

A day in the life of Tri-Lakes, Mar. 18

By David Futey

As the coronavirus, COVID-19, began to affect most of the country, its impact could be seen across the Tri-Lakes area. Grocery and other stores, facing empty shelves, were requesting customers to purchase only what was needed and not hoard products. They were also seeking full- and part-time employees to meet the customer demand of re-stocking products and cleaning stores. Stores also adjusted and reduced hours to assist in those processes. Note that many grocery stores have special hours set aside for those 60 or older as “senior” hours. With social distancing being encouraged, schools and some businesses closed entirely for two or more weeks due to state and federal guidelines, with restaurants limited to take-

out and delivery service. However, Tri-Lakes-area residents also took the time to enjoy the outdoors individually or in small groups at parks or on their own by foot or bike. Remember to maintain a distance of at least 6 feet from others who are not part of your household when venturing outside for any reason. Also, given the rapidly changing situation, stay informed regarding the possible closure of trails, parks, playgrounds, and other outdoor spaces. Do not use these or other public areas should you be exhibiting symptoms of the coronavirus or any other illness. Information on a state level can be found at <https://covid19.colorado.gov/about-covid-19>. The Towns of Monument and Palmer Lake will provide updates through their websites and media outlets. *David Futey can be contacted at dfutey@ocn.me.*



Above and right:The Baptist Road King Soopers was busy with shoppers at their 7 a.m. opening. Though some shelves were empty, as in the soup section, King Soopers employees were busy re-stocking dairy and other items throughout the store. At Natural Grocers, produce and bulk item cases awaited re-stocking. Staff were in the process of re-stocking various items mid-day across the store to meet customer demand. As many of us shelter in place, this is a good time to remember those who so faithfully fill our basic needs. **Below:** At Lewis-Palmer High School, the student parking lot was empty as schools across the area and state were closed to encourage social distancing. Districts offered online learning for class instruction before and after the traditional spring break week. The Donald Westcott Fire Department responded to an emergency in the Gleneagle area. With social distancing and other actions residents can take to mitigate the virus’s spread, the hope is to “flatten the curve” of infections so health services such as hospitals and EMS are not overwhelmed in the coming weeks. *Photos by David Futey*



Remote learning



Above: Studios are empty and teachers are teaching their classes online. Now that everyone has gone home to wait for the word to get back out, a new billion-dollar business has emerged all over the country. Olivia Pennington (pictured), yoga teacher with Live.Now Monument, has begun to teach yoga in an empty studio with eager students at home ready to click the link of the Zoom (Zoom Technologies) meeting notice and they “are live.” Janet Sellers started teaching her art class to her students online. “They were all set up to take classes, and everything they do in person they can do at home with their own art supplies.” Anyone with a smart phone or laptop can join a video meeting. Go to startmyart.com to sign up for art classes today. This new way of doing traditional classes can give everyone the chance to safely mingle with others and know that we are not alone. *Caption by Marlene Brown. Photo by Victoria Pennington.*

Lunches for vets, first responders



Left: Pastor Sherry Ferriman of First United Methodist Church in Fountain runs an organization called Neutral Zone, a place to help military veterans and first responders transcend the moral wounding they experience through combat and crisis experiences. In January and February, Ferriman had organized once-a-month veterans’ breakfasts. When Gov. Polis issued the March 25 coronavirus stay-at-home order, Ferriman needed to rethink ways to support the service population. By rallying volunteers from Monument’s Tri-Lakes United Methodist Church (TLUMC) and Veterans Referring Veterans and partnering with Level Up Coffee and Raven Retro Games, Neutral Zone provided grab-and-go lunches on March 27. TLUMC families assembled 100 lunches. Above, Ferriman organizes lunch donations for a grab-and-go giveaway to veterans and first responders. *Photo by Margie Frostman.*