



## A banner day for veterans in Niwot

By VICKY DORVEE  
Editorial@lhvc.com

Since mid-October, 2nd Avenue between Niwot Road and Murray Street has been lined with 35 banners recognizing veterans with a Niwot connection. On Sunday, Nov. 10, the community came together in observance of Veterans Day and to formally acknowledge the successful inauguration of the Veterans Day Banner Project.

Three members of Boy Scout Troop 161 kicked off the ceremony with a presentation of the American flag and the Pledge of Allegiance followed by the Niwot Community Semi-Marching Free Grange Band performing the national anthem.

Niwot Community Association (NCA) president David



Photo by Vicky Dorvee

Niwot celebrated Veterans Day and the first year of the Veterans Banner project with a fitting patriotic ceremony. Thirty-five banners honoring veterans with ties to Niwot are installed on the lampposts along 2nd Avenue.

Limbach presented salutations and thanks to the Veterans Day Banner Project committee, the NCA, the Niwot Business As-

sociation, and the originator of the project, Sheila Ray, for

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Photo by Vicky Dorvee

Members of the Rehn family gathered under Niwot High School graduate Randall Rehn's banner on 2nd Ave. Rehn was killed in 2003 while serving in the Iraq War.

## Children's Park cameras installed to catch vandals



Photo by Vicky Dorvee

Security cameras have been installed at Niwot Children's Park to catch and thwart those who would do damage to the community asset.

By VICKY DORVEE  
Editorial@lhvc.com

Niwot's Children's Park on 1st Avenue is a place of joy and playfulness, bustling with hap-

py children. The award-winning, community-funded park has also been on the receiving end of destructive mischief. But now, the wrongdoers will be caught on video

and there will be ramifications. Sadly, there have been recurring incidents of graffiti scrawled in the bathrooms

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## Boulder County looking to revamp codes for short-term rentals

By HANNAH STEWART  
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The Boulder County land use code is a document that is often updated. When the county commissioners approved new policies for housing in October, it seemed to be an appropriate time to consider regulations regarding short-term rentals given that those have not been updated since 2008. A survey was sent out Monday, Oct. 28 and will be open through Nov. 22 for Boulder County residents to share their opinions with the county regarding how the regulations should be updated.

Short-term rentals are those which are rented for less than 30 days at a time--many of

these rentals are Airbnbs or VRBO rental locations. Interest in updating these codes came about, not only due to an increase of inquiries about them, but also because of an increase of focus on housing availability recently. As such, the Boulder County Land Use Department wants to simplify the code so that it is easily understandable as to potential personal impacts as well as those to their properties.

"Our position, at this point, is that, as staff and county commissioners, we feel that that regulation exactly looks like is a process. Our job as staff is to really listen to the

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## Community Calendar

### ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT GROUP

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

### NIWOT HIGH OPEN HOUSE

Niwot High School (8989 Niwot Rd.) is hosting an open house for all interested students on Nov. 14, from 6 - 8 p.m. .

### TWIN PEAKS OPEN HOUSE

Twin Peaks Charter Academy (340 S. Sunset St., Longmont) is hosting an Open House/Enrollment Night on Wednesday, Nov. 20. The evening is broken up by grade level: 5:30 - PREK, 6:00 - Elementary, 6:30 - Middle School, 7:30 - High School. Twin Peaks Charter Academy is a public PreK-12th grade tuition free charter school.

### MOUNTAIN SHADOWS PRESENTATION

Mountain Shadows Montessori School (4165 63rd St., Boulder) is hosting "Teaching Peace is a Lifestyle", a special presentation by Kelly Crabtree, on Nov. 14 from 6-7:30 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.

### ENCHANTED EVENING

Niwot kicks off the holiday season on Nov. 29 with the Enchanted Evening celebration in Cottonwood Square and Old Town from 6 to 9 p.m., featuring musicians, a tree lighting ceremony, and a visit from Santa. Local businesses are also holding a window decorating contest. For more information, visit [niwot.com/events/enchanted-evening](http://niwot.com/events/enchanted-evening).

### NIWOT HOLIDAY PARADE

The annual Niwot Holiday Parade will be held on Saturday, Dec. 7 at 11 am. Santa is once again this year's Grand Marshal, and will visit with children at the Grange following the parade until 1 p.m.

## VETERANS

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making the banners a reality.

Following the formal presentation, the band regaled participants with patriotic songs as the crowd strolled along 2nd Avenue to look at the photos and service information on the banners.

Cookies were handed out by Niwot's Patriotic Cookie Moms who ship cookies to military personnel stationed around the world, and hot apple cider was provided compliments of the Niwot Market.

For more media coverage of the event and to watch a Denver Channel 7 video about Niwot's Veterans Banner Project, visit [www.Niwot.org](http://www.Niwot.org).



Photo by Vicky Dorvee

Victor Johnson, 92 years old, was one of the living vets honored with a banner in Niwot's Veterans Day Banner Project. His son Kirk Johnson shared an overview of his military experience with onlookers.



Photo by Vicky Dorvee

Niwot celebrated Veterans Day and the first year of the Veterans Banner project with a fitting patriotic ceremony. Thirty-five banners honoring veterans with ties to Niwot are installed on the lampposts along 2nd Avenue.



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## COMMUNITY PET SPOTLIGHT



This adorable menace is Ripley, an 11-week old goldendoodle retriever adopted last month by Courier editor Jocelyn Rowley and her family from the Golden Retriever Rescue of the Rockies ([goldenrescue.com](http://goldenrescue.com)). Ripley enjoys cavorting in the snow, playing with her new friends Lucy and Louie in obedience class, and hiding under the bed from the vacuum.

