

The Perry Park

Sentinel

NOVEMBER 2019

THE TURKEY REIGNS IN LARKSPUR!

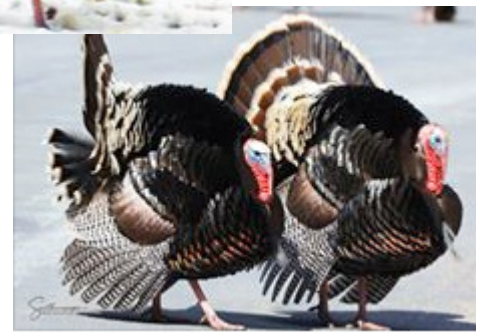
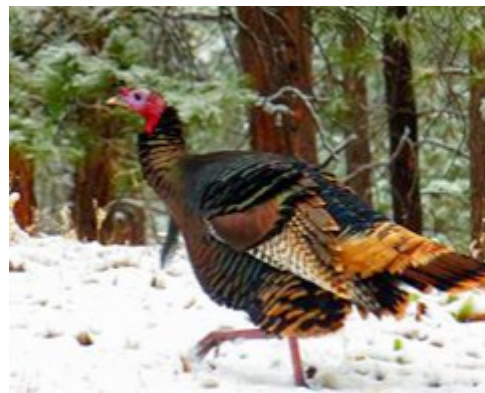
A minor tribute to a major player in Thanksgivings through the years...

As the story goes, when it came time to pick a national bird to represent the fledgling United States of America, Benjamin Franklin, statesman and scientist, had an unexpected favorite. He was rooting for the turkey. Well, not really, but he did think the great American turkey had far more character than the bald eagle! In 1784, after the bald eagle had been chosen as the national bird, Franklin wrote to his daughter:

“For my own part I wish the Bald Eagle had not been chosen the Representative of our Country. He is a Bird of bad moral Character. He does not get his Living honestly. You may have seen him perched on some dead Tree near the River, where, too lazy to fish for himself, he watches the Labour of the Fishing Hawk; and when that diligent Bird has at length taken a Fish, and is bearing it to his Nest for the Support of his Mate and young Ones, the Bald Eagle pursues him and takes it from him.”

With all this injustice, he is never in good case but like those among men who live by sharpening & robbing he is generally poor and often very lousy. Besides he is a rank coward: The little King Bird not bigger than a Sparrow attacks him boldly and drives him out of the district. He is therefore by no means a proper emblem for the brave and honest Cincinnati of America who have driven all the King birds from our country...

In “...Truth the Turkey is in Comparison a much more respectable Bird, and withal a true original Native of America... He is besides, though a little vain & silly, a Bird



of Courage, and would not hesitate to attack a Grenadier of the British Guards who should presume to invade his Farm Yard with a red Coat on.”

Perhaps we should honor Franklin by choosing the wild turkey as the official bird of the Larkspur area. There are certainly a lot of them! They have given us all many a chuckle. They really are funny, and of course in full plumage the males are absolutely gorgeous. But...they are stupid, don't you think? I watch them milling around without a clue what to do next, and I think, mmm, dumb. Really dumb. Maybe Franklin wasn't such a good judge of character after all.

Oh well, wish them well on Thanksgiving—some of them are smart enough to escape the baking pan!

~KDale

Photos by Lisa Warteman and Jim Snitker



Perry Park Christmas Bazaar and Luncheon

Sunday Dec. 1, 2019

**Bazaar opens to the public from
10am to 4 pm.**

Luncheon at 11:30 am.

Gift and Craft Show Unique Christmas gifts by local artists!

**Call Perry Park CC at 303-681-3305 by 11-25-19 for
reservations**

**\$15/person for a fabulous lunch, dessert and
nonalcoholic drink**

*Local Crafters and artists needed. Please call Pati Palumbo
starting Nov. 1, 2015 to reserve a table - \$20 booth fee*





BOOK CLUB will meet at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, November 19, at the home of Laurie Kelly, 7470 Cameron Drive. The book for discussion is *All-Girl Filling Station's Last Reunion* by the inimitable Fanny Flagg, also the

author of *Fried Green Tomatoes*. Moving from the present back to the 1940s, the book is full of Flagg's warm and funny characters. Martha Hall Kelly's novel, *Lilac Girls*, set during WWII, will be discussed at the December meeting. Both books are part of the DC Libraries Book Club Express program so copies will be available locally. For additional information, contact Carrie Murdoch, carriejeanmurdoch@gmail.com.

LARKSPUR DECORATION DAY AND STARLIGHTING in Larkspur Park will be held on Saturday, December 7, from 4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Santa and Mrs. Claus will be arriving via the Larkspur Fire Department shuttle. Also returning with be our local kids' choirs, hayrides, smores by Bill and Debbie Fischer, treats from the LVFA and Larkspur Historical Society plus much more to help the Larkspur community kick off the holiday season. To sponsor a tree in the park contact Peggy Whalen at 303-681-3706. Our tree-decoration day is scheduled for Saturday, November 23, from 10 a.m to 3 p.m. Please contact Bill Kramer at the Town office, 303-681-2324, for volunteer opportunities and additional information.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BAZAAR at the Perry Park Country Club is scheduled for December 1. Join us for another fantastic shopping experience of handmade arts and crafts at the Perry Park Country Club Holiday Bazaar! Open to the public and free entrance! Artisans will be selling their products from 10 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. throughout the clubhouse. A buffet lunch will be available for purchase, but does require an RSVP so we can get an accurate count. More details and pricing for lunch to come! Interested in a vendor table? Please send inquiries to bvoth@perryparkcc.com with "Bazaar Vendor" in the subject line and it will be forwarded on to the right party for contact. No phone calls please.

CASTLE ROCK STARLIGHTING: The 2019 Castle Rock Starlighting is Saturday, Nov. 23 from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. in Downtown Castle Rock at Historic Wilcox Square. The Starlighting ceremony will begin promptly at 5 p.m. and the lighting of the Star will be at approximately 5:30 p.m. or earlier. Santa will be available for visits at the PS Miller Library 2-4 p.m. and at the Fire Station 2-6 p.m. For information on all the events of the day, see the website at <https://castlerock.org/castle-rock-starlighting/>.

