

Apply by April 30 for Larimer County Boards & Commissions Openings

Special to the Surveyor

The deadline is Friday, April 30, 2010, to apply to one of the current openings on Larimer County Boards and Commissions. The spring applica-

tion process is now underway so that new members can begin their terms in July.

Citizens can apply online at www.larimer.org/boards, or pick up an application at a County office, contact Diane Tokarz in the Larimer County Commissioners' Office at 498-7015, dtokarz@larimer.org for more details.

A short video and Q&A section addressing questions about serving on a county board is online at www.larimer.org/boards. These boards

have current openings:

- Board of Adjustment
- Board of Appeals
- Board of Health
- Community Corrections Advisory Board
- Environmental Advisory Board
- Estes Valley Planning Commission
- Extension Advisory Committee
- Fair Board
- Flood Review Board
- Juvenile Community Review

- LaPorte Area Planning Advisory Committee
- Larimer Integrated Family Enhancement (LIFE) Board
- Office on Aging Advisory Council
- Open Lands Advisory Board
- Parks Advisory Board
- Planning Commission
- Rural Land Use Board
- Weed Control District Advisory Commission

Also online at www.larimer.org/ boards is an explanation of each

Board or Commission, what they do, who the members are, and when they meet. Over 300 citizens provide Larimer County government with valuable insight by volunteering on nearly 30 County Boards and Commissions. If you would like to receive an e-mail notification any time there is an opening on a board or commission please go to: www.larimer.org/subscriptions.cfm, and sign up.

Your government at work

City Council to look at Cleveland Avenue zoning regulations



Who: Loveland City Council
When: 6:30 p.m. Tuesday
Where: Council Chamber, 500 E. Third St.

TV/Internet: Comcast Channel 16
At Issue: During a study session, meaning no formal actions will be taken, the Loveland City Council will look at rules for converting residential properties to commercial uses on Cleveland Avenue between 10th Street and where it merges with Lincoln Avenue, about 17th Street. Key components would be to reduce or eliminate some of the infrastructure expansion costs that are in the city's code for development that occurs elsewhere in the city. It would also lower the standards for the paving width of the alleys in the tight corridors alongside North Cleveland Avenue.

Commissioners to look at rules for pet foster homes outside cities



Who: Larimer County Board of County Commissioners
When: 3 p.m. today
Where: Commissioners Conference Room, 200 W. Oak St., Fort Collins
TV/Internet: www.larimer.org/bcc/broadcast.cfm

At Issue: The commissioners will consider an update to the land use code that will address pet foster care facilities. The Larimer County Planning Commission approved the rules unanimously at its March 17 meeting. The definition to be added: "Foster Home for Pet Animals: A foster home for pet animals is a site which, through a written agreement with a Pet Animal Care Facilities Act (PACFA) licensed rescue facility, provides a temporary home for the care and/or rehabilitation of pet animals."

County parks board to look at water sports



Who: Larimer County Parks Advisory Board
When: 5:30 p.m. Tuesday
Where: Bison Visitor Center, 1800 S. County Road 31, near Carter Lake

TV/Internet: None
At Issue: The Parks Advisory Board has several water sports-themed topics on its agenda for Tuesday. Members will hear a proposal to add a kayak park on the Cache la Poudre River near LaPorte. Also, the board will talk about potential new locations for the Fort Collins Rowing Association at Horsetooth Reservoir. Renovations to the swim beach at the reservoir will require the group to find a new storage location for members' boats. The change will be required by this summer, according to documents provided to the board.

Planning Commission to look at changes for Dairy Queen access



Who: Loveland Planning Commission
When: 6:30 p.m. today
Where: Loveland City Council Chamber, 500 E. Third St.
TV/Internet: Comcast Channel 16

At Issue: Commissioners will hear a request from the owners of the Dairy Queen, 300 E. Eisenhower Blvd., for the city to vacate its alley right-of-way between the restaurant and the vacant property to the east. According to information given to commissioners, the owners want to expand the restaurant's parking lot and create smoother flow for its drive-through traffic. If approved, the city would gain an access easement from the property to Jefferson Avenue on the property's east side.

*Reporter Herald
4-12-2010*

Grant aids Poudre trail expansion

BY KEVIN DUGGAN
KevinDuggan@coloradoan.com

The Poudre River Trail is expected to move closer to completion with the help of a \$1 million grant from Great Outdoors Colorado.

