

Art Matters

ARTcation: throw for flow



By Janet Sellers
“Every good painter paints what he is.”—Jackson Pollock
Artist Jackson Pollock threw paint on his canvas in a meaningful way, understanding the flow of his thoughts came through the throw of his paint. Art lovers and museum curators worldwide enjoy seeing that freedom. His life challenges notwithstanding, he persevered in his art, becoming an icon for creativity in a new, phenomenal way.
There are so many artful things we can do—just watching the paint brush or colors flow soothes us as we observe

them. It’s the intent and the desire to make something and to be in those pleasant flows of thought, energizing us through the colors, regardless if it’s canvas, the driveway, or the top of a cake. Some of us are practicing artists, some are aspiring artists, yet anybody can enjoy creative pursuits.
Stay-at-home boredom? Schmor-dom! Give something creative a try, whether it’s frosting a cake or chalk drawings on your driveway. If you can’t bend down to the sidewalk, strap a brush onto a broom—artists of the mid-century modern movement used

brooms to move paint colors around their canvas. Anyone can make chalk pictures from scratch—here’s a recipe: Paint anywhere chalk paint:
• 1/2 cup corn starch
• 2/3 cup water
• Food coloring
• Mix water and corn starch and stir until the corn starch dissolves. Use a 1:1 ratio of corn starch and water; for painting on the sidewalk instead of paper (try brown paper bags!) you can incorporate just a bit more water to paint longer brushstrokes without need-

ing to reload the paintbrush with paint—always great for younger kids. Divide the paint mixture into the wells of a muffin tin or similar painting tray, add food coloring for desired colors. Colors will dry much lighter on the sidewalk than they appear in the tin!
Janet Sellers is an artist, writer, art teacher, and public speaker. She makes public art, garden sculptures, murals, and smaller works, too. Photograph your chalk creations and send them to her at janetsellers@ocn.me.

Snapshots of Our Community

Essential hidden heroes, Apr. 20



Above: Parks Foreman James Schubauer and Parks Technician Kellyn Brian are installing COVID-19 social distancing precaution signs at Monument Lake and other public parks and common areas. Photo by Sharon Williams.

OCN mailing day, Apr. 30

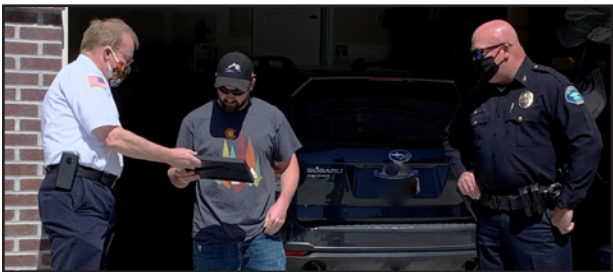
Right: More than 40 volunteers involved in the production and distribution of each issue of *Our Community News* (OCN) so your Tri-Lakes area news arrives in your mailbox on the first Saturday of each month. Many steps are involved in the monthly process. After reporters, photographers, columnists, and editors submit articles and other information for copy editing, OCN is laid out and sent to the *Pueblo Chieftain* for printing the 22,000 papers. The *Chieftain* then delivers the papers to a meeting room in downtown Monument where the papers are counted out and inserted, 140 at a time, into 150 U.S. Postal Service mailing tubs. Once all the tubs are filled, they are delivered to the Monument, Palmer Lake, and Briargate post offices for delivery to you. Contact editor@ocn.me if you’re interested in volunteering to assist with reporting, mailing day or other roles that produce this essential news source for the Tri-Lakes community. Photos by David Futey.



Men honored for their efforts, May 1



Above and right: Fire Chief Chris Truty presented awards to two men May 1 for their attempted life-saving efforts at Monument Lake on April 13. From left above are Truty, Monument Mayor Don Wilson, Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District board President John Hildebrandt, Monument Town Manager Mike Foreman, and Monument Police Chief Sean Hemingway. Both men took immediate action in an attempt to rescue a kayaker in distress on Monument Lake. Their names were not released. Photos by Jamey Bumgarner.



Monument Lake regrading, May 6



Above: Fishermen, boaters, paddleboarders and others who use Monument Lake no longer have to drive over deep ruts, tire tracks, and potholes. The town’s Public Works Department regraded the parking and beach areas on May 6. The lake had to be closed for half a day while workers used heavy equipment and shovels to level off the area. Photo by Michael Weinfeld.

Antelope Trails Parade of Thanks



Above: On May 7, Antelope Trails Elementary School teachers and staff organized a “thanks” and “we miss you” parade to the great delight of ATE parents and students. The parade of over 20 decorated cars, scooters, and two Wescott Fire Department vehicles weaved its way through the Gleneagle neighborhood with vehicle occupants honking horns, waving to spectators, and voicing hellos and good wishes. Along the parade route, parents and students held up signs of appreciation such as “Thank You ATE Teachers,” “We Miss You,” and “Our Teachers Are Superheroes” in their driveways and along the streets. Photo by David Futey.