THE LARKSPUR BLANKET BRIGADE makes quilts for anyone experiencing trauma, loss, adversity, or illness. The group was formed in 2015 with four ladies and has grown to 15 dedicated souls. The BB is able to create and give away 300 quilts each year. If you know of anyone in need of a little extra comfort, contact Gwen Underwood at gwenpur@icloud.com, 303-681-2125, or Cindy Hotaling at cjaspsjr@yahoo.com, 303-681-0374. They will arrange to get a quilt to you. The Blanket Brigade is a 501 (c)3 and operates mainly with donations of fabric. If you have any extra fabric, batting or yarn,

please consider donating to our group. We meet on the first and third Wednesday of each month at 10 a.m. at the Perry Park Country Club. Consider joining this fun endeavor. You do not need any special sewing skills because we only do the tying of the quilts when we meet. All you need to know how to do is thread a needle!

COME AND SEE THE LARKSPUR FREE LIBRARY! Sure, we still have a mess, but so many new things are happening at the Larkspur FREE Library, you should stop and see for yourself at the Town Hall Annex, 9524 Spruce Mountain Road in Larkspur. Douglas County Libraries, one of our supporters, just donated nearly 400 new DVDs and blu-rays, including nearly 100 kids' and family movies. They also donated recent fiction from C.J. Box, Louise Penny, Dean Koontz, and more. All FREE. Larkspur volunteer Walt finished installing our new DVD shelves. New paint, new trim, new carpet. Stop by and check it out. It's Larkspur's very own old-style Barnes & Noble and Blockbuster video (I'm dating myself!!!) all rolled into one, all FREE and clear. No price tags, no checkout lines, no cards, no due dates, no overdue fines. LFL is located at 9524 Spruce Mountain Road, on the east side of the road. It is open on Saturdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. and Thursdays, 3 - 6 p.m. Plenty of parking, and of course, we always gladly accept donations. For more information, contact Cindy at 303-681-3046 or Krystine at 413-348-3579.

DOWNTOWN MONUMENT HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE: First Friday and Saturday in November. Enjoy food, fun, door prizes, special events and sales as downtown businesses kick off the holiday season.

NORTH POLE CRAFT FAIR IN MONUMENT: December 7, 9 a.m.- 3 p.m. at the old Grace Best Elementary on Jefferson Street. Holiday craft fair put on by Monument Hills Kiwanis.

PALMER LAKE STARLIGHTING: On Saturday, November 30, 4:30-7 p.m. join Palmer Lake Fire Department at the annual Star Lighting and Chili Supper at Town Hall of Palmer Lake, 42 Valley Crescent Street. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for kids, under 3 are free. Tickets include pictures with Santa, hay-wagon rides, and food! Food options are chili, mac and cheese, potato soup, and cinnamon rolls. Raffle tickets and silent auction items are available for purchase the night of the event. Star lighting will be at 7:00 p.m. We hope to see you all there!

WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT SOLAR ENERGY? Terry Brownfield...



Your input is needed! Can you give a minute of your time for information on possibly tens of thousands of \$\$\$ savings in the coming years?? *Sentinel* neighbors - have you noticed solar panels on homes in our state and wondered if they are worth it? Are YOU missing out on generating your own electric power? Is the thought of solar for your own home overwhelming? Having wanted solar on our Larkspur home since the day we built it, some 23 years ago, I am now realizing my dream and hoping to help others decide

Continued on page 4

SOLAR Continued from page 3

if solar is doable. Beginning with the December/January issue, walk with me through the solar installation process - from research to financial considerations to permitting and cost savings. I'd like your inputs to make the article the most valuable to our readers. Please email me specific questions or concerns that can be addressed in my forthcoming article: TerryB61@msn.com. Is there any interest in electric vehicle ownership? How that can tie in to solar? Let me know your questions on that, too.

SPRUCE MOUNTAIN OPEN SPACE: CHRISTMAS TREE CUTTING

2019 Spruce Mountain Tree Cutting information.

Registration will open Nov. 1, 2019, at 8 a.m.

The 2019 tree cutting event will be held Saturday, December 7 and cutting times will be 9 a.m., 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

One tree and one vehicle per registration will be allowed.

Yes, there are a lot of pines and Douglas firs on Spruce Mountain, but many of them are too crowded and are planned to be thinned. Here is an opportunity for you to have a great hike, find your fresh, uniquely-shaped holiday tree to take home to decorate, and give the rest of the trees plenty of room to grow. Participants are reminded:

- o Hike times are at 9 a.m., 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Arrive 5-10 minutes before your reserved time, ready to hike. The group will leave together. **If you arrive late for your registered time, you will lose your reservation slot.**
- o Bring a saw
- o Dress for the weather – Footwear for the occasion (the north side of the mountain holds snow for quite a long time)
- o Have your tree approved by Open Space staff or volunteers before cutting
- o Select a tree that needs to be thinned (growing too close to others)
- o Make sure the tree is at least 20 feet from the trail
- o **Cut the tree flush to the ground.** If the tree is a bit tall, cut off the remaining part at the base and scatter the lower trunk.
- o Remember you will need to carry your tree back to the parking area, about 1/2 mile from most of the cutting area.
- o Bring twine to hold your tree to your vehicle

This is a one-time opportunity. Sorry, no trees may be cut by the public at other times. Enjoy hot chocolate, cider, and cookies when you return.

Directions to Douglas County Open Space at Spruce Mountain.

From Larkspur, drive south on Spruce Mountain Road for about six miles; there should be several cars parked at the trailhead on the right. Use vehicles with adequate clearance and traction if we have much snow.

