

Next solar cooking demo, Apr. 7



Above: At the solar oven cooking demonstration at the Woodmoor Improvement Association (WIA), Mar. 25, Lisa Hatfield harnessed the power of the sun to cook brownies, eggs in the shell, and hot water for tea on three kinds of homemade and purchased solar ovens. Another solar demo will be held on **April 7**, 1-3 p.m. 1691 Woodmoor Drive, Monument. Bring your own solar devices to share information and possibly solar cooking tips and sampling. Info on p30. *Photo by Janet Sellers.*

Simply irresistible



Above: A backyard visitor just can't say "no" to a free lunch. *Photo by Dave Betzler.*

Bill Nance Memorial blood drive



Above: From left, Donna O'Bryant and Eric Emde give blood at the biannual Bill Nance Memorial Blood Drive held on March 26 at Antelope Trails Elementary School. Geneagle Sertoma has sponsored the event since 2004 in memory of Bill Nance. Due to the severe storm on March 13, it is estimated that 900 blood donations were lost as 40 scheduled blood drives across the state were cancelled over a three-day period. Blood donations save 12,000 human lives a day worldwide, and donating is one of the easiest ways people can make a positive impact in their community. Help make up the deficit lost during the storm by donating at a location near you. For more information on where to donate, please visit vitalant.org or call 877-258-4825 or check Our Community Calendar monthly for upcoming local blood drives. *Photo by Natalie Barszcz.*

OCN mailing day needs you

At OCN's January 2019 annual meeting, the all-volunteer staff voted to expand the newspaper's distribution to include over 1,600 mailboxes in Black Forest. The new delivery territory extends from Highway 83 to slightly east of Black Forest Road and from County Line Road/Palmer Divide Avenue to slightly south of Hodgen Road. Combining the new routes with the prior area from the County Line to Northgate Road and from Palmer Lake to Highway 83, OCN's free circulation area now includes more than 20,000 mailboxes. Each month, the day before OCN's "first Saturday" delivery, a small army of volunteers gathers to count, tub, and load papers onto a delivery truck bound for the Monument, Palmer Lake, and Briargate Post Offices—and enjoy a morning of camaraderie. Our next mailing day will be May 3. New volunteers are always welcome! If you would like to be a part of OCN's mission to inform the public about local meetings and activities, contact Lisa at editor@ocn.me or (719) 339-7831. *Photo by Michael Weinfeld.*



Our Community Notices

By Judy Barnes, Events Editor

Although we strive for accuracy in these listings, dates or times are often changed after publication. Please double-check the time and place of any event you wish to attend by calling the information number for that event.

Monument Hill Kiwanis grants, apply by May 15

The Monument Hill Foundation, the charitable arm of the Monument Hill Kiwanis Club, has an annual granting program. Grants are awarded to charities as defined by the IRS, to various qualifying youth activities, and to schools for various educational activities and scholarships. Applications will be accepted through May 15. The grant application is available at www.monumenthillkiwanis.org/forms/mhf_grants. See ad on page 11.

Free income tax help, ends April 15

Through its Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, Pikes Peak United Way, in partnership with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), provides free income tax preparation assistance to individuals and families with a household income of \$54,000 a year or less. To find out if you qualify or to schedule an appointment, call 2-1-1 Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Tri-Lakes Talks

There is now a website, www.TLtalks.com, for local articles, podcasts, and much more. TLtalks.com is dedicated to providing a platform where you can write about what is important to you and where the Tri-Lakes community can exchange ideas, thoughts, and information. Visit www.TLtalks.com to see the mission statement, submission guidelines, and terms and conditions. See ad on page 13.

Lewis-Palmer School District Hall of Fame, nominations accepted through April 19

The community is invited to nominate a person who has made significant, ongoing contributions to the excellence of D-38 schools. More information and nomination forms are posted at www.lewispalmer.org under the Community tab. See ad on page 15.

