



▶ LEFT HAND LAUREL Vicki Maurer



Photo by Bruce Warren

Vicki Maurer blows bubbles while enjoying a little down time at the Niwot Rock & Rails concert series.

By AMY SCANES-WOLFE
Editorial@lhvc.com

Vicki Maurer's approach to life and volunteering is probably best put in her own words: "We do what we have to do and get it done."

Maurer has been involved with many community organizations over the years, from Niwot Youth Sports to the Left Hand Valley Courier to the Niwot Cultural Arts Association. Appreciation for her efforts is widespread.

"She's really easy to work with, enthusiastic about the town...and fantastic at what she does," said Michelle Henzel, treasurer of the NCAA.

"Vicki is warm, welcoming, professional... and knows the community," said Kathy Koehler, who volunteers at Rock & Rails. "I enjoy volunteering with her anytime."

"She's a hero," said Anne Postle.

Though Maurer lives in

Longmont, her roots in Niwot run deep. Maurer graduated from Niwot High School in 1982. At that point, she had already spent two years interning in Bruce (Biff) Warren's law office. He asked if she wanted to stay on; she said yes. Thirty-eight years later, Maurer is still working as a paralegal with Warren, Carlson & Moore, LLP.

"Working for Biff, it's like when things came up, I would jump right in," said Maurer. And jump right in she did. "I came into work one day, and Biff said, 'How would you like to be treasurer of Niwot Youth Sports?' I agreed. 'He said, good, because we elected you.'"

In this capacity, Maurer stoically endured many (literally) sticky situations. At one point, she was recruited to help erect fence posts for the baseball fields at Hangge Fields at Monarch Park. It was last

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More wine than winter at the 6th annual Niwot celebration



Photo by Ann Whitehill

The guest of honor was a no-show, but that didn't deter the hundreds of thirsty shoppers who descended on Niwot on Feb. 22 for the 6th annual Let's Wine About Winter store-to-store tasting event and fundraiser. Mild temperatures and melting snow were the order of the day, as ticket holders made their way through three dozen local businesses offering food and beverages, as well as some sweet deals. That included the "Seesters," seen here on 2nd Avenue taking a much needed time out. See more photos on page 6.

How Gunbarrel Got Its Name

By AMY SCANES-WOLFE
Editorial@lhvc.com

The legend goes two ways. And it begins with gold.

In 1859, gold drew 100,000 people into the Pike's Peak Region in pursuit of their fortune. Thirty-nine-year-old Alonzo N. Allen was among them, and he was quick to realize that prospecting was a hard way to make a living.

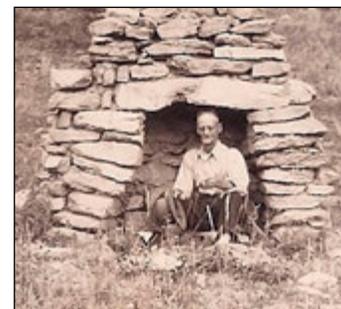
The version of the story relayed by Dorothy Large ("Old Burlington") says Allen was actively seeking a place to homestead.

The oral history from "They Came to Stay" places Allen on a hunting mission. Scouring the area for his dinner, Allen climbed to the top of a hill north of Boulder City in what was

then the Nebraska Territory. As he scanned the flat and treeless plains, he didn't see antelope, bison, or deer. But he did spot a large cottonwood on the banks of the St. Vrain River.

Allen returned to his cabin at White Rocks, dismantled it, and loaded the heavy logs

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Courtesy Photo

Alonzo N. Allen in the remains of his cabin

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CAMPS

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ADVERTISING: advertising@lhvc.com
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PRODUCTION: Nesscel Calara
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BUSINESS MANAGER/NEWS OF RECORD: Vicki Maurer
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REPORTERS: Kim Glasscock, Vicky Dorvee, Abby Scott, Hannah Stewart, Amy Scanes-Wolfe, Emily Long
SPORTS REPORTERS: Jocelyn Rowley, Bruce Warren, Jack Carlough

Published weekly in Niwot, Colorado by LEFT HAND VALLEY PUBLISHING, L.L.C. Member Colorado Press Association.



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..

LID MEETING

The Niwot Local Improvement District Advisory Committee will hold its monthly meeting at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, March 3, at the Mountain View Fire Station (8500 Niwot Rd.).

SOUP FUNDRAISER

Niwot United Methodist Church (7405 Lookout Road) is holding the 23rd annual Soup, Soup and More fundraiser on Saturday, March 7, from

4 to 7 p.m. Come enjoy your fill of homemade soup, stew, chili, or chowder and make a donation for a good cause. Proceeds will benefit Boulder Attention Homes, an organization for youth experiencing homelessness.

SAND CREEK MASSACRE SITE VISIT

The Niwot United Methodist Church, in conjunction with Cottonwood Square, the Niwot Community Association, the Niwot Business Association, the Rotary Club of Niwot, the Niwot Cultural Arts Association, the Left Hand Grange, and the Niwot Historical Society, are sponsoring a trip to the site where Chief Niwot was mortally wounded in 1864. Registrants for the day trip, scheduled for April 25 (8 a.m. to 6 p.m.), have filled one bus, and reservations for a second bus are now being taken. Register by making a check for \$30 payable to the Niwot

UMC, and providing an email and telephone number. Registrations can be mailed to Biff Warren at P.O. Box 610, Niwot, CO 80544 or dropped off at the law office of Warren, Carlson & Moore, LLP, in Cottonwood Square.

PUBLIC HEARING

On Monday, March 2 at 2 p.m., the Boulder County Board of County Commissioners is holding a public hearing to consider the merits of the current moratorium on processing of applications for oil and gas development and whether it should be terminated, extended, or otherwise amended. The Board will accept public testimony in the form of written comments, but no oral public testimony will be heard. Comments can be emailed to oilgascomments@bouldercounty.org until 5:00 p.m., Feb. 28.

Death Notice

Retired Niwot High School teacher **Jerry Dean Brooks** died Feb. 14, 2020, in Las Animas Colo., at age 81. A graveside service will be held Friday, Feb. 21 at 11 a.m. at the Las Animas-Bent County Cemetery

followed by a celebration of Jerry's life at the John Rawlings Museum Grand Hall. There will also be a celebration of life reception on Sunday, March 1 from 2 p.m. – 5 p.m. at Howe Mortuary at 439 Coffman St. in

Longmont. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Arkansas Valley Hospice in care of Horber Funeral Chapel, P.O. Box 431, Las Animas, Colorado, 81054.