Happy Thanksgiving



HONORING VETERANS FOR 18 YEARS AT LARKSPUR ELEMENTARY

Larkspur Elementary School is proud to announce that its 18th Annual Veterans Day Celebration will be held on Friday, November 8, from 10-11a.m. in the school gym. All veterans and active duty personnel are invited to join us, along with their families, as we honor their service at this beloved event. The program will include patriotic songs performed by our students in Grades 1-3, a flag folding ceremony by representatives of the American Legion Harry C. Miller Post 118, and interviews with veterans. After the assembly, veterans and active duty personnel are encouraged to stay for lunch with their families. The lunch is generously provided by our teachers, staff, and parent community. For more information on the event, please contact Sally Erickson, 303-519-4251. We hope you will join us at Larkspur Elementary in honoring all those who have served and continue to serve our country."

An Editorial

THE TOWN OF LARKSPUR NEEDS A BEAR-CONTROL ORDINANCE

Karen Dale, Editor, *Perry Park Sentinel*...

At the Larkspur Town Council meeting on September 5, Larkspur area residents led by Sarah Heckathorn, a certified wildlife rehabilitator, and Lisa Warteman, trained by CPW as a Bear Aware team member, requested that the town pass an ordinance to help control the bears within town limits. The group suggested specifically a bear-proof container ordinance for local businesses as part of the solution. As Jim Collier told the council, 99 percent of the conflicts between bears and humans is over FOOD, and so bears love dumpsters.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife officers Matt Martinez and Melanie Kaknes also attended to provide the council with their expertise on living with bears.

Probably the most convincing evidence that something needs to be done was a series of photos presented by Lisa Warteman of bears and overturned dumpsters at restaurants within the town of Larkspur. Most striking was a picture of a customer strolling through a restaurant parking lot in Larkspur while bears hid out

Continued on page 5

EDITORIAL Continued from page 4

behind him—waiting for an opportunity to chow down on the restaurant's garbage! He didn't even know they were there.

However, as of late October, no ordinance has been written or voted on. Instead the issue has broken down into two conflicting approaches: a guideline or an ordinance? At the October 18 meeting of the Larkspur Town Council, Mayor Marvin Cardenas argued for simple guidelines, suggestions to Larkspur residents about how to deal with bears. The guideline approach hopes that people will "do the right thing." Whatever that means.

The guideline approach was not voted on by other members of the council who want a strong ordinance—with fines—which would require public establishments (especially restaurants) to use bear-proof garbage containers. It seems a simple and effective approach which would help keep bears out of the Larkspur town limits. The time is long past for guidelines. The residents of Larkspur and surrounding areas are well aware we have real bear problems which need specific solutions.

Just as convincing is a video posted in October on Facebook of a bear crossing Spruce Mountain Road by Charitos, in broad daylight, with people taking pictures from Charitos' patio. He came because he's hungry and he knows there's easily accessible garbage in Larkspur.

The Larkspur town council needs to pass such an ordinance—with stiff fines—at its next meeting so local business owners in town will have time to purchase bear-proof trash containers and examine other ways to best keep bears out of downtown Larkspur. The bears are mostly in hibernation for the next six months. Now is the time for the town of Larkspur to pass a tough ordinance and require local businesses to help control the bear problem in town limits.

WHAT'S GOING ON AROUND US?

Wade Frary...

Castle Rock

Proposed New Neighborhood Commercial Development South of Town:

It's inevitable that the outer fringes of Castle Rock will expand and grow as the population increases. As a result, there is an existing proposal submitted to the Castle Rock Planning Department to develop a commercial 10,000 square-foot retail project in Heckendorf Ranch at the intersection of Plum Creek Boulevard and Crystal Valley Ranch Parkway. This concept is intended to be a small neighborhood commercial center



Continued on page 6

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WHAT'S Continued from page 5

to provide services to nearby local residents. The tenants are yet-to-be-determined and site development is currently under review. Date of construction schedule is currently TBD.

New U-Haul Facility and Mini-Storage:

U-Haul International has submitted civil construction plans to the City of Castle Rock Planning Department for a new U-Haul facility located at South Perry Street and Manatt Court. This proposed project, if approved, will include a new 86,649 square-foot enclosed storage facility and four mini-storage buildings. This project will include the required infrastructure, parking, and landscaping in compliance with the town's Master Plan. Construction would commence Fall 2019 with completion estimated for early 2020.

Proposed Project to Build A Large-Scale Apartment Complex in The Terrain:

The Garrett Companies has submitted a proposal to construct an apartment building complex which will be named, Caliber at Terrain, which would be located in the northeast quadrant of Founders Parkway and State Highway 86. The Site Development Plan (SDP) proposes 21 two-story apartment buildings which would contain 226 residential units, a clubhouse/leasing office, a pool and dog park. Parking for residents would include 204 attached garages and a total of 212 surface parking spaces. This project is under review and public hearings have either occurred or are scheduled.

Panda Express Coming to The Promenade:

More choices for dining out are coming to Castle Rock very soon! A new Panda Express is being constructed at the Promenade, near the Castle Rock Outlets. The site is located on the North East corner of Factory Shops Boulevard and the future Atrium Drive. This construction site consists of new 2300 square-foot building with a drive through. This restaurant will offer both inside and outside dining/seating and provide a selection of Asian-style menu items. Take out will also be an option to patrons. Grand opening is expected to take place late 2019 or early 2020.

New Credit Union in Founders:

Canvas Credit Union has submitted a site development plan (SDP) for the construction of a proposed 3,827 square foot building with four full-service interactive automated teller machines, a parking area, drive through area and extensive landscaping/infrastructure. The site for this Credit Union facility is the new Founders Marketplace. Completion of this project is yet to be determined.

New Women's Clothing Boutique Downtown Castle Rock:

There is a brand-new clothing boutique for women, located at 220 Wilcox Street, which opened May 2019. The owners are Brenda and Cassidy Mealhow (mother/daughter) who came to Castle Rock by way of Oklahoma. I stopped by their storefront and conducted an unscheduled interview; I have to say that they are both a hoot! The tagline for their boutique is "A boutique

with Southern flair and Colorado Style." This eclectic clothing store offers a range of sizes from extra small to 3X and includes customized graphic T-Shirts with a small inventory of jewelry. This store is attached to the Rocky Mountain Hair Studio, so why not do "one-stop shopping"? Brenda says that both she and her daughter were raised on grits, Greens, and God. Consider stopping by to shop local. Their hours of operation are Monday - Saturday from 10:00 am - 5:00 pm. "Never a dull moment in this store," says Brenda.