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

# ▶ Letter to the Editor

## SPROUTING WINGS

based on words by Abigail Scott

*Sprouting wings grows unexpected roots,  
And these in turn bring unpredicted fruits.  
Recently I gave myself new sight,  
By moving life and limb from urban blight.*

*I set my heart and soul on something new,  
When a quite unusual trend beset my view,  
The so-called Van-Life now a wild-fire craze,  
Occupied my mind for several days.*

*Like many other people of my age,  
Who want their lives to turn another page,  
And being quite the woman that I am,  
I went ahead and bought a cargo van.*

*Van Life is just another way to live.  
You can write a book or all-night parties give;  
But there are other options close to hand  
Like living small or traveling the land.*

*I thought this van would usefully provide  
The wings I'd need to see the countryside;  
I've always craved the wild with rope to roam,  
And so I could and still feel safe I'm home.*

*I've loved the thought of fitting out my nest,  
But earlier results have not impressed,  
My last attempt to tackle DIY  
Was build a chicken coop -- at least to try.*

*An unremitting folly graced my yard  
Although I found the effort not too hard.  
But its safety for the birds I can't contend,  
And the chickens met a sad untimely end.*

*Within me then I heard an inner voice  
To fit the van; I really had no choice,  
If other 'lifers' showed what they could do,  
Then surely with good reason, I could too.*

*From June through late September's summer days,  
I held my course as others went their ways,  
Cutting, drilling, hammering my little house,  
Just like a cozy nest befits a mouse.*

*But as I now applied the final touch,  
I realized I'd also gained so much  
From other people's help along the way  
That they had given freely day to day.*

*My neighbor brought some stencils for the floor;  
Another chose to hang my pantry door,  
We didn't know each other very well  
They knew I needed help--that I could tell.*

*The closer neighbor two doors down the street,  
Became a constant friend, though most discrete.  
He lent me tools, was full of good advice,  
His care and comfort added daily spice.*

*I borrowed saws and drills and blocks to sand,  
And when I needed help he gave a hand,  
And in the evenings with the wood to prime  
He was more than glad to spare his time.*

*And if my scheduled progress fell behind  
He raised my spirits freeing up my mind;  
And other neighbors would drop in while passing by  
To view my labors with a friendly eye.*

*They'd talk about the trips they'd made abroad  
And with their countless memories safely stored,  
Elected now to settle here abouts,  
With reasons clear and free from nagging doubts.*

*For me my newly furnished wings  
Would open up my world to other things,  
But now my heart began to ache for their support  
---Strange for friendships seemingly so short.*

*They gave ideas to help me on my trips,  
Tangible advice from practiced lips,  
Things to search for all along the way,  
That secretly would store in memory each day.*

*They fed the roots I never thought I'd grow;  
I didn't want to leave but had to go,  
The hardest part to set my wheels afloat  
With one foot on the dock and one the boat.*

*It's been three weeks, and now I am more astute,  
The stress I'm building up is more acute.  
Food and water, gas outline my plight  
To where to find a place to park each night.*

*I've no concern to where I point my van,  
No upping with the Jones's in my plan,  
I focus on my present aims instead,  
Because you never know what lies ahead.*

*But when the noise of wheels pervades my mind,  
I know I'll head right back to friends so kind,  
Enriched by memories of travels far and wide,  
And push my friend's discretion to the side.*

By Ian Hayes, Niwot



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# Boulder County prepares for 2020 Census



Courtesy photo

Everyone needs to participate in the 2020 census.

By AMY SCANES-WOLFE  
Editorial@lhvc.com

In 1870, armed with a pad of census schedules, steel nib pens, and ink, P. D. McClanahan set out to single-handedly count Boulder County's citizens. He

was not overly concerned about accuracy, but it is safe to say his approximation of 1,939 people living in Boulder County was not far off.

One hundred and fifty years after its first census, our county's population has risen to over

320,000 residents. We may not run the risk of spilling our ink bottle over the records, but the 2020 census poses some unique challenges.

The United States Census was written into the American constitution in 1787 and executed for the first time in 1790. Every 10 years since, officials orchestrate a tremendous nationwide effort to count and document every person residing in the country.

2020 is the first census that will allow residents to self-report online. But that won't eliminate the difficulty of trying to connect with the hard-to-count populations—children under the age of five, highly mobile people, non-English speakers, people experiencing homelessness, people with mental or physical disabilities, and people who do not live in traditional housing.

"Our goal is to count everyone once, only once and in the right place," says local Census Media Specialist, Laurie Cipriano. Challenges specific to 2020 include an increasingly mobile society and one wary of sharing personal information. In this digital age, when demands for peoples' time and attention

abound, the census may struggle to compete.

But it is imperative that every resident make an effort to participate. The census determines how \$675 billion of taxpayer money will be spent on public services like schools, hospitals, and roads. Not participating is, in Cipriano's words, "throwing money away."

Also, the census is used to redraw the boundaries of congressional and state legislative districts and to determine our presence in the House of Representatives. With the state's recent influx of new residents, Colorado may stand to gain another seat.

So how can you help?

First, participate. In March of 2020, households will receive a mailed invitation to respond to the census online—certain households also will receive a paper questionnaire. The delivery of these invitations will be staggered to help spread out the number of users filling out the census online. Those who don't respond will receive a mailed reminder in mid-March, late March, mid-April, and late April. Only then, if there is still no response, will census workers be deployed to collect the

information in person.

All households will have the option of responding online, by mail, or by phone, and all of the data collected remains confidential.

You can also help by working for the census. With the national unemployment rate sitting around 3.6%, it may be hard to find enough labor to run it effectively. "Being a census taker offers good pay, flexible hours, weekly pay, paid training, and reimbursement for approved expenses, such as mileage," Cipriano said. Available positions include census taker, recruiting assistant, office clerk, and supervisory staff. Training for these positions begins in March and work runs roughly until the end of July. In Boulder County, employees can expect an hourly wage of \$16.50 - \$20.50.

Ultimately, the success of the census is in our hands. As Cipriano says, "The 2020 Census belongs to everyone and we need the public's help to be successful."

