

Serving Perry Park, Larkspur, and the surrounding community

February 2021

WOW! Where did January go? And why does it feel like April already?!!

This is always such a strange time of year, when the sun comes out and it feels like cycling, hiking, golfing weather, and then about 4 pm, the temps are dropping and a jacket is essential. Such is the wonderful fluctuation of our lovely Colorado weather.

So glad to be back "with you" again. We have a few additions to the Larkspur Sentinel. Kat Valentine King shares her first of several articles focusing on local business owners with a delightful piece on The Little Peacock. Douglas Land Conservancy board member, Rich Bangs informs us on the Conservancy, its mission, and its impact on local conservation efforts. We've included the local restaurant phone numbers for your take out convenience and the LES Scholarship information as the deadline is looming mid-month. And all your favorites are back, thanks to the dedication of our long-time column writers!

For the March issue, we'll have a re-vamp of the Teens for Hire section on the last page. All ads will be updated. So if you have a teen who'd like to be included, please email larkspursentinel@gmail.com, and we'll set them up with an ad - it's free!

Finally, hats off to all of you - let's continue to hold optimism for the year ahead and remember how lucky we are to live in such a beautiful place.

Please, be kind,

Margot Patterson Editor





Broker / Owner - RE/MAX Alliance - 7437 Village Square Drive, Suite 105, Castle Pines, CO 80108 720.988.4058 | eowens@remax.net | www.ElizabethOwens.net



6523 WINGED FOOT COURT | PERRY PARK | UNDER CONTRACT!











2775 E. HWY 105 | MONUMENT | OFFERED AT \$1,050,000



571 TWIN OAKS ROAD | OFFERED AT \$\$975,000 | JUST SOLD!

ELIZABETH OWENS has a reputation centered on residential, high-end and acreage properties in Larkspur, Castle Rock and throughout Douglas County. For the past 16+ years, Elizabeth and her team, the Elite Group, have been providing Top-of-the-Line Service with Bottom-Line Results to both Buyers and Sellers. Elizabeth Owens is a Master Certified Negotiation Expert, Certified Residential Specialist, Certified Luxury Home Marketing Specialist and is a graduate of the Realtor Institute. Elizabeth Owens is a Broker/Owner at RE/MAX Alliance in Castle Pines. View the virtual tours for these homes and all Elizabeth's listings at ElizabethOwens.net



EVENTS:

Monthly Chamber Mixer

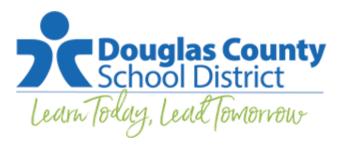
Chamber Members & Non Members Welcome!

February 8, 5:30 pm via Zoom

Conversations over Coffee

February 10, 10:00-11:00 am via Zoom "EFT, Find out how it can help you let go of stress and anxiety during these uncertain times" featuring Christian Phelps, Founder, Coach & Organizer of Path2Purpose

For more information, head to our website: www.larkspurchamberofcommerce.com or check us out on our FB Page @LarkspurChamber.



IMPRESSIVE GRADUATION RATE

Douglas County School District (DCSD) has the highest graduation rate in the Denver metro area. Data released by the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) shows the on-time, four-year graduation rate is now 91.2 percent, having climbed from 83.1 percent in 2010.

Recent DCSD graduates also made an impressive showing at graduation. The class of 2020 earned more than \$93 million in scholarships.

The state's graduation rate also improved. Colorado's four-year graduation rate for 2020 is 81.9 percent.

STAFF VACCINATIONS

Some Douglas County School District (DCSD) staff members have received the first round of the COVID-19 vaccination. Vaccinations were administered to approximately 45 DCSD School Nurse Consultants at Sky Ridge Medical Center the week of January 11.



MEETINGS:

Town Council Meeting February 4, 6:00 pm February 18, 6:00 pm

There is a wealth of information about Larkspur on the town website at https://www.townoflarkspur.org/



Blanket Brigade Warms Hearts

The Larkspur Blanket Brigade makes quilts for anyone experiencing trauma, loss, adversity, or illness. Our group was formed in 2015 with 4 ladies and we have grown to 15 dedicated souls. We are able to create and give away 300 quilts each year. If you know of anyone in need of a little extra comfort, contact Gwen Underwood at gwenspur@icloud.com or Cindy Hotaling at cjaspsjr@yahoo.com. We will arrange to get a quilt to you. We are a 501 (c)3 and we operate mainly with donations of fabric. If you have any extra fabric, batting or yarn, please consider donating to our group.

We will be meeting on the first and third Thursday of each month (due to the Covid our venue changes but the days of the month remain the same) so please contact us and we will send you the info on where we will be meeting to drop off finished quilts and pick up unfinished quilts. Please consider joining us in this fun endeavor. You do not need any special sewing skills because we only do the tying of the quilts when we meet. All you need to know is how to thread a needle, but if you like to sew we can accommodate those skills as well. Come join us!

NEWS FROM THE WATER DISTRICT

By Brian Arthurs

"The Colorado River Compact encourages 'Thelma and Louise' water management. It penalizes for - Brad Udall overuse, but only after the fact."

Facts about Colorado water: The largest reservoir in Colorado? • Blue Mesa, near Gunnison

The largest natural lake in Colorado?

• Grand Lake, near Granby



A variety of issues were brought to the Board of Directors for consideration, review, and resolution in December and January. The importance and time sensitivity concerning the Waucondah Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWWTP) improvements necessitated three (one in October) dedicated work sessions in addition to the regular monthly meetings. A chronological synopsis follows:

The December 1st dedicated work session addressed the different financing options available to fund the WWWTP capital improvements. Ehlers Inc., the District's financial consultant, presented financial scenarios based upon the District's loan term capital improvement plan, current financial status, and the projected costs of the project under consideration.

The December 9th regular meeting was called to order at 4:30 pm with all Directors available.

Prior meeting minutes and current disbursements were approved. The November District Systems and Staff Reports were reviewed and described as normal.

After review, discussion, and revision of the proposed budget in the previous three meetings, the 2021 Budget Hearing was opened. Upon final review, the Budget was unanimously approved.

The purpose of the January 18th dedicated work session was to come to a consensus on how to best move forward with the long-term improvement options and scope of work that was proposed by TST Infrastructure for the WWWTP. The District invited GMS Consulting Engineers, Inc. to attend for their added expertise and to provide other possible solutions for consideration. The costs presented by the engineers ranged from a minimum of \$3,200,000 for essential repairs and replacements to a maximum of \$12,800,000 for a completely new plant. Following extensive discussion along with questions and answers, the details of the long-term improvements scope and decision to move forward were added to the 1/20/21 regular meeting agenda.