Personal Warehouse (Castle Rock)



The light industrial warehouse complex which you can see from Interstate 25, just South of Medved and directly across from Compass Academy, has a considerable number of new tenants/businesses. This

is referred to as a "Personal Warehouse." The good news is that this should give local residents more choices to select from for service industry businesses. Here is a list of current tenants occupying this new light industrial space in no particular order:

- **Relic Automotive:** A car, home, and commercial design installation and fabrication specialist. They are experts in audio, video, safety, and convenient solutions for automotive, home, and commercial applications.
- **Easton Castle Rock:** Offering Brazilian Ju Jitsu classes, kids martial arts classes, kickboxing, Muay Thai Kickboxing and special events.
- **Tristar Coatings:** Offer window tinting, paint protection film install, vehicle wrap, dent repair and powder coating.
- **Colorado Auto Tint:** A wide brand selection of automotive window films and provide 3M Scotch Gard & Premium Shield paint protection.
- **mDesignz LLC:** Professional photography and video of any type of event, including portrait sitting, corporate interviews, weddings, music videos, modeling portfolios, product images, etc.
- **Altitude Off Road:** Customization of 4-wheel vehicles. Their mission statement is, "Altitude Offroad is committed to providing new wheelers, weekend warriors, and hardcore off-road enthusiasts with practical yet rugged solutions to build the rig of their dreams."
- **iMotion:** A manufacturer's representative serving the OEM motion control industry in the Rocky Mountain Region.
- **Edwards Stone:** Edward's Stone is a leader in producing and selling quality natural thin and full veneer stone. Edward's Stone currently operates multiple production facilities that allows production of 20,000 to 25,000 square feet of natural stone each week - giving them the ability to logistically support any project size.

Riverwalk Complex, Downtown Castle Rock:

At the new Riverwalk Complex, located on Wilcox, just across

Continued on page 8

"I am a Larkspur resident and have been specializing in selling Larkspur real estate for the past 14 years. I am the managing broker and owner of Wolfe Realty Group, an independent residential real estate brokerage firm. By choosing to specialize in the Larkspur and Perry Park real estate market, I can provide you with the highest level of knowledge and insight when buying or selling your Larkspur or Perry Park home or land. If you have any questions about Colorado real estate, please contact Wolfe Realty Group Inc. at 303-681-3553 or go to www.DiscoverLarkspur.com"



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



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Bell Mountain, Castle Rock
\$975,000



6600 Wauconda Drive
Perry Park, Larkspur
\$785,000



7151 Fox Circle
Perry Park, Larkspur
\$899,000



1835 Granger Circle
Castle Highlands, Castle Rock
\$499,900



1819 Quartz Street
The Meadows, Castle Rock
\$395,000

CLIENT TESTIMONIALS



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~Bernie and Carol Juliar
Regarding the sale of 6225 Pike Circle, Larkspur, CO



"Ben Wolfe was referred to us by another very satisfied client and sure enough he proved himself again. He doesn't just get the listing and sit by and let it sell, he works it. I would recommend him highly to anyone. I will use him in the future. [Ben Wolfe] works hard and does more to accommodate your needs than other agents. He actually works for his commission."

~Henry and Donna Block
Regarding the sale of 479 Bell Star Circle, Bell Mountain Ranch, Castle Rock, CO

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WHAT'S Continued from page 6

the street from Festival Park, there will be some shops and eateries opening in the near future. **Great Divide Brewery/Roadhouse**, a 7,000 square-foot space, is projected to open in February 2020 if construction is on schedule. Originally a Denver brewery, Great Divide has been brewing beer since 1994, independently owned and operated, with roots in Downtown Denver in an old dairy processing plant. In 2013 they bought five acres in the RiNo neighborhood and soon will expand to Castle Rock where locals can enjoy yet another wonderful, innovative and well-known micro-brew house. Opening date is yet TBD.

Tribe Riverwalk will be a new restaurant in downtown, a one-of-a-kind concept, not a chain. This eatery will have street level access directly across from Festival Park. It will offer American Style Cuisine. Opening date has not yet been determined.

Recently opened is the **Mod Mountain Boutique**, located at the Riverwalk Complex. This store offers women's apparel for professional and casual wear. A very upscale and hipster place to shop! Now that parking has been expanded in downtown, finding a place to park should not be a problem! According to management staff at the Riverwalk Complex, sales and occupancy of the high rise apartments has been going very well, even though they can't disclose what the actual occupancy rate is as of October 2019. However, judging from how many balconies have furniture and outdoor items on display, it looks like quite a large number of units have tenants. There are a total of 230 units for lease. Half of those are one-bedroom units; seven units offer three bedrooms; the remaining have two bedrooms. Once fully occupied, Castle Rock will have more permanent residents who live right in the middle of downtown.

FitGround at Philip S. Miller Park



Just within the last two weeks, construction of a new exercise park is almost complete and will be open to the public. This high-tech course is located just east of the synthetic-turf athletic field, across the street / parking lot of the Challenge Hill. The course will provide body-weight and free-form tools for performing resistance exercises designed to build strength, balance, mobility, agility and muscular endurance.

When combined with the trails and Challenge Hill, users can use the FitGround course to get a full-body workout on their own or in fun group classes. Amenities include fitness obstacle area with low-angle cargo climb, wall climbs, over and under bars and a cargo net climber.

There is also a large fitness station connected by overhead bars

and additional parallel bars, battle ropes, push up bars and plyometric steps. While construction of the FitGround is substantially complete, the foundation is still seeking sponsors for this new amenity. The estimated equipment cost is \$65,000. The foundation's goal is to raise at least 50 percent of the funds needed for the equipment installation.

