



The Perry Park *Sentinel* February 2019

A VALENTINE TO

Readers of the *Sentinel*: Some of you have been around a long time, through changes and more changes. Thanks for reading. Thanks for keeping us going.

Contributors to the *Sentinel*:

To Terry, a good and faithful proofreader. We may miss a typo on occasion, but not much gets by Clear-eyed Terry Brown-field!

To Jim and Cindy and Sean who keep us up to date on Water, Fire and Metro Districts with monthly reports.

To Dr. Pilar Starman who keeps reminding us what's good for our pets!

To Beary Bear who keeps reminding us, "Don't feed me!"

To Susan who never runs out of things to say about wildlife both local and international.

To the "rest of you" who don't do monthly columns but submit articles or stories or poems during the year-- school activities, local history, light pollution, animal rehabilitation . . . Keep writing—and some of the rest of you need to start writing. Tell us what we need to know—and as a bribe, here's a free valentine in advance for you future writers!



Special valentines to Sarah Heckathorn and Kathy Meyer for their articles on wildlife rehabilitation.

To Kathy Lobato who makes sure there are printed copies of the *Sentinel* each month available for the taking—and at her own expense.

To all the wonderful local photographers who so graciously give us permission to print their pictures of the amazing sights in the Larkspur area.

To Diane Jauch who has been the business and advertising manager of the *Perry Park Sentinel* for over 25 years. Without help. Without pay.

To Gari Reed who has been the "typesetter" and layout manager of the *Sentinel* for almost as long as Diane has been involved. She really was a typesetter once upon a time, but it's all computer work now.

And a special valentine to Walt Korinke who has given years and gallons of ink to the *Sentinel* as well as to the whole Perry Park community. He says he's hanging up his pen. We'll see.

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!

KDale

Sentinel Rock photo by Hannah Lofland



PERRY PARK BOOK CLUB will meet on Tuesday, February 19 at 10 a.m. at the home of Kathy Marsh, 6645 Wauconda Drive in Perry Park Ranch. The book for discussion is *Alexander Hamilton*, a biography of the first

secretary of the Treasury of the United States, by Pulitzer Prize-winning author Ron Chernow. The book for March is *Georgia: A Novel of Georgia O'Keeffe* by Dawn Tripp. The books are part of the Douglas County Libraries' Book Club Express so copies are available. Visitors and newcomers are always welcome. For additional information see the book club website, http://applelane.com/Perry_Park_Book_Club.html.

PERRY PARK COUNTRY CLUB WILL BE CELEBRATING ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY in 2019. A committee has been formed to gather interesting pictures and other history. Linda Morrow is collecting the labeled items. You can call Linda at 720-217-7410 or email her lindamo923@yahoo.com. The brandy room at the club will have things displayed this year.

THE LARKSPUR FREE LIBRARY, AKA BOOK EXCHANGE, is open on Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and on Thursdays, 5 to 8 p.m. The Exchange is located at 9524 Spruce Mountain Road, in the old Town Hall Annex on the east side of the road. Plenty of parking in the back. The Book Exchange has over 7000 volumes of adult fiction (from lady's romances to classic literature) and nonfiction (categories such as history, biography, travel, crafts, and many more), and 600 volumes for children, young readers, and young adults. And all for free. That's right. An entire building of free books. No cards, no check out, no due dates, no overdue fines. Free. And no need to bring one to take as many as you can carry, because we have plenty. In addition, the Book Exchange has a collection of rare and valuable volumes offered for sale; the perfect splurge for a book lover. All proceeds to benefit and support the Book Exchange. Come and check out what everyone is talking about. For more information, contact Cindy at 303-681-3046 or Krystine at 413-348-3579.

THE BLANKET BRIGADE meets on the first and third Wednesdays of the month at 10 a.m. at the Perry Park Country Club to tie quilts which will be donated. No sewing skills required. Consider joining our great group--we would love to have you! We are a 501(c)3 and we operate from donations of fabric, batting and thread. If you have questions or would like to contribute any items, just contact Gwen Underwood at gwenspur@icloud.com, 303-681-2125, or Cindy Hotaling at cjaspsjr@yahoo.com, 303-681-0374. We give our quilts to many organizations and individuals experiencing challenging circumstances. If you know of someone who needs a little extra comfort, just contact us and we will get a quilt to you.

THE LITTLE MERMAID ON STAGE: Douglas County High School Theater brings to life the wonderful Disney characters in "The Little Mermaid." Performances will be on Feb.

21, 22 and 23. There will be a matinee on Feb. 23 at 2 p.m. with a princess tea party at 1 p.m. Tickets are \$12.00/ adults and \$8.00/students.