The January 20th regular meeting was called to order. Prior meeting minutes and current disbursements were approved. The December District Systems and Staff Reports were presented, reviewed, and described as normal.

The Board also discussed WWWTP noise and odor issues, 2021 rates and fees, and other miscellaneous items.

Two resolutions relating to the WWWTP capital improvements, as recommended by the engineering firm, were presented for consideration. The first being the allocation of \$1,305,000 for structural repairs, odor mitigation, replacements, and other improvements that can begin at once. The second was to authorize \$3,149,500 for improvements and replacement of assets all of which require regulatory approval prior to commencement. The resolutions were unanimously approved.

Supplying safe and reliable water and wastewater services in a manner that respects the natural environment at the best value possible governs every decision we make. Our aging infrastructure requires maintenance, repair, and periodic replacement. Continual changes that occur in regulations from the State of Colorado and the E.P.A. when they occur, increase our future operating and capital project costs. Technology is changing rapidly, and we need to invest in our systems to ensure we benefit from these changes. Additional funding for the present and future operation of our system will be necessary.

Further information is available on the district website, www.ppwsd.org.





Perry Park Metropolitan District

The Special District For Perry Park Ranch

by Sean King

Wildfire Hazard Removal Project Continues

The Douglas fir Tussock Moth epidemic of 2015-16 killed many of the trees in the undeveloped areas adjoining "Upper" Cheyenne Drive within Perry Park. These standing dead trees have created an extreme wildfire hazard to our community.

Teams have been making good progress on mitigation, but the work will continue through spring. As a reminder to residents, for the duration of the project, a portion of Cheyenne Drive west of the gate will be closed to the public due to the safety issues surrounding the operation of heavy equipment and large trucks.

Information will also be posted at http://perrypark.org/perry-park-wildfire-hazard-fuels-and-standing-dead-tree-removal-project/.

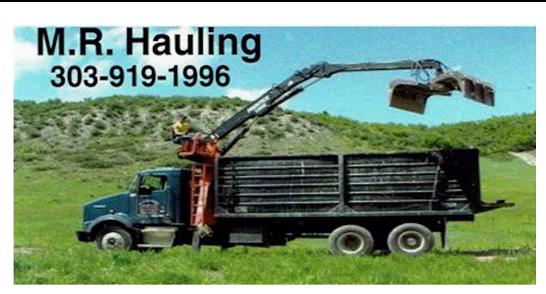
Next Board Meeting: Thursday, February 11th

The board is planning to meet virtually due to COVID-19 concerns. Details for how to access the Zoom meeting will be shared the Monday before the meeting on the PPMD mail list. Please go here to sign up: PPMD Mail List Sign Up

All Perry Park residents are welcome to attend and participate.

The PPMD Board of Directors

Randy Johnson – President Craig Van Doorn – Vice President Linda Black – Asst. Vice President Joe Brickweg – Treasurer Sean King – Secretary



Affordable Pricing
Fire Mitigation
Remodel and Construction Debris
Demolition
Ranch Land Cleanup

Chris Miller 303-919-1996 mrhauling19@gmail.com "I am a Larkspur resident and have been specializing in selling Larkspur real estate for the past 17 years. I am the managing broker and owner of Wolfe Realty Group, an independent residential real estate brokerage firm. By choosing to specialize in thereal estate market, I can provide you with the highest level of knowledge and insight when buying or selling your Larkspur or Perry Park home or land. If you have any questions about Colorado real estate, please contact Wolfe Realty Group Inc. at 303-681-3553 or go to www.DiscoverLarkspur.com"



Ben Wolfe Managing Broker & Owner Larkspur Resident & Larkspur Real Estate Expert



Just Listed

570 Independence Drive Hidden Forest Larkspur \$1,050,000



This immaculate 5,596 finished sq ft walkout ranch features 5 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, large rec room with a full wet bar, study and a formal dining room. This stunning home showcases a chef's gourmet kitchen featuring stainless steel appliances, slab granite countertops, knotty alder cabinets, large walk in pantry, butlers pantry and a breakfast bar. The great room features 15 ft vaulted ceilings, a gas fireplace and lots of natural light. The luxurious master suite showcases a gas fireplace, access to the deck and a 5 piece master bath with a double shower, large soaking tub and a large walk in closet. The finished walk out lower level includes 2 bedrooms with a Jack and Jill bathroom, powder room, a family room and a rec room with a wet bar. Relax or entertain your family and friends on the partially covered deck while enjoying the tranquility of feeling like you are living in the mountains.



Just Listed!

1219 Fremont Drive Sage Port, Larkspur \$799.000

Consistent Winner Of

For Outstanding

Coming Soon!

1581 Sky Rock Way Meadows, Castle Rock \$550,000



CLIENT TESTIMONIALS



"Ben was very knowledgeable about the Monument area and kept the process rolling forward after we made an offer. This helped tremendously as I work 50+ hours a week. When I saw the house on the MLS, Ben squeezed in a

virtual viewing right away as the market was moving so quickly. Ben was responsive to calls, emails and handled a lot of details. When I have bought/sold before these details have been left for me to handle. It was nice to have these taken care of for me! Ben was great he even walked Theo (my very spoiled cocker spaniel) the day of inspection. We love the house and look forward to many happy years here. If we were to sell we would definitely call Ben!" Feedback from Nicol and Rita Brown regarding the purchase of 19345 Indian Summer Lane, Monument

Just Sold!

9585 Boone Lane Sterling Ranch, Littleton \$737,500



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Cell 303-667-7995
Ben@DiscoverLarkspur.com
www.DiscoverLarkspur.com



From the Larkspur Fire Protection District

By Cindy Applegate, Secretary-Board of Directors

Yearly Call Review:

January 1 through December 31, 2020 we ran a total of 911 calls compared to 1215 calls for the same timeframe in 2019. This is a decrease of 304 calls.

December 2020 Call Review:

December 1 through December 31, 2020 we ran a total of 71 calls compared to 91 calls for the same timeframe in 2019. This is a decrease of 20 calls (12 %).