CDOT UPDATE ON INTERSTATE 25 GAP PROJECT:

I stopped by the project office on the East Frontage road and spoke to Lindsey Moss, Public Relations Specialist for CDOT Gap Project. Here is the update which she provided as of 10/18/2019:

General Frontage Road Information



- Expect daily lane closures from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. for drainage work and cleaning culverts
- Drivers can expect daily one-way flagging during the day and occasional overnight flagging from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m.
- Frontage Road closures are underway. Closures will run intermittently for a year. East and west frontage roads will not be closed at the same time. Current closure is on the West Frontage Road from Territorial Road 1.5 miles south, known as Block One. Expected to last through Oct. 18.

- Guardrail work is ongoing

Construction Impacts for Larkspur

- This project has three construction sections – north, south and middle. The middle section takes place between Greenland Road and Sky View Lane, and is the most complex.
- Motorists can expect narrower lanes and shoulders as crews shift traffic to create room to work on new Express Lanes and wider shoulders.
- Work on I-25 over the Plum Creek bridge is about to begin, but no anticipated impacts to motorists

Long-Term Larkspur Ramp Closures



- The demolition of the Upper Lake Gulch bridge is underway. Long-term closure of the southbound I-25 off-ramp to Upper Lake Gulch Road starts Oct. 22 and will last nine months.
- Detour for this closure – motorists should use the southbound I-25 off-ramp to Spruce Mountain Road to easily access Larkspur
- Demolition of the Spruce

Continued on page 9

WHAT'S Continued from page 8

Mountain Road bridge is underway. The Spruce Mountain Road on-ramp to northbound I-25 is closed for 9 months. A traffic switch will allow crews to demolish the other side of the bridge (east side) without an interstate closure in November

- Detour for this closure – motorists should use the Upper Lake Gulch Road on-ramp to northbound I-25
- The attached map shows which ramps are open and which ramps are closed. Access to Larkspur will always be maintained.

What drivers can do

- “Know before you go” and check road conditions, particularly as winter approaches
- Slow down
- Stay alert
- Give yourself plenty of time
- Be courteous
- Leave early: delays are expected
- Mind your space: give plenty of room between your vehicle and the one ahead
- If you are involved in a crash, there are no injuries and you don't expect drugs/alcohol are involved, move your car to the next exit. If it can't make it to an exit, look for a shoulder or emergency-pull off, keeping in mind it might be on the center median side.

Construction schedule: Completion in 2022

How to contact the GAP project:

Project Hotline: 720-745-5434

Project Website: i25gap.codot.gov

Project Email: i25gap@codot.us

Get Text Alerts: Text I25GAP to 21000

OCTOBER NEWS FROM THE WATER DISTRICT James Matchett...

The October meeting of the Perry Park Water & Sanitation District (PPW&SD) was called to order at 4:30 p.m. on the 16th with four directors present. Director Peterson had received an excused absence.

The first order of business was the approval of the minutes of the September 18th regular meeting. That approval was unanimous. Disbursements totaling \$148,228.06 were then unanimously approved. The updated draft budget for 2020 was then reviewed and discussed.

The board was advised by District Manager Diana Miller that the next steps were for the board members to receive from her the final draft of the budget before the regularly scheduled November meeting and the budget hearing in December. At the budget hearing the budget will be fully discussed, finalized and readied for submission to the Colorado Department of Local Affairs. All residents of the district are welcome to attend either



or both of these meetings and provide their input to the budget process.

The District Systems Report for September submitted by Se-mocor was then reviewed, and operations were noted as normal. Of interest here was the fact the district increased its usage of renewable water to 28 percent of total versus last year's 12 percent.

The Monthly Staff Report submitted by the district manager was also reviewed. It was noted that permits year-to-date stand at 25 versus last year's total of 24. Also, the Sage Port Water Treatment Plant Improvements Project is going to cost more than originally planned. The district manager went into the rationale for the increased cost by reviewing a comprehensive listing of the items that are now additional to the scope of the 2016 Master Plan.

There was no audience participation and the meeting was adjourned at 5:07 p.m. As always, further information is available on the district website, www.PPWSD.org

REPORT FROM THE PERRY PARK METRO DISTRICT

Sean King, Secretary....

Perry Park Evacuation Drill

The district is working with the Douglas County Sheriff's Office and the Douglas County Office of Emergency Management to conduct an Evacuation Drill for the residents of Perry Park. The drill is scheduled for Saturday morning, November 9th at 9 a.m.



On the day of the event, those that registered beforehand (deadline was October 28th) will receive an auto-generated telephone call and message from Code Red and will be directed to evacuate from the area using the designated Evacuation Routes.

If you didn't get a chance to register, please feel free to come to the back of the park after 9:30 a.m. to get familiarize yourself with the emergency exit off of Country Club Dr.

We look forward to your participation! Please reach out to info@perrypark.org with any questions.

Inventory of Perry Park Street Lights

Over the past few months, the Board has been working with IREA to inventory all of the street lights in Perry Park. The first goal is to have an accurate accounting and billing of those lights so the Metro District isn't overpaying for service. The second goal, and ask for IREA, was for an estimate for removal of lights owned by the district. There have been numerous residents over the past months expressing interest at board meet-

Continued on page 10

PPMD Continued from page 9

ings in making Perry Park a “dark sky” community, which means removing all of the existing streetlights.

To that end, the PPMD is working with the IREA on a method, and cost, to temporarily shut off lights designated by the Metro District. Temporarily shutting off the lights allows us to “try out” the dark sky approach before committing to removing any streetlights. Timing and duration will be firmed up once the IREA establishes how to meet the PPMD request. Once a time and duration have been established, it will be communicated to the residents through email and the Sentinel well beforehand.

In the meantime, we welcome your input both for and against removing the streetlights. Please reach out to info@perrypark.org with your feedback.

Next Board Meeting: Thursday, November 21st

The next Perry Park Metro District Board meeting will be held on Thursday, November 21st at the Perry Park Country Club. Topics will likely include:

- Gilloon Pond Reclamation
- Street Light Inventory
- Conservation Easement Management Plan Update

A full agenda will be posted and announced a week before the meeting. The board would like to remind all Perry Park residents that they are invited to every board meeting and that the minutes from prior meeting are placed online at perrypark.org once approved for full transparency.

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)

NEWS FROM THE LARKSPUR FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT Cindy Applegate, Secretary, Board of Directors...