COMMUNITY PET SPOTLIGHT

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Meet Morgan, a sweet and gentle 11-month-old kitty that's looking to get off to a great start with a new, loving, forever family. This young kitty likely will fit in well with another cat as well as with a polite, kitty-savvy dog. Morgan is social, chatty and will enjoy being part of your active cat-loving

Come in for a visit with this lovely young girl today! **Morgan and lots of other great cats are available for adoption at the Longmont Humane Society.**

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

▶ Letter to the Editor

Wooden Clogs and Bike Cogs: Obituary of a bike commuter

In the sixth grade, my social studies teacher had our class do a report and presentation on a European country. My partner and I chose Denmark. I don't remember much about the report, which I'm sure was excellent or blatantly counterfactual, but I do remember very enthusiastically wearing wooden clogs during our presentation...naturally. I realized then that the Danes weren't afraid of doing, or in the case of footwear, wearing... something hard. Also, bikes. Apparently, the Danes love bikes. At the time, I considered myself a "biker." I had a super cool, yellow and blue-tired, chromoly-framed, BMX bike. Sometimes, if I was feeling ambitious, I'd ride the six miles to school, my knees hitting me in the chest as I pedaled down old country roads on my steel horse. It was bliss.

Today, as an adult, a simple Google Maps query reveals three options for my morning commute from Niwot to CU Boulder's East Campus- 15 minutes by car/motorcycle, 58 minutes by bike, and 1 hour, 15 minutes by bus. As a new father and full-time graduate student, my default decision is often an easy one. One only has to do the math.

Ten years ago, I decided to cram all my belongings into my Honda Civic and drive 1,800 miles from northern New York to Colorado. My goal was simple: move to Colorado and figure it out. I chose Boulder, because (at the time), it boasted the highest percentage of bicycle commuters in the United States at 12.3%,

according to the American Community Survey. Despite strong efforts to improve bike safety and infrastructure, Boulder's bike commuting population has decreased over the past ten years. Have we become soft? Maybe. After all, Boulder is the birthplace of Crocs, which are the antithesis of wooden clogs. By comparison, Copenhagen recently reported that 62% of commuters do so via bike, up from 36% in 2012, according to the LA Times. It goes without saying that Boulder is not Copenhagen, and the United States is not Europe, but where's the disconnect?

When I arrived in Boulder, I happened upon a small parking lot adjacent to Folsom Field. It was here that my "figuring it out", began. I quickly realized that my car was serving no purpose other than being an incredibly uncomfortable place to sleep. Fortunately, I had two bikes on top of my car, which in short order, became my primary modes of transportation to and from my "house." This had been my intention since my departure from Northern New York, except there had been an apartment involved. Ultimately, my situation proved temporary, and lasted a little more than a week. Before I knew it, I was driving a forklift, dumping synthetic caffeine into a giant vat of powdered chocolate wearing a hazmat suit, and living with/working for my dad's college roommate, Marty, who he hadn't spoken to in thirty years. Marty lived in Longmont and owned a business in Loveland.

Unfortunately, my dream of being a bike commuter and living in Boulder seemed to be slipping away.

Fast forward two months. I had moved within the city limits of Boulder (this is when it was affordable) and sold my car (by choice), opting instead to rely primarily on biking, while occasionally using public transit. Having previously lived in Longmont and Lafayette, this is important. Biking in Boulder proper was often faster than any other form of transportation. Biking (or walking) everywhere, rain/snow/sleet/hail or shine (which there is a lot of), was/is cheap, fun, good exercise, and (sometimes) made me feel...kind of...cool. It was sixth grade all over again! One only has to roll their pant cuff up once (and leave it there) to know they have entered a truly exclusive club of badassery. Who cares if society/transit professionals would have otherwise classified me as a "captive rider," I was just doing what (to me, based on the circumstances of my life) made logical sense. For me, the right choice, both environmentally and economically, was the only choice. At the time, I was working at a brokerage firm in downtown Boulder, receiving what

was advertised as, "NYC \$\$\$ in Boulder..." not true. Yes, I was naïve. I would wake up every day (including Saturday) at 4 a.m., go about my morning routine, then bike 25 minutes to work (in a suit

mind you), panting, sweating, sobering up, fighting the Chinook winds, crashing, swearing, plastering my pin stripes with

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LTE

Continued from Page 3

a perfect vertical line of mud splatter, but always arriving with a sense of accomplishment, like the feeling a kid from rural New York got in the mid-90's, when he finally discovered the importance of dodging Bowser's Mecha Koo-pas...speaking for a friend. Or, maybe...like the Danes.

To some, bike culture, commuters or otherwise, can seem annoying. Whether it's the legion of lycra, the single speed hipsters, the Little Miss Pony loving kindergarteners, or your Grandma...they are the worst...to some people. Why? Because they woke up earlier? Because they ride too close to your oversized traffic lane? Because they seem happier? Because they make texting and driving harder? Because they maintain their weight by simply biking to school or work? In my opinion, none of these arguments have a leg to stand on. Biking is joy. Sure, sometimes it sucks. Sometimes it's raining, too cold, too hot, too sweaty, too slow. Ultimately though, it's joy.

So how do we get more people to bike? How do I get me to bike? For starters...making housing more affordable would be helpful. Choosing to bike or take the bus would mean a one and a half to two hour difference in my daily commute. Eventually, decisions about time become less about the individual and more about their family. It's simply not sustainable. One has to assume that the overwhelming majority of individuals who previously lived, worked, and maybe biked in Boulder, but were forced to find affordable housing elsewhere, say in Longmont, Lafayette, Broomfield, or Gunbarrel, no longer bike. Maybe they bought a car out of necessity. Maybe the wealthier and more exclusive we become as a community, the softer we become. I think so. Maybe we need more wooden clogs and less Crocs. Be like the Danes. Support bike safety and bike infrastructure. While you're at it, support affordable housing. Do it for Grandma.

Brian Chamberlain, Niwot

LAUREL

Continued from Page 1

minute when the cement truck was available, and she came straight from work. "Here's Vicki in high heels and nylons holding the pole while the cement truck is pouring cement in the hole, splattering cement all over her dress," recalled Warren. "But we got it done."

Though Maurer's two children participated in Niwot Youth Sports, she served on the board even when they weren't involved. As Maurer's children grew up, she volunteered at their schools, served 12 years on the board of the Skyline High School Education Foundation, and was an officer with the Longmont branch of the American Business Women's Association.

Maurer has been active for the last six years as a board member and secretary for the Niwot Cultural Arts Association. The NCAA is responsible for the Niwot Sculpture Park, First Friday Art Walks, Let's Wine About Winter, and other community ventures. Though Maurer supports these projects, her primary focus is the Rock & Rails concert series, where she serves as co-manager.

After the NCAA had bad experiences with prior operators, the organization, consisting of seven board members, took on running the event in partnership with the Niwot Business Association. Maurer manages the beer tent volunteers, orders the wine and margaritas and

keeps track of event statistics--behind the scenes work that, according to Warren, is vital to the concert's success. "It's been fun putting on the concerts," she said. "It's kind of like hosting a big party every week. You get to see a lot of people."