DOG SLEDDING EXCURSION: Sunday, February 3, 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m., Miller Activity Complex (MAC). Enjoy the beautiful Colorado wilderness from the back of a dog sled! Each participant will mush and ride through a six-mile loop. Price of \$115 includes transportation, sledding and a friendly guide. Bring a sack lunch! Reservation is for 11 a.m. and will last an hour. Meet in the MAC center parking lot at 7:00 a.m. To register: <https://reccart.crgov.com/Default.aspx?s=ac95a66d-0b3b-42b2-81f1-6c67fb96a4c4>

SNOWSHOE ADVENTURE: Wednesday February 6 and 13, 2019, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. @ Miller Activity Complex (MAC). Cost: \$20. Something magical happens when the world is covered in snow. The woods become silent and the ground and trees sparkle. Experience winter in its splendor! Exercise your body and mind in a unique and peaceful environment! Transportation, instruction, and a guide are included with each trip. We will meet at The MAC at 9 a.m. and go together to get rentals downtown. One day snowshoe rental is an additional \$15, or bring your own. Trail will be determined based on recent snowfall conditions. To register: <https://reccart.crgov.com/Default.aspx?s=778d6b9c-f4d2-4edb-8051-4f499ceb13ef>

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LARKSPUR PTO ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIPS-2019

The Larkspur Elementary School Parent-Teacher Organization is very proud to offer three \$1,000 college scholarships. Two of these scholarships are in honor and memory of two very special young people who passed away in 2006. 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 people, 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 honor 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 time to volunteerism continue their higher education.

Stuart Mazanec and Liz Yost Scholarship Requirements

We invite high school seniors who will graduate in 2019 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 2019 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 Monday, February 18th, 2019, and must be emailed to: Rebecca Winckler at

rebeccaewinckler@yahoo.com. Attn: LES Volunteer Scholarship-2019

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. The scholarship winners will be notified by email no later than April 5th, 2019. You are encouraged to apply for all of the scholarships.

Please contact Rebecca Winckler at either 720-255-8116 or rebeccaewinckler@yahoo.com with any questions.

NOMINATE A SPECIAL TEENAGER FOR A 2019 DOUGLAS COUNTY YOUTH INITIATIVE AWARD

Do you know Douglas County teenagers, between the ages of 13 and 19, who have overcome adversity and created positive change in their lives, as well as the lives of others?



Nominations for the 2019 Douglas County Outstanding Youth Awards are now being accepted.

Ten award recipients will have the opportunity to share their special night with family members, their adult supporters and elected officials at an April reception hosted by the Douglas County Youth Initiative at the Douglas County Commissioners Hearing Room in Castle Rock.

"This event not only calls attention to the untold stories of achievement by our community's youth, but it is also an opportunity for area businesses, the community at large, civic leaders and educators to demonstrate their belief in and support for young people in our community by recognizing them for the individual challenges they have overcome," said Douglas County Commissioner Abe Laydon.

This one-of-a-kind award encompasses all youth: youth who have not finished their K-12 education, youth in traditional classroom settings, youth in group homes, youth in alternative schools, and youth in foster homes.

Award recipients will receive a signed letter from elected officials recognizing the teen's achievements, a \$100 certificate for educational or activity fees to be redeemed at a later date and County-wide recognition of their award.

Continued on page 4

AWARD Continued from page 3

Nominators will be invited to speak at the ceremony about the obstacles the individual they nominated overcame and how those individuals have inspired change.

For more information on the Douglas County Outstanding Youth Awards, please [click here](#) or contact Marsha Alston at malston@douglas.co.us or 303-814-5327. **Nomination forms** may be filled out online or downloaded from the website and must be filled out no later than March 31, 2019.

The Douglas County Youth Initiative was established in 2005 to coordinate local youth-serving efforts and assess the needs of the County's youngest residents. It is an active collaboration between Douglas County Government, the Douglas County School District, the City of Lone Tree, the Town of Castle Rock, the Town of Parker, the Douglas County Library District and the Highlands Ranch Metro District.



PET TALK WITH PILAR

Pilar Starman, DVM...

Who likes to eat?

I love to eat. Sweet, savory, salty, sour – they are all good to me. Obesity is a large and growing problem in the U.S., not only for humans but also for our furry companions. Even critters like guinea pigs are susceptible to obesity-related diseases like diabetes that have not been an issue in the past. Having the willpower to resist another cookie or chip is a struggle. It is almost as difficult to resist those sweet brown eyes from your dog or the insistent paw from your cat telling you it is time to feed them.

We sometimes correlate feeding our pets with loving them, and this leads us to overfeed them. In this way we may literally love them to death. Maintaining an appropriate body condition is the most profound impact we have on our pets' quality of life and longevity. It is important to note the difference between body condition and weight. As pets are more active, they gain muscle, so the weight may not change so much but they improve their body condition.