Call Review: Between January 1, 2019, through September 30, 2019, LFPD ran a total of 938 calls compared to 762 calls for the same time frame in 2018, an increase of 156 calls (18.77 percent).

In the Gap Project area between January 1, 2019, through September 30, 2019 LFPD ran a total of 416 calls compared to 286 calls for the same time frame in 2018, an increase of 130 calls (31.25 percent).



During the entire year of 2018 the department ran 411 calls in the Gap Project area. That's only five calls less than we ran from January 2019 through September 30th, 2019. This increase in calls can be attributed to the gap construction operations. However, that doesn't account for the possibility of increased call volumes on alternate routes. Using a straight-line average calculation for the last quarter of this year, we can expect an additional 139 calls in the Gap Project area. That equates to a total 2019 Gap Project call volume of 555 or a total increase of 26 percent above the 2018 Gap Project call volume.

The Gap continues to be a problem that's causing an increase in unfunded service demands on LFPD which is actively trying to work with CDOT and our legislators, Senator Smallwood and Representative Bailey, to minimize the impact on LFPD.

Between September 1 and September 30, 2019, LFPD ran a total of 134 calls compared to 91 calls for the same time frame in 2018; an increase of 43 calls (32.08 percent).

- Fires: Total of 1 call
Brush/grass fire: 1 (in-district)
- EMS: Total of 58 calls
Medicals: 40 (38 in-district, 2 mutual-aid)
MVA's with Injuries: 18 (15 in-district, 3 mutual-aid)
- Alarms: Total of 2 calls:
Fire alarm system malfunction: 2 (2 in-district)
- Other: Total of 73 calls (67 in-district, 6 mutual aid)

Don't forget to take advantage of LFPD's program to have a wildfire risk analysis of your property. Call the Fire Marshal at 303-681-3284 for more details and to set up an appointment.

LFPD will now be offering CPR classes for district residents. CPR classes will be offered in Larkspur on the third Thursday of each month and will begin at 6 p.m. Those who are interested should call the station at 303-681-3284 to register for the class and get additional information.

The next scheduled board meeting is Thursday November 14th, 2019, at 7 p.m. at Station 161 in Larkspur. The meetings are open to the public.

Fireplace and Wood Stove Safety

More than one-third of Americans use fireplaces, wood stoves and other fuel-fired appliances as primary heat sources in their homes. Unfortunately, many people are unaware of the fire risks when heating with wood and solid fuels. Heating fires account for 36 percent of residential home fires in rural areas every year. Often these fires are due to creosote buildup in chimneys and stovepipes. All home heating systems require regular maintenance to function safely and efficiently.

Keep Fireplaces and Wood Stoves Clean

- Have your chimney or wood stove inspected and cleaned annually by a certified chimney specialist.
- Clear the area around the hearth of debris, decorations and flammable materials.

Continued on page 12



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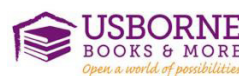
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LVFDContinued from page 10

- Always use a metal mesh screen with fireplaces. Leave glass doors open while burning a fire.
- Install stovepipe thermometers to help monitor flue temperatures.
- Keep air inlets on wood stoves open, and never restrict air supply to fireplaces. Otherwise you may cause creosote buildup that could lead to a chimney fire.

Safely Burn Fuels

- Never use flammable liquids to start a fire.
- Use only seasoned hardwood. Soft, moist wood accelerates creosote buildup.
- Build small fires that burn completely and produce less smoke.
- Never burn cardboard boxes, trash or debris in your fireplace or wood stove.
- When building a fire, place logs at the rear of the fireplace on an adequate supporting grate.
- Never leave a fire in the fireplace unattended. Extinguish the fire before going to bed or leaving the house.
- Soak hot ashes in water and place them in a metal container outside your home.

Protect the Outside of Your Home

- Stack firewood outdoors at least 30 feet away from your home.
- Keep the roof clear of leaves, pine needles and other debris.
- Cover the chimney with a mesh screen spark arrester.
- Remove branches hanging above the chimney, flues or vents.

Protect the Inside of Your Home

- Install smoke alarms on every level of your home.
- Test them monthly and change the batteries at least once a year.
- Consider installing the new long-life smoke alarms.
- Provide proper venting systems for all heating equipment.
- Extend all vent pipes at least three feet above the roof surface.

ROAD TRIP: TOURING COLORADO

WITH A SMILE

Ann Chellman...



I leave London Lane in Conifer with my son and his family early on a dark Sunday morning in late August. The long-awaited vacation has begun. Traffic is light so we cross over Kenosha Pass before the sun. We stop at Poncha Springs to enjoy a far view of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. Then comes the steep and awesome drive over Monarch Pass. Hunger forces a stop in the Walmart parking lot located in beautiful downtown Gunnison where we fall upon our pre-prepared breakfast. Nutritionally fortified, we decide to drive on over to the Black Canyon.

This fantastic Canyon stretches along 50 spectacular miles of steep river bank. The Gunnison River which carved the canyon, is so far below us that we rarely even see it, although we enjoy the music of the river as we walk the 607 easy yards along a well-kept path, stopping at three beautiful overlooks along the way.

Back in our ultra-comfy van, we sink into our cushy captain's chairs and drive along in style, enjoying an excellent view of the Uncompahgre Mountains. We disembark near the town of Ouray, all ready to visit Box Falls, a scenic spot indeed. You should go! Ole and his family took the high trail. I took one look at those 95 stair steps and that fragile looking bridge that spans the falls and pooh-poohed that idea. Oh, no! Not me, no way!

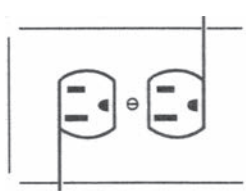
We continue our journey through the San Juans until we come to the little town of Silverton where we walked around the historic district...and, yes even on the infamous Blair Street where all the painted ladies once plied their trade. We press on to the museum, a small endeavor with an odor of age about it. What a disappointment. I give it a 2, Marcia undercuts me with a 1 because of the smell, and darling Dana awards it a 0 because she says the eyes of the fake people followed her all around. Creepy! Wisely, the boys occupied themselves elsewhere. We had agreed to meet up for an ice cream treat. They sell a lot of trinkets in Silverton, but no ice cream. There is definitely something suspect about a town that doesn't sell ice cream.