If you are interested in census jobs, please visit: <https://2020census.gov/en/jobs.html>



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# CAMERAS

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and on the sidewalks and there has been damage done

to the structures and creatures. Embellishments have been pried off of permanent structures and there has even been the theft of a donor's memorial plaque. To add insult to injury, frequently garbage is left be-

hind even while it's posted that the park is a pack-it-in, pack-it-out facility, so that the cost of trash pickup doesn't get added to park upkeep.

Park committee member Riki Frea helped to raise

the donations that funded the community playground. Frea said, "We value our community coming together to build the park, and we want to be able to preserve it. Unfortunately this is a measure we found we have to take due to repeated instances of vandalism."

Aside from repairing the damage and cleaning up the refuse and defacement, the result is that the Niwot Community Arts Association, which manages the park for Boulder County, concluded security cameras were needed to catch any vandalism.

The project to install full-coverage cameras is now complete and signs advising the public of the 24-hour security surveillance have been affixed to the entry fence.

Park committee member Jim Fletemyer, who was instrumental in designing the park, said, "We hate to have to even be putting the word out formally in the newspaper, but these things go into decline if you don't nip it in the bud as soon as it rears its ugly head. We don't want to have to track down and prosecute people, but we're now at year three and we've got to say there is a problem."

When vandals are caught, they will be turned over to authorities and will be charged to the full extent of the law to make an example of them with the hopes of

preventing future destruction.

Fletemyer said a lot of thought and effort went into making sure that features could not be easily removed, so it appears that someone worked rather hard to pry pieces off. That combined with a series of other destructive incidents has led to the need for a higher level of security being necessary.

The annual cost to maintain the park is \$12,000 to cover water, sewer, cleaning, mowing, landscape maintenance, electricity, wood chip replacement, minor repairs, and insurance. The majority of the expenses are paid from Rock & Rails revenue by the NCAA. Donors and volunteers also covered the cost of purchasing and installing the security system.

The camera system is closed circuit, meaning that the recorded video is not available online or streamed to any outlets. Parents can rest assured that they and their children are not being watched and the video is not used for any purpose aside from recording and identifying those who intentionally cause damage to the park.

To report incidents of damage and graffiti, call the Niwot Community Arts Association at 303-652-2433. To reserve the park and make donations, visit [www.NiwotChildrensPark.com](http://www.NiwotChildrensPark.com).



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# RENTALS

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wide-ranging needs and concerns of the community and to regulate safety and welfare... We're really trying to balance all those factors and it might be that the resulting

regulations differ because the county is such a diverse area," said land use planner Christy Wiseman.

She further explained that the survey, which already has had more than 300 responses, is just one element that will go into the department's rec-

ommendation that will be sent to the county commissioners. They also have done extensive research looking at other communities both within and outside of Colorado to determine what types of requirements should or should not be included.

For example, the survey asks county residents if minimum rental periods should be implemented, because it has been a condition of approval that has been added to recent applications, however, they are not currently in place on a larger scale.

"It's [the survey] a good way to do a temperature check, it's a very important one and will help with how they [the county commissioners] approach the action taken," Wiseman said.

This temperature check seems to be hovering around lukewarm in Niwot. In speaking with a few local residents, it does not seem as though short-term rentals are immediately affecting the town. While there are some listings, such as one in Somerset that appear to be as casual as a bed and breakfast.

"I have people who stay at my inn who say they don't like Airbnb because they feel like they're staying in other people's homes; other people say they want a hotel feel. Different people look for different situations," said Cornelia Sawle, owner of the Niwot Inn and Spa. She stayed firm to her belief that as long as your actions don't disturb others, like neighbors, restrictions to property use is unnecessary.

On the other hand, perhaps regulations might be helpful. "I just have mixed emotions about it," said Pat Murphy of Niwot Real Estate. "I can see some people can get extra income for it. [But] There might be some sort of regulations because there have been some accidents." To her point

about accidents, it is worth noting that on Nov. 6th, Brian Chesky, the CEO of Airbnb announced, "By 12/15/20, every home and host on Airbnb will have been reviewed, with the objective to verify 100% of listings." This came after five people were killed at a Halloween party hosted at an Airbnb in California.

However, Sawle's opinion was somewhat echoed by Os-mosis owner Anne Postle, who said, "I'm in favor of people being able to use their homes in ways that can benefit them and the community." She further suggested that if restrictions were to be put in place, it should be up to HOAs, but not the county.

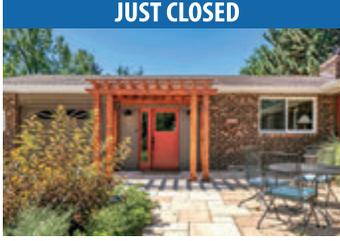
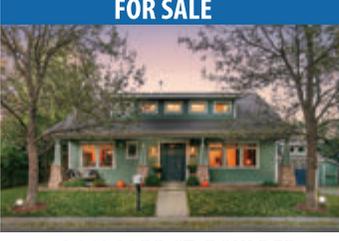
Once the survey closes, the Land Use Department staff will analyze the data obtained from the surveys--so they encourage as many residents as possible to fill it out so that they get a comprehensive picture of the community's thoughts. From the analyzed data, the department will outline a number of different paths for regulation and anticipates having community meetings and even a drafted referral that people can comment on for specific draft language before sending it to the commissioners.

However, the meetings and drafts most likely will not begin until the beginning of 2020. Between carefully sifting through the data, compiling potential regulatory options and the holidays, the department will be busy. "We want to make sure we take time with this process with the resources we have," said Wiseman.

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# Epic Nutrition open in Gunbarrel

By VICKY DORVEE  
Editorial@lhvc.com

Epic Nutrition, serving Herbalife Nutrition smoothies and energy teas, opened its doors in October at the Gunbarrel Shopping Center. This is a sister enterprise to Fit Family Nutrition owned and operated by the same husband-wife team, Brad Larsen and Brook Kirwin. Fit Family Nutrition opened one year ago on South Main Street in Longmont.