Continued on page 5



Home ● Auto ● Farm ● Equine ● Commercial ● Workers Comp

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PET TALK Continued from page 4

There should be a visible hourglass figure when we look at our cats and dogs from the top and an abdominal tuck when we look at them from the side. We should be able to easily feel the ribs and hip bones, but they should not be overtly visible in most pets. If it is difficult to feel these bones then the pet is likely too heavy. Some pets are more prone to obesity than others. These include Labrador Retrievers, Bulldogs, Golden Retrievers, Dachshunds, indoor male cats, and any pet that does not receive adequate activity for the amount of calories they ingest.

Obesity predisposes our pets to many diseases. These include arthritis, urinary disorders, skin infections, diabetes, pancreatitis, and even cancer. It takes time to put weight on, and it takes time to take it off. Developing a comprehensive weight loss program is important if your pet is overweight. There are therapeutic diets like Hill's Metabolic and over the counter foods like Hill's Perfect Weight that can be of great benefit in the weight loss program.



Please call your local Larkspur Pet Hospital at 303-681-3980 if you have any questions about your pets. We are happy to partner with you to provide optimal care for your pets.



Picture of Sentinel Rock by John Baumchen via drone. If you have not seen his January 2019 drone video of the rock formations around the Perry Park golf course, check them out on UTube. Amazing footage of an amazing place to live!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8KcrzHle2Z8&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR1idsB5ZyqmGo5VwY2uH55OARAUWRC2iz7qkcZueLI3q_MXYagOUzkpVV0



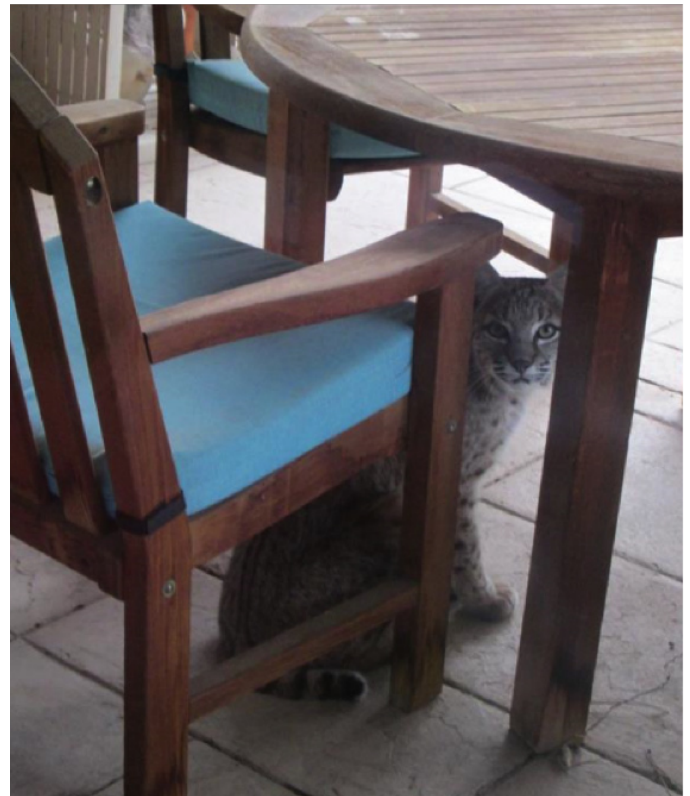
BOBCAT GAMES

Several months ago, the *Sentinel* ran a picture of the peekaboo bear—caught peeking at the photographer around a tree. Here's the same trick from a local bobcat.



Photo by Donna Baiocco

I also had a bobcat “hiding out” under a table on my back porch, but note he doesn't seem the least perturbed by my presence.



Pictures like these suggest our local wildlife is playing games with us!

"I am a Larkspur resident and have been specializing in selling Larkspur real estate for the past 14 years. I am the managing broker and owner of Wolfe Realty Group, an independent residential real estate brokerage firm. By choosing to specialize in the Larkspur and Perry Park real 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



WHAT ARE YOUR NEIGHBORS SAYING ABOUT WORKING WITH WOLFE REALTY GROUP?

Feedback from Jack and Susan Baker regarding the sale of their home

"Ben has done 4 real estate transactions for us and assisted us with 3 others as second home purchases. He is calm but forceful and possesses creative solutions to complex issues. Ben is almost always readily available even when on vacation. His assistant Debbie is invaluable, detail oriented and always eager to help. We have owned 28 homes and without a doubt the Wolfe Realty group is a cut above in the process and outcome of the transaction as well as the personal experience. Ben's knowledge of real estate (buying and selling) is unsurpassed by any realtor we have known. He consistently provides prompt and knowledgeable advice and service. They actually make a real estate transaction enjoyable."

Feedback from Kelly and Rebecca Kline client regarding the sale of their home

"Ben Wolfe and his assistant Debbie work hard! This is our fourth real estate transaction with them and another is sure to happen in the near future. They have had our full trust that all will go smoothly during each undertaking."