In addition to her usual jobs, Maurer took on many of Warren's responsibilities last year when he was battling an illness. According to Henzel, the event wouldn't have happened if it weren't for Maurer's efforts.

Maurer is also one of five remaining original owners of the Left Hand Valley Courier and serves as business manager. Maurer and six others founded the newspaper in 1997 to address the absence of Niwot-area news in other local newspapers. "It's always been a really fun time getting to know everybody on the paper," said Maurer. "People come and go, but we've always had a really strong staff."

Though Maurer infrequently writes, she more often handles the business side of the paper--collecting checks, setting up invoices, making sure the bills are paid. The highlight of this enterprise for her has been winning Colorado Press Association awards, which validate the work the newspaper is doing.

What Warren appreciates most about Maurer is her consistency and dedication, traits not always found in volunteer organizations. "She's one of those people you can always count on. If she says she's going to do

something, she's going to get it done. She is someone who thrives while working under pressure."

Maurer is quick to give credit to her spouse, Tony Maurer, who is supportive of her extra-curricular activities, and who is always

pitching in to help.

When she is not working or volunteering for the betterment of her community, Maurer enjoys reading and crocheting with "plarn," yarn made out of recycled plastic bags. She and Tony also make regular summer visits

to a place they own at Lake McConaughy in Nebraska. Maurer's two children are still in the area. Her son works at the Gunbarrel King Soopers, and her daughter is a third-grade teacher in La Salle.



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Wining about winter in Niwot



Photo by Ann Whitehill

The Courier's own Amy-Scanes Wolfe (right) and her mom Tommi Wolfe



Photo by Ann Whitehill

... To Turn this water into wine!



Photo by Ann Whitehill

Fly Away Home and Juniper and Twine hospitality station



Photo by Ann Whitehill

The gang at Porchfront Homes - proud sponsor of Wine About Winter

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Even on Easter Island, everyone reads the Courier



Photo by Brian Lopert

Even on Easter Island, everyone reads the Courier. We'd love to see where you take the Courier. Send your photos from your neighborhood park, the Great Sand Dunes, the mountains, or where in the world you may be traveling to Editorial@lhvc.com.

Using technology to boost Mobility for All

By JOCELYN ROWLEY
Editorial@lhvc.com

For many of us, hailing an Uber for a ride home from the brewery or buying a bus ticket to Coors Field takes just a few taps on a screen, but for those with financial or other special needs, fluency with mobile phone apps isn't always the norm. To help make multi-modal transportation an easy option for those unfamiliar with mobile technology, Boulder County's Mobility for All (M4A) program is offering free training workshops to help all users "feel confident using smartphone apps that help you get around."

"Mobility for All is working towards making multi-modal or 'alternative' transportation accessible and affordable," Niwot resident Leonard Sitongia explained. He is serving as a volunteer "Technology Ambassador" for the program, and wants to help his fellow Niwotians learn to use technology to find transportation alternatives. "There are these apps for phones—like Google Maps and RTD's ticketing app, which are really handy. I've been using them myself for a while now, because I travel around using alternative means, like biking and busing."

A self-described techie, Sitongia signed up with the M4A team last fall, out of a long-held conviction that a personal car is seldom the best choice for getting around.

"I worked for NCAR for many years, and was part of a volunteer

program there for transportation alternatives, and developed a van-shuttle program, and eco-pass," he said. "Mobility for All, their argument is that having your own car can be expensive, and affordability is important. The apps are good at finding modes, but they can be fairly complicated, and that could be overwhelming to people. Google Maps has a lot of information on it, and the RTD ticketing app, on the flip side, is kind of limited, because it pretty much just provides electronic tickets for getting on the bus."

The 90-minute workshops cover Google Maps, Transit, the RTD ticketing app, as well as the increasingly popular ride-sharing apps for Uber and Lyft.

"It's really much easier to use, and much more convenient, with picking you up and taking you somewhere, but, on the other hand, it's the most expensive option," Sitongia said.

The training is designed to help participants master "trip planning," he continued, even those brand new to smartphones.

"You have to be physically able to use your phone and be familiar with it, enough to type in your address and your destination... Some people do have difficulty right at the beginning with being able to use their phone and getting accounts for these apps, and that's why we're there to help people and train them to use them."

Sitongia and other M4A ambassadors have conducted workshops throughout Boulder

County, and now he hopes to bring the series to Niwot. If you are interested in a workshop, or

know someone who is interested, contact Sitongia at sitongial@gmail.com. For more information

about the M4A and technology ambassador program, visit www.boco.org/M4A.



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Photo by Storyblocks

Boulder County's Mobility for All has launched training workshops to help "expand access and use of technology-based transportation options."

Reviving Niwot history in Whistle Stop Park

Special to the Courier

In 1873, the year the Colorado Central Railroad completed its track, one of the first buildings erected was the Depot. Two years later, the official plat of the town of Niwot was filed on March 30, 1875, by Porter Hinman and Ambrose Murray.

Niwot is rejuvenating its history with a rendition of The Depot at Whistle Stop Park, to serve as the concessions building for Rock & Rails summer concerts.

This new Depot will save volunteers many hours currently spent setting up and tearing down the beer tent. The Depot will not only provide a public service for beer, wine and margaritas, it will also store the equipment and beverages for the events.

The Depot will also be available to individuals or groups who would like to rent Whistle Stop Park for family or community events.

The total cost of the construction is \$149,000. Our generous community has already raised \$89,000 towards the project. To make this a reality, additional fundraising of \$60,000 is required.

Tony and Felicia Santelli have agreed to champion the fundraising campaign. "We need the involvement of those who would



like to take leadership roles to help raise funds, and/or anyone who has enjoyed the Rock & Rail concerts who would like to make a tax deductible donation," Tony Santelli said. A family foundation recently donated \$5,000, and one individual has committed to raising \$5,000 towards the goal. Santelli would like to find more individuals willing to join in the fundraising effort.

If you would like to help raise funds please contact Felicia Santelli at Felicia@SantelliHealingCenter.com or phone: 303-

589-6283.

Make tax deductible donations online at NiwotArts.com/ donate; tax ID: 26-4164620

OR

Make check payable to: Niwot Cultural Arts Association (or NCAAA), PO Box 733, Niwot, CO 80544

All donors of \$100 or more will be recognized on a plaque at Whistle Stop Park.

(*Source: "Niwot Colorado, Echoes from a Railroad Town," by Anne Quinby Dyni)

GUNBARREL

Continued from Page 1

onto a wagon. He ascended the same hill, set his sights on the cottonwood tree, and then cut a straight line across the prairie to his destination. The weight of the logs cut deep ruts into the prairie.

The ruts were "straight as a gunbarrel." Thereafter, this makeshift road was called Gunbarrel Road, and it bisected the area in Boulder County now known as Gunbarrel.

