAA

national championship team, which defeated Wisconsin Dec. 24 in the NCAA finals. Fidelak, a sophomore opposite hitter, played in six contests during the season, but did not see ac-

tion in the NCAA tournament. Her most extensive action came against Arizona State in a 3-0 victory Oct. 13, where she played all three sets, recording 11 kills and only three errors. She had an attack percentage of .348 against Arizona State, and also recorded six digs. She also played one set in each of the games against Colorado.

Sarah Falk (Niwot) played in 31 matches this season for Sacramento State, including 24 starts at middle blocker. Falk, a sophomore, played in 101 sets, averaging 1.05 kills, 0.72 blocks and 1.45 points per set to go with a .273 hitting percentage. She had a season-best eight kills on three occasions. Falk had eight kills and a .571 hitting percentage against Montana State. She also had a

season-best six blocks on a pair of occasions and started 20 of the Hornets' final 21 matches of the season.

## TRACK-CROSS COUNTRY

Following her graduation from Stanford University, Elise Cranny (Niwot) turned pro and continued her running career in 2019. Cranny was sponsored by Nike Bowerman Track Club. In her first season with the Bowerman Track Club she lowered her personal best in the 1,500m multiple times. She posted her best time of 4:05.83 by winning The Match between Team Europe and Team USA. Cranny also finished in the top 10 in both the 1500m and the 5000m at the USATF Championships.

Cranny's personal best in

the mile is 4:31.29

Claire Gillett (Niwot) ran a 22:27.60 at the Cougar Classic in the 6K for Gonzaga. Gillett finished 27th overall in the event at Colfax, Wash. Held Sept. 13. She also posted a time of 18:09 at the Inland Classic Oct. 12, finishing 19th in the 5K event out of 81 runners. Gillett also finished eighth out of 32 runners at the Sasquatch Invitational 5K Oct. 18, with a time of 18:48.9.

Jenna McCaffrey (Niwot) posted a time of 22:17.1 in a 6K Cross Country meet for Northern Arizona University Oct. 18 at the Nuttycombe Invitational. The junior finished 54th overall. Earlier, McCaffrey finished 89th at the John McNichols Invitational Sept. 21 in a 5K event, with a time of 18:49.2.

## BASEBALL

Skyler Messinger (Niwot) finished his sophomore season at the University of Kansas by being named to the Big 12 All-Tournament team, and receiving Academic All Big 12 first team honors. Messinger played third base and shortstop for the Jayhawks, batting .280 (58-for-207) with 16 doubles, three triples, 31 RBIs and 20



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Continued on Page 13

# OUT IN LF

Continued from Page 12

walks. His 16 doubles led the team. Messinger started 57 of the 58 games he played.

Following the end of the collegiate season, Messinger joined the Peninsula Oilers of the Alaskan Baseball League. There he hit .223 with one homerun and 15 RBIs on the season. He was named to the league All-Star squad, and his clutch hitting and impressive defense at shortstop earned him MVP honors for the game, even though his American League squad lost 3-2. Messinger had a double in three official at bats, and his fly ball allowed a teammate to move from second base to third before the next batter drove him in with a sacrifice fly.

The league website noted Messinger's honor, saying, "Despite the loss, the 6-foot-4, 215-pound product of the University of Kansas impressed with his 1-for-3 day, which included an RBI double, and spectacular defense at shortstop." Messinger also received the Gold Glove Award as the best defensive player in the league at any position.

Former Niwot Baseball head coach Bob Bote recently resigned as head coach at Standley Lake High School after two seasons. Bote cited a lack of players in the program and the lack of a feeder program for the 1,300-student school.

Former Niwot High pitching coach Mike Newton will be the head coach at Erie High School next spring. Newton filled in as pitching coach for Erie last spring after Erie head coach Harold Simmons left the program mid-season.

## FOOTBALL

Aaron Nicoll (Niwot) handled punting and kicking duties for Cornell College, which finished the season with a 4-5 record. Nicoll, a senior, was 7-14 in field goals, with his longest coming at 34 yards. He also made 15 of 19 extra point attempts. Nicoll's punting average was 34.3 yards with nine kicks downed inside the 20-yard line. On kickoffs, he averaged 58.3 yards, the highest



Photo by Jocelyn Rowley

Maddie Barkow and the UNC Bears faced off against CU in the first round of the NCAA Div. I women's soccer tournament on Nov. 16.

of his collegiate career. He also completed his only passing attempt, good for 39 yards.

Alex Oelsner (Niwot) played in the season-opener for Northwestern University against Stanford Aug. 31, but did not record any statistics. Stanford won the game, 17-7. Oelsner is a junior tight end for the Wildcats, with his position also described as "superback."