The Larimer County open lands program is on tap to receive the GOCO grant for the 160-acre Three Bells I project, which would include an easement for the trail north of River Bluffs Open

Space near Colorado Highway 392 and west Windsor.

As part of the project, a conservation easement would protect about 0.6 miles of the Poudre River corridor, including critical wildlife habitat, officials said.

When combined with a conservation easement proposed for the adjacent Three Bells II project, more than 330 acres between Windsor and Timnath will be preserved, including 1.3

In Your Voice
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miles of river corridor.
Kerri Rollins, interim open lands manager, declined to discuss the exact location of the easements, citing the sensitivity of ongoing negotiations with a landowner.

Fort Collins and Windsor are financial partners in the deal, Rollins said.

The grants were announced Thursday by Gov. Bill Ritter and the GOCO board of directors.

Fort Collins received a \$500,000 grant to extend the western portion of the Fossil Creek Trail to connect it to Spring Canyon Community Park. The trail extension will include an underpass of

County Road 38E.

The total project is expected to cost about \$1.2 million, said Craig Foreman, park planning manager for the city.

"It's a great project and great to have the help of Great Outdoors Colorado," he said.

The Poudre River Trail runs through LaForte and Fort Collins as well as from Greeley to Windsor.

The final segment of the trail would connect Fort

Collins to Windsor via Timnath, which is working on its portion of the trail.

If the Three Bells easements come through, the trail would be extended 1.2 miles by the county.

Fort Collins eventually will extend its portion of the trail from the Environmental Learning Center under Interstate 25 to a site near the Walmart store in Timnath.

See **POUDRE**/Page A2

Boating hours and vessel inspections at Carter Lake

Special to the Surveyor

Reservoirs opened to boating April 1, 2010. The Larimer County Department of Natural Resources, in order to comply with State of Colorado Aquatic Nuisance Species Regulations, will continue with boating hours and vessel inspections at Horsetooth Reservoir and Carter Lake for the 2010 recreation season.

The department is required to inspect every vessel entering Carter Lake and Horsetooth Reservoir. In order to do that, boating access in 2010 will be regulated as below. No boat launching is permitted outside of these hours; however, boats already on the reservoirs may continue operation.

Boating hours:

- April 1 - Sept. 30, 2010: 6 a.m. - 10 p.m., 7 days a week (Opening may be delayed for ice.)
- Oct. 1 - Oct. 31, 2010: 6 a.m. - 10 p.m., 7 days a week, weather permitting
- Nov. 1 - March 31, 2011: 8 a.m. - 9 a.m. and Noon - 1 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays as weather and ice conditions allow

Berthoud Surveyor 4-8-2010

For further information about Carter Lake and Horsetooth Reservoir only, please go to www.larimer.org/naturalresources/boating_inspections.htm.

For information about requirements at parks managed by Colorado State Parks (Boyd Lake, etc.), please go to: <http://parks.state.co.us/NaturalResources/ParksResourceStewardship/AquaticNuisanceSpecies>.

For information about aquatic nuisance species from the Colorado Division of Wildlife, please go to <http://wildlife.state.co.us/WildlifeSpecies/Profiles/InvasiveSpecies/ZebraandQuaggaMussels.htm>.

Poudre

Continued from Page A1

This round of GOCO grants totaled \$24.5 million and will fund 23 projects in 16 counties. Larimer County entities received four grants totaling more than \$2.45 million.

The other Larimer County grants were:

> Berthoud — \$469,030 for the Pioneer Park project in the southeast part of town.

The park will include an acre of open space for various sports as well as two playgrounds, a basketball court, a roller/ice hockey area and a picnic pavilion.

> Estes Park — \$450,000 for the Fish Creek Trail sponsored by the Estes Valley Recreation and Park District.

The 2.43-mile trail project will result in a 9-mile contiguous trail running from downtown Estes Park to Lily Lake in Rocky Mountain National Park.

GOCO is funded through state lottery proceeds to support recreation and conservation projects statewide.

Opinion

The First
"Congr
free ex
people

COLORADOAN EDITORIAL BOARD:

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OUR VIEW

Big Thompson River deal a true win-win scenario

County protects public access while respecting private property

Larimer County officials have negotiated a successful compromise that will allow fishing access to the Big Thompson River while respecting the rights of property owners.

At issue was an 800-foot section of the river near the Hayden Subdivision, an area popular with fishers, picnickers and day-trippers. The series of deals put together by the county will allow public access to both sides of the river in that area, without trespassing on adjacent private property.