Allen's cabin was the first building on the site of what became the town of Burlington, predecessor to Longmont. Driving north up Highway 287 today, you pass Burlington Marketplace just before ascending the hill into old town Longmont. On the west side of the road, just south of the modern bridge, is where Allen's cabin stood.

Allen continued to prospect while his stepson, William Dickens, put up hay in Burlington. In 1863, Allen constructed an inn and sent for his wife Mary Allen and her seven children to help him run it. The bustling Allen Inn was strategically located along the Overland Trail, a historic trade route (now Highway 287). Burlington teemed with freight wagons, soldiers, and stages, especially during the Civil War. The Allen Inn was also graced by a contract with the Overland Stage Company (later Wells Fargo). Often, sleeping arrangements were floor room only--but Mrs. Allen's cooking was legendary. In 1868, the inn was graced by a visit from Ul-

ysse S. Grant himself.

The Allen Inn did have a fierce rival a half-mile to the south--the NiWot House. Jesse Greenly and his family first prospected in the vicinity of Chief Niwot's camp. When Greenly, like others, gave up on prospecting, he hauled the house towards present day Niwot (forming another regional travel corridor--Skid Road).

When Mason and Gano under-bid Wells Fargo for the mail contract, their new stage line chose the NiWot House for boarding. Mrs. Allen was probably not pleased. But those who do their banking with Wells Fargo can guess how that story ended; Mason and Gano went under, Wells Fargo reclaimed the contract, and the Allen Inn continued to thrive.

Ten years after it was first built, the Allen Inn hosted the locating committee for the Chicago-Colorado Colony. The colony decided to stay and locate just a half mile up the hill. The name it chose for itself--Longmont.

As for Gunbarrel, it wasn't a particularly good place to settle. High, dry, exposed, and without mineral wealth, Gunbarrel largely remained ranch land until IBM moved to Boulder County in 1965. The need for employee housing spurred suburban development in the area, which has continued since.

You can get a glimpse of the hillside Allen saw by walking the Gunbarrel-East Boulder Trails adjacent to 75th Street. The view has certainly changed, but see if you can spot the place Allen chose to call home.



Courtesy image

The new building will echo the original depot, built by the Colorado Central Railroad in 1873.





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Wednesday: Field Trip

Thursday: Camp Theme Day

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* **Spring Break Camp** also offered

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www.storycampdangercamp.com or (603)770-3358 for more information.

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· Our Campus Marks the Spot

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* Spring Break Camp also offered



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Ages 5-9

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Ages 6-12*

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06/15 – 06/19 Longmont
07/13 – 07/17 Longmont
07/27 – 07/31 Boulder

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06/08 – 06/12 Boulder

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07/20 – 07/24 Boulder

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Ages 5-12*

05/27 – 05/29 Boulder
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07/27 – 07/31 Longmont

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Ages 5-14*

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It's a laughing matter

The Data Overlord

By MARY WOLBACH LOPERT
Editorial@lhvc.com

It's been a long time since my friend Sadie and I have connected. When I was writing this column on a regular basis, Sadie and I would often talk about kids, husbands, work, and dealing with the ups and downs of life. But kids grow up, and husbands retire and decide to dedicate their lives to fixing the house, sometimes where "fixing" isn't really needed.

Like a lot of people "our age," both of us have been lucky enough to be able to travel. It was the subject of travel that made us realize that a familial-juxtaposition had occurred.

Sadie and her husband Sam had been doing a lot of foreign travel. And as such things necessitate, that required a long distance, foreign travel plan from their cell phone carrier.

Gone are the backpacking days where all you need is

enough change to connect with an operator to make a collect call home. Or, worse yet, needing money for a postcard and a stamp.

As the saying goes, there's an app for that, but to have the app work, you need a cell connection; and therein lies the rub. That rub has to do with the cell phone family plan.

To help their kids out, Sadie and Sam agreed to go in with them for a cell phone family plan. Rates would go down for all and life would be good. With their MBA child managing the account, it was one thing off of Sadie's plate.

When planning their latest overseas trip, Sadie found their cell phone carrier offered a travel plan for \$10-a-day including unlimited data for maps, restaurant reviews and texts and emails. That would also save postcard and stamp money.

Of course, with WIFI, there's no problem. If there's no WIFI, a cell tower is needed. And for every 24 hours you use a cell tower, you're charged another \$10. Not bad in Sadie's opinion. But as she



Storyblocks

The Data Overlord wants you to connect to the nearest available network.

found out, the fruit of her loins, now known as the Data Overlord, felt otherwise.

Yes, the kid who had no problems saying, "What's wrong with buying \$150 Air Jordan's?", was now monitoring the overseas cell usage. The phone company's text reminder that a new \$10/24-hour period was starting, not only goes to Sadie, but it also went to the Data Overlord.

So instead of receiving family-friendly and loving "I miss you" texts, Sadie started

receiving something very different.

Day 1:

Data Overlord – Hey Mom, remember to use the WIFI. It's free.

Sadie – Hey back. There is no WIFI. I'm in the middle of nowhere and lucky to get any signal.

Day 2:

D.O. – Mom, one word, WIFI. Do you remember how to connect? I can send you a link to remind you how to do it. Just get to a place that has WIFI

Sadie – Yes, I know how to connect to WIFI, if WIFI existed here, I'd use it.

Day 3:

D.O. – Mom, we could have avoided this whole mess if you'd listened to me and bought a new SIM card that works almost everywhere in the world.

Sadie – I told you before I left, that would require a new phone number and since half my friends and your uncle can't remember this number half the time, all they would do is block my calls.

Day 4:

D.O. – This is going to cost a &^%ing fortune.

Sadie – That's OK. I put away the money that those &^%ing shoes would have cost so, with daily compounding of interest, we should have enough to cover the charges.

After they returned, Sadie took an unscientific poll of her friends to find out what they thought of the \$10-a-day plan. Not to her surprise, all thought it was a great deal. After all, paper maps are hard to find and you can quickly lose count of how many roundabouts you've gone through, especially if you're in a country that drives on the opposite side of the road.

I'm happy to report that all has been settled. Sadie paid her debt with the interest earned from the shoe savings account. There's even enough left over to start planning another trip.

But she knows that she'll probably have another set of conversations about her cell phone usage. Because to a child of the 21st century any place without WIFI is a place that shouldn't exist.

Just save some money for those postcards and stamps.



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Reminder to Vote by March 3 (Super Tuesday)



Courier Staff

If you haven't already mailed in your paper ballot, or dropped it off in Longmont or Boulder, the voter service centers in this area are open for voting in the Presidential Primary on Monday February 24 through Friday, Feb. 28, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturday Feb. 29, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Boulder County; Monday March 2, 8 a.m.

to 6 p.m.; and Tuesday March 3, Election Day, from 7 a.m., to 7 p.m. All locations have the same hours. Two places in Longmont are the BOCO Clerk and Recorder's Longmont office, 515 Coffman St., and at Front Range Community College's classroom building, 2121 Miller Drive. In Boulder, the centers available to drop off your ballot between these hours are: BOCO Clerk and Recorder's Office 1750 33rd Street, and on the second floor of the University of Colorado's Memorial Center, 1669 Euclid Avenue on the campus. In Lafayette, you can drop your ballot at 1376 Miners Drive in the BOCO Clerk and Recorder's office.



