



The Perry Park

Sentinel

AUGUST 2019

The annual Fourth of July celebration held each year in Perry Park was once again fun, spectacular and inspiring—and a real show of community spirit as well. However, this may be the last year the Larkspur area is treated to a local celebration of this caliber, unless the entire community is willing to help.

For years, the Perry Park Metro Board (governs Perry Park Ranch) and/or the Perry Park Country Club have footed the bills for the Fourth of July activities that start with a parade in the morning and continue with a concert and fireworks display in the evening. However, the expense of \$13,000-\$14,000 has become a drain on the budget of either. Because of conflicting laws written into the Colorado Constitution by voters over the years, the Metro District—like all special districts in the state—is facing a real financial crisis.

Since all residents in the Larkspur area have always

been invited to the Independence Day show, free of charge, it would make sense that most would be willing to make small donations to keep it going. It

seems unlikely that one or a few donors can be found to sponsor the event. However, if every household in the area were willing to pay about \$15, the show could go on in 2020.

MONEY PROBLEMS: **WILL THERE BE** **FIREWORKS IN** **2020?**



The Metro District okayed forming a **501(c)(3)** and starting a Go Fund Me site. The board needs to form a board of directors immediately before they can form the **501(c)(3)**. Volunteers to serve on that board are needed! Please contact Craig Van Doorn so meetings can begin

immediately. Contact Craig Van Doorn, phone or text-918-697-9751 or cvandoorn1@comcast.net.

~KDale



PERRY PARK BOOK CLUB will meet on Tuesday, August 20, 10 a.m. at the home of Pat Guerin, 8154 Inca Road in Perry Park Ranch. The book for discussion is the historical novel, *News of the World* by Paulette Jiles. After

the Civil War, an aging itinerant news reader agrees to transport a ten-year-old captive of the Kiowa back to her people. It is not an easy journey or relationship. The book for September is *Killers of the Flower Moon* by David Grann. Both books are offered by DC Libraries Book Club Express so copies will be available. For further information, contact Shawn Jones, shawnandclint@gmail.com.

LARKSPUR MOMS PRESENT SPRAY DAYS: All kids are welcome on Spray Days in Larkspur Park. LFPD supplies the spray—the kids supply the laughter. Sponsored by the Larkspur Moms' Group, Spray Days will be between 2 and 4 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday in July and August (and maybe September). There will also be a bounce house and several food trucks!

AT LARKSPUR FREE LIBRARY, AKA THE BOOK EXCHANGE, the choices are nearly endless. Choose from 10,000 FREE adult books – fiction (ladies' romance to classics) and non-fiction (history, crafts, physics and more); 700 FREE movies (recent and classics); 600 FREE kid's books (picture books, young readers of all levels, and young adult); Dozens of FREE audio books; FREE games, puzzles, and toys. An entire building of gently used books, sorted, categorized and alphabetized for easy browsing. It is a premier resource for our friends and neighbors. Proudly supported by the town of Larkspur, the LFL is open **Thursdays from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.** No high cost, no lines, no cards, no due dates, no overdue fines. LFL is located at 9524 Spruce Mountain Road on the east side of the road. And yes, it's FREE. Really, actually, honestly FREE!! And no need to bring one to take as many as you can carry, because the LFL has plenty. We'll even give you a box. Come and check out what everyone is talking about. And of course, we always gladly accept donations. For more information, contact Cindy at 303-681-3046 or Krystine at 413-348-3579.

PERRY PARK BLANKET BRIGADE makes comfort blankets from donations of fabric and yarn. We provide them to anyone that needs a little comfort and could use a "hug." In the last 2 years we have provided them to the local hospital, schools, memory units, sheriff's department and individuals. In 2016 we made 160+ blankets! The Blanket Brigade meets the first and third Wednesday at the Perry Park Country Club from 10 to 3 to tie the quilts. Lunch is served about noon. You do not have to be a member of the Country Club. Check our FB page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/750078515161264/>

THE GUESS WHO IN CONCERT, August 11, 2019, 6-10 p.m., the Amphitheater at Philip S. Miller Park, 1375 West Plum Creek Parkway. Tickets vary, \$20-25. On August 24, the

Denver Pops will present a Beatles tribute at the Amphitheater. For additional information, call Jennifer Reinhardt, 720-724-2010. Website: <http://www.Crgov.Com/2618/Summer-Concert-Series> for tickets.

CASTLE ROCK BREW FEST, Saturday, August 31, 4-10 p.m., at the Millhouse in Philip S. Miller Park (1381 W. Plum Creek Pkwy). Tickets, \$30-\$65. Your ticket will include samplings from lots of Colorado Craft breweries, live music in the amphitheater by several bands, and hors d'oeuvres from local chefs! All of this while under the stars, around a beautiful pond, rolling hills and the crackling of fire at the stunning Millhouse in Castle Rock! <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/castle-rock-brew-fest-under-the-stars-2019-tickets-61307553543>.

TASTE OF PALMER LAKE, Saturday, August 25, 1-4 p.m. Sample what Palmer Lake has to offer: *105 Social Club, Bella Panini, Dex's Depot, La Rosa, O'Malley's Pub, Rock House Ice Cream, Speedtrap Bistro, and The Stube. Special tastings by Evergood Elixirs, Three Hundred Days of Shine and the Wine Seller.* Tickets are limited and on sale at all Palmer Lake restaurants for \$25 (\$30 day of the event). This is a fundraiser for Palmer Lake Improvements.

LARKSPUR SCHOOL STARTS AUGUST 6!



Tuesday, August 6: Meet and Greet- please bring your school supplies and meet your teacher! 2-4 p.m.

*First Day of School for 1st-6th grade – Wednesday, August 7, 2019

*Kindergarten Balanced Beginnings- August 7th and August 8th. More communication to come! All families will need to sign up for one half-day session. Link coming soon!

