

## Snapshots of Our Community

### Sertoma names essay winners



**Left:** Each year, Legacy Sertoma sponsors an essay competition among Monument Academy eighth-grade students on the subject of “What Freedom Means to Me.” Authors of the top three entries each receive an engraved trophy and a monetary award. The club recently announced those winners as Kathryn Smith, first place; Evan Swanigan, second place (both pictured), and Kylin Fell (not pictured), third place. The

objective of the competition is to instill a better understanding and appreciation of the freedoms and benefits that are enjoyed by this country’s citizens. Nathan Piotrowski, eighth-grade teacher, provided on-scene guidance and leadership. *Photo courtesy of Legacy Sertoma*

### Bill Nance blood drive, Mar. 30



**Above:** The Bill Nance blood drive was held at Antelope Trails Elementary School on March 30. Volunteers from sponsor Gleneagle Sertoma hosted the event, while locals also participated. The late Bill Nance was a longtime volunteer with the group who is much revered and had a big hand in the blood drive efforts, and the event was respectfully named for him. *Photo by Dean Jones.*

### Veterans Outreach, April 8



**Left:** April 8 marked the first annual Veterans Outreach, which was organized and sponsored by the Point Man International Ministries Monument outpost. Several area veterans service providers attended. Angels of America’s Fallen funds positive year-round activities for the children of fallen members of all branches of military service as well as first responders, regardless of cause of death. Freedom Hunters connects active-duty and combat veterans, families of fallen heroes, children of the deployed, and wounded soldiers

with outdoor adventures. The Colorado Springs Vet Center provides readjustment counseling services and community education, and serves as a liaison with Veterans Affairs facilities. The El Paso County Veteran Services Office primarily helps vets, their dependents, and their survivors cut through governmental red tape when applying for service-connected benefits. Representatives from Pikes Peak Hospice and Palliative Care, American Red Cross, Innova, and Mt. Carmel Center for Excellence also attended the April 8 event. Hearing tests were available throughout the morning. For more information about Veterans Outreach, contact Vinny Maffia at [help@pointmanmonument.com](mailto:help@pointmanmonument.com). *Photo by Jennifer Kaylor.*

### Workplace generational diversity



**Above:** Lawrence Wagner, CEO and co-founder of Spark Mindset, leads a seminar on “Millennials, Gen Xers, and Boomers: Synergistic Strategies for Your Business” at the Tri-Lakes Chamber of Commerce. *Photo by Chrystie Hopkins.*

*By Chrystie Hopkins*

How do the different generations, Baby Boomers, Generation X, and Millennials, talk to each other to achieve a healthy culture? This was the focus of a workshop by the Colorado Small Business Development Center (SBDC) on “Millennials, Gen Xers, and Boomers: Synergistic Strategies for Your Business” on March 15 at the Tri-Lakes Chamber of Commerce.

Lawrence Wagner, CEO and co-founder of Spark Mindset, wanted to take the time to “dive deep” into Millennials because of the challenge Baby Boomers and Generation Xers have in communicating properly with Millennials. He emphasized the onerous of this communication is the responsibility of the business leaders, which are typically from the older generations.

Wagner cited statistics that by 2025, 75 percent of the workforce will be made up of Millennials. He suggested that Millennials work best in an environment where they can be part of the process, have input, and collaborate. Millennials like to know “why” they are being asked to do a task and what the purpose and impact their work is having. Whether it be searching for a more socially responsible or impactful position, or a better paycheck, they are more likely to move on from a company after two years or less if not engaged in their work and the future of the company.

Wagner talked about how we often hear the word “entitlement” when referring to Millennials. He noted that this term, while perhaps true, is not fully accurate. Lawrence took time to highlight the many positives that Millennials bring to the workforce, including an overwhelming desire for excellence and success. They are very results-oriented and want feedback and mentoring so that they can gauge whether they are a success. Millennials thrive in an environment with flexibility and like validation and to know they are contributing in a positive way.

The workshop was sponsored by Ent Credit Union, Tri-Lakes Chamber of Commerce and Spark Mindset. Spark Mindset offers many workshops and seminars on the subject of diversity in the workplace and many other areas to aid in engagement and productivity in the workplace. Visit [www.sparkmedia.com](http://www.sparkmedia.com) for more information and schedule.

The SBDC and Tri-Lakes Chamber of Commerce offer business seminars eight times a year. Visit [pikespeaksbdc.org](http://pikespeaksbdc.org) and [TriLakesChamber.com](http://TriLakesChamber.com) for more information.

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### Newcomer at TLCA, April 5



**Left:** On April 5, Carrie Newcomer brought her musical style of “progressive spirituality” to the Tri-Lakes Center for the Arts (TLCA). Newcomer’s musical career started in college, though she “was unsure where it would lead.” However, following what she “loved” to do musically and her Quaker faith led to collaborations with a variety of musicians and artists such as Parker J. Palmer, travels to India as cultural ambassador for The American Center, and support for numerous social causes like the Interfaith Hunger Initiative.

Newcomer said she “writes in an inclusive way about spiritual experience involving community and social justice to create a better world.” Her music identifies those “things we all recognize across cultures,” that there is “something sacred in the ordinary day as we discover what really matters is our connection to the human story,” and “we have more in common than not.” Information on upcoming events at the TLCA is at [www.trilakesarts.org](http://www.trilakesarts.org). *Photo by David Futey.*

### Monument Community Lunch



**Left:** Yes, there is such a thing as free lunch. On April 22, at the second annual Town of Monument Community Lunch, free chili with all the fixings, conversations galore with neighbors, and real light sabers to play with took place at Monument Community Presbyterian Church. Shown here, Cub

Scouts Koa and Hunter Best and their mom, Miki, stopped in to eat and warm up after volunteering with the Great American Cleanup in the Tri-Lakes area in the morning. Lunch co-organizer Deb Dalton said, “Many people have asked why are we providing a free meal. My short answer to that is ‘community.’ We live one of the most wonderful communities in Colorado. And yet, we don’t get to know those who reside in the next block or down the street. I hear often how a tragedy brings communities together—well, can’t we do that without a threat to our way of life?” *Photo by Lisa Hatfield*