



The Perry Park

Sentinel

March 2019

ODDS AND ENDS

Amazing that there are actually people foolish enough to predict Colorado's long-range weather. I'm particularly taken with AccuWeather which includes such details as "decreasing clouds" a month ahead! ~ But see their March predictions at https://www.accuweather.com/en/us/denver-co/80204/march-weather/35084_pc?monyr=3/1/2019&view=table. I suggest you read it while chewing on a large grain of salt.



DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME begins on Sunday, March 10. Set your clock ahead an hour and yawn most of the next day.



HAPPY SPRING! The spring equinox (also called the vernal equinox) falls on Wednesday, March 20, 5:58 p.m., EDT. For the first time in nearly 40 years, the spring equinox will occur on the same day as March's Full Worm Moon. But that's not all: March's full moon will also be a supermoon, meaning that it will be slightly larger and brighter than most of the other full moons this year.



WORD OF WARNING: if you're new to the area, the spring equinox does NOT mean winter is through with us. Do not rush out and buy your spring planting! Those of us who've been here a while will tell you, no plant should go into the ground before Mother's Day—and the real old timers insist no planting until Memorial Day. So you have two whole months of spring dreaming before planting season.



And finally, to those of you who are Irish and those of you who are only Irish wannabes—
HAPPY SAINT PATRICK'S DAY!

Sentinel Rock photo by Hannah Lofland



PERRY PARK BOOK CLUB will meet on Tuesday, March 19, 10 a.m., at the home of Barbara Allen, 5791 Gerry Lane in Perry Park Ranch. The book for discussion is *Georgia*, by Dawn Tripp, a novel based upon the life of early

twentieth century artist Georgia O'Keefe. In April, the group will discuss *The Killer Next Door*, a mystery novel by Alex Marwood which Stephen King dubbed "scarey as hell." Both books are part of the DC Libraries Book Club Express program and copies will be available locally. Visitor and newcomers are always welcome. For additional information, see the book club website at http://applelane.com/Perry_Park_Book_Club.html.

CASTLE ROCK HISTORY: On Thursday, March 14, 2019, Jim Hansmann will present material from his book *Castle Rock, An Architectural & Historic Walking Tour*. Do you know the history of the old buildings in Castle Rock? Jim Hansmann does. Jim is the Collections Curator at The Castle Rock Museum. He has an MA in History and a minor in Museum Studies. Come hear stories of the old courthouse fire, the first church in town, the wild times at the Keystone Hotel and many more fun stories. Refreshments will be served at 6:45 p.m. with the presentation beginning at 7 p.m. at the Philip S. Miller Library,

100 S. Wilcox Street in Castle Rock. For more information check out our website at www.castlerockhistoricalsociety.org or contact the Castle Rock Museum at 303-814-3164, museum@castlerockhistoricalsociety.org.

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

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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.

22ND ANNUAL BOOT SCOOTIN' BOOGIE UPDATE



Tickets are on sale now - make sure to get yours!
There are a limited number of tickets available and
you don't want to miss out!
This year's event is Friday, April 12, 2019, from 6
p.m. to 11 p.m.
Spruce Mountain Ranch's Ponderosa Room
Check for ticket / donation information
Please support this vital fundraiser for Larkspur El-
ementary School!!
Thank you and see y'all there! Boots optional!

FIRE FIGHTING FUNDS AWARDED TO DOUGLAS COUNTY RURAL FIRE DISTRICTS

Five rural Douglas County fire protection districts that respond to incidents in the Pike National Forest area received needed funds to help them manage wildland fires, medical emergencies and structure fires.

The five fire districts were awarded a total of \$100,000, funds that come to Douglas County annually from the federal govern-

ment as Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT). Like many other local governments in the U.S. that have non-taxable federal lands within their boundaries, Douglas County receives PILT funds to help offset losses in local property taxes spent on the utilization of County services on non-taxable federal lands.

The five fire districts report they will use the money over the course of the year to update wildland fire equipment, purchase new rescue equipment, pay for training and improve their communication mechanisms.

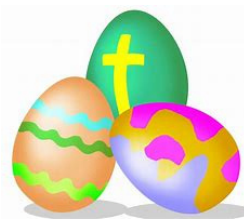
"Our investment in and partnership with our rural fire districts, who are often the first responders on an incident in the Pike National Forest, are vital components of our hard, heavy, fast approach to wildfire response," said Douglas County Commissioner Roger Partridge.