*First day of Kindergarten: Monday, August 12th.
<https://www.larkspurelementary.org/>

SCOUTING FOR ALL

Did you know Scouting provides experiences that prepare boys and girls for their future? It helps develop academic skills, self-confidence, ethics, leadership and citizenship skills that influence their adult lives.



How does Scouting do this?

Scouts do stuff. They build things. Play with purpose. Make friends and work together. Set goals and achieve them. These life experiences form a foundation a Scout can stand on with confidence to embrace opportunity, try new things, provide service to others and overcome obstacles in life.

Scouting is also the perfect way to bring the family together. Scouting helps parents make the most of the little time they have to impact the lives of their children. It gives parents the gift of seeing their children reach their full potential by challenging them in ways they may not otherwise experience.

Ready to start your adventure? Cub Scout Pack 260 is based out of Castle Rock and **welcomes boys and girls entering kindergarten – 5th grade** to join our group! Low fees, high impact, and a ton of fun! Visit www.pack260.net or call/text Lisa Clark at 410-258-3385.

Do your future Scouts have friends they want to share their adventures with? Bring them along too!

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RECYCLE OLD ELECTRONICS AND SHRED DOCUMENTS

Two recycling events will be held in Douglas County in September. Start collecting now!

Computer/Electronics Recycling

Entry Fee \$5 per Vehicle

Saturday, September 14: Kaiser Permanente Parking Lot - 9285 Hepburn St., Highlands Ranch, 8-11 a.m.

The Highlands Ranch Community Association (HRCA) is hosting its bi-annual Computer & Electronics Recycling event where **E-Tech Recyclers** will properly and safely dispose of old electronic components that contain materials that are very harmful to our environment. Get rid of all that old computer clutter and do your part for a clean, safe environment! Get the data on your hard drives securely destructed!

There is a suggested donation of \$20 benefiting the Highlands Ranch Cultural Affairs Association that brings free summer concerts to Highlands Ranch.

For event status during inclement weather, call 303-471-8888.

Saturday, September 21, 2019, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., at Echo Park Stadium, 11901 Newlin Gulch Road in Parker

NOTE: This is a drive-through event. Volunteers will unload your vehicle.

ACCEPTED ITEMS:

- Three file boxes or kitchen-sized trash bags per person for paper shredding. All documents will be shredded onsite.
- All household electronics that plug into a wall, including televisions. There is no charge associated with electronic recycling (includes televisions).

ITEMS NOT ACCEPTED: Large home appliances including refrigerators, washing machines, dryers, etc.

Cash donation will benefit Douglas County Search and Rescue.



ENCOUNTER DOUGLAS COUNTY PUBLIC ART AND VOTE FOR YOUR FAVORITE

2018 People's Choice Award Winner, "Low-Poly Heart No. 4 (Red)" by Matthew Duffy



Have you noticed new artwork as you've ventured out in Douglas County the last few weeks? The celebrated **Douglas County Art Encounters** outdoor public art program has recently installed 26 pieces by 19 artists in public places throughout Castle Rock, Highlands Ranch, Lone Tree, Parker and Roxborough.

The **2019-2020 sculptures** were selected from 78 entries by 42 local and national artists and are showcased in parks and near entrances of recreation centers, shopping centers, libraries and performing art centers in Douglas County. Pictures of each of the sculptures and their locations can be found here: <http://www.douglas.co.us/artencounters/2019-sculptures/>

Whether you're a public art enthusiast or new to public art, you are invited to **visit all 26 sculptures** and then use the **Vote4Art** tool to nominate your favorite for a People's Choice Award. Since the program's first public art installation in June 2008, thousands have viewed the 259 outdoor art installations exemplifying a variety of mediums.

"*Art Encounters* is designed to promote public interest in art, develop community pride and draw visitors to the retail and civic areas where the pieces are displayed," said Douglas County Commissioner Lora Thomas. "I encourage citizens to take time this summer to visit the sculptures and vote for their favorites."

Conceived by the **Douglas County Cultural Council** in 2007, *Art Encounters* is a year-long outdoor art exhibit showcasing sculptures, in various media and styles. Since its inception, the project has been funded, in part, by the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District (SCFD) and the Philip S. Miller Trust Fund.



In Memory of
C. Russell Cramer
(March 9, 1948-June 25,
2019) of Larkspur

An Air Force veteran, Russ is survived by his mother Almeda of Brandon, SD, wife Cindy of Larkspur, CO, his son Sean Michael and his wife Brenda (Christenson) of South Jordan, UT, his daughter Elaine Dawn and her husband John Marion of Franktown, CO; two sisters Candice Scheibe of Sioux Falls, SD and Krystine Cramer of Larkspur, CO; grandchildren Erin and her husband Justin Loder, Virginia Beach, VA, Nick and Collin Cramer, South Jordan, UT, Mac and Ella Marion of Franktown, CO and great-grandchild Camden Loder as well as host of other relatives, his military family and friends.

LARKSPUR HISTORY PERRY PARK VISITED BY A GENUINE CYCLONE Ann Aviles...

The Friday, August 14, 1903, issue of *The Castle Rock Journal* featured the front-page headline, "Perry Park Visited by a Genuine Cyclone." Underneath was a picture of "Nanichant Inn, Perry Park, Colo." One hundred years ago "cyclone" and "tornado" meant the same thing—any kind of a land-based circular windstorm.

Considerable damage was reported by the cyclone. The exterior of Nanichant Inn, built in 1887, suffered when a heavy object flying through the air knocked a large hole in the side of the hotel and boards were shattered for several feet where the object struck. Fortunately, not a pane of glass in any window was broken.

Various buildings on the grounds and tents galore were scattered in pieces of various sizes and shapes. One of the largest tents was wrapped around the highest branches of a tall standing tree. It "was almost a miracle that the occupants of the tents and cabin were not killed instantly by the falling trees." Two wooden beds in a tent were carried over 100 feet and landed—unscratched—side by side, still upright in the thick forest. The park lost much of its beauty caused by the uprooting of many fine shade trees.