Feedback from Ted and Elizabeth regarding the sale and purchase of their homes

"Wolfe Realty Group is pure class and capability. They made the selling and buying process easy to navigate which resulted in us selling our house for over asking and we found the perfect next home for our family."

Feedback from Dale and Kathy Bray regarding the sale of their home

"Ben is the most professional real estate agent we have ever had and we have had lots! He is not only professional, but caring, kind and honest."

Feedback from Stevan and Tanya Garcia regarding the purchase of their home

"Ben Wolfe is always great to work with and highly regarded."

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DECEMBER/JANUARY NEWS FROM THE WATER DISTRICT

Jim Matchett...

The December regular board meeting of the Perry Park Water & Sanitation District was called to order at 4:30 p.m. on the 12th with all directors present. The first item on the agenda was the approval of the minutes of the November 14th regular board meeting, and the approval was unanimous with Director Peterson abstaining as he was absent from that meeting. Disbursements totaling \$478,638.75 were then unanimously approved. The 2019 Budget Hearing was then opened. Motions for a Resolution to Set Mill Levies, a Resolution to Adopt Budget and a Resolution/Ordinance to Appropriate Sums of Money were then made, seconded and, after discussion, unanimously approved. The Budget Hearing was then closed and the regular board meeting reopened. The board then reviewed, discussed and accepted a Water and Sewer Service, Fire Protection Feasibility Study for Upper Apache Drive.



Next, the District Systems Report for November submitted by Semocor was reviewed, and normal operations across the District were noted. The Monthly Staff Report submitted by District Manager Diana Miller was then reviewed. Permit applications were noted to be down by six when compared to 2017 and totaled 23. Further, Capital Improvement Projects at the Sage Port Wastewater Treatment Plant and the Sage Port Water Treatment Plant were noted to be on schedule. There were no board member discussion items. However, a district resident was in attendance and advised the board a Danish Investment company was seemingly active in purchasing lots in the Upper Cheyenne area of the District. The meeting was then adjourned at 5:33 p.m. As always, further updated information can be available on the District website, www.ppwsd.org.

The January meeting of the Perry Park Water & Sanitation District was called to order on the 13th at 4:30 p.m. with four directors present. The first order of business was the approval of the minutes of the December 12th regular board meeting, and it was unanimous. Disbursements totaling \$299,757.68 were then also unanimously approved. The board then unanimously approved a resolution establishing the date, time and location for regular board meetings in 2019. The schedule follows the practice that meetings would be held on the third Wednesday of each month, excepting the months of November and December, when the meetings will occur one week earlier given Thanksgiving and Christmas/New Year Holiday period considerations. This resolution complies with the requirement for posting notices of District Meetings with the Open Meetings Law and Special District Act. Accordingly, such postings will be made at the following three locations within the District boundaries: 5676 Red Rock Drive (the District Office); Red Rock Drive and Highway 105 (the Perry Park Ranch entrance); and 1103 West Perry Park Avenue (the Larkspur Elementary School).

The board then moved to the audience participation portion of the agenda as Dean Stange of Stanley Consultants had attended the meeting for the purpose of outlining the plans of the IREA (Intermountain Rural Electric Association) to relocate electrical power lines to the west side of I-25 as a result of the GAP Project between Castle Rock and Monument. This relocation is necessary as wetlands on the east side of the present I-25 corridor prevent the burial of power lines. The District is involved as the proposed new power lines would cross one of the District's main water lines in two locations. After Stange's presentation and the Q&A discussion with the board that followed, it was determined that Stanley Consultants would supply comprehensive plans of the project to the district manager and she would coordinate further with the District's Technical and Legal consultants until a final agreement is reached and documented.

Next, the board members in attendance reviewed the Conflict of Interest Chapter of the Colorado statutory code of ethics for special district Directors, and all indicated there were no conflicts of interest for them. As Director Maras was not in attendance, he will be queried at the next regular board meeting. The board then reviewed the first draft of a proposed residential and commercial water and sewer rate and fee increase. This topic will be further discussed at the upcoming February and March regular board meetings and a representative of Ehlers Inc., who acted as consultants for the rate study, will be in attendance for at least one of those meetings.

The District Systems Report for December submitted by Semocor was reviewed and normal operations across the District were noted, excepting the ongoing work on the Dakota #2 well's downhole damaged pipe. The Monthly Staff Report submitted by District Manager Diana Miller was reviewed and briefly discussed. It was noted that the Capital Improvement Projects at both the Sage Port Water Treatment and the Sage Port Waste Water Treatment Plants were on schedule.

There were no board member discussion items and the meeting was adjourned at 5:32 p.m.. As always, further information is available on the District website, www.ppwsd.org.

PPW&SD BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 2019

Gary Peterson, President
Jim Matchett, Vice President
Andy Morris, Treasurer
Judy LaCrosse, Secretary
Jim Maras, Director



REPORT FROM THE METRO DISTRICT

Sean King, Secretary...