SCHOOL NEWS

Niwot forensics team builds on past toward the future

BY HANNAH STEWART
 Editorial@lhvc.com

Over the years, speech and debate kids have often joked, “We don’t cut up dead bodies, but we might quote them.”

First founded in Wisconsin in 1925, the National Speech & Debate Association, formally known as the National Forensics League, sought to motivate high school students to participate in speech and debate activities. Six years later, in 1931, the first tournament was held at Ripon College with 49 schools participating from across 17 states.

Students are able to participate in a variety of events under three categories:

Debate, which includes individual and partner debating, as well as other debate formats such as congressional.

Speech, where students may write an original piece, or may write a shorter, spontaneous speech using only pre-researched material.

Interpretation, which includes memorized individual and partner performances of a theatrical nature without the aid of props.

Niwot High School has had a debate team for many



Courtesy Photo

Niwot Forensics has been experiencing a lot of success recently, but more than that, the students have been loving the support they give each other and the fun they have together.

years, and has experienced much success in recent years. However, while the students enjoy winning at tournaments and festivals, the students all agree that the skills they gain from participation and the team dynamic--which is more like that of a family than a team--far outweigh the joy of placing well in competition.

“I’ve met a ton of people but also made some of my closest friends in high school,” said team captain

Nick Valin, a senior. He primarily focuses on a partner-debate event called Public Forum (PF) that focuses on current events. “You meet a lot of like-minded people, but also interesting people. Everyone on the team does a bunch of different things.”

Fellow senior Luke Hair, another debater who instead focuses on Lincoln Douglas (LD) debate (inspired by the historical debates between Abraham Lincoln and Stephen Douglas and focuses more on values), said, “The best part about the team specifically is the amount of support we give each other... It’s really like a family--you see people from all walks of life come together. It’s not a one size only thing, it’s a one size fits all.”

All three students interviewed agreed on the inclusivity of the team. Valin’s PF partner, junior Ben Goff agreed, saying that due to the wide variety of events, speech and debate as a whole can cater to a wide variety of

students. “You’re not going to find a closer group of people in the entire school, and it’s going to make you more learned. It makes you a better person,” explained Goff.

The team has certainly gone through a number of changes over the years. Up until a few years ago, Niwot competed as a tournament school but has recently switched to competing at festivals instead. While the general idea of competition remains the same--for debaters, going up against various opponents throughout the day; for speech and interpretation kids, performing their piece to a small group throughout the day--standard tournaments are dominated by larger, Class 5A schools, while festivals tend to cater to other schools.

The decision to switch came about as a sort of protest against those larger schools, many of them from the Denver school system. These schools, which tend to have more resources for their

students, have long made it difficult for smaller schools like Niwot to compete on their level. For example, some of those resources are coming from carefully vetted debate evidence, sometimes even looked over by professionals, or experienced performers giving critiques/training and pieces known to win, to interpretation students.

However, while some degree of competition may have been lost from switching to the festival school circuit, Niwot’s team has found other benefits. For one, the members have placed well in many of the tournaments, especially the debate students--Valin and Goff even won the state festival tournament in PF. The festivals are somewhat more relaxed, and because of that, many of the schools have developed close relationships, such as Niwot has, with the Alexander Dawson team.

The success at competition and within the team itself is evident, as is the students’ dedication to the team as a whole and to each other.

“To me,” said Hair, “Niwot Forensics was the biggest thing to shape my high school career.”

Valin said, “I hope that the team keeps on some traditions, but I also hope that the team grows in ways that I can’t even think of. Just be the team that cultivates success at tournaments but having fun. Above all, a team that stays a family, while it’s getting larger, I want it to feel the same that people are together.”

“I’m very proud,” said Goff. “I’m grateful for him [Nick Valin, his partner], for my team, and to be debating for Niwot.”

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NHS starts new tradition of 'Wish Week'

By HANNAH STEWART
Editorial@lhvc.com

Niwot High School students are no strangers to helping the community. Whether it's individual teams

having Breast Cancer Awareness Games for their sports or other groups' fundraisers, students have plenty of opportunities for philanthropy.

After being inspired by one student's personal in-

volvement with the Make-A-Wish organization, as well as seeing other schools' participation, Niwot High School will have its very first "Wish Week." Starting on March 2, the student council will have

a variety of activities and fundraisers to donate to the foundation.

"We have a kid, our fundraising is going towards him," said student body vice-president Nick Valin, a senior. "His name is Isaiah and he's from Fort Collins, he's seven and has heart disease, he's our representative."

Valin explained that to reach their \$7,500 goal for the week, they will have various after-school events and spirit days inspired by Isaiah's interests. For example, since he loves Disney films, they will have a Disney movie night with popcorn and are hoping to get a blue car (Isaiah's favorite color) with balloons in it. Students will have the opportunity to pay a dollar to guess the number of balloons to win a prize.

"We're also going to have restaurant nights pretty much every night," Valin said. "We're still working on the different restaurants." These nights will give other community members the op-

portunity to participate and donate to the cause as well as the students.

There is a website set up for community members to donate directly online. It will be open through March 6.

To inform students and community members about the week's events, the organizers will be posting flyers around the high school and the town. They will also work with other student groups to coordinate on social media and get the word out that way.

Valin continued, "We would just love for the community to know what's going on. We're trying to make this a tradition." It's been amazing at other schools, it helps the overall environment and school spirit."

To stay up to date with Wish Week activities, follow Niwot's student council on Instagram at @niwotstuco. The online donation site is www.site.wish.org/goto/Niwot2020.



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SPORTS

Lopez and Torres bow out at state wrestling championships



Photo by Jocelyn Rowley

Senior Jovani Lopez makes Broomfield's Tyler Carpenter pay for a mistake during the championship quarterfinals at the Class 4A state wrestling tournament on Feb. 21.

By JOCELYN ROWLEY
Editorial@lhvc.com

Niwot seniors Jovani Lopez and Daniel Torres accomplished much more than they thought possible during their four-year high school wrestling careers, but in the immediate aftermath of grueling losses in the 2020 Class 4A state championships, it was hard for them to accept falling short of their ultimate goals.

"It was a good experience," Lopez said, though without much conviction. Minutes before, he had lost a close third round match in the heavyweight

consolation bracket, putting him out of contention for a state medal, and sending him home from the Pepsi Center much earlier than he'd hoped. "I had some wins and losses, some good matches. I had a really good match with the Broomfield kid. But I didn't really get what I wanted."