"I think this project is a good model to use in other parts of the canyon," said Gary Buffington, director of the county's Department of Natural Resources. "This is a ... win-win for public and private interests."

The challenge was created as the county tried to deal with 153 river parcels it acquired following the 1976 Big Thompson Canyon flood. The county has been selling off the properties, and property owners in the Hayden Subdivision wanted to buy flood parcels adjacent to their land.

That concerned fishers, who wanted to maintain public access to the river. The county accomplished that goal through a series of deals that let the county maintain ownership of the river shore in the area, along with two parcels that allowed access across the river.

"People will be able to walk to the river, step in and fish, and get out on the other side," Buffington said. "They'll be able to step in and out of the water without worrying about trespassing."

Through careful negotiation, the county was able to protect public access to a local treasure while respecting private property rights. That is indeed a win-win scenario.

Thursday Reporter-Herald April 15, 2010

County will provide training for volunteer positions

The Larimer County Department of Natural Resources will offer volunteer naturalist training beginning in late April.

Volunteer naturalists give public education programs on topics that include conservation, wildlife, biology and agriculture on open spaces and park properties. The training will include classroom sessions and field days during the workweek and on weekends from late April through early June, for a total of 11 days.

The Larimer County forester also is looking for two volunteers. One will perform administrative assistant duties on Mondays in May and June only, spending four hours answering phones, taking messages and relaying information to the forester.

Sort yard volunteers are needed to help at the Stove Prairie Sort Yard through June 26. Sort yards provide landowners a location to drop off beetle-kill trees and to get information on pine beetles. Volunteers will help to unload logs and provide customer service. Training will be provided by the county forester.

For details on any of the volunteer offerings, contact CJ Cullins, volunteer program coordinator, at 679-4552 or ccullins@larimer.org.

— Reporter-Herald staff

SECTION
B
Monday
Reporter-Herald

MARCH 22, 2010

THIS WEEK

Signs of Spring

Spring has arrived, and area residents will get a chance to enjoy it with a naturalist-led "Hey Kids! Signs of Spring" walk and the annual "Spring into Archaeology" event.

Those more focused on the coming year than the new season will get the chance to learn more about the school district's budget situation this week.

SATURDAY

Hike to focus on 'Signs of Spring'

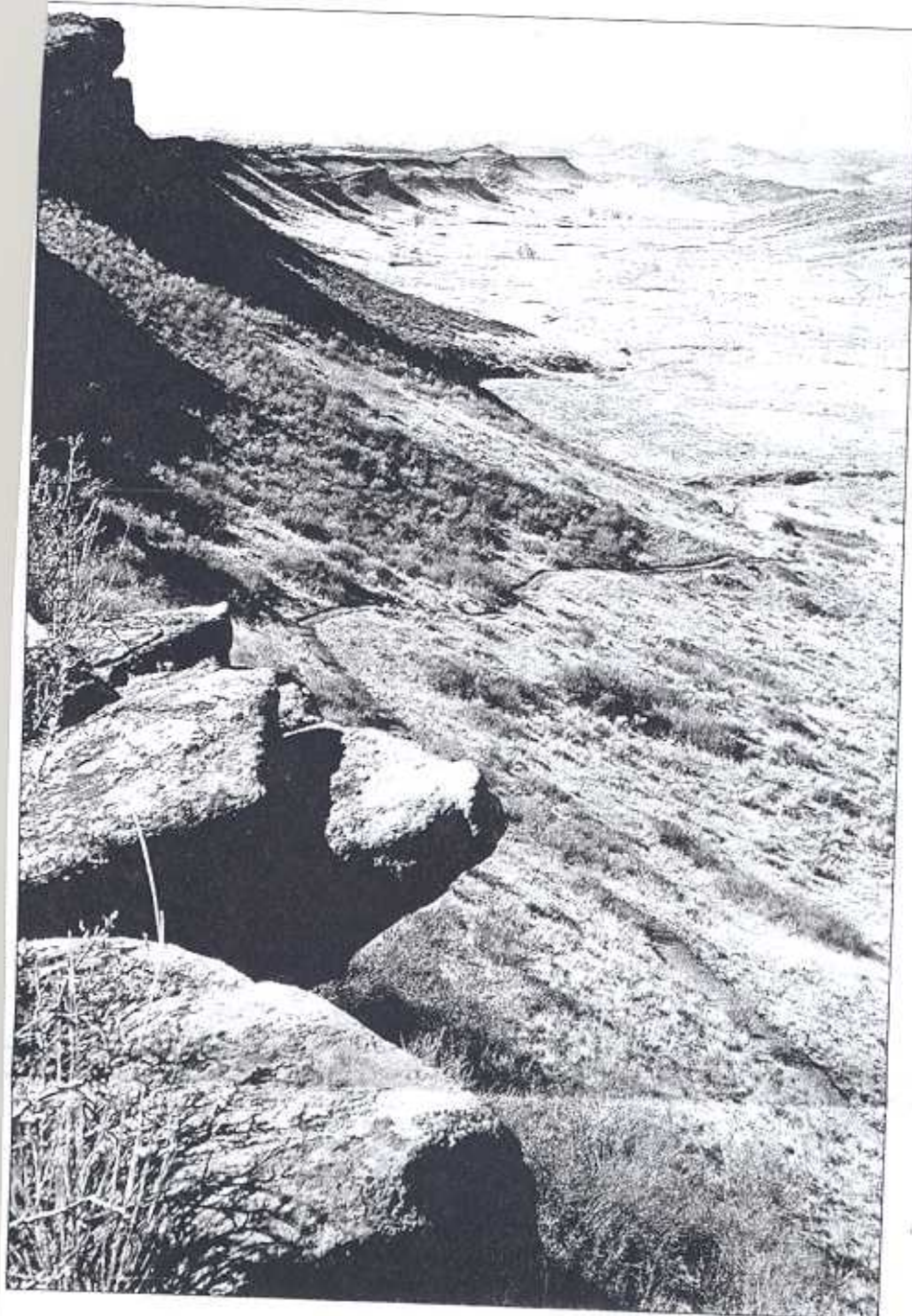
Larimer County Parks and Open Spaces will offer a naturalist-led "Hey Kids! Signs of Spring" walk at 9 a.m. Saturday, to look at new signs of spring at Devil's Backbone Open Space, off U.S. 34 on Hidden Valley Drive.