The heavy rocking chairs on the veranda of Nanichant Inn were swept away and some could not be found. Others were found several hundred yards away on the hillside, but suffered no

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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 15 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!**

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damage. Others lay near the Inn, “crushed into kindling.”

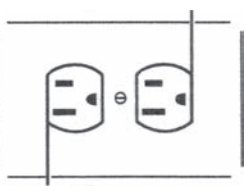
Injuries to persons caught in the storm were far less than might have been expected. Five persons were hurt, but none of them fatally. Guests from Chicago and New York, the stage driver, and the manager of the hotel suffered bruises on the head, back, chest, shoulders and arms. A sub-headline of the article reported, “Numerous Narrow Escapes from Death now Seem Miraculous.”

Another sub-headline indicated: “Property Loss from the Cyclone is Quite Heavy.” It was felt that the exact monetary loss could not be estimated but that it would be far greater than the cost of repairs. “The hotel has sustained an injury to its reputation that will require years to repair. Already the guests are leaving, fearing that something else dreadful may befall them while in the park.” The article further stated: “The narrow escapes of the boarders, and the freaks accomplished by the whirlwind formed the principal subjects of gossip at Perry Park...There were many narrow escapes that fall nothing short of the marvelous.”



NANICHANT INN: Picture from the files of the Larkspur Historical Society

To learn more about the history of the area visit the website of the Larkspur Historical Society, https://larkspurhistoricalsociety.org/locations/perrypark/timeline_general.html



electric

Pete Dunbar

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



MOVIE NIGHT IN LARKSPUR

Local resident Jenn Grubb, using various Facebook pages, organized Larkspur Park's first ever Movie Night in June. The June 19th show got rained out, but the show did go on Friday, July 19 with *A Princess Bride*. It would be nice to say it went off “without a hitch,” but that's not quite true. The first indication of a problem was a post by Jenn on Facebook asking if anyone knew how to turn on the lights in the park. She must have figured it out—because Movie Night was a success “except the sprinklers came on right at the end of the movie (perfect timing) but cleared the park out in about 5 minutes!” Oh, and they ran out of popcorn. Thanks to Jenn and her collaborators, especially Grant Van Der Jagt who provided the projector, for a fine community event to celebrate summer. They are planning a second movie night for August: the third Friday, August 23. Watch Facebook for updates.

WHAT'S GOING ON AROUND US?

Wade Frary...

CASTLE ROCK

River Walk Development Project:

When you walk or drive by the ongoing construction of the River Walk development project located at 115 and 215 Wilcox in Castle Rock, you will notice that completion and occupancy is getting much closer to

reality. Once completed, this will be a “mixed use” facility with restaurants, retail shops, and entertainment venues. The vision of city planners is to “merge with small town heart to create a rich, livable experience and a charming, walkable downtown just outside the resident's front door.” Planners hope to generate more foot traffic in the downtown corridor while preserving the historic feel of Castle Rock. Once completed, this River Walk complex will consist of 230 luxury, 1-2 bedroom apartment units. It will have 30,000 square feet of office space and 15,000 square feet of retail space. Residents will have access to 50 miles of bike and hiking trails, 5400 acres of open space and 84,000 square feet of indoor programs and amenities at the Castle Rock



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Recreation Center. It will be directly across from the new Festival Park in the center of town. The River Walk project development cost exceeds \$64 mil-

lion. Folks are starting to occupy apartments in this new facility and several retail spaces are either occupied or planned for future lease. New sidewalks have recently been constructed in front of the complex to accommodate pedestrians. There will be underground parking available to residents and shop owners. All of this should change the vibe of downtown and increase activity and commerce after hours and during weekends/holidays. The developer is Confluence Companies which is a real estate development company with headquarters in Golden Colorado.

Castle Rock's Glacier Home Made Ice Cream and Gelato:

A new and family-owned ice cream shop has recently opened in downtown Castle Rock, located in the front of the new River Walk complex at 115 Wilcox Street. Their website is www.glaciercastlerock.com. When driving or walking down Wilcox Street, directly across from Festival Park, you will see groups and families sitting outside this new ice cream/gelato shop. They have both indoor and outdoor seating and locals are discovering this new gem. Every batch of Glacier's ice cream is hand-made, plus they offer some unique flavors of both ice cream and gelato. They also offer milkshakes, hot fudge sundaes, cream cookie sandwiches, root beer and coke floats and custom made to order ice cream cakes for special occasions. Glacier also caters to special events on a pre-scheduled basis. The *5280 Magazine* has rated Glacier as "Best Ice Cream" and *Colorado Daily* recently chose Glacier as CU and Boulder's Best Ice Cream. Stop by and try this new ice cream shop!

The Castle Rock Promenade Development Project:

According to a spokesperson for Alberta Development Partners, there are more businesses coming to the Promenade. Premier Credit Union and the American Family Urgent Care facility will be the latest additions to this shopping complex. La Loma Restaurant will open in the Fall of 2019. **La Loma** is a Mexican Kitchen restaurant concept. On Yelp, customers consistently rate La Loma in Denver as a four and one half stars and "one of the best" Mexican restaurants. For nearly four decades, La Loma has held a special place in the hearts of Denverites. The magic of the restaurant lies in its simple appeal: beloved Mexican recipes passed down from the founding matriarch, fish-bowl-size margaritas, and until recently, a sprawling Jefferson Park location that catered to families, couples, and football fans alike with its warm—weathered, even—cantina atmosphere.

While the recipes remain unchanged, the days of La Loma as a Jefferson Park stalwart have come to an end. Long-standing owner **William Brinkerhoff** announced in early 2016 that La

Loma would be both relocating and expanding. Brinkerhoff sold the entire Jefferson Park block where the restaurant was located (it closed October 24) to finance his ambitious plans, which kicked off on November 1 with La Loma reopening downtown. He will build two more La Loma locations—one near the aquarium and one in **Castle Rock Promenade**.