Lopez went 2-2 over the three-day tournament, his two impressive wins cancelled by narrow losses that were in many ways just as impressive. In the opening round on Feb. 20, he pinned senior Israel Lima of Central Grand Junction, putting



Photo by Jocelyn Rowley

Senior Daniel Torres puts the moves on Ryder Hayes of Mitchell during a first round consolation match at the Class 4A state wrestling tournament on Feb. 21.

him into the championship quarterfinals against second-seed Tyler Carpenter of Broomfield the next day. In that match, Lopez gave the powerful Eagle senior more than he bargained for, even getting him on his back at one point, but ultimately fell in a 9-7 decision.

Lopez then entered the consolation bracket, and won in the second round by fall over Lewis-Palmer senior Matthew Icke. In the third round, he faced Pueblo South senior Victor Sosa, just one victory away from placing in the bracket's top-six. Hoping to expedite that win,

Lopez took a gamble that didn't pay off, and would go on to fall in a 6-4 decision.

"I did a move that wasn't supposed to be made, and it almost caught me by him pinning me, but I told myself 'I don't want to quit now,' and I was able to get out of it quick, and then just tried my best to score points and win the match, even though I was down."

Niwot assistant coach Todd

Johnson said Lopez's premature takedown shot was probably motivated by the pressure of nearing his goal.

"It was a big important match in the blood round of a tournament—he's got to win to place—and there was probably a lot of stuff going through his mind. It's a move he hits a lot, but maybe it was something he forced, and didn't need to. It's worked for him a lot this year, and he went to what he knows and what he's good at. I don't know if it was the wrong idea, but maybe it was a little too early or maybe a little bit forced, and he could have set it up better."

Lopez ended the season with a 34-9 record, and was a state qualifier two years in a row. He also checked winning matches at the Pepsi Center off his to-do list, and finally feels like he has stepped out of his older brother Jose's shadow. For Niwot head coach Bobby Matthews, seeing

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Codevilla captures two titles at Class 4A state championships

By JOCELYN ROWLEY
Editorial@lhvc.com

There weren't very many Cougars in the pool at the 2020 Class 4A swim and dive championships, but what the Niwot state squad lacked in competitors, it more than made up for in impressive swims. Chief among them were Mary Codevilla's stunning performances in 200- and 500-yard freestyle races, which brought the talented sophomore two individual state titles and helped catapult the youthful Cougars into ninth place overall. Afterwards, head coach Sarah Stamp said that she was "thrilled" with the outcome, especially after all the complicated math that went into shaping this year's state lineup.

"It was a fantastic showing, and I'm really pleased with the top-10 finish," Stamp said. "You see what's out there for times, and then people swim at conference, and I scramble trying to make decisions about where to put people and what to do. Then you wait for that psych sheet and hope you've made the right decision. I'm happy with how things panned out."

Stamp clearly made the right



Photo by Jocelyn Rowley

Sophomore Mary Codevilla looks to the scoreboard after beating Mullen's Chase Davison to win the state title in the 200-yd freestyle at the Class 4A swim championships on Feb. 19.

decision regarding Codevilla, but it probably wasn't hard to go wrong with the proven second year-veteran, who captured her first title as a freshman in the 200 individual medley. Her winning time of 1 minute 49.31 seconds in the 200 freestyle was a high school personal best, and more than half a second faster than the All American mark (1:50.05).

She didn't set a personal best in the 500 freestyle finals, but only because she did so the day before in the preliminary round with a time of 4:55.01, which was six seconds faster than her seedtime, well under the All American

time, and less than half a second off the Class 4A state mark (4:54.65). Codevilla ultimately won the event in 4:57.37, outpacing the second place finisher by more than seven seconds.

"My training has been very different this year," she said. "I've been training a lot for the 500 lately, rather than IM and breaststroke, which I usually train for. It's been more geared toward mid-distance and freestyle."

Codevilla was also instrumental in the Cougars' relay wins, particularly in the 400-yard freestyle relay, the meet's final and most competitive event, with just

six-tenths of a point separating the second through fifth place finishers. Swimming the anchor leg, Codevilla overcame a slow start for Niwot and snuck them into one of the top five spots, securing just enough points to guarantee a top-10 finish in the team standings, and creating another memorable moment.

"It was great just getting the points for the team, and supporting the team," she said. "Having my teammates behind my back is what got me to those state titles, and it just felt really good to give it back."

In other action, Emiley Yie did what she's been doing all season for the Cougars—once again gladly abandoning her comfort zone in order to boost the team score. Unfortunately, that put the junior up against some elite competitors (including Codevilla), who only seemed to get faster between preliminaries and finals. Yie set a personal best in the 100-yard butterfly finals (58.96), but fell two places from (8th to 10th) from the day before. She also lost ground in the very tight 200 freestyle finals, from 4th to 7th, despite an almost identical time (1:55.17 to 1:55.64).

"It's kind of a roller coaster," Stamp said of Yie's results, adding that her 200 free time was just three-tenths of a second behind the fourth place finisher. "Swimming as a whole is getting faster, so it's hard to say why. The top-10 in everything was respectable."

Yie was happy with her personal performance, even if a little dismayed with the final standings. She also said this year's two-day state meet was a lot more "fun" than 2019, when Niwot was the Class 4A runner-up.

"I went best times in both of my events, so that's good. The 100 fly was one of those flexible events, and that was really fun to be able to swim, since I don't usually get to race in that...I feel overall it was just a lot better experience."

Elsewhere for Niwot, junior Sophia Gaspar joined Codevilla and Yie on the 400 freestyle relay, and also competed in the 100 butterfly, finishing in 18th (1:02.77). Junior Lucca Fulkerson helped lead Niwot to a 16th-place finish in the 200-yard medley relay (1:57.57), along with freshman Rowan Lavigne, Lexy Bullen and

Continued on Page 22

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Niwot High's new football coach expects more than wins



Photo by Pattie Logan

Nick Blume will lead Niwot's football team beginning in the 2020-21 school year.

By PATTIE LOGAN
Editorial@lhvc.com

Niwot High's new head football coach, Nik Blume, doled out pizza and enthusiasm when he met with the players and their parents last week, sharing his "full tilt" approach to coaching. He won't officially be on staff until the end of the semester, but he's already laying the groundwork for next season.

Blume told the players that weightlifting will start this spring. "That's non-negotiable for me. If you don't like weights, this might not be for you," he said. "You have to be physically prepared in order to excel at this game."

Excel. Excellence. Discipline. Respect. Manners. Coach Blume talked to players and their families about almost

everything except winning. Maybe he doesn't want to jinx the season before it begins. Maybe it just sounds smarmy. Or maybe, focusing on winning isn't actually how to win.