A. FIRES: Total of 3 calls

Structure fire: 1 (mutual aid)
Outside rubbish fire: 1 (in district)
Smoke investigation: 1 (in district)

B. EMS: Total of 36 calls

Medicals: 28 (25 in district, 3 mutual aid) MVA's with Injuries: 8 (8 in district)

C. ALARMS: Total of 5 calls

Fire alarm system malfunction: 3 (in district)

Carbon monoxide detector malfunction: 2 (in district)

D. OTHER: Total of 27 calls (24 in-district, 3 mutual aid)

Fire Protection District

Board Meeting Thursday February 11

6:00 PM at Station 161

The meetings are open to the public.

It is possible this may be a virtual meeting. Please

check the website for details.

larkspurfire.org

Winter Storm Preparedness

For those of you who are new to our area and as a refresher for all of our long-time residents, the LFPD would like to present a few thoughts and resources for your information on preparedness for winter weather, winter storms and in particular for our area, spring snowstorms as they are typically our biggest snow events.

While our area can have long stretches of mild weather in the winter months, we are also susceptible to occasional bitter cold, snowstorms, blizzards, and icy conditions. While minor winter events pose little more than an inconvenience to some, they can be a major cause of concern for others depending on age, medical condition, abilities, and knowledge and experience of what of what to expect and how to negotiate the pitfalls of such weather.

Snow-covered and/or icy roads typically cause an increase in motor vehicle accidents. Even if you are driving safely for the conditions, someone else may not be (knowingly or unknowingly) and can involve you in an accident, possibly a serious accident that is no fault of your own. Removing snow from drives and walks can be a difficult task for anyone and definitely for those who are infirmed or elderly and escalate the potential for injury or medical complications. Ice covered surfaces are responsible for many slips and falls that result in minor to major debilitating injuries.

Blizzards can shut down all travel and leave motorists stranded along roadways in well traveled and remote locations.

Judging when it is prudent to travel in deteriorating winter conditions is apparently not a skill that all folks have

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Fire District continued from Page 7

developed. The number of people in emergency shelters during such events is testimony to that. Some never even make it to a shelter and are forced to survive the duration of the storm in their vehicle.

If you are staying in your home during a snow storm event, there are still some concerns to consider. Staying warm can be a challenge if the power goes out and your electrical heat is now offline. Heavy snows on power lines and on trees adjacent to power lines can cause arcing of the lines and blown transformers or the lines themselves may fall to the ground. For those with gas heat, forced air furnaces and boiler systems will also not function when the electric power goes down. Alternate heat sources such as wood burning stoves and fireplaces may be a blessing in those conditions. Many types of portable alternate heat sources may not be designed for indoor applications and constitute severe health and fire risks, so choose those very carefully.

In addition to your heat source being down, well pumps, needed medical devices, lights, computers, television, and coffee pots will not be working either. Cell towers may not have enough battery backup for an extended outage and your mobile phone would be unavailable for emergency outreach.

Snow accumulation and storm duration can be extreme to the point that ambulances and fire trucks cannot leave the fire station to respond to your emergency. This happened in the October 1997 blizzard with three foot of snowfall and in the March 2003 blizzard with five feet of snowfall. Even snow machines were defeated trying to respond in these two events. Help may not be able to get to you for some time.

The Larkspur Fire Protection District strongly advises you to prepare ahead of time for getting through winter storm events with as little disruption and negative fallout as you can manage. To assist you in preparation, the links below offer guidance on what to have on hand for winter storm events.

Colorado Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/dhsem/winter-storm-blizzard

Red Cross https://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/types-of-emergencies/winter-storm.html Ready.gov https://www.ready.gov/winter-weather

Larkspur Gardeners by Renee Glover



Gardeners are optimists. And masters of delayed gratification. We put something into the ground knowing it could be years before we reap the rewards of our labors. I believe that gardeners in our area are much more optimistic than the rest. Despite the constant threats of an early freeze (or a late one), deer, hail storms, wind and drought, we faithfully tend our gardens, determined to coax beauty and produce from the often unwilling ground.

While I don't claim to be an expert, throughout the year I'll attempt to help gardeners with advice and information based on the season. Considering we can see three seasons in less than a week, none of it is written in stone. This time of year, we are happily planning for the upcoming season. The gardens are sound asleep but we are busy. It's time to organize for seed starting. What do I start inside and when? We get the cold frames going and putter around the greenhouse. My evenings are spent

with a cup of tea and the seed catalogues. I always order the tried and true with a sprinkling of new varieties. Some for me, some for the pollinators, some for the birds. Now is the perfect time to get those garden tools ready for work. Tune up anything with an engine, maybe new spark plugs and air filters. Sharpen mower blades and shears.

If your garden soil isn't frozen solid, turn it over to the extent that is possible. It aerates the soil and exposes insects and larvae to hungry birds.

Don't forget about your indoor plants. Dust on the leaves can clog the pores. A nice rinse off in the sink or wipe down with a damp cloth will keep them healthy and looking their best.

And you thought there was nothing to do in the garden in February!

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kathy.lobato@gmail.com





















by Richard Bangs,
DLC Board Member



In 1987, a group of Douglas County residents concerned about quality of life in the rapidly growing Denver metro area formed a non-profit land trust to protect and preserve open space, wildlife habitat and scenic views.

Thirty-four years later, the Douglas Land Conservancy, based in Castle Rock, carries on that mission with a paid staff of three, a volunteer board and hundreds of community volunteers.

DLC now has more than 24,000 acres under protective conservation easements that define how those lands will be used so their natural values are preserved. DLC monitors those easements annually to ensure the ecosystems, wildlife habitats, and scenic values are preserved forever.

"It is DLC's job to ensure these properties are protected in perpetuity by visiting each property annually," said DLC Executive Director Patti Hostetler. "The hardest part of our job begins once a conservation easement is put on the land."

DLC is actively working on projects to conserve more land. Its primary activity is in Douglas County, but it holds some easements in Elbert and Jefferson counties. Of the 24,150 acres in easements, 11,102 acres are open to the public and provide trails and recreation experiences. The remaining 13,048 acres are private lands where the

agricultural operations, open space, scenic viewscapes, wildlife habitat, and wetlands are protected from development.

Those easements have been enacted through willing cooperation between landowners and the DLC. DLC also works with other state and national entities to ensure local stewardship of easement properties in the area.

"Our partnerships are an invaluable means to leverage the people and funding resources needed to achieve the enduring preservation of our most important open spaces," said Jane Boand, DLC board president. "We have also demonstrated that DLC has the longevity to steward those open space properties in the foreseeable future and beyond."

DLC is an accredited member of the National Land Trust Alliance and an approved 501(c)(3) land trust by the state of Colorado.