Our next stop was the Old Hundred Gold Mine. It was an interesting and informative tour with a great guide wearing an old jacket mended in places too numerous to mention with duct tape. Dana, ever the young investigative reporter, took to her phone to explore the wonders of duct tape. We don't know when it was invented, but we do know you can chew it if you've a mind to; however it has no nutritional value.

We learned a little about gold mines. They are very dark and damp and usually about 52 degrees. The men travelled to the different levels in an elevator about the size and shape of a coffin. Yikes! They brought their lunches in pie cans, so called because lunch was usually a pie containing about 80 percent meat and veggies and the rest a fruit filling. Voila, lunch and dessert in the same pie...the whole enchilada!

After leaving the mine (which never made any money) we had

Continued on page 13



Pete Dunbar

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

ROAD TRIP Continued from page 12

to hurry to our next destination which was a place that really knew how to make money. We had tickets to a chuck wagon dinner at the --D Ranch and we arrived in ample time. This place has been in business for 37 years feeding dinner to 300 people at a time with a fun cowboy show thrown into the bargain, and they really know the ropes of the operation.

We were assigned a table and told to get in the chow line. We picked up our tin plates and prominently displayed our tickets which were color coded by entree. In the blink of an eye as I moved along, my plate contained a chicken breast, tender beef slices, a baked potato, cowboy beans, a biscuit, butter and apple sauce. (I could have used this system back when all my eight kids were still at home.) Anyway, this exceedingly square meal was topped off with a slice of spice cake and coffee or lemonade.

As we ate, we settled in for "The Show of Shows." We were entertained by the antics of the --D Wranglers who consisted of three country guitar players, a fiddler who could give Charlie Daniels a run for his money and a bass. One of the fellows was a yodeller, one had a beautiful singing voice and another was a comedian who also sang songs that told a story. This guy was so hilarious that we laughed 'til we practically choked on our spice cake. Caleb gave the show an 8.5, Dana and I gave it an 8, Marcia bumped it up to a 9, but party pooper Ole could only come up with a 6.5. (He thought there would be beer) However, a good time was had by all.

As we were leaving the --D, another 300 people were waiting to enter. (I told you this place was a money maker.) We left Durango in the dark and made our way safely over some curvy mountain roads to our destination which was a comfortable motel in a town called Cortez. We had all had a long, eventful day, and our Dana was so exhausted that she made it from the door to the snore in about five minutes.

[Editor's Note: Touring Colorado with children and grandchildren is an age-old tradition among us grannies. I remember well my own mother, in her late 70s, climbing those steps in Ouray! Like Ann, I stayed on the ground—acrophobia rules! Ann is a resident of the Retreat at Perry Park.]

BEAR WISE



Greetings, bear lovers. I hope you had a great Halloween. This year I dressed up as a blind sports referee and took my friend "Skinny Mini" along. When we showed up at a neighborhood home looking for treats, we were greeted with the blast from an air horn and the loud clanging of pots and pans. Maybe I should have just gone as myself.

As another bear season draws to a close and we local bears begin to migrate to our winter dens for a long winter's nap,

Continued on page 14



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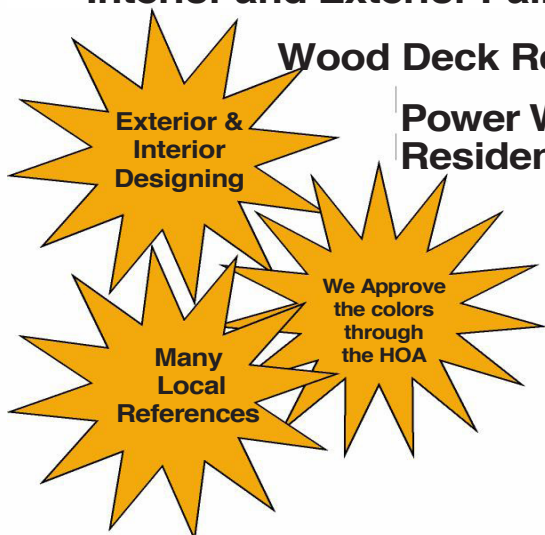
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BEARY Continued from page 13

you may still see a few of us up and about looking for an easy meal.

Please continue to safe guard bird feeders and refuse containers throughout the winter months.



BEARS IN THE NEWS

It's never too late for a pool party.

This bear-naked pair enjoyed an escape from the unusually warm Autumn

weather at a private Boulder pool on October 9th.

They are first year cubs. Mom is probably close by. Acting like true siblings, one tries to pull the other out of the water by his ear! Does this bring back memories of your childhood years? Click the link to watch the show:

<https://twitter.com/boulderpolice/status/1182360980551958528>



ASK BEARY BEAR

How do bears know when to hibernate?

When the fat bear sings! Just kidding. The old rule of paw used to be: "When there's nothing left to eat, it's time to sleep." In the

past, hibernating was a matter of survival as a way to endure the winter when food was scarce. Today, ample human food sources and warmer winter temperatures are changing our sleep patterns. In recent years, we are tending to stay active longer into the winter season and even wake up for mid-winter snacking during the traditional hibernation period.

Also, actual hibernation times depend on the region of the country. My relatives in Minnesota tend to turn the lights out in October-- don't ya know. In warmer climates like Colorado, we usually "turn in" within the November-December time frame. Outside temperatures trigger a biological clock so that as it gets colder, we get more lethargic.

During the deeper portion of our winter nap, our breathing slows to only two breaths a minute and there can be up to fourteen seconds of silence between heart beats. The reason for this near shut down of our metabolism is to conserve energy and burn fat efficiently enough so we don't starve to death during the long frozen period.

The proof that we bears are not true hibernators is shown in research that monitors a bear's vitals while we are sleeping. When humans approach our winter dens, our heart rates and breathing begin to increase. This is evidence that we bears are aware of our surroundings even when we appear to be in a deep sleep.

