

SEW Coalition, April 22



Above: In recent years, area school districts have suffered the loss of several students who took their own lives. Sheli Gray, mother of a current Palmer Ridge High School senior, sought to support teens and embarked on a quest for information about suicide prevention. Supported by youth-connected staff at her church—Director of Youth Ministry and Communications Sam Hastings and Education Director Nancy Fritzsche—Gray gradually built a foundation of information that she could use personally and share with her congregation at Tri-Lakes United Methodist Church. The team’s influence spread more broadly as it developed a network of professionals who work with teens and/or social and emotional wellness issues and culminated in the emergence of the Social Emotional Wellness Coalition of the Tri-Lakes Area, or SEW. About 35 representatives from organizations such as Tri-Lakes YMCA, Lewis-Palmer School District, Monument Hill Kiwanis, Sources of Strength, Value Up, Real Alternatives to Drugs and Drinking, National Alliance on Mental Illness, and Second Wind Fund, and parents and students, attended the flagship meeting April 22. Seeking to build connections so that individuals in crisis will be seen and heard, SEW acknowledges the good work already in place and seeks to support and synergize rather than compete. Hastings offered parting remarks after the first meeting of SEW. The next SEW meeting is scheduled for Monday, **May 13**, 6:30 to 8 p.m., at the Lewis-Palmer High School Distance Learning Lab. *Photo by Jennifer Kaylor.*

Tree planting demo, April 26



Above: Landscape Supervisor Cassie Olgren welcomed a small crowd to the Town of Monument’s combined Arbor Day celebration and tree planting demonstration April 26. Monument reached its 25th year as a Tree City USA community, and the Arbor Day celebration fulfills one of the core standards of maintaining its Tree City USA status. The tree planting and demonstration kicked off the town’s implementation of a water-wise demonstration garden. Olgren explained that “water wise” is the preferred terminology since “xeriscape” tended to cause confusion. The nascent garden will showcase rock features as well as water-sipping trees and native plants to encourage residents and commercial entities to use similar landscaping and thus reduce water consumption. Park Foreman James Schubauer taught the crowd to dig a hole at least twice the diameter of the tree’s root ball, to remove as much of the wrappings, burlap, wires, and twine from the root ball as possible, and assess the straightness of the tree from several perspectives before backfilling the hole with original soil. Newly planted water-wise trees require extra water during their first year. Pictured from left, Town of Monument Streets and Parks Techs Kellyn Bryan and Robert Grimaldo and Water Tech Dave Robinson work to remove the wire cage, twine, and burlap that surrounded the tree’s root ball. *Photo by Jennifer Kaylor.*

Spring into Vintage, April 27



Left: Wendy Bradley shares her knowledge of her wildcrafted “goods from the woods,” including dandelion and other historical recipes of wildflower jellies and vinegars. Dandelions, a common meadow herb, were one of the popular foods of the early 1800s by homesteaders searching for local ingredients with which to prepare foods. Bradley shared the history of wildcrafted foods of the Wild West at the Tri-Lakes Women’s Club’s Spring into Vintage event held at Lewis-Palmer High School April 27 and 28. *Photo by Janet Sellers.*

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.

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.bfslash.org or phone the County Environmental Division, 520-7878; Carolyn, 495-3127; Chuck, 495-8675; Jeff, 495-8024.

County seeks citizen input: Master Plan Survey now online

El Paso County has launched an online survey to gather residents’ views as it creates the new county master plan. To complete the survey, go online to www.elpasoco.com and click on the “Your El Paso Master Plan” graphic. See article on page 8.

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.

Volunteers Needed for County Juvenile Community Review Board, apply by May 17

The El Paso Board of County Commissioners is seeking community-minded citizen volunteers to serve on the Juvenile Community Review Board. Applications are due by **May 17**. The volunteer application is located at www.elpasoco.com. Click on the “Volunteer Boards” link. For more information, call 520-6436 or visit www.elpasoco.com.

Art gallery show seeks entries, due 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.

Tri-Lakes Y Summer Sports Camps

For children ages 3 and up, weekly camps for various sports **June 10-Aug. 2**. Financial assistance is available. For more information, call 481-8728 or stop by the YMCA, 17250 Jackson Creek Pkwy., Monument. See ad on page 6.

Black Forest Together Offers 2019 Season Services

Black Forest Together provides the following fire recovery/mitigation services to the Black Forest community summer through fall, weather permitting.

- Volunteer Projects: Post-fire recovery includes hauling slash to the slash/mulch site, building erosion control barriers, planting seedlings to reforest the burn scar. Nominal fees may apply to cover equipment expenses.

- Trees 4 Tomorrow: Transplanting of larger local ponderosa pine trees to expedite reforestation of the burn scar. Discount for fire survivors.
- Green Forest Mitigation: Utilizes local tree contractors to mitigate properties to Colorado State Forest Service standards to reduce the risk of another forest fire.
- Community Outreach and Education: Promotion of healthy-forest education and best practices to residents, schools, and organizations to create a fire-adapted, resilient community.
- Phoenix Program Consulting: Consultation and assistance to other fire-impacted communities, providing community leaders the tools to minimize the time needed to implement sustainable recovery operations.

For more information, contact Black Forest Together, 495-2445, or www.resourcecenter@blackforesttogether.org. See ad on page 11.

Kindermusik classes coming to Monument

Kindermusik uses the power and joy of music-making to help children up to 4 years old learn and grow during those years most critical to brain development. Movement and music classes for ages up to 4 take place Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Saturday mornings at the Northland Community Church, 245 2nd St., Monument. For more information, contact Carla Maddox: 302-5021, www.TheMusicAdvantage.com. See ad on page 4.

July 4th Parade

Registrations are now open if you want to be in the Independence Day parade. Register online at www.MHKiwanis.org. See ad on page 11.

County seeks nominations for Veteran of the Year, nominations due June 30

El Paso County is currently seeking nominations for the