"We make healthy eating fast, simple, and delicious,"

Larsen said. "We have over 20 flavors of smoothies and 10 flavors of energy teas, and the smoothies are a complete meal. It's meant for people on the go."

For \$8 to \$10, customers are served three items as a set - a smoothie flavor of their choice along with a green energy tea and a shot of aloe vera. According to Larsen, each smoothie is between 200-250 calories and contains 24 grams of protein and 21 vitamins and minerals.

The aloe vera soothes the digestive tract, Larsen said, allowing it to better absorb the nutrition in the smoothie. The smoothie ingredient foundation is plant-based and is prepared to suit all dietary preferences including vegetarian, gluten-free, soy and dairy-free.

In addition to the food

made to order for walk-in customers, Epic Nutrition sells Herbalife Nutrition products to take and make at home and the staff offers meal planning consultation as well as wellness coaching.

Epic Nutrition's location was previously the Up Dog Café which was run in conjunction with Yoga Loft. The

café closed last summer after a year of business.

*Epic Nutrition is located at 6565 Gunpark Rd. Hours of operation are 7 a.m. to 2 p.m., Mondays through Fridays, closed on weekends. For more information, call 218-851-1371. For more information, visit <https://www.facebook.com/epicnutritionco/> and [www.Herbalife.com](http://www.Herbalife.com).*



Courtesy photo

Herbalife smoothies and teas are being served at Epic Nutrition, which opened its door in October in the Gunbarrel Shopping Center.



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# Niwot LID hears from sales tax officials

By JOCELYN ROWLEY  
Editorial@lhvc.com

Though many local businesses have reported lower earnings in 2019, year-to-date sales tax collections in the Niwot Local Improvement District are outpacing 2018 by nearly seven percent. To help explain the apparent contradiction and other district tax conundrums, the advisory committee invited LuAnn Pyatt of the Colorado Department of Revenue and Dave Thayer of Boulder County Financial Services to their monthly meeting on Nov. 5 for a discussion of how sales taxes are collected and distributed.

According to Pyatt, some growth is likely due to new state policies concerning sales tax collections. Late last year, the Department of Revenue enacted emergency regulations that required out-of-state retailers with a "substantial nexus" in Colorado to collect and remit local sales taxes beginning on December 1, 2018. They also required online retailers to collect taxes based on the customer's address, rather than their common taxing districts. Those

temporary measures were later formalized into House Bill 1240, which passed with a clear majority of both the Colorado house and senate in April, and went into effect on June 1, 2019.

"Basically, it was to codify our rules about point of delivery for taxation, so if someone is shipping to the area, then they need to collect that area's tax," she said. "We call it the 'Wayfair Decision' for the out-of-state people having to collect local taxes and destination sourcing for in-state."

Pyatt speculates that this has boosted LID revenues as online retailers such as Amazon, the aforementioned Wayfair, and others start complying with the stricter rules, and realize they should be collecting and remitting taxes for even small localities.

"We have actively worked with a lot of those [online sellers] already, just because they often had a lot of questions about what they were doing. Really, though, they've done their homework, and we have really supplied those guys with maps, addresses, and things like that, so they're pretty prepared to pull the right tax."

Blair estimated that online transactions comprise up to five percent of Boulder County's taxable sales, which he termed "a pretty decent contribution."

Still, Pyatt warned that "sales tax is volatile," and it may be a few months before Niwot LID collections level off into a more stable pattern. Retailers have up to three years to claim a refund if they've paid a tax in error, "so you could see some of it trail off." Additionally, new regulations concerning "marketplace facilitators" and third-party sellers went into effect in October, but the resulting revenues won't be reported until December. There may also be changes to revenue flow when updates to CDORS online filing and GIS systems come online next summer.

Pyatt and Blair were able to shed light on some other lingering questions from board members, including whether businesses in the LID should pay use tax (no). On others, such as the impact of Niwot's retail marijuana dispensary, the two deferred due to confidentiality and taxpayer privacy laws.

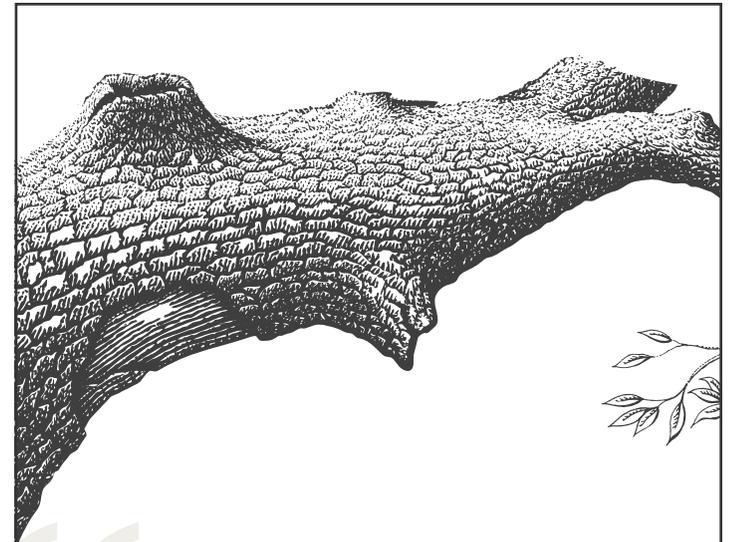
Following the sales tax discussion, LID treasurer Bruce Rabeler presented the monthly treasurer's report, starting with the August 2019 revenue report showing the 6.6% year to year increase (to \$130,547, up from \$122,482 in August 2019). He noted that the most significant growth had been in the retail sector, while food service/accommodation sector was "exactly flat."

On the expense side, the LID has approved \$126,086.79 in spending through October, leaving \$6,767.21 in the budget. However, after approving the month's only funding request for first half of 2019 ED, there will be a budget deficit of \$5,732. The bulk of spending (~70%) has gone toward marketing/advertising, followed by events (20%) and maintenance (10%).