Recent projects at DLC include a conservation easement on a 1,400-acre historical ranch near Castle Rock and working with Douglas County to protect the Sandstone Ranch near Perry Park.

In addition to the easement acquisition program, DLC conducts a busy public outreach program that provides opportunities for people to explore public open spaces.

Continued on the next page

Please Support Your Local Restaurants!

Bear Dance Country Club - 303/996-1563

Charritos House - 303/681-2373

Corner Market - 303/681-3909

Larkspur Pizzaria - 303681-2090

The Little Peacock - Next to the Pizzaria

Perry Park Country Club - 303/681-3305

opt 2 or 7

Spur of the Moment - 303/681-2990

DCL Continued from page 10

Although the Covid outbreak has curtailed some activities, post-Covid, DLC plans to resume its program of hikes, birding walks, stargazing, sunrise and sunset outings, and plein air painting, among other things.

In the meantime, there are regular virtual meetings with the public in the form of casual conversations on conservation, a book club, speaker presentations, and more.

"All of this is made possible because of generous support from donors, volunteers and landowners," said Hostetler. "We are fortunate to have great community support from individuals and families that make annual charitable contributions to DLC. Many have supported DLC for more than 10 years. They are helping make a difference."

In addition to Hostetler, DLC's staff includes Amy Graziano, Director of Outreach, and Sarah Corliss, Project Coordinator. The non-profit is led by a volunteer board of directors headed by Jane Boand, one of the DLC's founding board members.

Volunteers contributed more than \$65,000 worth of time in 2020 to help with the planning and execution of the DLC's activities and programs. The DLC has an annual budget of about \$225,000 and works within a series of five-year strategic plans that guide its growth and operations. These strategic plans focus on the long-term mission of the DLC, which is "dedicated to the protection and conservation of the natural character, habitants, ecosystems and open space of Douglas County and other areas along the Front Range region of Colorado." The plans set goals for conservation, financial growth ,and long-term sustainability, Hostetler added.

For more information on the mission of the DLC, its events and programs, contact staff at 303-688-8025, online at www.douglaslandconservancy.org and on the DLC's Facebook page.



Warm Winter Wishes!

Greetings! I'm Nancy Page Cooper with
Link Real Estate, a 29+ year Larkspur resident.
I feel so blessed to live in our community, with wonderful neighbors, gorgeous surroundings, and exceptional wildlife.

There's never been a better time to sell!

If you're interested to know your home value, call me a for an informational chat!

720.849.0718 call or text

So proud to be rated an A+ BBB member for 13th year!



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MONEY TO BURN

by Karl Roscoe

How to keep what you've paid for where you paid to put it...

Welcome back, Larkspur! I hope your holidays were as wonderful as 2020 would allow....

2021 will be a new beginning for **Money to Burn**. I'm going to redirect the focus of the column. I planned to talk about basement insulation in this installment, but that's not going to happen. Here's a link that I came across in my research for that version of this article: www.youtube.com/watch?v=kwn0Vjw_ii0. It's about 30 minutes long and I highly recommend the watch—those North Dakotans really know their insulation! Watching that video and contemplating that the pros had 30 minutes worth of very detailed information made me realize that I couldn't do justice to the topic in a single article. Insulating an existing basement is just too complex and costly for an amateur enthusiast to recommend.

So where do we go from here? New construction! Frankly, there's not a whole lot more I can say about insulating an existing home that I haven't said already, and there's just so much amazing stuff going on in new construction. So

I'll share the amazing stuff with you and we can all dream together about that next "perfect" house!

I said in a recent article that I'm a money-where-your-mouth-is kind of guy. I want to show you what I mean. Below is a spreadsheet of my actual utility bills for the last three years:

The print is tiny, but hopefully the wizards at the Sentinel can do a 'click to link' sorta thing with it. Here's the upshot: The last four years we were in our ICF house with a ground source heat pump to provide our winter heat, we paid an average of \$1950 per year for utilities. (Our neighbors stopped asking us at Christmas parties what our bills were like. Ours were a minimum of a thousand dollars cheaper than theirs, and they didn't want to hear about it!) In 2020 we paid only \$650. Also an ICF house, with a boiler for radiant heat.

Next time we'll talk a little about how we got there.

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DAVE GARDNER'S

Results Team

Office now located on the Main Street of Larkspur





916 Crooked Tree Pl. --- Bear Dance

This Incredible Custom Ranch-Style Home is Almost NEW (2017) with 6,532 total square feet (6,400 finished) is located on the Golf Coarse in the exclusive gated community of "Hidden Oaks at Bear Dance."



8029 Inca Road --- Perry Park

Ready-to-build 1-Acre lot in Perry Park is ready for your new home! Mountain Views and plenty of trees --- All property pins are staked and flagged. LID paid in full.



5422 Country Club Dr. --- Perry Park

Ready-to-build 1-Acre Lot in popular Perry Park with PRE-PAID Water and Sewer Tap Fees! All utilities are here including public water and sewer, natural gas, buried electric and phone.



1940 Quartz Mountain Dr. --- Perry Park East

Custom Post & Beam Ranch with Stucco and Stone exterior with Finished walkout basement. Custom log mantle over the large gaslog fireplace provides that Colorado Ski-Lodge feel.



9525 Spruce Mountain Rd. --- Larkspur

1.43-Acre LOT on the main street of the Town of Larkspur is nice and FLAT---Very Usable. All utilities are at the paved road. Commercial uses available.



6336 Country Club Dr. --- Perry Park

Breathtaking 1-Acre LOT with Tremendous Mountain Views! All property pins are staked and flagged. Utilities and paved road are about 2 blocks away.



In 2020 Dave has Sold MORE Larkspur HOMES than any other Agent! Call us to find out why more people are choosing the Results Team!

303-681-1000

www.HomesInLarkspurCO.com



A Walk on the Wild Side...

by Susan Peters
Wolves - Get to Know your Neighbors...Short Takes...The Facts,
Jack!

In case you have been living under a snow berm during the pandemic, the wolf initiative passed last November, but just barely. It provides a small amount of funds to enable ranchers to get reimbursed for lost livestock due to wolves and to track the wolf populations.

First, before we do wolf myths and fun facts, I would like to share my experienced with a wolf-black lab hybrid. Morpho. I did not intend to bring home a wolf hybrid. My daughter was in the market for a black lab. A sign was posted at my work for black lab mixes, so I called to get more info, and learned that the litter was a wolf mix. My daughter, who is a wildlife aficionado, was over the moon. So, one Friday afternoon, we hustled down to Peyton, where both the mom and wolf dad were on the property. Mom/Bonny was on a chain that slid on a long wire, while Dad/Buck was in a HUGE crate – about 12 feet high by 18 feet long. Neither situation was good, as the Buck would do better at a wolf sanctuary where he could run free, and Bonny, who was outside all the time, deserves a better life. She was emaciated because wolf pups continue to nurse until 12 weeks old, whereas dog pups nurse for only 4-6 weeks.