The PILT funds, awarded by the Board of Douglas County Commissioners at their February 12 Business Meeting, were distributed to the five agencies based on the number of calls they made during the year, at an average of \$543 per call. Awards were as follows:

- Jackson 105 Fire Protection District: \$23,366.60 (43 calls)
- Larkspur Fire Protection District: \$4,904.60 (9 calls)
- Mountain Communities Volunteer Fire Protection District: \$30,425.60 (56 calls)
- North Fork Fire Protection District: \$19,022.60 (35 calls)
- West Douglas Fire Protection District: \$22,280.60 (41 calls)

Beginning in 2002, Douglas County has designated a portion of its PILT money to provide supplemental funding for the five rural fire districts.

43RD ANNUAL LARKSPUR SPRING FLING EASTER EGG HUNT



To quash the rumor that the annual Easter Egg Hunt sponsored by the Larkspur Moms has been cancelled—NO, it hasn't! But it will need donations of money from the community. Time and place to be announced.

This year in order to hold the 43rd annual Easter Egg Hunt in Larkspur the Larkspur Moms group will not be getting their usual donation for the event from Perry Park, so we are doing a Go Fund Me to help raise the money to keep this yearly town tradition alive! We are looking at doing it at the park in the Town of Larkspur, the park has ample parking and you can bring a picnic lunch or visit our local Restaurants within walking distance. Maybe we could get a few food trucks, some music and some vendors out there to make it a fun filled day for the entire family! ~Jenn Grubb

https://www.gofundme.com/43rd-annual-larkspur-spring-fling-easter-egg-hunt?utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=fb_dn_cpgnsharebartop

FUNDING CHANGES BY THE PERRY PARK METRO BOARD

Karen Dale...

In mid-February, Jenn Grubb posted on Facebook that the Perry Park Metro District was no longer funding the annual Easter Egg Hunt sponsored by the Larkspur Moms, and that she needed to locate alternate funding and location. This prompted a lengthy discussion on the Larkspur Neighbor to Neighbor page in which a number of us expressed our disapproval of the PPMD move.

I was confused because when I was on the board several years ago, a previous chairman chastised us for having too MUCH money on hand. Why cut \$800 from a popular community event?

So I started looking for a copy of the budget. In the meantime, Perry Park resident, Craig Van Doorn responded to the concerns on Facebook with the following information:

1. PPMD has never “run” the Easter Egg Hunt—that is done by the Mom’s Group. PPMD only donated money and the use of the Big D.
2. The PPMD voted on the final budget at its December meeting after discussing the budget for 3 months at various public regular and special meetings. Many items within the budget had to be cut. PPMD meetings are open to the public and minutes are published for the public.
3. The PPMD did not say that the hunt couldn’t be held at the Big D, just that there was no money that could be donated this year. It was hoped that funds could be found elsewhere.
4. The pond expense wasn’t even in the budget. The funds for the pond project will have to come from reserves that have built from previous years. The current pond project is only the beginning. Since tax revenues are declining because of Gallagher and Tabor and expenses are rising because of inflation, the budget would be running at a deficit if the board didn’t cut expenses.
5. The PPMD did not pull all the funding for the parade, band, and fireworks. The PPMD have some funds to use as seed money for these items, but the community will have to find other means to fund these items. Suggestions ranged from donations to charging for non-residents a fee to view the fireworks and band. The parade will go on. All other items are up for discussion with interested parties.

The magic words here are Gallagher and Tabor. Do you recall the November 2018 election in which Larkspur Fire explained to us at length how the Gallagher and Tabor amendments to the Colorado constitution were playing havoc with their planning and budgets? The Gallagher amendment, passed in 1972, tried to establish a procedure by which residential property taxes would always be lower than business taxes and to create a balance between the two funding sources. If problems arose—as they do in rural areas without much business property, Gallagher allowed special districts like Metro, water, fire, and schools to raise their mill rates.

In 1992, the TABOR amendment was passed—and special districts could no longer raise mill rates without a vote of their constituencies. That’s what the November LFPD election was about. LFPD was asking us to waive the TABOR demand for an election every time money was needed, Larkspur Fire was planning ahead for rising expenses and inflation—and asking permission in advance to raise rates when necessary.