## GOLF

Jake Butler (Niwot) finished 28th overall for Midland University's "C" team at the Northwest Iowa National Invite Sept. 16-17. Butler carded an eagle on the par-5 ninth hole on his second round, one of only three eagles recorded during the meet. Earlier in the season, Butler finished tied for 38th at the Morningside Fall Invite Aug. 28, out of a total of 91 golfers.

Kelsey Webster (Fairview) of Gunbarrel tied for 40th for the University of Colorado at the SMU Trinity Forest Invitational Sept. 9-10, carding a 77-76 score in the first two rounds. She posted a 78 on the final day of the meet, tying for 44th overall. She also posted a score of 74-76-78 at the Washington State University Cougar Cup Sept. 16-17, which resulted in a tie for 66th overall. Webster also finished tied for 47th at the

Molly Collegiate Invitational in Portland, Ore., carding a score of 80-79-76 at the tournament held Sept. 30-Oct. 1.

## SOCCER

Maddie Barkow (Niwot) started 20 of 24 games for the University of Northern Colorado last fall, earning Big Sky All-Conference first team honors. The junior defender worked primarily as a right wing on defense, limiting opponents' scoring opportunities. Her flip throw-ins often created scoring chances for the Bears. She scored one goal, coming against Montana Nov. 8 in a 2-1 victory in the semi-finals of the Big Sky Tournament.

Barkow was also named to the United Soccer Coaches NCAA DI All-West Region Second Team. Head coach Tim Barrera was quoted on the team's website, saying, "This is a big honor for Maddie after an outstanding season. I'm really proud of how she played all season for us and how she played in the tournament. Maddie continues the tradition of UNC players on the Untied Soccer Coaches teams." Barkow was named Big Sky Conference Co-Defensive Player of the Year after helping UNC to the 2019 Big Sky Tournament championship, and was named to the All-Tournament team.

Two weeks later Barkow received United Soccer Coaches

Scholar All-West Region, First-Team honors. She earned a 3.95 GPA while working towards a degree in Sport and Exercise Science. The Bears finished the season with a 9-11-4 record, losing 6-0 to the University of Colorado in the first round of the NCAA Div. 1 tournament.

Allie Colvin (Niwot) started all except two games at goalie for Fisher College. Colvin was kept busy in goal, recording double-digit saves in seven of the team's contests. Fisher College finished 4-13-1 on the season.

Four soccer players from Niwot High joined the Laramie County Community College soccer program last fall. Manny Tapia, Jonathan Jimenez-Flores, Jason Rodriguez and Abe Lopez came to Laramie County CC after playing together at Niwot in hopes of furthering their education and their soccer

Continued on Page 14

# NHS SPORTS

SCHEDULE

JAN. 1 THROUGH JAN. 10

<p><b>Thursday, Jan. 2</b> 10 a.m. - BBB vs. Skyview (Roosevelt HS) 11:40 a.m. - GBB vs. D'Evelyn (Roosevelt HS)</p> <p><b>Friday, Jan. 3</b> 1:20 p.m. - BBB vs. Denver West (Roosevelt HS) 6:20 p.m. - GBB vs. Roosevelt (Roosevelt HS)</p>	<p><b>Saturday, Jan. 4</b> 8 a.m. - Niwot wrestling Garin Daum Invitational 9 a.m. - Swimming @ Mtn. View Invite, MVAC 11:40 a.m. - BBB vs. Steamboat Springs (Roosevelt HS) 1:20 p.m. - GBB vs. Steamboat Springs (Roosevelt HS)</p> <p><b>Tuesday, Jan. 7</b> 4 p.m. - Girls swim &amp; dive vs. Greeley West 5:30 p.m. - GBB vs. Northridge 7 p.m. - BBB vs. Northridge</p>
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**Friday, Jan. 10**  
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7 p.m. - GBB @ T. Valley

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## STUDENT OF THE WEEK

# Jarrett Noterman

By JOCELYN ROWLEY  
Editorial@lhvc.com

The 2019 Niwot football season will be memorable for a number of reasons and the emergence of Jarrett Noterman as a standout athlete is at or near the top of that list. As a wideout/cornerback/kick returner for the Cougars, the speedy senior had a hand in nearly every one of the team's marquee plays during the season, and was often the only highlight in their double-digit losses against league opponents. Now Noterman is bringing the same spark as a guard in Niwot's varsity basketball lineup, and he is gratified to see months of hard work on the gridiron payoff on the court.

"I think all the work during football season and over the summer carried through," he said of his high-energy play as a starter for the Cougars. "My speed and strength have been up, and I'm better conditioned this year than I was last year, and it helps a lot."