So "don't poke the bear," even if we appear to be fast asleep. Speaking of sleep, it's about time for me to sign off for another season. I sincerely hope you enjoy reading the bear wise articles as much as I enjoy writing them.

The more we learn about each other, the better we can successfully co-exist in harmony. This seems like a good thing for us, both locally and for the world at large. See you next spring,

Beary Bear 

A WALK ON THE WILD SIDE...

Susan Peters...

All Hail to the Turkeys...A Shout Out about the Imminent Crises – Coral Reefs and Our Birds...Short Takes



Turkey Day!

Yessirree, Turkey Day approaches. In a few weeks we will be the ones gushing gobble gobble, over-stuffing ourselves while our wild turkeys keep hidden for a few weeks. The local turkey populations have been quite active and the town of Larkspur in due respect town has erected a turkey crossing sign. It sits right off Exit 173 on Spruce Mountain Road. A few more are needed to warn unsuspecting motorists. Turkeys, of course, cannot read. People put Christmas wreaths on their car grills, but I have yet to see a turkey on one.

Our Global Coral Reefs



A recent announcement said that the Great Barrier Reef may be beyond recovery due to warming waters. But then? A huge piece, 58 square miles big, of porous volcanic rock called pumice has broken off from a submerged volcano near Tonga in Oceania, and is floating in the Pacific Ocean on course to encounter the Great Barrier Reef (GBR), the world's largest living organism, at least for the moment. Why this is significant is that the rock, which floats mostly submerged like an iceberg is like a magnet for lots of sea creatures like barnacles, anemones, worms, crabs and corals and provides the substrate for algae and other vegetation to grow on, so it is becoming its own reef, capable of generating coral off-shoots called polyps.

But a coral scientist disagrees with this optimism. Given that the pumice reaches the GBR, a coral polyp would have to be stressed to leave the pumice and move to one of the existing bleached-out corals. AND the corals only represent one percent of the life on the pumice. Yeah, pumice is the same stuff you may use to clean your toilets. Don't wait for a coral reef to form in your



Continued on page 16



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toilet bowl.

The decline in the coral reefs of Florida is particularly bad. Scientists have figured out a way to plant mini-reefs in a laboratory with the idea of transferring them to places where they can grow and re-stabilize the area that is used by millions of fishes.

The Crash in North American Bird Populations



And then how about the very devastating news that between 7,000,000 and three billion birds have been lost in North America and that includes entire species across all types of habitat. For Colorado, its state bird, the Lark Bunting, has seen its population decline approximately 31 million

since 1970. Ouch! The birds most in decline are those that depend on the prairie grasslands from Texas to Canada where agriculture and pesticides, which kill their food, namely insects, have taken their toll.

You can really help with this crisis. This is how:

- Keep your cats inside and tell your neighbors to do the same. Feral cats should be caught and turned over to the humane society. They are responsible for the deaths of about one million birds a year just in the U.S.
- Use objects, like decals and sun catchers, to keep birds from flying into windows. We lose 10 or more on the many windows we have.
- YES! Feed the birds. Their diet is made up of mostly natural materials in our environments. But a deep snow or an Arctic blast changes everything. Of particular importance is suet which insect-eating birds will eat. And migrating birds during April, May, September, and October can benefit from a guest meal. A website that is helpful on what food to put out is <https://feederwatch.org/>
- Place feeders where it is difficult for cats to get to them or hawks to swipe them. Near bushes can be particularly advantageous as a shelter from predators.
- DO NOT use pesticides, even mosquito spray. Just remove standing water for the latter.
- Develop a bird-friendly habitat in your backyard, one that will welcome butterflies, bees, and other pollinators as well as birds. This includes layering plantings that imitates their natural environment with dirt substrates like a forest floor, ground cover, bushes, and trees. Check out Audubon.org and National Wildlife Federation nwf.org, that will even provide a backyard certification. A good winter project is to plan your yard for next spring.
- Support legislation and efforts that will protect wildlife. A judge recently blocked a proposal to allow drilling and other industrial activities that would have impacted the habitat of the endangered sage grouse.

Short Takes

The winter bird population appears to be in place. The blue birds, chipping sparrows, and other sane species are on their way to southern climes. Wait for me! Go slow. My wings do not work very well.

But, please tell me why birds like the blue jay and Oregon junco prefer cold, snowy Colorado over places like Oregon where it rarely snows and is much milder. Even a flock of robins has been hanging out enjoying the remaining berries on our bushes and trees.

Despite the major exodus of birds, our feeders seem to be busier than ever according to the amount of bird feed we are buying each month. Maybe we had more than the usual migrating birds looking for a snack along their journey. It does not help that zillions of crows think that small bird feeders are no problem for them. They have become quite adept at figuring out how to use the fast food bars, just like the squirrels.

It is time to be stocked up for those winter snows and frigid days: suet, black oil sunflower seeds, mixed seed with little or no red millet, whole peanuts for the jays, and Niger thistle for the finches, namely American gold finches and lesser gold finches, and pine siskins.

Well, I don't know how I made the list, but I received a message alert on my cell phone last month that the tarantulas, as I have reported, were on the move on the highways and byway in search of love. Oh, joy.

Nite, nite, bears! Whew. We can now leave out our bird feeders at night for the next five months, I assume. Weather recently continues to be on the mild side and there are still plenty of berries left. It is a reminder to lock your car doors for awhile longer. We recently lost a bag of dog biscuits. One woman lost her dinner – a lobster roll and fries. She was definitely the bigger loser with neither car having any damage, just bear prints to clean up.

For your smile today, check out this Facebook video of a young bear who took a nap in the sink in a hotel room in Big Sky Montana. He was not very anxious to move. In fact, he had to be tranquilized and carried out with by just one arm of a wildlife agent.

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=2318503818401964>

And a very Happy Thanksgiving to all of you and that you have many blessings to be thankful for.

That's all, folks, for this month. Gotta run – the suet feeders are near empty and snow threatens. I don't want birds banging on our windows insisting on service as the snow and wind test my love of wildlife.

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

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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.

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.

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

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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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