Meanwhile, designated property taxes continue to fall. Since Gallagher’s adoption, the residential assessment ratio has fallen from 21 percent to 7.2 percent. The residential rate is expected to drop to 6.11 percent next year. That would represent a 23 percent cut to the residential assessment ratio in a three-year period, and PPMD’s income from property taxes is entirely residential.

Anticipating these falling revenues, fire departments across the state requested solutions by ballot last fall and almost all of them passed, but smaller, “non-essential” districts like the Metro District probably wouldn’t be able to get the request through the voters. The Metro Board is stuck. It needs to start cutting expenses. The Easter Egg Hunt won’t be the only expense cut. In a number of things, the community, particularly those who don’t pay taxes to the Metro District, will need to pitch in and help fund local community events like the fireworks display that the Metro District has been funding fully for a number of years.

Many of the amenities will need community donations to survive.



BOBCATS ABOUND: *This one posed nicely against a complementary background that shows off the very distinct markings.*

Photo by Marilyn Holder, Perry Park Ranch



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JELLYSTONE GROWS— LARGER AND LARGER

People are still asking what's happening with all the tree cutting and earth moving on I25 south of the campground. More campground, folks. Jellystone at Larkspur is expanding to about 100 acres of developed fun and frolic.



The existing RV Park has a total of 158 RV sites and cabins. The proposed expansion of the RV Park includes the addition of 360 more RV sites and cabins totaling 518 RV sites and cabins. In addition to this, the proposed expansion will also include a new welcome center, putt-putt golf area, public water park and various other amenities.

The completion date projected for the final development phase is February, 2020.

NEWS FROM THE PERRY PARK METRO BOARD

Sean King,
Secretary, PPMD...



Gateway Pond Dredging

Construction teams coordinated by the Douglas County Public Works department have begun removing sediment from the Gateway pond from the edge of the water to the edge of the cattails, creating a greater depth in the pond.

The pond's water level is related to the level of the water table at any time, and that level should rise with the snowmelt this spring. With the new depth of the pond, the water level should stay higher for longer into the year.

Restoration of Gateway Pond at the front of the park was only possible because of excellent collaboration across several agencies working with the Perry Park Metro District. The Board would like to thank the following agencies and organizations for their support:

- Douglas County Commissioners office
- Douglas County Public Works
- Douglas Land Conservancy
- Colorado Parks and Wildlife
- Perry Park Water and Sanitation
- Army Corp of Engineers

Perry Park Slash Pile Burn in 2019

Residents of Perry Park Ranch and surrounding properties please be aware that the Perry Park Metropolitan District will be burning the community slash pile located in the former gravel pit at the northwest corner of Perry Park. This burn may occur during the spring, fall or winter of 2019 depending on environmental and fuel conditions. As with previous years, the Larkspur Fire Protection District will conduct the burning operations. If you have any questions regarding the burn operations, please call Randal Johnson at 303-681-3284.

The PPMD Weekly Update

If you haven't seen it yet, there is a weekly e-mail to help provide timely information regarding Perry Park Metropolitan District matters. If you are not already on the mail list, you can register at <http://www.perrypark.org> by clicking on the registration button on the right hand side.

Next Board Meeting: Thursday, March 14th

The next Perry Park Metro District Board meeting will be held on Thursday, March 14, 6:30 p.m. at the Perry Park Country Club. All Perry Park residents are welcome to attend and participate.

The Board of Directors includes:

Randy Johnson – President (through May 2022)

Craig Van Doorn – Vice President (through May 2022)

Linda Black – Assistant Vice President (through May 2022)

Vanessa Dao – Treasurer (through May 2020)

Sean King – Secretary (through May 2020)

FEBRUARY NEWS FROM THE WATER DISTRICT Jim Matchett...

The February meeting of the Perry Park Water & Sanitation District was called to order on the 20th with all directors present at 4:30 p.m. The first order of business was to approve the minutes from the January 16th regular meeting and that approval was unanimous. Unanimous approval by the board of disbursements totaling \$230,840.53 then followed. Next, since Director Maras had received an excused absence from the January regular meeting, he then declared to the board that he did not have a conflict of interest as regards PPW&SD activities.