Xfinity will have a new storefront in the fall, and Whole Foods is currently under construction and scheduled to have its grand opening early 2020. Progress of this construction is very noticeable as you drive past the new Whole Foods project site. The most recent openings at the Promenade include Black Rock Coffee, Starbucks Coffee, Del Taco, 7-11 Convenience Store, Chick Fil- A, Fuzzy Taco, and now open is Cuba Cuba. All of these places have easy access from both south and north I-25 exits. And yes, there are new retail stores and eateries coming soon!

Larkspur Jellystone RV Resort and Campground:

The 18-mile South Gap I-25 highway construction project is split into three geographic sections – north, middle and south. Since work began in September 2018, construc-



tion has focused on the northern section of the project, between Plum Creek Parkway and Sky View Lane/Tomah Road. Crews are preparing for construction on the southern section of the project, between Greenland Road and Monument. Significant slowdowns of traffic are now an everyday experience for drivers along this corridor. Slow drivers will also notice major construction and earth moving at the Tomah Road exit, Larkspur. This is the project development and expansion of the Jellystone RV Resort and Campground in Larkspur, Colorado. I have made multiple attempts to contact officials from Sun Corp, the company who is funding and building this massive RV/Campground Park. However, to date I have not received any official response or specific information from any company official. Here are the questions which I have sent to them for response so that I could write an accurate column about this project to inform the public as to what exactly they plan to include in their expansion plans:

- Who is the general contractor for the build-out of the Larkspur, Jellystone Park project?
- Please describe the scope of this project such as what amenities are being planned for this RV Resort? (number of RV and camp sites, water park, meeting space, restaurants, bar, pool, golf, ziplines, glamping, etc.)?
- When completed, what will the RV Park have to offer guests?
- What is the estimated cost to build and complete the project?
- How many campsites will be added to the site? What will be

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the total number of camp sites upon completion?

- How many phases are planned for the construction and what is planned for each phase and what are the estimated completion dates per phase?
- What have been some of the challenges for this project?
- Why is Sun RV Resorts investing so much money on this project? Why Larkspur and not somewhere else in Colorado?
- What clientele does Sun RV Resorts expect to attract to this RV Park?
- Will any amenities be available to the general public? If so, which ones?
- Is Jellystone annexed and a part of the Town of Larkspur? What is the business relationship between Sun RV Resorts and Larkspur?
- Where will Jellystone get its water, sewer, gas, electricity?
- Are there any architectural renderings of the completed project which you can share?
- Is there another RV Park which is similar in size and scope which we can compare?
- Are there any additional "add-on" projects/amenities planned for the future once the initial project is complete?
- Will there be an upgraded rail road crossing for the RV Park? If so, who pays for it?
- What features/amenities will be offered for families/children?
- Any plans for a grand opening?
- Any plans to hire staff? Current and future job opportunities?

(Here is what I have learned by visiting several websites, talking to construction officials on-site and attempting to gain information from the new Jellystone Manager.)

On December 18, 2009, the Larkspur Town Council voted unanimously to annex a commercial campsite and RV center, Jellystone Camp Ground, three miles north of town near the Tomah Road exit off of Interstate 25. With a 7-0 vote, the council approved the proposed plans of owner Ian Steyn to turn the Jellystone Campground Resort into a 105-acre commercial development within the next few years. Steyn has proposed building a 90-room lodge, a campground with 400 sites, restaurants, stores and an RV sales/service center. However, Sun Communities Inc. purchased Jellystone from Ian Steyn for an undisclosed amount, then began expansion plans and construction on this site.

Sun Communities, Inc. is a fully integrated real estate investment trust, which together with its affiliates and predecessors, has been in the business of acquiring, operating, developing and expanding manufactured home and RV communities since 1975. They are based out of Southfield, Michigan and their portfolio is listed on the US Stock Exchange with multi million dollars of assets. On the current website for Larkspur, here is what they list as their amenities for guests: <https://www.sunrvresorts.com/resorts/west/colorado/jellystone-park-at-larkspur/amenities/>

A subsidiary of Sun Corp is Northgate. This company recently received the Multi-Unit Park Operator of the Year Award from Leisure Systems, Inc. that franchises 80 Jellystone Parks across the US and Canada. They have seen double digit growth across their whole portfolio. In addition to offering RV, Glamping and Camping facilities, Jellystone offers a wide range of family activities and themed weekends with Yogi Bear.

Their RV sites will include red carpet service and large RV pull through sites, and new rental cabins. Family and kids activities include arts and crafts, scavenger hunts, face painting, jumping pillows, gem mining, disc golf, miniature golf, swimming, and live concerts. The company is currently building and completing a similar RV Resort in Granby, Colorado called River Run Resort. To give you an idea of what's to come, here is their website: <https://www.sunrvresorts.com/resorts/west/colorado/river-run-resort/>

The following is a partial and unofficial list of amenities which are planned as part of the massive, multi-million dollar expansion which is currently being constructed:

- Add over 450 new campsites for guests with a total of 500 spaces upon completion
- New water park with pool, slides, water features, water blasters and cannons, swim up bar, lazy river, etc.
- New restaurant and bar
- New meeting hall for special events and gatherings
- Zip lines and miniature golf
- Outdoor amphitheater for concerts and special entertainment
- Automated welcome kiosks for guest check-in
- New welcome/visitor center
- Newly constructed on-site sewage treatment facility
- Newly constructed water pumping station
- Disc golf course
- Playground
- Luxury glamping experience program and facilities
- Laundromat
- Dog park
- Placement of 30-75 manufactured mini cabins built on concrete slabs
- *500 additional RV camp sites with 500 more fire pits, a total of 568 camp sites
- *Construction of new themed water park
- *Construction of new ropes challenge course
- *Construction of new welcome/visitor center
- *Construction of new paved roads and infrastructure
- *New retail space TBD
- Additional amenities TBD

Note: Once I receive an official response to my inquiry from Sun Corp., I will provide a more detailed account of what amenities are being added to Larkspur.