Up next was Catherine McHale, appearing for the NBA, who requested \$12,500 to pay the Economic Development Director's salary for the first half on 2019. In June, the LID funded the same amount for the EDD's second half of the year, without realizing that the first half expense had been overlooked after changes to the county's financial system. The request was approved unanimously.

There was no new business. In old business, the committee briefly discussed efforts to preserve the Native American tree carvings, but no action was taken.

The LID advisory committee will hold its next monthly meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 3 at the Mountain View Fire Station.



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# Boulder County staking its place in Jack's Solar Garden

By VICKY DORVEE  
Editorial@lhvc.com

Boulder County has committed to be the biggest subscriber to date in Jack's Solar Garden. As of Nov. 5, the county commissioners pledged to be a holder of 10% of the 1.2 megawatts solar array, equaling a \$376,000 investment. Jack's will be the first and only solar garden in the county and the largest commercial agrivoltaic system in the U.S.

Jack's Solar Garden founder Byron Kominek said, "Having the confidence of Boulder County in becoming an anchor tenant and having them fully appreciate the social and environmental benefits we intend to provide to our community is a great help."

Boulder County's Office of Sustainability, Climate, and Resilience began working with Jack's Solar Garden as part of its effort to achieve the goal of 100% electricity from renewable sources. In November 2018, the Boulder County Land

Use Code was revamped to allow community solar gardens on lands of National and State Agricultural Significance. This designation comprises the majority of non-urban county land.

On June 13, 2019, Boulder County Commissioners unanimously gave their approval for Kominek to commence with plans to build the county's first of its kind co-mingling of solar power and agriculture (dubbed an agrivoltaic system) and by buying into the project, they're now backing it with an even more powerful commitment.

"Boulder County sees Jack's Solar Garden as the kind of business that exemplifies the innovative, environmental, and social spirit of Boulder County, and we are thrilled to be a part of its launch," said Susie Strife, Boulder County's Sustainability Coordinator.

The solar garden will be located on Kominek's family farmland at 8102 North 95th Street in South Longmont. Construction of the project is

scheduled to begin by June 2020.

Jack's Solar Garden is a participant in Xcel Energy's Solar Rewards Community program allowing the solar garden to provide electricity subscriptions to residents, businesses, and government entities. Customers on the Xcel Energy grid who become subscribers receive offset credits on their electric bills.

The majority of the 3,000-panel, five-acre grid is still open to additional subscribers, with some individual residential subscribers already bought in, according to Kominek.

Aside from the benefit of renewable energy being generated, Jack's is also partnering with the National Renewable Energy Lab, University of Arizona, and Colorado State University to research what types of crops grow best under and next to the solar array and to study pollinator habitats in the scenario. The Audubon Society of the Rockies is establishing their largest bird habitat in Colorado around the border



Artwork by Jeff Slemmons

An artist's rendition of Jack's Solar Garden - a co-habitation of solar energy and agriculture.

of the solar array.

Kominek has been actively educating the public and other entities about Jack's Solar Garden. Earlier this month, along with other leaders in the Colorado energy industry, he spoke to the Energy Legislation Review Interim Study Committee which included Senator Mike Foote and Representatives Sonya Lewis and Chris Hansen, at the state capital.

"I hope Boulder County's decision to join us emboldens other government entities, companies, and residents to sign up for our subscriptions as well," Kominek said.

To learn about becoming a subscriber to Jack's Solar Garden and upcoming events including free tours, visit [www.JacksSolarGarden.com](http://www.JacksSolarGarden.com).



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# Lookout Alliance urges the time to act is now

By ABIGAIL SCOTT  
Editorial@lhvc.com

Oil and gas development is Boulder County is on pause

until March 2020, but that doesn't mean The Lookout Alliance has taken a break. In collaboration with 350 Colorado, TLA has put to-

gether a petition that calls for a complete ban on fracking in Boulder County. The petition comes at a time when the Colorado Oil and Gas Conser-

vation Commission (COGCC) is reviewing and updating oil and gas regulations.

In addition to the petition, the COGCC is currently accepting commentary from the public on each of Crestone Peak Resources' three project petitions. Public commentary on each will be accepted until Dec. 6. By opening up the docket for local input, the COGCC gives members of the community - those who may be directly affected by future fracking and development projects - the chance to offer their opinions and insights.

The Lookout Alliance advises that the Boulder County Commissioners are accepting comments and ideas for revision of regulations listed in Article 12. The relatively new state law, SB 19-181, puts more control back in the hands of local residents, giving community members the chance to speak up about what they want to see happen in their backyards. The new regulations will dictate development moving forward and have the ability to impact our communities in a variety of ways. Emails may be sent to [oilgascomment@boulder-county.org](mailto:oilgascomment@boulder-county.org).

Residents may also write in a letter via 350 Colorado's site that will go to the Boulder County Commissioners, Gov. Jared Polis, Boulder County Public Health Department, COGCC, and the Co. Dept. of Public Health and Safety. The letter provides space to write a free-form correspondence in which residents may voice

their concerns related to the oil and gas development in the area.

TLA encourages those who have been adversely affected by oil and gas development to speak up via any of these means. The anti-fracking group stresses the importance for those with relevant experience or interests in areas related to oil and gas development to write in, especially to Boulder County about revisions to Article 12. Residents with knowledge or expertise in city planning, air quality, noise pollution, wetland protection, financial issues, etc. can provide suggestions for regulations that would benefit our cities while keeping development in check.

One suggested bullet points for these emails to include the denial of development applications when scientific evidence proves the project to be unsafe or hazardous to humans or the environment. Other suggestions include stressing the importance of protecting open space by disallowing all development on any public land, require safe setbacks from natural resources and occupied structures, make operators responsible for cost, and more.