On December 13, 2018, the Perry Park Metro District board met at the Perry Park Country Club for the monthly meeting. In attendance were:

**Perry Park
Metro District**



Directors:

Randy Johnson – President

Craig Van Doorn – Vice President

Linda Black – Assistant Vice President

Vanessa Dao – Treasurer

Sean King – Secretary

Also, in attendance:

Kurt Schlegel; Special District Solutions, Inc.

Carolyn Jones

Curt Hoff

Tony Perconti

Tom and Diana Wiens

The full meeting minutes will be available on <http://perryark.org/metro-district/meetings/> right after next month's board meeting.

PARKS AND RECREATION SURVEY

Thank you to all of the residents who responded to the Parks and Recreation survey last month. There were 123 responses overall and some interesting data. You can view the results online here: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1PDiUFCK5aysYgyQ0L5uY_iz37zloDPIauD_kXpfqk/viewanalytics

The Parks and Recreation committee will review these results and use the information to help inform their recommendations to the board in 2019.

BUDGET APPROVED FOR 2019

The board approved the budget for 2019 after multiple work sessions over the last couple of months to understand revenue projections for the year and review specific programs and other planned expenditures coming in 2019. The final budget will be posted to <http://perryark.org/metro-district/meetings/> early next month.

THE PPMD WEEKLY UPDATE

If you would like to receive more frequent updates on Perry Park Metropolitan District matters, please sign up to receive the PPMD Weekly Update. You can register at <http://www.perryark.org> by clicking on the registration button on the right-hand side.

NEXT BOARD MEETING: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14TH

The Metro Board meets monthly in open meetings held at 6:30 p.m. on the 2nd Thursday of each month (except January) at the Perry Park Country Club. The next Perry Park Metro District Board meeting will be held on Thursday, February 14th at the Perry Park Country Club. All Perry Park residents are welcome to attend and participate.

LARKSPUR FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Board meetings are conducted on the second Thursday evening, each month, at 7 p.m. Meetings are held at LFPD's Station 161, at 9414 S. Spruce Mountain Road, unless special notice is given.



Meeting notices are posted at all three of the districts fire stations. All meetings are open to the public.

Board President Peggy Whalen

E-Mail: plwhalen@msn.com

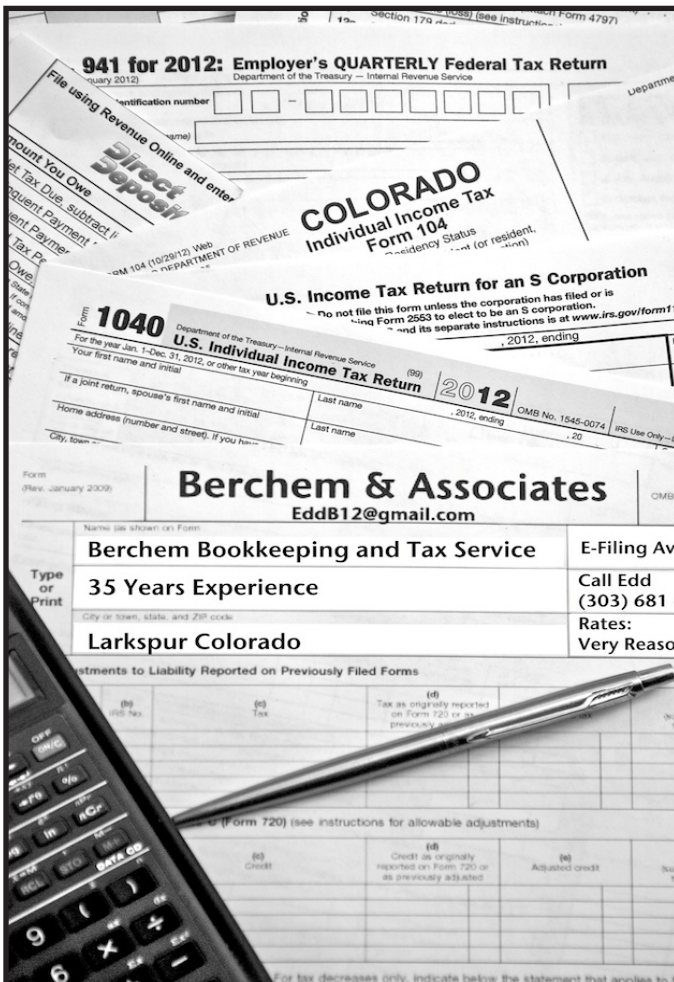
Treasurer Robert Danti

E-Mail: rdanti@larkspurfire.org

Secretary Cindy Applegate

Board Member David Vance

Rodger Greer



VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER, 2018



Volunteer Allen Ott, at right, was recognized as the Volunteer Firefighter of 2018 at the Larkspur Professional Firefighters Local 4855 awards banquet in January. Presenting the plaque is volunteer Division Chief Charles Walden on the left. Ott was recognized for his “outstanding performance throughout the year,” as was career firefighter Jason Goldman, who was honored as the paid firefighter of 2018. Volunteer Anna Knapp was honored for putting in the most training hours last year (over 700!), including the very demanding task of attending paramedic school. Fire Chief Stewart Mills also thanked the volunteers and citizens who worked to preserve the district’s financial security by passing ballot measure 5B in November.