That was evident during Niwot's 61-48 upset win over top-ranked Erie on Dec. 19. From the first tip-off, Noterman pushed the pace both on offense and defense, and definitely hampered the Tigers' high-scoring shooters. On offense, he drained a timely three-pointer for Niwot in the opening seconds of the third quarter to put the Cougars back on top for good, and put the momentum decided in their favor. He ended the night with six points, three assists, and two steals. Later, he said the only thing surprising about Niwot's win was how many people were surprised.

"We knew we could come out and play with them," he said. "With our hard defense, we held them down with their scoring. I think it will carry through to the rest of the season. Against Longmont or Silver Creek, I think



Photo by Jocelyn Rowley

Senior Jarrett Noterman is a starting guard for the Niwot boys basketball team this season.

we can come out just as hard or harder and beat them."

For first-year Niwot head coach Clay Wittrock, Noterman's up tempo play was hard to replace during a two-game absence during Santiago's Shootout in mid-December, and having him back to full strength was a key factor in the win over the Tigers.

"He's just a warrior," Wittrock said after the senior's performance. "He's always going to be a warrior, and we just saw that tonight. That side of him really put him in plays and in position to either make the play or get the call."

"Warrior" is also a fitting description of Noterman's play on the football field this year, where he led Class 3A in total kick return yards, with 747 (542 kickoff, 205 punt), earning him a spot in the Boulder Daily Camera's BoCo Preps 2019 all-region team. In four separate games, Noterman had more than 100 yards in returns, including the homecoming win against Fort Lupton (134) in September and the season finale loss at Roosevelt (139) on Nov. 8. In that game, he also had a season-high 11 tackles and 120 receiving yards for the Cougars, and called

his leaping 4th quarter touchdown against the Roughriders the most memorable play of the season.

His performance against Eagle Valley on Oct. 5 may be his most memorable for Niwot football fans. In a losing effort for the Cougars, he racked up 189 all-purpose yards, two touchdowns, a successful fake punt, and a timely interception. More than 100 of his yards were on kick returns, including a dramatic 72-yard run for a touchdown to close out the first half.

Overall, Noterman led Niwot in receptions, with 25, receiving yards (424), all-purpose yards (1,207), and was second in total tackles (52). Unfortunately, his dazzling performance on the season didn't help the Cougars to many wins, but the senior was pleased with the team's improved play, especially on offense.

"This year we showed that we could move the ball on teams and actually score and get yardage and complete passes and get a bunch of receiving yards," he said.

Noterman credited his breakout football season on a new mentality during the off season—one that continues to pay dividends.

"I just switched it in my mind and decided to work harder, lift more weights, and get to every football event I could over the summer," he said.

Noterman is also a member of the Niwot boys track team, competing in the 4x100 relay and long jump. As a student at Niwot, he especially enjoyed his PE classes with Coach Aimee Keronen, and continues to enjoy their regular conversations about his sports career. After graduation, Noterman plans to study at Front Range Community College and eventually go on to a career in business.

## OUT IN LF

Continued from Page 13

careers. Some received scholarships, and others had to earn a scholarship by their play. Each of them saw action in the final game of the season, a 4-0 loss to Eastern Florida State College Nov. 22 in the NCJAA National Tournament semi-final. Tapia had the most minutes with 58, and took three shots, including two on goal, but was unable to score. Jimenez-Flores scored a goal against Otero Junior College, helping Laramie County to a 3-2 victory in the Region IX Championship game. The Golden Eagles finished with a record of 16-5-1.

## SWIMMING

Lucas Bergeson (Niwot) has been a versatile swimmer for Whitman College this fall. He swam the third leg of the 200 Freestyle Relay at the Logger Invitational Dec. 7, which finished fifth overall. Bergeson, a junior, also finished 13th in the 50Y Butterfly with a time of 25.67, and 13th in the 500Y Freestyle with a time of 5:02.98. In a dual meet against Linfield College Nov. 16, he took fifth place in the 200 Freestyle with a time of 1:52.91 and fifth in the 500 Freestyle with a time of 5:10.58. In a dual meet against Willamette University a day earlier, Bergeson finished third in the 500 Freestyle with a time of 5:09.95.

## WRESTLING

Jose Lopez (Niwot) is wrestling in the 285 lb. division for Cloud County Community College this winter. Lopez, a freshman, won one and lost two matches at the Cowboy Open Nov. 2, with the victory coming in the first round of the consolation bracket against an Adams State wrestler. Lopez won the match by fall at 8:51. He also won one of three matches at the Bethany Open Nov. 16, winning the second match over a Neosho JC opponent by a 10-3 decision. Lopez also wrestled against Chadron State College, losing by a fall and followed with a 19-4 loss against Upper Iowa Dec. 22.

