

Snapshots of Our Community

Nature Center Planned, April 4



Above: From left, Jason Meyer, El Paso County parks project manager, Nathan Robinson, El Paso County parks North supervisor, and Teresa Odello, Recreation coordinator, answer questions from the community at a public get together held on April 4 at the Pikes Peak Brewery in Monument. People talked about El Paso County Park Nature Centers and a new North County Nature Center in the works. *Photo by Janet Sellers.*

National Poetry Month, April 13



Above: Monument poetry enthusiasts gathered at the Covered Treasures Bookstore April 13 to pay tribute to recently deceased poets Mary Oliver and W.S. Merwin. L to R: Local poets James Scott Smith, Nancy Jurka, and Loring Wirbel shared selections that were memorable and meaningful to them. Not only did they share their poetry and the works of the deceased, but they offered their knowledge of writing their best poetry and how they got to be great at their art. At this annual gathering to celebrate National Poetry Month, the poems given as tribute were truly inspirational and gave attendees an unforgettable poetry event. *Caption by Ella Wertz, photo by Jennifer Kaylor.*

Fun and games at the senior center



Above: On April 18, seniors enthusiastically played a variety of dice games with prizes for the winners at the Tri-Lakes Senior Center's monthly game day. *Photo by Janet Sellers.*

Acoustic Eidolon at TLCA, April 12



Above: Though Acoustic Eidolon was making its 11th appearance at the Tri Lakes Arts Center (TLCA) on April 12, many in the packed crowd were fans seeing them for the first time. Joe Scott and Hannah Alkire performed mostly original tunes, with a couple of covers thrown in, such as Queen's *Bohemian Rhapsody*. Scott mostly played his guitar and ukulele made from the same wood as Alkire's cello, but on two songs, he did break out his famous custom-made double-necked "guitjo," which allows him to play both chords and melody at the same time. Alkire urged the audience to buy tickets to see them perform this June in a sea cave on one of the Faroe Islands, a group of volcanic formations between Norway and Iceland. *Photo by Michael Weinfeld.*

Bearbotics team headed to Houston



Above: The Bearbotics team had a banner year, winning the Colorado Regionals and placing second in the Nationals. Their performance at the Nationals earned them a place in the World competition in Houston, competing with over 500 teams. At the World competition, the robot built by the Bearbotics students will be challenged to perform complex tasks related to this year's space theme. The Kiwanis Club contribution completed a campaign to raise the \$20,000 required for the students, coaches, and support to make the trip to Houston. The men and women of the Monument Hill Kiwanis Club congratulate the Bearbotics team for their outstanding performance. Pictured, Monument Hill Kiwanis President Larry Young presents a check for \$3,000 to Bearbotics CEO Angela Grayson. *Caption and photo by RF Smith.*

Preparing for Monument's 140th



Above: Reporters continue to collect stories about old Monument in preparation for the town's 140th birthday this June. The stories will be on display at a booth in Limbach Park where a celebration is planned for June 15 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The festivities will include a band, activities for the kids, a food truck, and historic walking tours of the town. Volunteers and sponsors are needed. If interested contact Madeline VanDenHoek at 719-884-8013. Pictured from left are Linda Case, John Howe, Madeline VanDenHoek, and Michael Weinfeld. *Photo by Jodi Battle.*