While getting the puppies out from the cage, Buck tried to escape. "Peg" who is quite rotund and very short, fell on top of him. Then my daughter fell on top of both of them. A wolf sandwich. Buck squeezed out and went running. Peg was concerned, as he had killed two neighbors' goats. This time he went after her pigs. They formed a semicircle, faces toward Buck and he gave up. Peg was able to get him back in the cage. In the meantime, Bonny had plucked feathers out of turkeys that kept getting too close to her. All of this was surreal to me.

Needless to say, I fell in love, and we took "Morpho" home with us. Never go shopping with one's daughter! The puppies had been born outside in January and had never been in a house before. Morpho was afraid of our carpet, but he soon learned.

My family went berserk. They claimed that he would kill my grandchildren, eat my couch, and a myriad of other disastrous things. The puppies, tested by an animal trainer from the Army, were determined to have great temperaments. Morpho loved the children. They called him their big bad wolf. He climbed in their homemade forts. Now the couch is a different story, as it suffered a

enthusiastic tear, where his ball got stuck. Other than eating an entire

turkey roast and several bags of milk chocolate, he was a model citizen. He was very long and had an extraordinary reach. But after eating each bag of chocolate, he always followed up with someone's toothbrush.

There are many Morpho stories including his many bear encounters. They seemed to have a mutual respect. He hated snakes. He was a hunter and I found a headless



rabbit in our great room, and then a leg from a deer carcass from a mountain lion kill.

The picture, below, of a four-month-old Morpho on top of a rock ledge, was taken a couple of days after he escaped the clutches of

a mom coyote. His dachshund sister had just been caught and killed by the coyote to feed her pups. He was strong and I never feared his safety with coyotes after that.

He was the best "dog" that I ever had. Very intelligent, loyal, and lovable. He was a babe magnet and all the female dogs swooned over him, even though he had been neutered. Despite this, he mated with a female coyote while her own mate looked on. And of course, he howled. He had quite a repertoire of songs that he accompanied. He had a quiet way of putting other dogs in their place. He never



became aggressive, but something emanated from him that stopped dogs in their tracks. And look at those ears. He could turn them toward sources of sound individually. Maybe I should have named him Radar!

continued on next page

Now the Fun Facts and Myths about Wolves – source – Predator Defense



dump, which other predators frequent. Wolves are shy and afraid of people. Consider that dogs kill between 20-30 people in the U.S. per year. Hunters in the U.S. and Canada kill about 100 people every year and injure over 1000 more, and mountain lions have killed around 12 people.

⟨ Myth 2: Wolves kill many sheep and cattle. Fact: According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, more than six million head of cattle live in Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming, the three states where the vast majority of wolves in the West live. U.S. Fish and Wildlife reports for those states show that in 2014, wolves killed 136 head of cattle, or 1 cow out of every 44,853. In the same three states, 820,000 sheep live. U.S. Fish and Wildlife reports show that in 2014, wolves killed 114 sheep, or 1 in every 7,193. However, because these losses are unevenly distributed, they can take a toll on a single producer.

♦ Myth 3: Wolves kill for sport.

Fact: Unlike humans, wolves do not kill for sport. Wolves and all other predators kill for sustenance and survival. Sometimes carcasses are found that are only partially consumed, leading to the assumption that the kill was abandoned and wasted. The reality is, wolves are very wary and alert, and are therefore easily chased from their kill if other predators or people approach. Wolves are usually long gone before people realized they've chanced upon a kill. Research reveals, however, that wolves return to their food repeatedly, sometimes over weeks and even months, and most often eat the entire animal.

♦ Myth 4: Wolves kill all the elk and deer.
Fact: Elk, the primary prey of wolves in Wyoming,
Montana, and Idaho, have recently been holding steady in number. In fact, since wolves were reintroduced in

1995, the number of elk has substantially increased. But wolves have made elk more alert to danger and more challenging to hunt. Hunting should be challenging.



There are many more myths and facts that space does not allow. Over the next few months, I will reveal some more, along with discussing a real coywolf, seldom seen unless you live in New York City.

Short Takes

Ah, February...the month when it starts warming up and the bluebirds begin returning and shopping for a rental place to raise their little darlings in. The male goldfinches don their waistcoats of brilliant yellow. The house finches drag out their babe magnet red feathers. By March, things are starting to heat up in bird-dom with more returning birds along with the locals and their mating songs.

Someone on Next Door recommended a phone app from the Cornell University Lab to be able to identify birds from your photo. The app is called Merlin and it has over 7500 birds in its inventory. Based on your region – ours is Rocky Mountains – it will download your appropriate region. So, you take a picture of the subject bird and ZAP! ...let the app do the rest. I have not used it yet, as I know all the current species around here. But migration time is coming up soon, and we usually get a few unknows just passing through.

My son and daughter-in-law live in San Jose. The hummingbirds there do not know when to migrate. But if it is in the 70s, why bother? They put out four feeders and there is a queue of hungry birdies. All feeders get emptied every day. This has gone on for months. I would hate to see their sugar bill.

And for your moment of Zen, I bring you two baby owls, species unknown. Awwwww.

That's all folks for this month. Gotta run. . .

How to Contact Me: Email is best at susan@ larskpurconsulting.com. Alternatively, call my cell phone at (303) 725-6868 or send a short write-up to 2255 Quartz Mountain Drive.





The Little Peacock: Serving up big flavor in a tiny space

by Kat Valentine King



"A place for everything, and everything in its place."

This proverbial notion is particularly important for those who follow the tiny living trend, including Bekah Cave and Henry Hunt, owners of The Little Peacock, a new drivethrough espresso trailer that opened in November of 2020 in downtown Larkspur. Located in the parking lot of the Larkspur Pizzeria (8815 Spruce Mountain Road) the converted horse trailer contains just enough space for the two

of them to serve up their coffee creations and a few baked goods, all in less than 40 square feet.

"We live small and mobile, so a small mobile business was appealing and made sense to us," says Cave. "When we



lived in Oregon there were locally-owned coffee shops every few miles, and Larkspur didn't have any coffee. So we reached out through Nextdoor and Larkspur Neighbor to Neighbor (on Facebook) for feedback, found a horse trailer to convert, and decided to just do it."