Learn more about Boulder County's current rules and regulations as they pertain to oil and gas development here <https://assets.boulder-county.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/land-use-code-article-12.pdf>.

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# Niwot Rotary Club makes foodie app for community and philanthropy

By HANNAH STEWART  
Editorial@lhvc.com

The Niwot Rotary Club is combining its love of serving the community with the community's love of gathering over food. Inspired by the Fort Collins Rotary Club's app focused on highlighting local breweries, Niwot's club decided to create a similar app, but has extended it to include local restaurants as well. As such, they have partnered with 16 local establishments to create a coupon app that will both highlight local business while allowing the club to put service above self.

The app, which is estimated to offer at least a \$75 value, is accessible via both Apple and Google stores, but can also be purchased for \$20 through its website [www.RCNTastingTrail.com](http://www.RCNTastingTrail.com). Doug Montgomery, Niwot Rotary Club's president, is excited to announce that you can purchase the app in person with a Rotary Club member. "It's like a social event with a purpose," said Montgomery. "We get to meet vendors who want to work with us, meeting peo-

ple at large events, we get to have that social component while raising money to help others."

As the app grows, so will its value, and the club is actively enlisting more places to sign on. By adding more establishments to the app and having people use it, the club is optimistic about what they will be able to do with the residual income—they get to put a portion of each app purchase toward its non-profit foundation.

"We're really excited to be getting more involved with the Niwot community," Montgomery said. "The presence we have is good and we're trying to expand that." The Rotary Club supports numerous charities at the local, state, and even international level. Some of these include Pearl, Niwot High School, the Longmont Jazz Association, and NPH Honduras among others.

The club is looking forward to the community taking part in the Tasting Trail app. There will be a push on social media to promote it. Montgomery said, "It's been pretty rewarding and we're excited about moving forward."

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Questions: Contact Sandy Cosner, Registrar [Cosner\\_sandra@svvdsd.org](mailto:Cosner_sandra@svvdsd.org), 303-772-7286 x 57051



# SCHOOL NEWS

## NHS Performs "The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon"

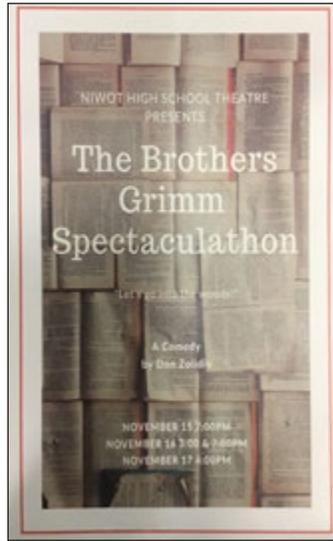
By MACKENZIE DEMMEL  
Editorial@lhvc.com

From Friday, Nov. 15 to Sunday, Nov. 17, Niwot High School will be performing the production "The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon." The book "Grimm's Fairy Tales" was originally published in 1812 by Jakob and Wilhelm Grimm, and it was a compilation of 86 stories, although the brothers would continue to add stories until the book contained 210.

Over the years, these stories have morphed as a result of modern influences such as the Disney films. In Grimm's original story of "The Little Mermaid," when the mermaid is given her legs she is faced with extreme pain, the prince

marries another girl, and when given the opportunity to kill the prince and return to the ocean or die, the mermaid chooses death. For those who are not familiar with Disney's depiction of "The Little Mermaid," it is certainly less morbid and ends happily. In "The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon", the dark aspects of Grimm's original story are cast in a comical light, and it demonstrates how the stories have evolved over time.

From popular tales like "Cinderella", to obscure stories like "The girl without hands", this play has it all. Plus, with the audience participation that is popular in Don Zolidis' plays, "The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon" becomes even more unique. At times the audience



Courtesy photo

Niwot High School hopes to see you at the performance.

plays a part in the development of the story, and that combined

with the witty narration creates an enjoyable experience for all.

Niwot High's director, Kathryn Colabroy-Foulke, originally chose this play because she didn't know the size of cast. As a first year teacher at Niwot, she wanted to choose a play with a cast that could be played with multiple different sizes.

In the end, a total of 30 people made up the cast, including Audrey Asbury as Little Red Riding Hood, Anna Eastland as Gretel, Nefeli Hadjiyannis as Rapunzel, Grable Howie as the frog prince and Hänsel, Ethan Rauschkolb as Rumpelstiltskin and Prince Charming, Peyton Tajchman as Snow White, Ellise Stager as Cinderella, Lily Thomas as the Girl Without Hands, and Mckenzie Hair and Jazz Mueller as the narrators.

Students were able to become involved in other aspects of the play as well; there are three student directors and two student technical directors. The technical crew contains over a dozen students as well, and their role is important in developing the setting of the play and the atmosphere.

In all, "The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon" is a play that can be enjoyed by all, and the staff encourages everyone to come down to Niwot for a showing.

"The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon" will be performed in the Niwot High School auditorium at 7 p.m. on Friday Nov.15; 3. and 7 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 14.; and 4 p.m. on Sunday Nov. 17.

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# SPORTS

## Niwot's Mia Curry wins Class 4A state gymnastics all-around title



Photo by Jocelyn Rowley

Sophomore Mia Curry won the Class 4A all-around title at the state gymnastics championships on Nov. 8.

### Cougars finish third overall in team competition

By JOCELYN ROWLEY  
Editorial@lhvc.com

Niwot gymnast Mia Curry started preparing months in

advance for the 2019 Class 4A state all-around competition, but she wasn't prepared for the flood of emotions after hearing that all of her hard work had paid off.

"I'm just...super happy," the stunned sophomore said moments after the announcement of her first place finish in the individual all-around at



Photo by Jocelyn Rowley

The Niwot gymnastics teams waits for teammate Ava Silverstein's score on the beam rotation at the Class 4A state gymnastics championships on Nov. 8. From left, Savannah Slater, Olivia Sroka, Mallory Christopher, Mia Curry, Madison Sloane, and Zoey Stowe.

this year's gymnastics championships, held at Thornton High School on Nov. 8. "I'm just so happy and proud of my entire team, and myself, and I'm soooo excited for whatever comes next."