This was followed by a presentation and discussion led by James Mann of Ehlers, the District's financial consultants, on the District's Financial Management Plan. The draft of the proposed residential and commercial water and sewer rate and fee increase, and the 2019 Capital Improvement Plan, were both reviewed and discussed at length. The proposed rate increases will be further reviewed and finalized at the upcoming regular March board meeting on the 20th of the month. All District

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residents are welcome to attend this meeting and provide their inputs.

The District Systems Report as provided by Semocor was then reviewed and discussed and operations were noted as normal excepting the operation of the Dakota #1 well. The board was advised it will have to be redrilled as a result of degradation of the existing well casing. The Monthly Staff Report was next reviewed and discussed. It was noted that the Perry Park Metropolitan District (PPMD) had requested PPW&SD consider approval for the sludge to be removed from the Gateway Pond be stored on PPW&SD's Spring Canyon property. A suggestion was made and approved that such sludge be stored on Douglas County's Sandstone Ranch property as it was much closer to the Gateway Pond. The District Manager will accordingly communicate this decision to the PPMD.

There was no audience participation and the meeting was adjourned at 5:54 p.m. As always, further information is available on the District website, <https://www.ppwsd.org/>

PERRY PARK GATEWAY POND RESTORATION UNDERWAY



Many discussions and Metro Boards later... Finally! Congratulations and thanks to all of you who worked hard on this project over the years! ~KDale

An intergovernmental agreement (IGA), recently approved by the Board of Douglas County Commissioners, between Douglas County and the Perry Park Metropolitan District launches a major step forward in the much-needed dredging of the Perry Park Gateway Pond – controlling cattails and noxious weeds, thus stabilizing an important stormwater run-off structure in the area.

In addition to Perry Park Metro District and Douglas County, additional collaborative organizations include Colorado Parks and Wildlife, the Douglas Land Conservancy, the Perry Park Water and Sanitation District, and the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers.

“Consistent with our Board priorities and our commitment to

and culture of partnership, this is an example of how we are able to practice and promote responsible stewardship of natural resources within Douglas County,” said Abe Laydon, Douglas County Commissioner.

“This collaborative effort will help our community stop the progression of noxious weeds and cattails in the pond, while maintaining the valuable ecosystem, and the needed flood control role played by the pond,” said Kurt Schlegel, District Manager for the Perry Park Metropolitan District. “We are grateful to everyone involved for their collaboration, partnership and their support on this vital project,” Schlegel said.

CONSUMER ADVISORY: STATE LAWS THAT REGULATE DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES

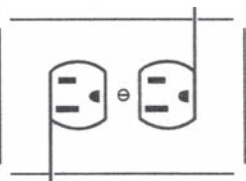
From the **District Attorney's Office • 18th Judicial District**
George H. Brauchler, District Attorney • Arapahoe, Douglas, Elbert and Lincoln Counties

Separating Myth from Fact

Scare tactic scams are widespread, specifically callers purporting to be debt collectors and threatening arrest if the party refuses to immediately pay. By law, legitimate debt collectors have the right to call an actual debtor but must follow specific regulatory guidelines regarding what they can or cannot say or do. Understanding these rules will help distinguish legitimate debt collectors from unethical ones, and/or flag an outright scam. In addition to arrest threats, other indicators of debt collector scams include refusal by the caller to provide information about whom you owe the debt, pressure to send payment immediately and refusal to reveal their name or that of their company. Under the Colorado Fair Debt Collector Practices Act (FDCPA), debt collectors must be licensed, and must adhere to the following ethical practices:

- They cannot call before 8 a.m. or after 9 p.m.
- They must reveal who they are within 60 seconds of determining they are talking to the intended debtor. At the request of the debtor/consumer, collectors must provide their name, address, company, phone number and professional license number.
- They cannot use vulgar or harassing language and are re-

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electric

Pete Dunbar

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

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stricted from annoying the caller by repeatedly calling. They are also restricted from contacting the alleged debtor at his/her place of employment if the debtor's employer objects.

- They cannot misrepresent themselves as anyone other than a debt collector, and they have no legal authority to conduct an arrest.