The pair moved to Larkspur from Corvallis, Oregon two years ago, after graduating from Oregon State University where they met. Cave studied Human Development and Family Services, and Hunt's degree is in Mechanical Engineering. While they didn't necessarily plan to start a small business after college, their different specialties work well together. "Henry is good at the mechanical side of things, and I'm in charge of the social aspect," says Cave.



After transforming a 1994
Bluebird school bus into a tiny
home – known as a "skoolie" in
tiny-house circles – the couple
found a spot to keep it in Larkspur
from a Craiglist post. They used
their experience creating small,
repurposed spaces to transform
a used two-horse trailer into a
petite coffee shop where every
inch counts.

"People are sometimes surprised that there are two of us in there," Cave says. "We definitely have to keep things in

their place and we have a certain flow," she explains.

Cave and Hunt worked out an agreement for the pizzeria to serve as their commissary, a home base and shared commercial kitchen, which is required by the Tri-County Health Department for mobile food establishments.

So far, Cave says the feedback from the community has been very positive, with the Honey Lavender Latte (\$4.50 for 12 oz.) and her gluten-free pumpkin cheesecake muffins (\$2) topping the list of best-selling items. Other offerings include cappuccinos, hot cocoa, hot and iced teas, and fresh drip coffee. A small selection of baked good includes homemade muffins, cookies, and kid-friendly snacks such as goldfish and string cheese.

For now, The Little Peacock remains a small mobile business. But Cave and Hunt have some big ideas for the future, including the possibility of a permanent location.

"Ideally, we will have a second unit for events," says Cave.
"We could go to golf courses, weddings, or equestrian centers," she muses. "Or we could become a brick-and-mortar shop, with espresso, breakfast, and art and music nights."

In the meantime, visit The Little Peacock from 6:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday – Friday, and 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday in downtown Larkspur. Call 303-818-2526 (cq), email thelittlepeacock2020@gmail.com, or visit their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/thelittlepeacock for the full menu, event bookings, and further information.



The Larkspur Area Real Estate Market - Year End 2020 (Seller's Market---Low Inventory and Homes Selling Fast)

Homes Currently For-Sale (1/20/2021) --- 13 (\$255,000 to \$4,517,000) --- Median \$749,900 Average Days on Market --- 97

Homes Currently "Under Contract" --- 12 (\$460,000 to \$2,500,000) --- Median \$839,450 Average Days on Market --- 32

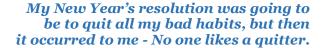
6 month period Ending in	Number Sol	d High Sale Low Sale	Average Don Marke	-	an Sold Price	High and Low Price Per FINISHED Sq.	
12/31/2020	83	\$2,350,00 \$ 316,50		\$7	725,000	\$529 \$141	
12/31/2019	76	\$1,350,00 \$ 290,00		\$6	575,000	\$362 \$107	
12/31/2018	55	\$6,750,00 \$ 320,000		\$6	555,000	\$399 \$128	
12/31/2017	84	\$2,719,20 \$ 220,000		\$6	501,250	\$310 \$112	
12/31/2016	70	\$3,200,00 \$ 220,000		\$!	568,726	\$491 \$117	
6 month period Ending in	Ave Sale* Price	Gain Over* Previous Yr	Ave Price Per* Total Sq. Feet	Gain Over* Previous Yr	Ave Price Per FIN Sq. Feet	* Gain Over* Previous Yr	
12/31/2020	\$765,460	+ 16.39%	\$199	+17.06%	\$222	+18.09%	
12/31/2019	\$657,678	+ 0.25%	\$170	- 1.73%	\$188	- 3.09%	
12/31/2018	\$656,012	+ 3.28%	\$173	+ 15.33%	\$194	+ 4.30%	
12/31/2017	\$635,180	+ 9.36%	\$150	- 2.60%%	\$186	+5.68%	
12/31/2016	\$580,840		\$154		\$176		

^{*---}The calculations with an asterisk above have had the top 2 and bottom 2 home sales removed/deleted. Items such as very large acreage or very poor condition are factors that are out of the "norm". These items can skew the factors that reflect actual market conditions. Just because one property sells for over \$3 million does not mean that all other properties have gone up in value. Likewise, a property selling under \$250,000 does not mean that all others have gone down in value.

The above information has been researched from the Metro Denver MLS System (www.REcolorado.com) by Dave Gardner of HomeSmart from his office location in the Town of Larkspur, CO. It is believed to be accurate, but is NOT guaranteed. Every property will have unique factors affecting value such as location, condition, acreage, quality, size, age, upgrades and features. This is reflected in the wide range for "High and Low Price per Finished Square Feet" shown above. A thorough in-person assessment by an experienced real estate broker or licensed real estate appraiser is recommended to determine the actual current market value on an individual property.

WALTSWORDS

by Walt Korinke







DENVER – No more **Pepsi Stadium** - a new appropriately named sponsor signs a multi-year contract for the Nuggets home stadium – Ball Corporation. Along with the change in name to **Ball Stadium**, Ball will be creating special packaging i.e. cans, bottles and cups for the concession operations. Founder and chairman Stan Kroenke (no relation – darn it) accomplished his goal of achieving a Colorado-based sponsor and one that shares the team's goals and brings with it an international operating company for worldwide exposure. Ball and Kroenke have also partnered up for the concession packaging. No more plastic cups – replace with recyclable aluminum!



Under construction near the intersection of I-25 and I-70, Colorado State University is developing their 3-building **Spur Campus** scheduled for opening in 2022. The campus will be the gateway to the new National Western Center and is being built for the public



to educate and focus on the connectivity of food, water, and health. Each building will be unique in design and its offerings.

Animal

education classes will be subsidized and hosted by the Dumb Friends League with both live and virtual observation of dogs, cats, and horses. The Grandin Equine Center will offer equine-assisted therapy; a water quality lab will be included in the Hydro building with the building's design representing Colorado's position as a headwaters state, highlighting the eight watersheds and will include a variety of hands-on water-themed exhibits along with a 200-seat flex event theater. The entire campus is designed as a public gathering space for



visitors, integrates research, and strives to showcase the opportunities for urban agriculture, teach where food comes from, and how to grow, prepare and cook in a healthy manner. The Spur emanates what CSU strives to be with a focus on strength in agriculture, water, and animal husbandry and their impact on a global basis.