LIVING IN MOUNTAIN LION COUNTRY

It may seem that the number of mountain lions in our area and near our homes are increasing. However, that is probably not the case. Mountain lions have always been among us, but the increase in population and the profusion of trail and wildlife cameras with zoom lenses are bringing them into our view more and more. In the past, they did not seem to come as close to homes as they are now, but there were not as many homes twenty years ago. Where once there was an open field or fairway to play in, now there is a house nearby—and a photographer with a long lens. Lion numbers and behavior probably have not changed, but their environment has due to the increase in human population.

Seeing them out in the open, in play or hunting, is a thrill, but we do need to keep in mind that they are predators—and meat eaters. Their presence need not instill fear, but it should instill caution. The following material on living with lions is from the Colorado Division of Wildlife. Read it carefully to learn behavior that will keep both you and the lions safe.

However, if you do have an encounter with a lion or an attack occurs, please immediately contact the Division of Wildlife, Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Colorado Springs, 719-227-5200; Denver, 303- 291-7227. After hours, contact the Colorado State Patrol or your local Sheriff’s Department. To report a sighting, please contact the Division during normal business hours. ~KDale

WHAT TO DO IF YOU ENCOUNTER A MOUNTAIN LION



Mountain lions are quiet, solitary and elusive, and typically avoid people by nature. However, as human population expands into mountain lion habitat, more frequent sightings may occur and human/mountain lion encounters may increase.

Mountain lion attacks on humans are extremely rare. However, attacks occasionally occur. Understanding mountain lion behavior and how to act responsibly in mountain lion country may greatly reduce potential conflict with these majestic animals.

The following safety information is a compilation taken from wildlife managers, wildlife officers and scientists that study mountain lion behavior. Although no strategy in the event of an encounter is guaranteed to be successful in every situation, these tips will help keep you safe in lion country.



- Do not hike, bike, or jog alone. Stay alert on trails.
- Avoid hiking or jogging when mountain lions are most active

Continued on page 11



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ELIZABETH OWENS has a reputation centered on residential, high-end and acreage properties in Larkspur, Castle Rock and throughout Douglas County. For the past 14 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 **Thinking about Selling? Call Elizabeth today!**

LIONS Continued from page 9

– dawn, dusk, and at night.

- Keep a close watch on small children.
- Off-leash dogs on trails are at increased risk of becoming prey for a mountain lion.
- Never approach a mountain lion. Give them an escape route.
- DO NOT RUN. Stay calm. Running may trigger chase, catch and kill response.
- Do not turn your back. Face the animal, make noise and try to look bigger by waving your arms, or opening your jacket if wearing one; throw rocks or other objects.
- Pick up small children.
- Do not crouch down or bend over. Squatting puts you in a vulnerable position of appearing much like a 4-legged prey animal.
- Be vocal; however, speak calmly and do not use high pitched tones or high pitch screams.
- Teach others how to behave during an encounter. Anyone who runs may initiate an attack.
- Carry and know how to use bear spray to deter a mountain lion. Bear spray has been shown to be successful in emergency situations with mountain lions. Have the spray readily accessible. Carry in a holster belt or attach to a mountain bike. Talk to the folks at your local outdoor store. Make sure you know how to properly use bear spray. People have been known to spray their own faces when attempting to use it.
- If a lion attacks, fight back. Research on mountain lion attacks suggests that many potential victims have fought back successfully with rocks, sticks, garden tools, even an ink pen or bare hands. Try to stay on your feet. If knocked down, try to protect head and neck.

Photos by Pati Palumbo

A WALK ON THE WILD SIDE

Susan Peters...

Winter Musings...Migration Blues...Now That is a Fish!..Short Takes

Snow Bunnies

Settling into the Larkspur winter has given us repeated coverings of heavy white snow, unusual for this time of year when the snow is usually wispy light. Considering our years of drought that causes weakened trees with beetles and mistletoe, this will ensure a good start for spring growth and resilience. One year the winter was so dry that no tree produced pine cones. Last year yielded an abundance of pine cones – good for squirrels, birds, and the bears, among other critters.

Our bird feeders have been very active, bringing in the full range of seed-eating species residing here and the occasional carnivorous one. Much of my day is spent filling and re-filling the feeders while the snow is flying. The suet feeders and woodpecker block seed feeders have been particularly popular



especially with the pygmy nuthatches and, by George, woodpeckers. Downy woodpeckers. The larger Hairy woodpeckers. And the red-shafted flickers, a variety of woodpeckers. In the summer, two darker varieties of birds, a chickadee and a towhee, frequented the bird bath. And now we have a darker form of flicker coming to the suet feeder. It is almost like they are staying warm in the woodstove chimney with all the suet.