Curry posted the night's top score in the floor exercise (9.475), second in uneven bars (9.2), third in balance beam (9.175), and fifth in vault (9.15), for a final score of 37.000, which was good for first overall and the first state all-around title for Niwot in at least a decade. For head coach Marisa Purcell,

Curry's title will bring more than just another trophy to the Cougars' gymnastics program.

"We just knew with another year under her belt there could be some possibilities," she said of Curry, who finished fourth overall in bars and fifth in floor at the 2018 state championships. "Having an all-around state champion is exciting, and a tremendous individual accomplishment for her, and it will help her come in as a junior and also be one of the team leaders."

Unfortunately, Curry's high score wasn't quite enough to get her team onto the podium. With 174.525 team points, Niwot took third overall, behind Elizabeth in first (179.700) and Green Mountain (177.375) in second. Afterwards, Purcell

said afterwards that her upstart team's improvement over the year hadn't been able to overcome their lack of state meet experience.

"They were very nervous. We came in knowing that a lot of us hadn't been here before. We've been preparing them for two weeks to understand the atmosphere, but you don't always figure it out until you're here."

In addition to Curry, three Niwot gymnasts finished in the top-12 of this year's all-around—freshman Savannah Slater in ninth (34.775), junior Mallory Christopher in 10th (34.450), and sophomore Olivia Sroka in 12th (34.250). As Purcell expected, Niwot's

Continued on Page 14



Photo by Jocelyn Rowley

The Niwot gymnastics team following their performance in the floor exercise rotation at the Class 4A state gymnastics championships on Nov. 8.



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## STUDENT-ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

### Mia Curry

By JOCELYN ROWLEY  
Editorial@lhvc.com

It may have lacked the life-and-death drama of Captain Ahab's pursuit of Moby Dick across the ocean, but Mia Curry's quest to add a Tsukahara vault to her routine and qualify for the state all-around competition may have been as single-minded. Luckily, the affable 10th-grader also escaped Ahab's watery fate, and instead earned a trip to the top of the Class 4A gymnastics podium.

"Last year, I only did three events at state, and I wanted to come out here doing all-around, but I didn't want to do a 'safe' all-around, I wanted to add new skills and work my hardest," the sophomore said after competing at this year's gymnastics championships on Nov. 8, where she claimed the state all-around title. "So this year I added a 'tsuk' to my vault and worked so hard on it, which was a good thing for me. It raised my score a lot, and I was really happy with that."

Tsukahara vault consists of a half turn off the springboard onto the vault table, then a push backwards, and is a must-have for any top high-school competitor. According to Niwot head coach Marisa Purcell, Curry's mastery of the move was the key to her surprise win at state.

"It's a tremendous individual accomplishment for her," the coach said. Curry earned the highest overall all score in the floor exercise (9.475), second in uneven bars (9.2), third in balance beam (9.175), and fifth in vault (9.15), for a final score of 37.000. "She did not have a 'tsuk' at the beginning of the year, so she and I really worked



Photo by Jocelyn Rowley

Sophomore Mia Curry claimed the Class 4A state all-around title at the gymnastics championships on Nov. 8.

on standing that up. I knew she would need that to have a chance."

Curry also added new skills to her routine in the uneven bars, which she considers her favorite event. That also raised her score, and helped her team stay competitive in a rotation that isn't their strongest. But it wasn't just hard work and new skills that got her the top score at this year's state meet. On the balance beam in particular, the 10th-grader reported that she felt more "mentally confident" during her routine than last year.

"I think I've figured out high school gymnastics a little more, so I knew what the judges were looking for and what my coaches thought would be better. I tried those things, and they ended up working really well."

Curry started gymnastics at "age three or four" at Longmont's Airborne gym and soon wound up on the Junior Olympic circuit. She switched to the high school field after realizing that 20 hours per week of j.o. training "was taking a toll on my body." During her freshman

year, Curry was the youngest member of Niwot's powerhouse state team, which claimed the sixth state gymnastics title in school history. With much of that team gone, however, the sophomore found herself in a decidedly different role in 2019.

"A majority of our team was freshman, and we got some really good gymnasts this season, but we obviously didn't have as much experience as last year... I had more of a leadership role, but there were some girls on the team longer than me. But if there was something I knew and something I could add on to, then I would try to do my best."

Curry likely picked up some of those leadership skills as a member of the Silver Creek Leadership Academy, a four-year academic program that emphasizes interpersonal and communications skills and incorporates community service.

"This class sets us up for the future," she said. "The first year is to learn your presentation skills, and as you go through, you learn more skills about working with other people."

During their senior year, SCLA students initiate manage a year-long "capstone" project that benefits the community. Curry, an art lover, hopes to open an art gallery, with proceeds going towards schools with underfunded arts programs.

Curry also plays the trumpet in Silver Creek's symphonic band, and loves to read in her limited free time. Though it's still a few years off, she hopes to eventually attend medical school and become a pediatric anesthesiologist or pediatric orthopedist.

## GYMNASTICS

Continued from Page 13

performance on the night came during the floor exercise in the final rotation. Led by Curry, four of Niwot's six competitors (Slater, Christopher, and Sroka) scored 9.1 or higher and qualified for the individual event finals the following day.

"That is where they feel the most comfortable and the most confident," she said. "I told them to end this meet knowing that even if it didn't turn out the way they wanted it to, they should have fun and finish it up."

It was not a terrific night for Niwot in the bars or vault rotations, which wasn't wholly unexpected by Purcell. On beam, just Curry and Slater finished in the top-12.