Likewise, if you do owe a debt, or are concerned about such allegations:

- Refrain from turning over any personal or financial information to the caller.
- Request a validation note in writing from the caller that includes creditor's name, debt amount, and the debtor's rights under FDCPA. Once received, contact the creditor to get more information, including the party authorized by the creditor to collect the debt.
- If owed a debt, you can put a stop to collection calls by writing to the collection agency, although they have the right to pursue your case through other means, and can only communicate through your attorney if you have one.
- For more information on the Colorado Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, or to file a complaint on a debt collector, contact the State Attorney General's Office at:
<https://www.stopfraudcolorado.gov/fraud-center/creditor-fraud/harassed-debt-collector.html>

REPORT FROM THE LARKSPUR FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

**Cindy Applegate,
Secretary-Board of Directors ...**

Call Review:

Between January 1, 2019, and January 31, 2019, LFPD had a total of 83 calls compared to 72 calls for the same time frame in 2018, an increase of 11 calls (13.25 percent).



January 2019 Call Review:

Fires: Total of 3 calls: Passenger vehicle fire: One (in-district)
Brush/grass fires: Two (1 in-district, 1 mutual-aid)

EMS: Total of 28 calls: Medicals: 20 (18 in-district, 2 mutual-aid)

MVA's with Injuries: 8 (7 in-district, 1 mutual-aid)

Alarms: Total of 1 call: CO detector malfunction (in-district)

Other: Total of 51 calls (44 in-district, 7 mutual aid)

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Happy Spring! 



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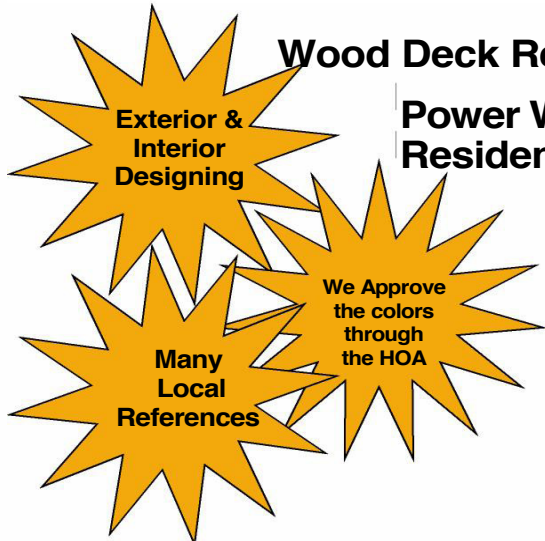
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Snow Shoveling Safety Tips You Need Now

How To Protect Your Health When You Clean Up After A Snowstorm **By Catherine Roberts**

A 2017 study published in the Canadian Medical Association Journal found that in Quebec, the risk of men being hospitalized for—or dying from—a heart attack rose significantly the day after a snowfall of about 8 inches. The researchers found the elevated risk even in people without known cardiovascular disease risk factors.

That study didn't prove that snow shoveling caused the heart attacks, but the researchers say they suspect the arduous task was to blame. "The process of shoveling snow puts heavy stress on the heart," increasing blood pressure and forcing the heart to work harder, says Willie E. Lawrence Jr., M.D., chief of cardiology at Research Medical Center in Kansas City, Mo., and a spokesperson for the American Heart Association. (He was not involved in the Canadian study.)

And the cold temperatures you're working in can cause blood vessels to constrict, which boosts blood pressure as well, Lawrence explains. Then there are the injuries. Shoveling can "put strain on the lower back and also on the upper back, shoulders, and elbow muscles," says Taizoon Baxamusa, M.D., clinical assistant professor of orthopedics at the University of Illinois at Chicago, especially when snow is wet.

In the U.S., in 2016, more than 110,000 people went to doctors' offices or clinics for snow-removal injuries, and as many as 28,000 went to the emergency room in 2016, according to Consumer Product Safety Commission estimates. Finally, being out in the cold can put you at risk of frostbite and hypothermia. Frostbite, when body parts such as fingers, toes, and noses freeze, can be painful and cause permanent damage, even the need for amputation. Hypothermia, which occurs when the body's core temperature drops below 95° F, is a medical emergency that can lead to death.

Shoveling Snow the Healthy Way

If you have cardiovascular disease—or have other problems that might interfere with safe shoveling—get your doctor's okay before taking on the task. For others, these steps can help minimize the health risks of snow shoveling

- Prepare properly. The AHA recommends not eating a big meal—which may put further stress on your heart—before shoveling. Skip the alcohol, too. It can dull your perception of the cold and the amount of strain your body is under. And before you head outside, warm up with 10 minutes of light exercise, such as walking. Baxamusa advises that you do some gentle stretches as well, to limber up muscles and joints. Dress warmly. Opt for several loose layers, and a water-resistant coat and boots, along with a hat, scarf, and mittens or gloves to protect your extremities from the cold. Try to keep your gloves dry

as you shovel, Baxamusa says, because dampness limits their ability to insulate your hands.