Castle Rock Parks and Recreation:

Castle Rock officials have developed a comprehensive five-year plan for Parks and Recreation. Currently, there is a plan on the books for two new neighborhood parks including one

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in Cobblestone Ranch; improvements to several existing parks; continued trail connectivity through Town; and a possible new indoor recreation facility. The department would also continue to dedicate funding for recreation opportunities at Rueter-Hess Reservoir.

"We are fully committed to providing quality services to the community," said Parks and Recreation Director Jeff Brauer. "While that means different things to different people, Castle Rock is so much more than a Town. It's a community where people want their children to be able to play at the neighborhood park, sign up for the summer baseball league, or attend wonderful events on the weekend. Helping make the community a home is what moves us to do more."

In addition to parks, open space and trails, the Parks and Recreation Department consists of 55 full-time employees, nearly 500 seasonal employees, a robust volunteer program, two indoor recreational facilities, a championship golf course, a state-licensed preschool and more. Phillip S. Miller Park has a new site improvement across from the Challenge Hill where outdoor exercise stations will be built and made available to the public at zero cost to participants. It will be a great warm up station for those using the Challenge Hill or any of the other athletic

facilities at Miller. A unique feature on the site is the Challenge Hill, with 200 timber steps that climb 178 feet in elevation, similar to the Manitou Springs Incline. Bikes are not recommended on the Challenge Hill.

Adult pickle ball is alive and well in Castle Rock this summer! Parks and Recreation offers intermediate and advanced levels. Some instruction will be provided for all levels and one-to-one instruction for the beginning players. Some paddles and balls will be available to use for those who do not yet have their own. All known registrants will be evaluated prior to registration date. All new prospective registrants must be evaluated prior to registration; please send email to: rblalockster@gmail.com

Summer Program

Location: Founders Park and/or Parrish Memorial Park Pickle Ball Courts

Session I (June-July- registration begins early May) Session II (Aug-Sep- registration begins early July)

Advanced: M&W or T&Th

Intermediate: M&W or T&Th

Recreational: W&F or T&Th

Beginner w/Instruction: Friday

Times: 7:30am-10:30am

Cost: \$45.00

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2019 FALL CITIZENS ACADEMY APPLICATION PERIOD NOW OPEN

District Attorney George Brauchler is pleased to announce the dates for the 2019 Fall Citizens Academy.

This free, seven-week academy will be held on consecutive Wednesday evenings from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., September 11 – October 23, 2019. It will take place in the 18th Judicial District Attorney's Arapahoe County office located at 6450 S. Revere Parkway in Centennial.

Each class will explore the role of various members of the office in different parts of the criminal justice system. The academy will give students an in-depth look at what happens on a case between the time of arrest and post-conviction.

In addition, attendees will get to explore the different functions of the specialized units within the District Attorney's Office, including but not limited to the Special Victims Unit, Economic Crimes Unit, Cold Case Unit, Crime Scene Investigations, County Court and Juvenile Justice. Students also will have the chance to learn the intricacies of a jury trial.

Limited spaces are available. Preference will be given to applicants who live in the 18th Judicial District and are first-time attendees. Participants must be at least 18 years old, complete an application and pass a criminal background check to be considered for attendance. Members of the media and family of employees are welcome to apply.

The application form can be found on the website at:
<http://www.da18.org/community-outreach/citizens-academy/>

The deadline for applications is **August 16, 2019**.

Please submit your application one of the following ways:

- Via mail: Office of the District Attorney, c/o Alejandra Flores, 6450 S. Revere Parkway, Centennial, CO 80111
- Via email: aflores@da18.state.co.us
- Via fax: 720-874-8790

Once the academy is full, applicants will be placed on a waiting list. Attendees will be notified of their acceptance in the academy no later than Aug. 23, 2019.



JULY NEWS FROM THE WATER DISTRICT Jim Matchett...

The July meeting of the Perry Park Water & Sanitation District Board was held on the 17th. Four Directors were in attendance as Director Morris had received an excused absence. The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. The first order of business was the approval of the minutes of the June 19th regular meeting and that approval was unanimous. Disbursements totaling \$301,115.62 were then unanimously approved.



IREA (the Intermountain Rural Electric Association) is in the process of designing a 12.4kV underground distribution line southbound along I-25 which will terminate next to the Larkspur exit. Completion of the project will require crossing a PPW&SD waterline, and IREA had requested the District give their consent to such a crossing. The board's approval was unanimous. The Board then unanimously approved several agreements with Mounbridge Farm LTD Partnership LLLP; first, an agreement for restriction on use of existing access, and then, agreements for access road and utility easements. Next, the Remuda Ranch Development, LLC, continues to move forward and the board reviewed and unanimously approved the Water/Waste Water Improvements Agreement as submitted.

The Systems Report for June submitted by Semocor was then reviewed. It was noted that water usage in the District was down for the first six months and this was attributed to the cool, wet spring experienced this year. Operations across the District were described as normal. The Monthly Staff Report submitted by District Manager Diana Miller was also reviewed. Growth continues in the District as 16 permits have now been issued year to date. Finally, construction progress reports were reviewed for the Capital Improvement Projects of the Sage Port Water Treatment Plant, and the Sage Port Water Treatment Plant - Well Capacity.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:14 p.m. As always, further information is available on the District website, www.ppwsd.org.

NEWS FROM THE LARKSPUR FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Cindy Applegate,
Secretary-Board of Directors
...

**Call Review Between June 1, 2019,
and June 30, 2019.**

Larkspur Fire and Protection District had a total of 128 calls compared to 104 calls for the same time frame in 2018; an increase of 18 calls (18.75 percent).



