

Bee’s Book Club makes masks



Above: Bee’s Book Club has reinvented itself from a traditional book club into a dynamic producer of the widely needed quality face masks designed to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. They still have their traditional monthly book club meeting sessions, but since early April they have been manufacturing and distributing high-quality face masks at a rate of 1,000 per week. The beneficiaries of this effort have been first responders, doctors, nurses, seniors, prison guards and members of veterans’ groups. AARP Chapter 1100 in Black Forest is one of those recipients. The masks are made of donated 100% cotton cloth and ¼-inch elastic. Every mask, washable and reusable, takes about 15 minutes of individual effort to produce. The Book Club, led by their founder and President Adria Lopour, has a 15-year history of helping charitable organizations. Their activities include providing toys and other useful items to needy children. *Photo courtesy of Black Forest AARP.*

Coal car derailment, May 13



Above: Monument police reported a derailed coal car in the area of the 2100 block of Wagon Gap Trail the night of May 13. Sgt. Mark Owens told *Our Community News* at the scene that resident surveillance video showed “three white males” in their early teens at the site at the time of the derailment. Commander Jonathan Hudson says it’s not known if the teens deliberately released the brake, but the car did tip over spilling its contents of coal. The car was on the service track, so it didn’t disrupt train traffic. The investigation is being conducted by BNSF Railway police. BNSF External Corporation Communication Manager Ben Wilemon confirms that “trespassers were reported in the vicinity before the incident” but, he says, “at this time, it is still under investigation, so we cannot provide further details.” *Photo by Michael Weinfeld*

Fundraiser walk for Bakhita, May 16



Above: On May 16, a virtual walk along with socially distanced walks at Benet Hill Monastery and in Black Forest were conducted to raise awareness and funds for Bakhita Mountain Home (BMH), the first safe home in Colorado for victims of human trafficking. Participants in the virtual walk were asked to send photos of themselves to info@bakhitamountainhome.org. BMH, conceived in 2018 by an ecumenical group of Benedictine and Franciscan sisters, lay women and female trafficked survivors, will provide its residents with a safe haven, trauma-informed therapy, and life-enhancing skill. The walks were the first fundraising effort for BMH toward a renovation goal of \$190,000. Donations to this 501(c)(3) and information about BMH services can be found at www.bakhitamountainhome.org. Over 24 million individuals worldwide and hundreds of thousands in the United States are victims of human trafficking. If you or someone you know is a victim of human trafficking, call the National Human Trafficking Hotline at 1-888-373-7888 or 1-833-455-5075 in Colorado. *Photo by David Futey.*

Piping encouragement, May 8



Above: Pipe Major Sam Swancutt shared a Scottish Highland tradition with Monument on May 8. Clan pipers sometimes “play the sundown” from a hilltop, but in this case Swancutt piped encouragement to the residents and staff of Jackson Creek Senior Living on a blustery day. Some people watched from their windows, and others journeyed outside to listen. *Photo by Lisa Hatfield.*

Visible address numbers



Above: The Fire Department tells us how important it is to have bold address numbers clearly visible from the street for fire and medical emergencies. It recommends 4-inch, reflective numbers clearly outlined on a contrasting background. Try this project: In the dark of night, walk to the end of your driveway and down the street. Look at your address from both directions. Is it clear which driveway and which house are associated with that address? Residents of Black Forest Fire Rescue Protection District can see www.bffire.org/driveway-address-sign-post for details and a \$25 kit. If you lost your home in the Black Forest Fire, the signpost is free. If you live in another fire district, check with them for guidance on simple high-visibility house number signposts. *Photo courtesy of Terry Stokka.*

Community Meeting House, May 17



Above:The Chamber of Commerce, in keeping with the Town of Monument’s ongoing beautification project, has volunteers clearing and preparing to plant the garden area (lovingly referred to as Ms. T’s Garden) around the Chamber’s Community Meeting House on May 17. Contact John Howe if you wish to volunteer (719-487-1047). From left are John Howe, Tia “Ms. T” Mayer, and Michael Perry Jr. *Photo by Michael Weinfeld. Caption by John Howe.*