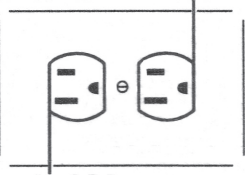
Migration Not-Such Good News

Recently the Audubon Society published a study by the Cornell University Ornithology Lab, which focused on bird migrating populations.

“By tracking migratory night flights from 2013 to 2017 on weather radar maps, measuring the magnitude, and plugging the numbers into a cloud-computing service, they tallied how many land birds were—or weren’t—traversing the country.”

Their findings are jaw dropping. Four billion birds migrate within the U.S. and Canada (average flight of 860 miles). 4.7 billion include the tropics in their winter travel plans (average flight of 1960 miles). Now, which group would you think has the highest mortality? Surprisingly, the birds that stay in the U.S. and Canada suffer a 35 percent mortality rate in the win-

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electric

Pete Dunbar

1341 Quartz Mountain Drive
Larkspur, Colorado 80118
303-681-3809
Cell 303-638-6762

WILD SIDE Continued from page 11

ter, while the long-haulers rack up only a 23 percent mortality rate.

Causes of death include natural mortality like weather and predation. Unnatural causes are oil pits, feral cats, glass and building collisions, and encounter with the blades of windmills. So far, I cannot verify how many die pining for that special mate and traveling long distances to find her.

Increasing development, particularly in Latin America, and climate change with drier, hotter conditions, will only add to the mortality rate.

So, what can stem the tide? Protecting tropical wilderness and reducing domestic dangers is needed to save more birds.

Personally, I put sun catchers and decals on large windows. I am not ready to have a silhouette of a hawk or raven plastered to my windows. They just do not fit the décor, albeit eclectic.

Whoa – What a Whopper of a Fish Tale

Recently you have probably seen the coverage of the HUGE Great White shark they call Deep Blue. She was last sighted off the west coast of Mexico and now she is in the Hawaiian Islands. This big mama, and she IS pregnant, is 20 feet long and weighs a mere 2.5 tons! She is particularly big now, as she has just finished a banquet on a dead whale.



We return to Kauai this spring, and by then I hope this mad-am has moved on to warmer waters to satisfy her humongous appetite. Besides, we do not taste very good slathered in sun screen.

Catch the photo of the marine biologist with this big gal. Not for the faint of heart.

But I cannot be so critical as a deadly black mamba snake slithered under a boardwalk in Botswana, and I was yelling for the guides to stop, so I could get a picture. They were not very accommodating for some reason.

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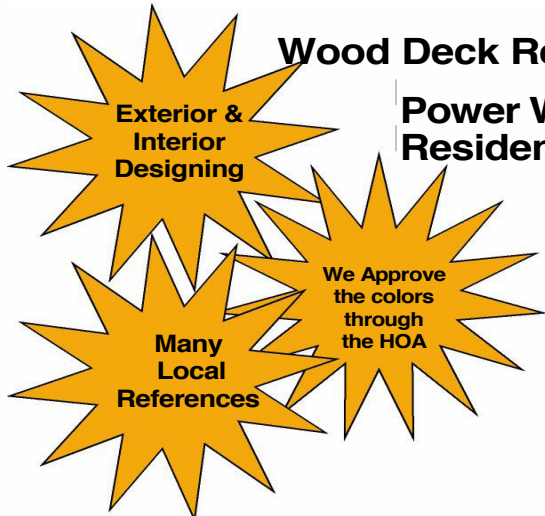
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WILD SIDE Continued from page 12

Short Takes

Ah, February...the month when the bluebirds begin returning. The male goldfinches don their waist coats of brilliant yellow. The house finches drag out their babe magnet red feathers. It encourages us that spring is not that far away.

A young sharp-shinned hawk has decided that our backyard is the perfect restaurant. Despite their small size, they command a gawking audience. Take a bow. See the photo.

It was reported in Nextdoor that there are not-so-shy mountain lions roaming the area on South Pike, half-way down the 13th Fairway at Perry Park golf course. They sure have lots to choose from for their dining preference of venison.



Recently we fostered a tiny Golden retriever-mix rescue dog. She was in the basement when a rather stocky bobcat came up to the slider door and just stared at her, as if she were a new variety of rabbit to add to its menu. When hubby Dave approached, it backed up six feet but still was fixed on the Golden. But then big boy yellow lab Orca got into the picture and off it scampered, not willing to take him on.

And, as promised, here is a magnificent bobcat picture taken by Cathy Croy.



The turkeys must have found better digs to park themselves. We have not seen them in a while, which leaves the cracked corn to the delight of crows and blue jays. No more big bird poop for the time being.