Continued on page 11

WATER Continued from page 10

FIRES: Total of 5 calls: Passenger vehicle fire: (one in district)
Brush/grass fire: (two in district; two mutual aid)

EMS: Total of 49 calls: Medicals: 32 (29 in district) (three mutual aid)

MVA's with Injuries: 17 (16 indistrict, one mutual aid)

ALARMS: Total of 8 calls: Fire alarm system malfunction (five in district)

CO detector malfunction (three in district)

OTHER: Total of 66 calls (63 in-district, three mutual aid)

IS YOUR HOUSE ADDRESS NUMBER VISIBLE?

Can you imagine calling for help and then watching emergency personnel pass by your house? It can happen, if your house number is not clearly visible from the street. Missing or hidden house numbers too often delay emergency response. In a fire or medical emergency, seconds count. To avoid delaying first responders, make sure your house number is clearly visible from the street both day and night. Use reflective numbers that are at least 4" high and place them where they are not hidden by foliage, open doors, or vehicles. In addition to a number on your house, a curbside number is essential. Mount numbers on your mailbox post or a separate post at the end of your drive and make sure numbers are on opposite sides of the post and visible from both directions of travel. The LFPD thanks you for your attention to this!

The LFPD Board's next scheduled meeting is Thursday August 8, 2019, at 7 p.m. in Station 161 in Larkspur. The meetings are open to the public.

REPORT FROM THE PERRY PARK METRO DISTRICT

Sean King, Secretary...

PERRY PARK INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION 2019



Thank you to all of the residents who attended both the parade and the fireworks show. The celebration was a great success this year!

The district would like to specifically thank the following:

- Dave Gardner for being the emcee for the parade and providing snacks for the attendees
 - The Denver Concert Band for another great performance
- Justin Daigle and his crew at the Perry Park Country Club for working on a holiday to assist the fireworks crew and Denver Concert Band with setup

The board would hope to see this long-standing Perry Park tradition continue, but there are budget concerns for 2020 and

beyond. As a result, there is a need to find sponsorship and funding to continue the celebration next year.

Dave Gardner had graciously offered to continue supporting the parade, but the cost to put on the show in the evening totals \$14,000. A non-profit organization is currently being setup by a member of the board. As soon as that is complete a fundraising effort will begin in earnest. Please be on the lookout for more information in the coming weeks.

Next Board Meeting: Thursday, August 8

The next Perry Park Metro District Board meeting will be held on Thursday, August 8, 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)

NOXIOUS CHEATGRASS ALSO

A FIRE HAZARD!

Terry Brownfield...



In his 7/22/19 daily email, "The Lookout - CPR News," Daniel Schneider reports, "In order to lower the risk of wildfires in the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge, a prescribed burn targeting the invasive — and highly flammable — cheatgrass is planned for some time this week." (If you'd like to receive CPR's informative M-F news digest email, go to https://www.cpr.org/lookout/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=lookout&utm_campaign=lookout20190722).

We can't control weeds by burning in our fragile wildland-urban interface area, but our beloved Larkspur area is infested with this noxious grass, which until today I had called "Fox-tail." That is what our vet had called the barbed grass seed years back when she sedated and then pulled the offending seed from our dog's sore ear canal.

We are experiencing the invasive spread and destruction of native plants by Cheatgrass on our property. Pulling annually (which is what we also do to control and "eradicate" Knapweed, Thistle, and Leafy Spurge (see photos at <https://www.douglas.co.us/land/weed-management/types-of-noxious->

Continued on page 13

"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"



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Managing Broker & Owner
Larkspur Resident & Larkspur Real Estate Expert



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CLIENT TESTIMONIALS

"Ben has represented us in multiple real estate searches and transactions over the past several years. He is extremely knowledgeable about the market as well as the technical and legal requirements necessary for a smooth and successful result. Ben addresses unexpected issues calmly and creatively. He and his assistant, Debbie, are patient, professional and accessible. They consistently exceed expectations which is why we will continue to recommend Wolfe Realty Group to potential buyers and sellers in Douglas County."
~Jack & Susan Baker



"Ben and his associate were great to work with. Ben was very knowledgeable and helpful in assisting us to sell our home and navigate through the paperwork process and worked to protect our interests. Ben knows the Larkspur/Castle Rock areas very well and did a lot of research work in helping us price our home. I highly recommend Ben as a realtor." ~Mike Kelech

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CHEATGRASS Continued from page 12

[weeds/](#)), is the best way I believe to try to control Cheatgrass. I highly encourage folks to pull this stuff up by the roots and bag the seeds and all for the trash. Now that I know it is not only a noxious weed but a wildfire hazard, the need is even greater for all Douglas County residents to remove as much of this destructive plant as we can.

I did a little research on Cheatgrass.... From an article by Lisa Feldkamp on the science blog "Cool Green Science," (see <https://blog.nature.org/science/2016/09/07/attacking-invasive-cheatgrass-root-soil-microbes-biocontrol-sage/>), Cheatgrass infects millions of acres in the US - this is one noxious grass....and it is a fire danger in addition to its destruction of native plants, wildlife habitat, and agricultural land value.

Cheatgrass has the ability to choke out native species. Feldkamp's article states, "Cheatgrass creates a vicious fire cycle. Cheatgrass roots grow when it is still cool outside, earlier in the spring than most native plants in sagebrush habitat, and they continue growing later into the fall. The cheatgrass plant produces an extensive root system that is able to take up more water and nutrients before native plants have even started to grow. Cheatgrass then dries out by late spring or early summer and provides fuel for wildfires that clear established native plants nearby, making room for more cheatgrass to seed. Each year, the process restarts. Native plants, unable to compete and unable to withstand frequent fire, soon give way to cheatgrass monocultures."