That's a vision that he shares with Athletic Director Joe Brown. It's one of the reasons Blume was chosen to replace Jeremy Lanter, who resigned after another disappointing season when the Cougars went 3-7. "We're committed to chasing excellence," Blume said. "You do the little things well. And the more you do the little things well, the more big things go your way. When you do that, the winning happens on its own."

That philosophy and a focus on the big picture made Blume the man for the job, according to Brown. "You set that foundation of good character, hard

work and dedication. When you do that, you're going to win," said Brown.

But that's not the only reason Blume stood out. "First and foremost it's because he's a good person," Brown told the audience. "He has strong moral values and believes in the development of young men into young adults and cares about the development of the whole person, not just Xs and Os."

Blume seems suited for the job with a sturdy frame, full beard, deep voice, and a big personality. He comes from Lutheran High School in Parker where he served as an assistant coach in track and football. He'll coach both sports at Niwot too, serving as an assistant for track in addition to the head coaching position in football.

The multi-sport coach is a big believer that kids benefit from doing more than one sport, something he'll encourage as a way for students to improve their athletic skills year-round. He worries that today's trend towards specialization keeps kids from getting the most out of the athletic and social opportunities that come with being part of various high school teams. By promoting multi-sport participation, he hopes to attract athletes from other sports to increase the number of football players to help Niwot be more competitive.

The new coach spent a chunk of the evening talking

to players and parents one-on-one. "In year one it's about relationships. It's always been about relationships for me. The inside out coaching approach is to build a quality program that your kids have to get excited and they have to trust you and feel cared about."

Parents responded to that message. "I really like that he wants to be fully invested in the boys' lives," said Stacie Leatherwood whose son, Easten, is on the team. "It feels good to have someone new come to the Niwot family and help these kids and walk with them. I just like his character and what he stands for. I really like his background."

Blume's background is in Big Red football country. He was raised in the small farming and ranching town of Valentine, Neb. He's the oldest in a family of eight that includes biological, adopted and step-children. Add to that several foster children over the years

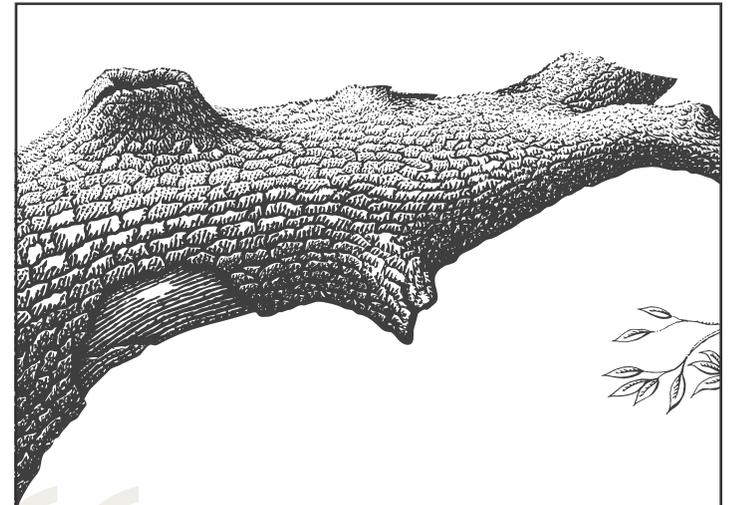
and his family could field an entire offense with a couple of subs.

He describes his upbringing as a "no-nonsense blue-collar family" that was diverse and frugal, with his father working as a tractor mechanic and his mom carrying a lot of the household responsibilities. It taught him patience, sharing and, as the oldest child, an appreciation for kids.

Blume has coached kids for 17 years. He told the parents he doesn't have any children of his own, so he sees their kids as his kids. "My time, my focus is going to be on making your young men better people. Athletics stops. Who are they going to be, what are they going to accomplish when they leave here, is more important to me at the end of the day," Blume said.

"I want to win games. Don't get me wrong, I just told your

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Rotary Club of Niwot honors Students of the Month

Special to the Courier

Recently, three Niwot High students were recognized by the Rotary Club of Niwot for their outstanding achievements in and out of the classroom. The three were introduced at a recent Rotary Club breakfast by principal Eric Rauschkolb and received a plaque noting the award. They are now eligible for a scholarship from the RCN.

Natalia Storz – December

Natalia has excelled in the classroom, and she has also demonstrated many personality traits that have exemplified her selflessness and commitment to success, both her own and that of others. Her leadership credentials are impeccable, as she has been in Student Council since 9th grade, has served as her class' Vice President twice, and this past spring was elected the Student Body President. Storz is the co-president of the Spanish Club, is the co-president of the Niwot Student Boosters Club, and has served as the student representative on the Niwot High School Education Foundation. She is also the Vice President of the Niwot Environmental Club and is a member of the NHS Politics Club., as well as a past captain of the JV Soccer Team, and is a current two-year member of the varsity lineup. Storz has served as a volunteer with the Lefthand Watershed Oversight Center and with Crayons to Calculators (a non-profit that supplies low-income students



Courtesy Photo

Niwot High students Nick Valin (far left), Joelle McDonald and Natalia Storz were honored by the Rotary Club of Niwot and principal Eric Rauschkolb as Students of the Month.

with school supplies). She has earned an Academic Letter every year in school, and has been the Student of the Month for the Social Studies, English, and World Languages departments.

Joelle McDonald – January

Joelle has excelled in the classroom, and she has also demonstrated many personality traits that have exemplified her selflessness and commitment to success, both her own and that of others. She has been on Jared Polis' Youth Advisory Council and has served on our school district's Student Advisory Council. Last spring, McDonald was selected to be NHS' representative to the HOBY (Hugh O'Brian Youth) Leadership Conference, and was our representative to the local Doing Democracy Day forum. She has been a

four-year member of the cross country team, is the president (and former VP) of the Garden Club, and is also the founder and president of the De-Stress Club. In terms of leadership, work ethic, and making a difference in our school and community, Joelle is in a class by herself.

Nick Valin – February

Nick has excelled in the classroom, and he has also demonstrated many personality traits that have exemplified his selflessness and commitment to success, both his own and that of others. He is the head captain of the speech and debate team, and was a state champion in the Public Forum Debate. Valin is the founder and president of the NHS Politics Club, and president of the Student Boosters Club. Valin also serves as Secretary General of our chapter of Model United Nations, Student Body Vice President, and captain of his Colorado junior crew team. Valin has volunteered on the freshman orientation committee, and took a six week service trip to Sri Lanka. He has interned for the Colorado Attorney General, participated in a Junior State of America program at Georgetown University, and spent four weeks at Concordia College in a Spanish immersion program.

FOOTBALL COACH

Continued from Page 21

your kids I hate losing more than I like winning. But at the end of the day are they becoming better people? Are they becoming significant in the lives of each other, your lives, in lives of the community, and when they go down the road and have their own family?"

It's a message that resonated with junior safety Jordan Byers. "I was impressed with him. How we're going to have a bigger brotherhood and be a part of the community," said Byers.