In these troubled health times of the Covid-19 virus and the political turmoil over health insurance it's good to see something positive on the health scene. The new **Denver Health Outpatient Medical Center (OMC)** is nearly complete. The OMC is situated as the gateway to the Denver Health Campus located at the intersection of Bannock St. and Spear Blvd. The 7-story, 293,000 sq. ft. building will merge the campus specialty clinics and house outpatient surgery, endoscopy, infusion centers, dental, audiology, speech services, imaging, laboratory, and the Denver Public Health Clinics. Covid-19 had a big part in the design of the building that allows patients to navigate to their destination via a single access corridor on each floor, separated from staff and supply traffic. A

central greeter will check patients in on each floor and they promise there will be little to no waiting as a personal medical assistant will escort them to their exam room through a patient use only corridor. The entire operation will limit a patient's exposure while visiting the OMC. We will see how it works when the first patients arrive during the first quarter of this year.





COLORADO SPRINGS – Looking south to the Springs, there are positive growth signs as well. The Seattle-based sporting goods store, REI, prepares to do battle with the new giant Scheels store under construction on InterQuest

Scheels store under construction on InterQuest Parkway. **REI** located @ 1376 E. Woodmen just south of Academy Blvd. has acquired an adjacent 18,000 sq. ft. building and is renovating it to tie to the current 24,000 sq. ft. store. The new space will house the "action sports departments" which includes snow sports, cycling, and climbing along with the rental department. The main store will have the camp and footwear departments,

clothing, and travel items. The expansion will also allow the addition of new items, i.e. paddleboards, kayaks, and other watersport accessories. REI operates as a co-op with over 19 million (\$20/yr.) members with 165 locations in 39 states. Timing is appropriate as the new **Scheels** will open its 220,000 sq. ft. store in March with 75 specialty shops (biking, camping, fly fishing, etc.) including themed activities i.e. a large Ferris wheel in the store's center.

JNGMONT – Coffee, got to have my coffee! The 16-year old Longmont headquartered coffee chain, **Ziggi's Coffee**, will be opening three new Springs locations as they enter this market. They currently have 26 outlets in five states with 52 additional units under development. Look for Ziggi's 1,800 sq. ft. stores in February at 460 Chapel Hills Drive and 7636 Dublin Blvd, offering indoor seating and drive thru service. A small former bank drive-thru will be remodeled on Rockrimmon, opening in

April. Beverages include Coda Coffee, tea, smoothies, and Red Bull drinks. Hungry? Your options are doughnuts, pastries,

burrite and sandwiches. Health conscious? Gluten free and vegan options too. Starbucks is fine, but the main duel will be Ziggi's vs. Dutch Bros., another great coffee. Can't wait? Try the Castle Pine's Ziggi's.





BOULDER— If you have enjoyed Avanti in Denver, you will be ecstatic with the new Boulder Avanti Food Hall / Restaurant.

After two decades in Boulder, the Cheesecake Factory closed, and the owners of Avanti quickly grabbed the entire 4-story building at 1401 Pearl St



on the Pearl St. Mall. They brought a team of development, design, and management folks together to re-design the building using the ground floor, top floor, and rooftop for their new food hall/restaurant with all kinds of balcony and rooftop settings. Once you get past the many seating choices, you have a dictionary of menu items that will delight both the eye and the taste buds – you have to experience it yourself! The vendors include Rye Society (Jewish family recipes), Rooted Craft American Kitchen, Quiero Arepas (Venezuelan arepa), Boychik (Middle Eastern), and Pig & Tiger (Taiwanese). They opened the 13,000 sq. ft. of restaurant/bar space in October

2020 with their group of vendors, including other chefs and operators from Denver,



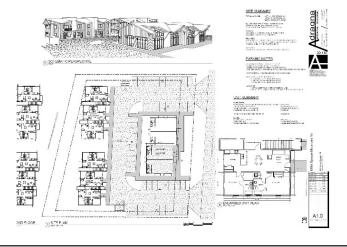
ready to serve waiting customers. They are open seven days a week with primarily lunch and dinner, and a coffee service earlier. Free Parking with Validation at the 1434 Spruce Street Garage.



LARKSPUR – Following developer Alex Welch's October presentation to the Town Council, he returned for a 2nd visit in November with revisions to his proposed multi-family/commercial project planned adjacent to the south side of the Spur. In an effort to address Council's previous objections and suggestions, he presented the following changes for consideration:

- 1) Changes to the architectural style to a more rustic appearance, colors and façade treatment.
- 2) Density reduced from 20 to 12 units.
- 3) All units will be 1,000 sq. ft. 2 bedroom 2 bathroom emphasizing long term vs. transients.
- 4) Parking ratio is increased 8 units beyond code.
- 5) Height reduced to 30' with elimination of underneath parking and moved back from tracks.

The Larkspur Town Council remains split over the concept and it remains to be seen if approval is in the cards.







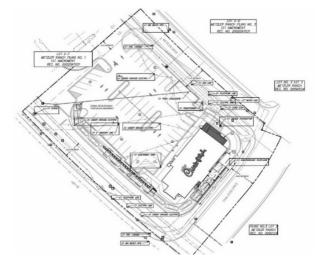
CASTLE ROCK – Restaurants continue to struggle through the Covid epidemic – closed inside dining, lack of drive-thru service, staffing problems and the real economic instability have made it very difficult for Mom and Pop eateries to survive. Large fast food chains are generally doing better, some planning expansions and acquisitions as times improve and new designs to fit today's needs are slowly appearing. Last Nov. the new Burger King designs were revealed in the Sentinel showing increased drive-thru lanes, decreased interior space and more exterior seating. The latest design upgrade involves the "bucket eating, finger

lickin" **Kentucky Fried Chicken** which features Covid-era redesigns that include NO more big sit-down dining areas, more drive-thru lanes, designated pick-up areas for app and online orders along with a more healthy emphasis to its marketing efforts, changes to its menus more suited to in-car eating, AND, a new KFC sauce and a new permanent French Fry recipe (out with the mashed potatoes and gravy that stain your car seat).

The east side **Chick Fil-A** next to Target, has requested planning department approval directed at responding to Covid restrictions as well as updating the property to meet the Town's "Vision 2030" and new code requirements. The objective is to improve and speed-up the drive-thru process, reduce on street stack up of cars waiting, establish more outside ordering stations, and improve the pick-up windows. Kitchen improvements will facilitate the faster service and improve drive-thru viability.