Participants should dress appropriately for the weather and bring water for the trail.

The program is for ages 4-11 and a parent or guardian must accompany children. It is free and no registration is required.

For details, call Rob at 679-4561 or visit www.larimer.org/naturalresources.

Archaeology is step of quest



The Blue Sky Trail winds its way through Larimer County Open Space on the Indian Creek property near the Devil's Backbone west of Loveland.

Reporter-Herald file photo

Respect the Rattle

No reason
to be scared
once you know
the facts
about snakes

By PAMELA DICKMAN
REPORTER-HERALD STAFF WRITER

- They are equipped with natural night vision.
- They are born with the chemical equivalent of a homing device.
- They could be the key to a breakthrough in breast cancer research.

No, we're not talking about super-scientists, but the prairie rattlesnake.

The poisonous snake with its menacing coil and diabolical-sounding rattle is actually an integral part of the ecosystem and a possible medical breakthrough.

These snakes live throughout Colorado including in open spaces in Larimer County.

Once the snakes come out of hibernation this month or next, hikers may spot them at the Devil's Backbone or Red Mountain Open Space.

But contrary to what many people think, the rattlesnake is not itching to bite people.

It will strike if it feels threatened, but if people back away and show the snake they are no danger, it will likely slither on its way.

Rattlesnakes are cold-blooded carnivores that need their venom to hunt and to eat, explained Rob Novak, Larimer County Department of Natural Resources education specialist.

The venom immobilizes their prey and helps them digest their food, he said.

"Venom is kind of like their shopping cart," said Novak.

"It's the way they collect their food. ... The snake really has no interest in wasting its venom on us. It takes a huge amount of energy to produce more."

Added Steve Mackessy, a professor and researcher who specializes in snakes: "In Colorado the risk of being struck by lightning, in matters of magnitude, is a hundred times greater than being bitten by a rattlesnake. For that matter, being stung by a bee and having complications is more common."

What is so cool about rattlesnakes?

Researcher and professor Steve Mackessy offers some tidbits.

1 Two pits on the front of their face are actually infrared imaging devices "like night viewing glasses or binoculars" that allow them to see their prey in complete darkness.

2 The venom of poisonous snakes, including prairie rattlesnakes, is broken down into proteins and peptides used in medical research. Some is used in medication to control blood pressure and prevent blood clots. Mackessy's research is looking at — and showing great promise in — battling breast cancer.

3 Rattlesnakes feed beautiful birds of prey including owls and other raptors.

4 Rattlesnakes hibernate together deep enough below ground to stay warm. These hibernaculums can have as many as 100 snakes in the winter, although ones of that scale are becoming more rare as people kill off the snakes.