Tri-Lakes Women's Club's Spring into Vintage, April 28-29

Tri-Lakes Women's Club began its popular Pine Forest Antique Show in 1977, bringing its annual bake sale into that event. The

Pine Forest show grew so much that the event had to move from the middle school to the high school in 1986. In the late '90s, the club added the home and garden element, which began with the sale of geraniums only, and invited vendors offering additional items for the home that weren't antiques. In 2015, it added an emphasis on artists. Last year, the club invited a couple of vintage vendors and quickly realized it was the future. So, in 2019, it is including more vintage items, calling the event Spring into Vintage. The show will be at Lewis-Palmer High School from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. April 27 and 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 28. Tickets are \$6 at the door. All proceeds from the show benefit nonprofits and public schools in the Tri-Lakes area. The Tri-Lakes Women's Club has given almost \$1 million to aid local schools and charities. For more information on the club, go to www.tlwc.net.

Get help if your vehicle is stuck in town or in the mountains

4x4orce is an emergency notification network of 4x4 enthusiasts/good Samaritans ready and willing to respond when, where, and how they can. Sending a message to the Facebook 4X4orce Community Rescue & Recovery page is the best way currently to get assistance. However, you can also phone 719-286-9323. If Facebook is not working, you can email help@4x4orce.org. In case of a real emergency, dial 911.

MVEA board nominations open, apply by Apr. 29

The board election will take place during the annual meeting June 13. There is a vacancy in District 3, which includes a portion of Black Forest. If you are interested in being a candidate, find application details at www.mvea.coop. For more information, phone 719-494-2528 or email candidate@mvea.org. See ad on page 14.

Clerk and Recorder's Office warns of vehicle renewal website scam

The El Paso County Clerk and Recorder's Office warns citizens of several imposter websites involving online vehicle renewals. Websites claiming to be authentic Department of Motor Vehicle (DMV) sites are being used to obtain personal and credit card information in addition to charging a premium price or overcharging citizens for services promised. The State of Colorado has two official vehicle registration websites: mydmv.colorado.gov and colorado.gov/dmv. Those are the websites

citizens should use for online motor vehicle services. The State DMV provides information about the unofficial, non-sanctioned websites at <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/dmv/unofficial-websites>.

Slash-Mulch season begins May 4

The El Paso County Black Forest Slash and Mulch program will accept slash (tree and brush debris only) May 4-Sept. 15. Mulch will be available May 19-Sept. 21 or until mulch runs out. Hours of operation are: Saturdays, 7 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sundays, noon-4 p.m.; Tuesday and Thursday evenings, 5-7:30 p.m. The mulch loader schedule is Saturdays only, 7 a.m.-4 p.m. The cost for slash is \$2 per load. The mulch loader fee is \$5 per bucket, about 2 cubic yards. The slash and mulch site is located at the southeast corner of Shoup and Herring Roads in the Black Forest area. For more information, visit www.bflash.org or phone the County Environmental Division, 520-7878; Carolyn, 495-3127; Chuck, 495-8675; Jeff, 495-8024.

Art gallery show seeks entries by May 24

Palmer Lake Art Group seeks new submissions for its upcoming Color Splash show at Tri-Lakes Center for the Arts in Palmer Lake. All artwork must be produced by exhibiting artists and not have been showcased at this gallery in the last two years. Entries must be submitted by May 24 for the show that runs Jun. 4-28 at Tri-Lakes Center for the Arts. For more information, visit the website, www.palmerlakeartgroup.com.

Volunteers needed for new nature trail

Black Forest's award-winning School in the Woods began work on an extensive nature trail system that will educate students and the community about the plants and animals found in Colorado's higher-altitude life zones. One of the trails will be handicap-accessible and include signs with braille symbols. School in the Woods needs to obtain, plant, label, and care for plants throughout the trail system. Volunteers are needed to support the project through public relations, fundraising, donations, assisting on planting and maintenance days, and other resources. If you want to get involved, contact Jon Wuerth, school coordinator, at jon.wuerth@asd20.org or 719-234-4330.

Closure of Monument Hill Road continues

The El Paso County Department of Public Works continues improvements along the southern portion of Monument Hill Road. Transition to Phase II, expected to occur in April, will require closure of Monument Hill Road from the south entrance of Monument Hill Church to the south entrance of Palmer