Herbicides are not effective on this weed grass, as they only kill the adult plant, not the thousands of seeds left behind that will propagate the following year. Feldkamp's article includes information about a USDA Agricultural Research Service study testing a soil bacteria/microbes that inhibit the growth of the cheatgrass plant's root system, allowing native plants to compete and diminish the number of cheatgrass seeds in the soil over time without impacting native plants or crops.

Here are some photos of Cheatgrass to help you eliminate it from your property:



If you are still unsure of what it looks like, just walk through a patch of the dry stuff, and this is what your socks will look like:

Please do what you can to control Cheatgrass and other noxious weeds. By Colorado law, landowners are required to control noxious weeds on their property. See <https://www.douglas.co.us/land/weed-management/>, noting that Douglas County's Weed

Management plan includes provisions for eventually mitigating noxious weeds on private property at the owner's expense if there is non-compliance.

BEAR WISE



Greetings, bear enthusiasts, Bronco Barrel Beary here. The month of August is upon us and you know what that means... in addition to Bronco football preseason it's National Treat a Bear to Your Dinner Leftovers Month. Not really. I made that up. But August does have a high incidence of bear/human/food encounters. This happens for two reasons: You humans are distracted with busy summer schedules and are

lazier about locking doors and leaving food unprotected; and, simultaneously, we bears are ramping up our calorie intake in preparation for the our up-coming hibernation period. In short, you're distracted and we're hungry.

We bears are food opportunists. We wait for you to forget to close the garage door, bring the bird feeders in at dusk, or leave the car doors unlocked. If you do, the chances are good we will take advantage of your momentary lapse of memory and this picture might be the first thing you see as you begin your day:



Continued on page 14

BEARS IN THE NEWS

Resident Who Shot, Killed Bear In Castle Pines Charged With Attracting Wildlife.

CASTLE PINES, Colo. (CBS4) – A Castles Pines resident who shot and killed a bear in late June was charged with a misdemeanor for feeding and attracting wildlife.

The charge comes as a result of the homeowner failing to remove attractants like bird feeders (four bird feeders hanging by the kitchen window) after being told by CPW to do so in 2016 and 2017. During that time, the resident reported bear activity to CPW, thus officers telling the resident to take the bird feeders down.

CPW investigators say the man shot the bear because he feared the sow was trying to get inside his home at around 1 a.m. **They say the homeowner left the kitchen window open during the night and then heard a noise.** He walked to the kitchen and saw the bear standing outside the window with her paws on the sill as if she was about to come inside. In a panic, the homeowner got his handgun and shot at the bear from inside

the kitchen in hopes of scaring it off.

The sow ended up running away, but the three cubs who accompanied her stayed behind. That's when investigators say the homeowner reloaded his gun with rubber buckshot and fired two rounds at the cubs.

Officers found two of the cubs unharmed in a tree near where the mother's dead body was found. The third cub was not found and presumed to have died from a gunshot wound.



Ask Beary Bear:

The mom bear's behavior was normal.

The sow was attracted to the scent of food (three bird seed feeders and one humming bird feeder) hanging by an open window. She and her cubs investigated at night, trying to remain undetected in hopes of scoring an easy meal. In addition to the bird food, the mom notices the open window with God only knows what bounty of food smells coming from the kitchen.

Continued on page 15



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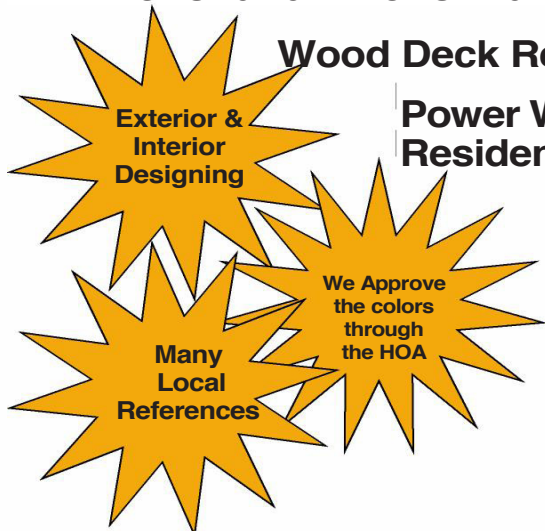
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BEARY Continued from page 14

A loud, abrupt noise (banging metal pans works well) might have scared the bear away before shooting at her with a gun. We will never know for sure as mom bear was never given a chance to run before being shot.

The CPW is on record stating the resident was justified in shooting the bear due to believing his personal safety was in danger. State law allows a homeowner to shoot and kill a bear if they feel their personal safety is at risk. Such a shooting needs to be reported to CPW within five days.

The shooter has cooperated with investigators, and CPW says he paid the citation and sent a donation to the Frisco Creek wildlife facility where the two cubs were taken.

What can we learn from this very sad incident?

First, threatening or slandering the resident who shot the bears out of fear will not change anything.

Let's use this unfortunate event as a lesson and reminder about what can happen when windows and doors are left open, bird feeders are left out at night, and a startled home owner fires fatal shots before attempting to scare the bears away by other means.

"Bear wise" is not just the title of this column. Understanding the do's and don'ts when living in bear country is important to us all. This is why I write this article each month (except when I'm hibernating). The more you know about bear behavior, the more we can both enjoy the rewards of living with each other safely in nature.

Until next time, be happy, be grateful, be safe, and always be bear wise.

A WALK ON THE WILD SIDE...

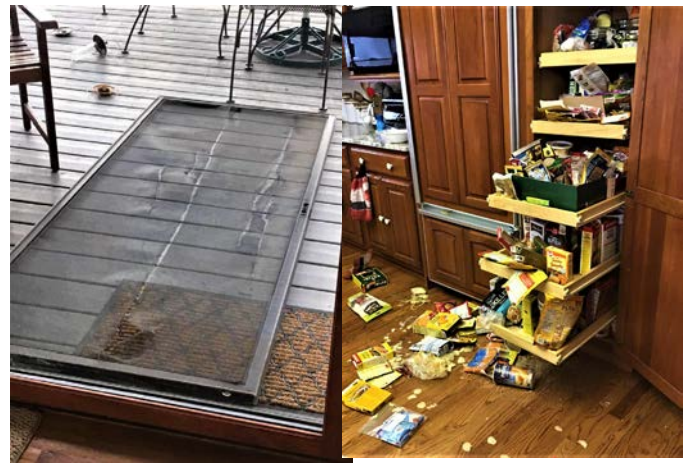
Susan Peters...