A fox has established its own outhouse on one of our property trails in the form of a hole. Regularly it leaves deposits making it obvious what the latest meal has been.

That's all, folks, for this month. Gotta run. Belly up to the bar! Another round of bird seed is coming!

HowtoContactMe: Email is best at susan@larsspurconsulting.com. Alternatively, call my cell phone at 303-725-6868 or send a short write-up to 2255 Quartz Mountain Drive.

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Dinner, silent and live
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Tickets go on sale March 1st and are
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See y'all there wearin' yer best boots or
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Many thanks to Ronald and Rose Marie Schmidt for their generous donation to the *Sentinel*.

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Email ads to ppsentinel@comcast.net (you will receive an acceptance receipt.) Charges and submission instructions will be advised via email after typesetting. Please include physical billing address. We reserve the right to edit or refuse any submitted advertising.

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TUTORING High school and college composition and literature. Retired college professor can probably teach you all you need to know in three or four sessions. Post-session feedback, editing by email included in fee. \$25 hour. Karen Dale, 303-681-2504.

TEEN FOR HIRE

Hi! I'm Dawson Dwernychuk, I am 17 years old looking to do any job you need. I can provide yard work, watch/feed your animals or plants, shovel snow, or anything you need. Contact me at 720-288-9607.

Experienced and responsible 17 year old available to pet sit and babysit. To reach Mallory Meeks, please text or call (832)363-7933 with any questions.

Dependable and trustworthy 14 year old looking to pet sit and babysit. CPR and first aid training completed. Please call or text Jacqueline Meeks at (832)600-8014.

Hey! I'm Chance Cotham, I'm 15 years old and a sophomore at castle view high school. I can take care of plants, dogs, yard work, and any other thing you'd need! Please contact me @ 720-775-8345 or chancecotham17@gmail.com

A trust worthy sixth grader looking for hire for pet sitting. Anywhere in the Larkspur/ Perry park area. To contact Kylie email kateandkylie910@gmail.com or call 720- 877-1998.

My name is Trace, I am 18 and a PP res. I am available for jobs that include yard work, pet walking / sitting, snow shoveling, fire mitigation and more. Sandy Divan can be contacted for reference at 303-681-0132. I also have a 16 y/o brother that can help with big jobs, so call me at 720-420-9767 today!

An experienced and trustworthy 12 year old looking for hire to pet sit in the Perry Park area. I am qualified for all your pet sitting needs. To contact Kylie email kateandkylie910@gmail.com or call 720-412-1567.

I am available for babysitting! I am twelve years old (almost 13), CPR/AED First Aid certified. I enjoy spending time with little kids. Please contact me Carissa O'Donnell 303-578-2323 or obevey@aol.com.

My name is Clayton Saunders I am a hard worker, boy scout, and high school athlete. I will work for all jobs and services you would need. Contact me at (720)-369-6941 or clayton.saunders19@gmail.com

New! Super Summer Nanny/Sitter Available For Hire: Need a fun, dependable, affordable nanny to provide care for your kiddo(s) this summer? My name is Teaghan Todd; I am a freshman in high school and I absolutely love kids. I am responsible, CPR/AED certified, and have my babysitting certification. I would love to help give your kids a summer they can remember. Call or text me at (303) 726 7534 or email me at teartodd@gmail.com

My name is Kylie Cronin and I am 14 years old. I am great with children and animals and will always give them 100% of my attention. If you are looking for an experienced and dependable baby sitter, pet sitter, or someone to do household chores please contact me at kylie.queen21@gmail.com or 720-412-1567. I am looking for work in the Perry Park and Larkspur area.

My name is London. I am 16 yrs old, a junior at CVHS and live in the Sageport area. I am available for pet or baby sitting. Please call 303.250.8125

Dependable and responsible 17 year old available for babysitting, nannying and pet sitting with years of experience, contact Brenna Martin at 719-728-0349 or at brennaashlynmartin@gmail.com.

THE PERRY PARK SENTINEL

DEADLINES: All articles are due the 20th of each month.

Display Ads - the 15th of each month with art and payment due by the 20th.

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Editor: Karen Dale 303-681-2504
email - sentineleditor10@msn.com

Advertising/ Diane Jauch 303-663-1867

Business Mgr.: email - ppsntinel@comcast.net

Proofreaders: Thanks to Terry Brownfield for carefully proofreading!

The Perry Park Sentinel staff reserves the right to refuse any article or advertising submission.

The *Sentinel* invites your letters, comments and ideas for columns. Deadline for advertising is the 15th of each month, and editorial copy is the 20th of each month. 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 *Sentinel* will correct all errors occurring in the paper. If you find a problem with a story - an error of fact, or a point requiring clarification, please call a member of the Editorial Staff. The opinions expressed in the *Sentinel* are not necessarily the opinions of the staff or its advertisers.

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