Strong safety and running back Easten Leatherwood, thinks Blume is a good mixture of likable and tough. "There are some coaches that are kind of soft on you. And I feel like he's not going to be the one that's going to be soft and that's good for me," said Leatherwood.

That comment proves a point for Brown. "He's going to hold kids accountable.

They might not like it at first, but kids like accountability. If we're holding kids accountable and to high standards, they're going to achieve them," said Brown, who included the players in the decision-making process by asking them for a list of qualities they wanted in a coach.

He said Blume checked all the boxes and more. "He's got a variety of knowledge about football when it comes to the Xs and Os. We all know that's an important piece of it," said Brown, "but the most important piece of it is getting those kids to believe that that's going to work and that's going to move us forward. I just think he brings such a powerful presence, ideas and energy that our numbers are going to continue to grow now and people will start talking about Niwot football in a positive way."

Blume will teach P.E. and Health, just as he did for the past seven years as a Lutheran High School Lion. Now he'll become a Cougar, and the school is excited to see what this new cat will bring.

SWIM

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Stephanie Mow, who also rounded out the 400 freestyle relay. Overall, Stamp was very pleased with the performance of her underclassmen in the high-pressure event, and is looking forward to coaching a 2020-21 team that won't be losing any of the state swimmers to graduation.

"It wasn't an easy season, especially compared to last year, but we chipped away at things, won conference, and then came here and got top-10. All the girls are just great, and they're all coming back next year."

Feb. 18-19 — Class 4A State Swimming Championships, VMAC, Thornton
Team scores — 1. Cheyenne Mountain 348, 2. Rampart 340, 3. Mullen 275, 4. Dakota Ridge 229, 5. Windsor 221, 6. Broomfield 205, 7. Silver Creek 204, 8. Monarch 182.5, 9. Niwot 164, 9. Grand Junction 164, 11. George Washington 124.5, 12. Highlands Ranch 118,

13. Pine Creek 116, 14. Arvada West 113, 15. Greeley West 105, 16. Wheat Ridge 89, 17. Golden 82, 18. Standley Lake 63, 19. Air Academy 55, 20. Thompson Valley 54, 21. Longmont 46, 22. Coronado 37, 23. Loveland 35, 24. Fruita Monument 30.5, 25. Denver South 30, 26. Liberty 22, 27. Centaurus 19, 28. Palmer 7, 29. Montrose 6, 30. Ponderosa 4, 30. Pueblo West 4, 32. Mountain View 2.5
200 medley relay — 1. Rampart, 1:44.04; Mullen, 1:45.51; 3. Cheyenne Mountain, 1:46.56; 16. Niwot (Mow, Lavigne, Fulkerson, Bullen), 1:57.57
200 freestyle — 1. Codevilla, 1:49.31; 2. Davison, Mullen, 1:50.27; 3. Brovold, Rampart, 1:53.24; 7. Yie, 1:55.64
100 butterfly — 1. Brovold, Rampart, 56.92; 2. Sowitch, Mullen, 57.65; 3. Webster, Monarch, 57.72; 10. Yie, 59.09; 16. Gaspar, 1:02.13
500 freestyle — 1. Codevilla, 4:57.37; 2. Sanderson, Cheyenne Mountain, 5:05.76; 3. Hayward, Cheyenne Mountain, 5:08.00
200 free relay — 1. Mullen, 1:33.11; 2. Rampart, 1:35.56; 3. Cheyenne Mountain, 1:38.34; 4. Niwot (Luo, Yie, G. Shaw, Vu), 1:38.77; 400 free relay — 1. Dakota Ridge, 3:32.55; Grand Junction, 3:37.25; 3. Broomfield, 3:37.26; 5. Niwot (Mow, Gaspar, Yie, Codevilla), 3:37.85

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WRESTLING

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the younger Lopez evolve into a state-level talent has been one of the rare surprises in his coaching career.

“For Jovani to be one match away is amazing,” Matthews said. “How far he’s come as a wrestler, as a person, and as a leader and an athlete at Niwot High School is leaps and bounds. If you’d asked me the first day I met him if he’d be here, I would probably have said no. But then I saw that potential in him over the years.”

For Torres, the 2020 state tournament ended much the way his 2019 tournament did—with a loss to Windsor’s Tyler Grasmick in a second consolation round match. This time, however, the Niwot senior won’t get a shot at redeeming himself next year, which came as a painful realization to the tenacious over-achiever.

“It’s pretty disappointing,” Torres said. “Looking back, it was the last match ever of my high school career. It’s over already, even though I got an extra week compared to a lot of people. I definitely wish I could have done better, and maybe if I hadn’t been injured I could have learned more techniques, and more skills.”

Torres was 1-2 for the weekend, his win coming in an 8-3 sudden victory over Mitchell’s Ryder Hayes in the first consolation round. His coaches also



Photo by Pattie Logan

Senior Daniel Torres gets caught by Windsor’s Tyler Grasmick during a second round consolation match at the Class 4A state wrestling tournament on Feb. 21.

believe his injury played a role in the early exit from state, though both are amazed he came back at all, never mind winning a match at the Pepsi Center.

“I would say the biggest thing this season for him was that he had six weeks off,” Matthews said. “There were a bunch of kids this year who didn’t have any weeks off, and they didn’t make it here. He was able to make it to state with basically one arm. I’m pretty proud of that. It shows who he is as a person, and who he’s become.”

Like Lopez, Torres has been a Niwot wrestling success story, rising from novice roots as a freshman to qualify for the Class 4A championships as a junior and senior. He hopes his personal model of success—based on hard work and determination—will trickle down to the underclassmen and bring future success to the program.

“I’m proud that I was able to be a leader for my team,” he said. “I know we have a lot of capable wrestlers on our team, with a lot of skill and a lot of heart, and they still have a couple of years ahead of them... Jovani and I left a legacy of having a goal and reaching it, and that’s what I wanted to leave for my team.”

Matthews agreed with Torres’ assessment of the pair’s legacy, and added that they will leave the program better than they found it, both on and off the mat.

“I’m just proud of those guys for competing, working hard, and representing our program. They’ve laid a foundation for the next group coming through to understand what it takes to be a Niwot wrestler, how important it is that you do well in school, that you’re a good person and a good teammate.”

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The Left Hand Valley Courier is in need of a carrier for a Niwot route as well as substitute carriers. Candidates must be self-starters with transportation, available on a moment’s notice and pay attention to No Delivery details. If you are interested, please email editorial@lhvc.com.

[Left Hand Valley Courier Classifieds](#)
\$21 flat rate, 8 lines (6 words per line).

Send a check with your ad, name and phone number to P.O. Box 652, Niwot, CO 80544.

Contact advertising@lhvc.com with questions.
The deadline for the ad is the Thursday prior to next week’s publication.



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