Bye Bye Bear...More Morphs...Little Critter Houses...Short Takes Foiled!



Carol Coats in Perry Park East was targeted by one fat bruin. First, he broke into her garage refrigerator and emptied that to keep up his girth. The next day he returned, barging through a screen door – Carol had forgotten to close and lock her slider. Carol's son Bob spotted two hairy legs below the kitchen refrigerator door. Bob managed to frighten the bear out of the house.

Thinking that he should discuss the situation with wildlife agents, he called the Colorado Parks and Wildlife, who sent out an agent and a paddy wagon. This agent had just returned to duty after being mauled a year ago by a bear being released into the wild that had not had enough sedative. The agent was able



to round up the bear and tranquilize it before loading it into the paddy wagon for a journey deep into the woods. Yes, indeed, bye bye, Bear.

The rapidly growing juvenile who got into our unlocked SUV last month continues to hang around, making himself quite visible during daylight hours. But he has not come close to getting into the trouble

that the bear at Carol's house managed. So, he lives to fight another day.

All Those Variations!



We continue to have bird morph discussions. Recently in Neighbor, someone reported that she seldom sees black-chinned hummingbirds, when we see them all the time. It turns out that there are several morphs of these.

Here are pictures of a few where one is near white, which one neighbor reported as the variation she sees. But we have never seen those. The ones we have are greenish-purple. So how

Continued on page 16

WILD SIDE Continued from page 15

can there be morphs so different just a few miles apart? I don't know. Ask them.

And then we recently saw a house finch that had orange coloration instead of red. Wow. Who knew? See this one.



When we first arrived in the area over 20 years ago, there was only one species of towhees, the western variety. Then we saw something that looked and sounded like a hybrid while sighting an occasional eastern variety and later a spotted towhee. This year, they do predominately appear to be the eastern ones with their distinct "drink my teeeeeeeeeeee" song.

Houses for Bees, Butterflies, and Bats

We recently discussed houses and hotels for bees, particularly the mason bee. KUSA recently had an insect specialist on a show that discussed these houses and others. She showed the butterfly houses, which can be very attractive and come with slits. They are sold at places like Home Depot and Amazon.

Butterfly houses provide protection from wind, rain, and predators, which we have a bit of, particularly the first two lately. Put some upright bark or moss inside the house for them to cling to. Place the house in a sheltered place in a garden with flowers to pollinate. And even if the butterflies don't use it, other insects will.

We think of bees and butterflies as pollinators, but so are bats. They pollinate about 500 species! Wow! The bat house should be painted black and put in a sunny spot as they like it very hot.

And don't forget a bee drinking station as the bees can't hold onto the side of a bird bath. Fill a shallow dish with less than one inch of water. Fill the dish with a few stones including some flat ones. Place it amongst the wildflowers and change the water every day.

Short Takes

The new fledgling birds have been practicing their clumsy skills: banging into windows and forgetting to preen their feathers or take a bath.

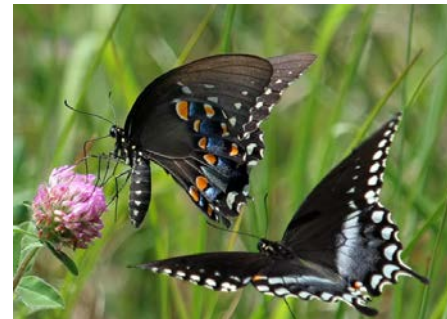
It has been relatively quiet with the hummingbirds around our house until this summer. That is until the Rufouses arrived last month. Then it was party time! In a couple of weeks all the adults will be setting their internal GPSs for their southern spas leaving behind their young ones to play havoc at the feeders.

Speaking of, some of our summer birds will be taking flight very soon, like the voracious cow birds.

The Denver Post featured a front-page article on the world-wide demise of many amphibians like salamanders, newts, frogs, and the endangered black boreal toad found in wetlands here between 8,000 and timberline. The culprit is a highly virulent hybridized fungus called the chytrid fungus, spread by humans. It clumps onto the skin and causes massive organ failure, followed by death. Scientists have developed something in the laboratory called Purple Rain, an anti-fungal bacterium, that they bathe tadpoles in before releasing them in the wild.

A woman in India who went out to check her corn field, which was being destroyed by wild boars, encountered something more destructive: a giant python which swallowed her whole. It was confirmed from a necropsy performed on the snake.

Normally an eagle would eat a hawk hatchling, but in California, a RedTail hawk chick ended up in the nest with eagle siblings and is being raised with them. So much for birds of a feather!



We were surprised to encounter a spicebush swallowtail butterfly, whose native range is east, far east, of Colorado. Check it out:

With the abundance of wildflowers, we thought that we would encounter an abundance of painted lady butterflies, but so far only a few have graced our yard, but it is still early for them.

That's all, folks, for this month. Gotta run – the hummers are demanding another feeder be put out and that means making up a mega batch of sugar water.

HowtoContactMe: Email is best at usan@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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Email ads to pps Sentinel@comcast.net (you will receive an acceptance receipt.) Charges and submission instructions will be advised via email after typesetting.

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Responsible 13 year old who loves kids and critters! Call me for all your baby/pet sitting needs. Babysitting/CPR/First Aid Certified. Contact Sage @ 303-250-8821 or kkberquist@gmail.com

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 16yrs 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

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Classified Ads - due the 20th of the month.

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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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