5 The majority of rattlesnake bite victims are white men ages 18 to 30 who are most often handling the snake and under the influence of alcohol.

6 A rattlesnake's forked tongue will detect chemical smells and tastes, allowing them to know where prey is with a great deal of precision.

7 Male rattlesnakes will engage in "a glorified shoving match" for the attention of a female. During mating season, the males will crawl belly to belly straight up, to at least half their height, and try to push the other down. The winner gets the girl, and the loser slinks away.

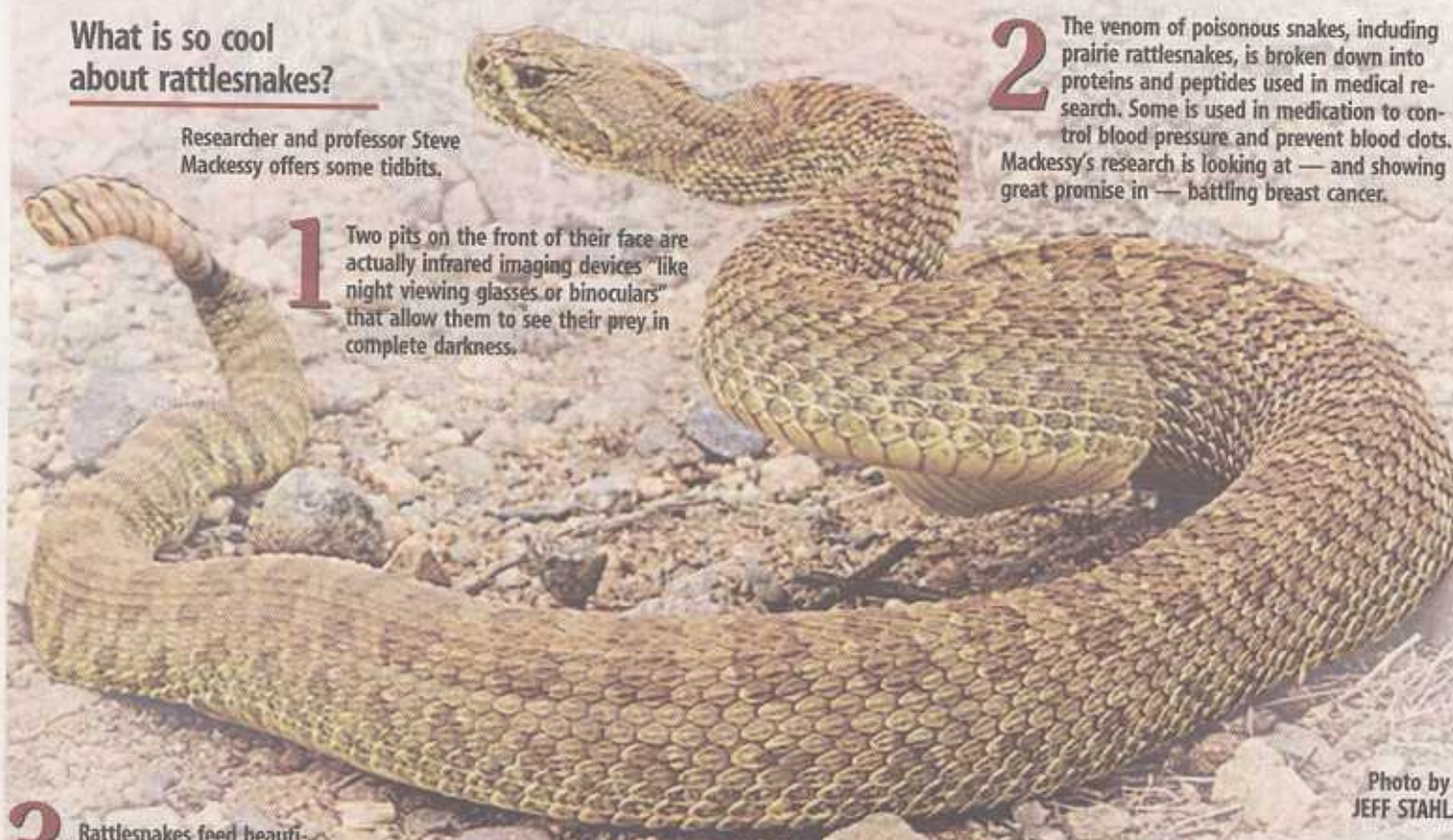


Photo by
JEFF STAHLA