In-N-Out Burger <u>finally breaks ground in Castle Rock</u>. In 6 to 9 months we should have the new 3,968 sq. ft. drive-thru restaurant. Following the experience of the December openings of the first three Colorado In-N-Outs, when folks lined up for hours to

Colorado In-N-Outs, when folks lined up for hours to experience the highly popular burgers, fries and malts, I expect it might take a year for traffic to normalize.

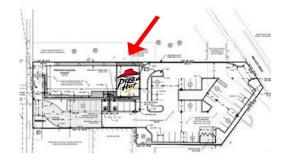




Time has finally come to an end for the old south side (across the street from Walgreens) **Pizza Hut**. Built in 1977, the 2,976 sq. ft. restaurant is showing its age

and will be knocked down to be replaced with a small 4-unit shopping center running diagonally off of Wilcox with a new Pizza Hut located to the rear of the .86-acre site. Its design

will also incorporate Covid planning with a new drive thru / pickup window. Initiated about a year ago with the Planning Dept., demolition and building permits are now in process.





Target is also making moves to plan for its future customers with its current site planning request to install *electric vehicle charging stations*.

Last summer the #1 favorite hamburger chain

Shake Shack, went to the Planning Dept. for their "top of the hill" Promenade location, but failed to start construction. It appears they were awaiting their new 20's Covid design (just announced) which incorporates a curbside pick-up feature.



DEADLINE FAST APPROACHING!!

LES PTO Presents Annual Scholarship Opportunities



The Larkspur Elementary School Parent Teacher Organization is very proud to offer three \$1,000.00 college scholarships. Two of these scholarships are in honor and memory of two very special young people. Stuart Mazanec and Liz Yost, both graduates of LES and long-time residents of the Larkspur community died in 2006, way too early in their lives. These scholarships were created to allow LES PTO to give back to our students, while remembering these two young peo\ple,whose families still remain active members of our community.

The third scholarship is in honor of all LES volunteers past, present and future! This scholarship was created to recognize the many volunteers who have dedicated their time and talents to the students and teachers of LES. We want to help a Larkspur graduate who has also dedicated their time to volunteerism continue their higher education.

Stuart Mazanec and Liz Yost Scholarship Requirements:

We invite High School Seniors, who will graduate in 2021, to submit a written application based on the following criteria:

- 1. The student must have graduated the sixth grade from Larkspur Elementary School.
- 2. The student must be graduating from any of the Douglas County High Schools.
- 3. The student must be going to college, university or vocational training, and submit an acceptance letter with the application.**Please disclose if you are applying for an appointment to a military academy**

The LES Volunteer Scholarship Requirements:

We invite High School Seniors, who will graduate in 2021, to submit a written application based on the following criteria:

- 1. The student must have graduated the sixth grade from Larkspur Elementary School.
- 2. The student must be graduating from one of the Douglas County High Schools.
- 3. The student must be going to college, university or vocational training, and submit an acceptance letter with the application.**Please disclose if you are applying for an appointment to a military academy**
- 4. Must have a minimum of **100** verifiable high school volunteer hours.

Applications will be accepted until Wednesday, February 17th, 2021 and must be emailed to Sally Erickson, serickson@dcsdk12.org, Attn: LES Volunteer Scholarship-2021

IMPORTANT: Your application should include a cover page with your name, address, phone number and email address. Please do not include your name or contact info within the body of your application (answers to the questions). Applications will be reviewed by the committee "blind" meaning without your name.

The committee will be made up of LES PTO members, former LES Teachers and community members. All applicants will be notified of the winner by email no later than Friday, March 5th, 2021. If you should have any questions, please contact Sally Erickson at serickson@dcsdk12.org.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Fire Mitigation, Tree removal, mistletoe prune, Rampart Landscape & Arbor Service. Call Susan Rule **303-681-2085**

Colorado Mastication: fire mitigation, scrub oak removal, lot and brush clearing. **719-400-9104**

SprayTech: preventive beetle spraying, noxious weed control, tree spraying for insects & diseases, tree deep root watering & fertilizing. **720-248-0000**

INCOME TAX SERVICE: Personal or business returns/accounting. Over 40 years experience Very Reasonable / E filing available Call Edd **303-681-6746**

ADVERTISING RATES

Pricing is for Camera Ready Art

Classified	\$5/line (\$10 min)
Business Card (scan only)	\$40.00
Quarter Page Ad(3-1/2"w X 5"h)	\$50.00
Half Page Ad (7-1/2"w X 5"h)	\$62.50
Full Page Ad (7-1/2"w X 10"h)	\$87.50

Help with ad art creation, and odd size ads are available for an additional charge.

Submit ad art to larkspursentinel@gmail.com

DEADLINES

Articles/letters
20th of each month
Display Ads

15th of each month art - payment due by the 20th

Classified Ads 20th of each month

Any ads in this newsletter are paid for by the advertiser and do not represent an endorsement from the editor, publisher, writers, or others affiliated with the production of this communication.

Ad requests after the 20th are subject to a 10% charge

TEENS FOR HIRE!!

Taylor: 16 years old, Sage Port area, I do yard work, babysit, and pet sit. The best way to reach me is to text 720-480-5663.

AJ: high school junior at Castle View. I specialize in yard work. I rake pine needles, mow lawns and weed wack! Call or text me at 720-483-5442!

Sydney: Responsible teen available to watch your plants, house, garden or kids. I have completed my babysitting class and have references. 720-244-1111

Drew: I am offering soccer training sessions for kids of all ages looking to grow in any aspect of their game. I can provide fun, hard-working sessions for defensive, offensive, positioning, shooting, technical ability, etc. I have played for ECNL, varsity high school, and now I play on a women's college team. I'm flexible with times, locations, and pricing. You can contact me at soccerdrew9@gmail.com. Thanks!

Maggi: 16 years old. I live in Perry Park, and would love to pet sit / house sit for you. I am great at keeping plants alive, good with all animals, I am timely and responsible, and I can drive! Please contact me at 303-731-7751!

The Larkspur Sentinel, LLC is a volunteer organization. Any questions, suggestions, ad requests can be emailed to

larkspursentinel@gmail.com

The Larkspur Sentinel, LLC volunteer staff reserves the right to refuse any article or advertising submission. The Larkspur Sentinel invites your letters, comments, and ideas for columns.

Letters should be limited to 300 words. Because of space limitation and legal ramifications, we reserve the right to edit any submitted material and cannot assure that submissions will be printed verbatim or unedited. The Larkspur Sentinel will correct all errors that occur. If you find a problem with a story – an error of fact, or a point requiring clarification, please email

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larkspursentinel@gmail.com.

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