- Take it slow. Pace yourself while you work. When you can, push snow along the ground to get it out of the way, rather than lifting it. Instead of a large shovel, use a smaller one, whose lighter load will be easier to lift. If you're using a larger shovel, fill it only partially with snow before lifting. And take frequent breaks to rest, warm yourself up inside, and rehydrate.

- Use good form. When you lift snow, use the power in your legs instead of your back to avoid injury. Squat with your knees wide and your back straight; don't bend at the waist. Rather than tossing snow off to the side or behind your shoulder, walk it over to where you want to dump the snow. Fall-proof yourself. Wear shoes or boots with slip-resistant soles or add traction with slip-on ice cleats, available at sporting goods stores. Once your walkway is clear, consider putting down salt or sand or both.

Reference

Roberts, C. (2011). Snow shoveling safety tips you need now. *Consumer Reports*

Website. Retrieved February 14, 2019 from <https://www.consumerreports.org/health-wellness/snow->

The LFPD Board's next scheduled board meeting is Thursday, March 14, 2019, 7 p.m., at Station 161. The meetings are open to the public.



A pair of bald eagles has taken up residence near the west frontage road. This photo from Grant Van Der Jagt

A WALK ON THE WILD SIDE...

Susan Peters...

Spring - REALLY?... Mountain Lion Caution...Quick Takes Keep that Snow Shovel Handy!

March! Hooray! The first OFFICIAL day of spring is near, but it will be awhile before Larkspur can declare spring, particularly with March and April being the two snowiest months. Come on. We have plenty to last MONTHS. And more than enough to make lots of pine cones coveted by squirrels, birds, and bears.

I don't know about you, but my long johns have become integrated to my skin. As the snow falls AGAIN, and the high temperature of 24 degrees for the next five days starts plummeting, it makes me wonder if we will ever see the short crocuses emerge. At least we don't live in North Dakota! No sign yet of bluebirds, and it's a good thing with all the cold and snow – bug hunting is a bit lousy.

But they and other summer dwellers will start appearing this month, breathless from their long commute, looking for love and a cozy place for two, or, three, or six, or seven. The Oregon Races, a species of Junco (AKA snow birds) with their black



executioners' hoods are a frequent sight during the snow. The snow leaves and so do they.

We have a new pack member – a very small Golden Retriever who came from Miami, Oklahoma. She did not know what hit her. Jamie has come to LOVE the snow, not daunted by the high drifts. But the many gale-force winds are definitely not to her liking (nor mine), even if it means getting to chase a bunny. So, house training has been quite a challenge.

Mountain Lion – Welcome to their Habitat

Yes, we share this beautiful environment with many critters, some of them dangerous to humans, but it works both ways. The mountain lion serves a great purpose in keeping the deer population in check, and as you can see in Perry Park, we need more mountain lions, particularly since chronic wasting disease has been detected again in many deer and elk.

To think that thousands used to roam North America and then bounties were placed on them and hunters killed them by the hundreds. To read more on the story of the mountain lions, check out *The Beast in the Garden* by David Baron. Nothing like man to eliminate nature including the wasteful diminishing of our food supply like fish. So many animals have almost gone extinct or have gone extinct at the hand of man.

I am sure that you heard the story of the recent runner near Ft. Collins who was able to fend off and kill a young mountain lion. No easy feat. And mountain lions have known to snack on pets, namely cats and dogs. Last year in Palmer Lake a large cat scored a number of times. AND, as Casey Westbrook, ranger for the Colorado Department of Wildlife, once told us, "If a mountain lion can kill a 1200-pound elk and drag it up a tree, it has no problem killing your 200-pound mastiff and dragging it over your six-foot fence. So always have a way for your pet to escape, namely a dog door. Dog runs with no roofs provide a shooting gallery for the cats.