Curry repeated her impressive performance the next day in the Class 4A individual event finals, finishing first in floor (9.5), second in beam (9.175) and bars (9.15), and 12th (8.9) in vault. Slater was seventh overall in both floor (9.2) and beam (8.825), while Christopher (9.15) and Sroka (8.65) finished 12th and 15th respectively in floor.

Though the third place finish was short of the young team's goal, the lessons learned from the disappointment will pay dividends next year and beyond, according to Purcell.

"You always want to do better, and have those chances, but we're a young team in a building year," she said. "I don't lose anybody, and two of the juniors on this varsity team really stepped up and are really trying to lead this team. We look forward to the future, and we have a lot to look forward to."

11/8—Class 4A State Championships, Team and All-Around  
Team scores — 1. Elizabeth 179.700, 2. Green Mountain 177.375, 3. Niwot 174.525, 4. Evergreen 169.075, 5. Standley Lake 166.500, 6. Loveland 166.400, 7. Rampart 165.500, 8. Bear Creek 162.500, 9. Pueblo Central 160.050, 10. Alamosa 120.550, 11. Northfield 113.300, 12.

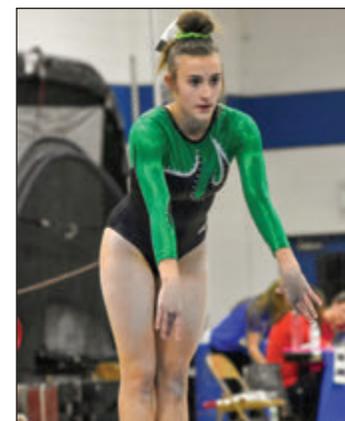


Photo by Jocelyn Rowley

Junior Mallory Christopher readies for her first tumbling pass during her floor routine at the Class 4A state gymnastics championships on Nov. 8.

Denver South 110.725, 13. Canon City 79.400

All-around — 1. Mia Curry 37.000 2. Sarah Hitchcock, Green Mountain, 36.350 3. Austin Coleman, Elizabeth, 36.000 4. Madison Montoya, Elizabeth, 35.950, 5. Lucy Meinert, Green Mountain, 35.800 6. Alivia Weathers, Lone Star Gymnastics, 35.675 7. Emily Belmonte, Green Mountain, 35.200 8. Mya Nguyen, Standley Lake, 35.025 9. Savannah Slater 34.775 10. Mallory Christopher 34.45 11. Hailey Garner, Pueblo Central, 34.325 12. Olivia Sroka 34.25 13. Linden Treacy, Loveland, 33.725 14T Kira Simpson, Bear Creek, 33.525 15T Raelyn Kagarise, Rampart, 33.525  
Individuals

Vault — 1. Alivia Weathers, Lone Star Gymnastics, 9.325 2. Sarah Hitchcock, Green Mountain, 9.25 3. Bethany Breikss, Elizabeth, 9.2 4. Sonona Carlos, Denver South, 9.15 5. Mia Curry, 9.15

Floor — 1. Mia Curry, 9.475 2. Lucy Meinert, Green Mountain, 9.45 3. Olivia Sroka, 9.325 4. Emily Kruse, Green Mountain, 9.3 5. Hannah DuVall, Standley Lake, 9.275, 11. Mallory Christopher, 9.15 12. Savannah Slater, 9.1

Uneven bars — 1. Mya Nguyen, Standley Lake, 9.5 2. Mia Curry, 9.2 3. Madison Lett, Elizabeth, 9.175 4. Maddy Shull, Green Mountain, 9.025 5. Hailey Garner, Pueblo Central, 8.975

Beam — 1. Austin Coleman, Elizabeth, 9.35 2. Lucy Meinert, Green Mountain, 9.3 3. Mia Curry, 9.175 4. Madison Montoya, Elizabeth, 9.15 5T. Sarah Hitchcock, Green Mountain, 9.1 6T. Hanna Channel, Thomas Jefferson, 9.1 11. Savannah Slater, 8.825 16. Mallory Christopher, 8.65 19. Ava Silverstein, 8.55

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# Niwot's playoff hopes end in Golden

By JOCELYN ROWLEY  
Editorial@lhvc.com

The Niwot boys soccer team found themselves on the wrong side of a quick start and some fortuitous bounces against Golden on Nov. 5, and the resulting 3-0 loss brought an unhappy end to the Cougars' playoff run that started so optimistically just three days before.

"We just needed to weather that first storm," head coach Steve Dimit said afterwards. "We've been doing a pretty good job of that all season, but this was one we did not weather."

The Demons outworked Niwot's defense for their first goal in the 10th minute, and then struck again after a misplaced direct free kick just two minutes later. They added the third and final goal in the 26th minute, when a handball in Niwot's box resulted in a Golden penalty kick.



Photo by Jocelyn Rowley

The Niwot boys soccer team faced Golden in round two of the Class 4A state playoffs on Nov. 5.



Photo by Jocelyn Rowley

The Niwot defense, anchored by freshman keeper Javier Amaya, was inundated by the Demons in the opening minutes of the playoff match on Nov. 5.

Niwot's attack regrouped and pushed into Golden's zone during the latter part of the half and the first part of the second



Photo by Jocelyn Rowley

Senior Manny Soto preparing to throw the ball in against Golden on Nov. 5.

half, but couldn't capitalize on chances by Keegan Stobbe and

Jared Osteen.

"We grew into the game," Dimit said. "We got better, and played with a lot of pride."

Senior defender Manny Soto was also proud of the way his team played even after the game was out of reach.

"It was hard in the first 15 or 20 minutes when they scored three on us, but we battled, didn't give up, and worked as a team. We tried to comeback, but it wasn't enough at the end of the day. Everyone left everything on the field."

For Dimit, the loss doesn't diminish his team's performance during the 2019 season, which was fraught with struggles in the opening weeks.

"The work that we had to do here was super impressive, and we were a super resilient team. To have our backs against the wall so many times, and to have to win so many times in order to get where we wanted to be, the guys pulled it off over and over again."



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