## HOCKEY

Michael Sdao of Niwot signed a contract in August to return to the Adirondack Thunder for a second season. The Thunder is an ECHL affiliate of the New Jersey Devils of the National Hockey League. Sdao, 30, is a defenseman for the Thunder. Sdao has played six games this fall, but has yet to score.

Andy Sturtz, nephew of Brad and Jane Langdon of Niwot, played four games for the Brampton Beast of the ECHL this fall. The right wing played in four games, recording one goal and one assist. Sturtz is currently playing for the Belleville Senators of the AHL, where he has also recorded one goal and one assist in 14 games.

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# Boulder City Council will reconsider library district proposal

By JOCELYN ROWLEY  
Editorial@lhvc.com

Proponents of a regional library district got a boost last month when the Boulder City Council agreed to prioritize the issue during an upcoming “deep dive” into the city’s long-term budget and budgeting processes. At a study session on Dec. 10, eight members of the council approved a proposal by city manager Jane Brautigam to conduct “a holistic review” of the city’s funding needs, starting in early spring with a “robust conversation” about a potential Boulder Library District.

“We are very happy that this issue is on their agenda, since our petition drive has already tee’d up a vote on library districting on the 2020 ballot,” wrote Joni Teter responding to the announcement. Teter is a former library commissioner and founding member of the Boulder Library Champions, a grassroots organization that promotes sustainable funding for the library. “We sincerely hope that a decision is made to form the district by resolution, since that approach provides

the community with the greatest certainty and transparency about what forming a library district means.”

Council’s renewed interest in a potential library district comes after several questions about Boulder’s ongoing financial obligations arose during the adoption of the 2020 budget. Of particular concern, Brautigam noted, were “a long list of items that are unfunded” across various city departments, totaling more than \$360 million. That prompted two council members—Bob Yates and Mary Young—to approach the long-time city manager about how to best allocate Boulder’s ever-shrinking pool of revenues to an ever-growing litany of needs.

“I think the issue of the financial strategy for the budget is going to be one of the top priorities that the city council will be facing over the next two years, and other council members have noticed that as well,” Brautigam said during her remarks at the study session. “We need to start prioritizing what we do. We need to be thinking about our master plans holistically, and about our budget and financial

strategy in a holistic manner.”

For Brautigam and the council, that means the formation of the Financial Strategy Study Committee, which is tasked with providing a “focused examination” of the city’s long-term budget needs and developing new tools to identify funding gaps and evaluate the city’s revenue sources. Yates and Young have agreed to serve on the panel, and will work with city staff members over the next two years to refine the budgeting process.

First up on the agenda for the new committee is a “substantive discussion” about sustainable funding for the Boulder Public Library at its March study session. There, the council will hear from city staff about the potential financial ramifications of a library district for the City of Boulder and then make a recommendation about whether to move forward.

Teter and the Champions are eager for the opportunity to engage with council again on the issue, and have prepared a detailed memorandum for council members of the next steps involved in the process and how the new governmental

entity could potentially provide not only sustainable funding for the BPL system, but also help “free up General Fund dollars that the city can allocate to other budget priorities.”

“Forming a library district would free up \$9-10 million/year in direct annual expenditures for library operations; reduce the City’s maintenance backlog and future capital costs by \$1.18 million/year, and create a revenue stream of up to \$3.4 million/year by contracting with the library district to provide administrative services,” reads an excerpt from the recommendations.

In Colorado, there are two ways to form a library district - through a vote of the residents in the proposed boundaries, or through an agreement of the local municipal and county government. Thanks to a petition drive held in the spring of 2019, the Champions have enough signatures to get the measure onto the 2020 ballot, but are hoping council will create the district following their study session, leaving Boulder County voters with just the funding question to ponder. In the districting proposal, that funding will come

from a levy “not to exceed four mills” on property owners within its boundaries, translating to \$28.80 per \$100,000 of assessed residential property value, or an additional \$230.40 for a home in Boulder County valued at \$800,000.

But whether the voters or council makes the final decision about a local library district, Teter and the Boulder Library Champions are committed to furthering the cause of sustainable library funding, an issue that has deep roots in the local soil.

“We also did our own deep dive into library history and learned just how extensively our community has been involved in development of our library system,” Teter wrote. “Every library facility was built, expanded and renovated with funds designated for library purposes through community votes (often initiated by community members), community donations and grants.”

*Boulder Library Champions is now recruiting volunteers and supporters. If you would like to help bring a library district to Boulder County, visit [boulderlibrarychampions.org/volunteer](http://boulderlibrarychampions.org/volunteer)*



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