A previous generation of three dogs of ours once treed a mountain lion. He was not too pleased, but all escaped harm. Another time while I was gardening, the air filled with a YOWL sound. Clearly a mountain lion and it was right after a deer I called The Donald disappeared. The Donald had lopsided antlers. He was very friendly and hung around our front yard, which must have been his undoing. The YOWL sound happened again shortly after the first. It gave me the creeps.

We have had a couple of deer kills, once in our septic field. It became quite a feeding frenzy. Even our lab-wolf got into the act, chewing the ears off the deer – he had a fondness for dried pigs' ears.

I have seen mountain lion tracks, once in soft dirt where a mound had been built – yup, nature is their litter box--and when there have been deep snows and they can walk on top of the snow leaving behind large, furry imprints.

Continued on page 12

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



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

Feedback from Doug Seger and Family regarding the sale of their home

"We highly recommend Ben Wolfe with Wolfe Realty Group to anyone who is considering selling or buying a home. Trust me; it will be the best choice you make. My father-in-law wanted to find someone who cared about his home as much as he did and would have the compassion to understand how hard it would be to sell his home where he had lived for the past 30 years! After interviewing 3 different realtors, all of us agreed that Ben Wolfe with Wolfe Realty Group would be perfect because he showed true compassion and professionalism. Ben Wolfe did not disappoint! We have sold 2 other homes and neither of them went as smooth and professional as it went with Ben Wolfe! From the very beginning Ben Wolfe was professional, prompt to respond to all of our questions, went to bat for my father in law making sure that he was well taken care of and was ready to handle anything that came their way. Through the entire process Wolfe Realty Group listened to our concerns, addressed them professionally and made us feel comfortable and at ease with the process of selling the family's home."

Feedback from George and Corrine Miller regarding the purchase of their home

"Ask yourself what you would want from a relationship with your realtor. We did and got that plus more from Ben Wolfe with Wolfe Realty Group. We needed someone flexible to our schedule and highly responsive as we were trying to locate a home or land while still living in Chicago. We needed someone who was willing to understand what we really wanted and sometimes, that takes a good deal of time to discover. We needed someone with a balanced point of view to provide advice in our best interest. We needed someone who was a skilled and fair negotiator. We love the land we bought, the builder you recommended, and have already benefitted greatly from all your advice about Colorado. Nice to do business with someone who is genuine and goes above and beyond."

Feedback from John and Margaret Eckenwiler regarding the sale of their home

"Ben Wolfe took care of us in ways most agents would not do – above and beyond!"

Feedback from Dale & Kath 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."

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WILD SIDE Continued from page 10

If you do encounter a mountain lion,

- DO NOT RUN. It will give chase with you being the quarry.
- DO make yourself look as big as possible using your clothes or other objects.
- Keep eye contact.
- Make a lot of noise and wave your arms.
- And whatever you do, don't call out "Here, kitty kitty!"

Short Takes

Have you ever wondered how an alligator can survive frozen



water? No? I will tell you, anyway. They sense when it is getting very cold and will put their nose above the water surface. The water freezes around their nose. And since they are cold-blooded, the cold does not really bother them.



Recently two orange alligators have been spotted in South Carolina – no kidding. It seems that they had been hanging around in water where there are rusting pipes.



Every now and then an interesting tidbit comes across my desk that is worth sharing: the black heron from Africa that has an unusual and effective fishing technique where it spreads its wings over its head in an umbrella style, providing a camou-

flage and shading an area that makes it easier to see small fish. This is called canopy fishing. Check out the video on the Audubon website at:

<https://www.audubon.org/news/watch-black-heron-fool-fish-turning-umbrella>



AND, have you seen the ad for visiting Nebraska which talks about how people fly over Nebraska to avoid driving through it (I wonder why)? And then it shows thousands of Sandhill Cranes landing there. Then it says that Nebraska is not just for the birds. REALLY? And you can go to the Sandhill Crane Festival in Kearny while you are passing through.

That's all, folks, for this month. Gotta run. The falling snow has brought in the ravenous jays looking for their ration of peanuts – better than a grog of rum (for them.)

HowtoContactMe: 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.



CLASSIFIED AD SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

Email ads to pps Sentinel@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 obevy@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 highschool 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.

Classified Ads - due the 20th of the month.

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

Advertising/ Diane Jauch 303-663-1867

Business Mgr.: email - ppsentinel@comcast.net

Proofreaders: Thanks to Terry Brownfied 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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