

First Responder Kits



Left: We rise tallest when we bend to serve others, and so children's "Rise Week" happened the week of July 26 at the Church at Woodmoor. The kids made "First Responder Kits" to be used by either the responders of Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District or the people they are serving in an emergency. The kits included bottled water, gum, cheese crackers, granola bars, mints, and antibacterial wipes. The little girl with the helmet is Poppy Prickett. *Photo courtesy of Rebecca Harlin.*

New playground opened, July 26



Above: The Church at Woodmoor held a dedication and ribbon-cutting ceremony July 26 to open its new community playground. The playground was made possible with donations in honor of Marie Panzer, Frank Matthews, and Clifford and Laura Vliet. The Church at Woodmoor considers community outreach as part of their mission and hopes to see children from around our community enjoying the playground. The dedication was made by Pastor Michele Richardson. In attendance were the family members of the honorees, representatives from the Tri-Lakes Chamber of Commerce, members of Tri-Lakes Cares, and members of the church. Front row, from left, Ruby Taylor, Larry Vliet, Don Panzer, Cameron Steele. *Photo courtesy of Rebecca Harlin.*

OCN photo contest winner



Above: On June 22, while hiking in Pike National Forest Monument Preserve, Jeff Haeffele photographed a particularly cooperative cicada. This is our very own Colorado cicada, among 29 species in the state. Young cicadas burrow and develop underground, feeding on fluids from roots of grasses, shrubs, and trees. These cicadas do little if any injury to the plant. They range from 1 to 2 inches long. The Colorado male cicadas "sing" to attract females, producing a synchronized, "white-noise ticking" sound. Adult cicadas emerge 3 to 5 years after eggs hatch. Periodical cicadas, commonly heard and seen in the Midwest and Eastern U.S., emerge every 17 or 13 years and do not live in Colorado. The Eastern cicada species produces a distinctive, often shrill, buzzing and clacking noise. *Caption by Sharon Williams. Photo by Jeff Haeffele.*

Keep them coming! Send your best "Life in Tri-Lakes" photo to editor@ocn.me no later than **Aug. 20**. Please don't send more than two photos. Include names of any people in the photo, date taken, a description of the activity or location, and the name of the photographer. Call Lisa at 719-339-7831 with questions.

Our Community Notices

By the OCN calendar team

If you are interested in helping OCN compile the monthly calendar and notices, please write to calendar@ocn.me. We would love to have your help! 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. Please notify us if your event listing needs to be updated.

Red Flag Warning!

A Red Flag Warning means warm temperatures, very low humidity, and stronger winds are expected to combine to produce an increased risk of fire danger. Extinguish all outdoor fires properly. Drown fires with plenty of water and stir to make sure everything is cold to the touch. Do not throw live charcoal on the ground and leave it. Never leave a fire unattended. Sparks or embers can blow into leaves or grass, ignite a fire, and quickly spread. See www.elpasoco.com/fireworks-burn-ban-information/.

Black Forest Slash-Mulch Site

Black Forest Slash-Mulch Program is a Wildfire Mitigation and Recycling Program. It accepts slash (trees, limbs, and brush debris only, maximum length 6 feet, maximum diameter 8 inches) (no stumps, roots, weeds, grass, lumber, or trash). Cost to drop off slash is \$2 per load. Mulch loader fee \$5 per bucket, about 2 cubic yards. Co-sponsored by the El Paso County Environmental Division, Colorado Forestry Association, and the Black Forest Fire Department, in cooperation with the Colorado State Forest Service and the State Board of Land Commissioners. Hours: Saturdays, 7 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sundays, noon-4 p.m.; and Tuesday and Thursday evenings, 5-7:30 p.m. The mulch loader schedule is Saturdays only, 7 a.m.-4 p.m. on specified days. See www.bfslash.org for a form to bring with you, or phone the county Environmental Division, 520-7878. Southeast corner of Shoup and Herring Roads in Black Forest.

Area code required soon for local (719) and (970) calls

Colorado customers with numbers in the 719 and 970 area codes should start dialing 10-digits (area code + telephone number) for all local calls. They will still count as local calls. Beginning Oct. 24, 10 digits will be necessary for all local calls or they will not go through. Check your safety and security alert devices to be sure they are programmed with 10-digit dialing. You can still dial just three digits to reach 711 (relay services) and 911 (emergency services) and other local three-digit services including 211, 311, 411, 511, 611, 711 or 811 are currently available in your community, dial these codes with just three digits.

D38 Board candidates sought

The Board of Education of the Lewis-Palmer School District No. 38 calls for nomination of candidates for school directors to be placed on the ballot for the regular biennial school election to be held on Tuesday, November 2, 2021. Petitions due **Aug. 27**. Information about qualifications and petitions can be found on ad on page 6.

Monument Charter

Commission candidates sought

Candidates for the Town of Monument Charter Commission must be registered electors of the town. Nomination petition forms can be picked up from the town clerk at Monument Town Hall, 645 Beacon Lite Road. Petitions and statements must be filed with the town clerk by Monday, **Aug. 23**. See [TownofMonument.org](http://townofmonument.org) for details.

Openings on Monument boards

The Town of Monument has openings on its Planning Commission and Board of Adjustments. For more information, visit <http://townofmonument.org/261/>

Available-Board-Openings.

I-25 and CO 21 (Powers Blvd) Interchange updates

The new northbound I-25 exit ramp to Northgate Blvd. is now open. A new interchange and a ¼-mile stub of state highway CO 21 (Powers Blvd.) will soon connect I-25 to Voyager Pkwy. This \$65 million project is the first part of a two-part plan. Funding has not yet been secured to connect CO 21 from its current terminus at CO 83 & Interquest Pkwy. to Voyager Pkwy. For map of new interchange and connection from I-25 to Voyager Pkwy, see <https://i25powers.com/>.

CO21 (Powers Blvd) and Research Parkway Construction Schedule

Work will be completed in fall 2022 and will consist of replacing the current at-grade intersection with an innovative Diverging Diamond Interchange by constructing an overpass for Powers Boulevard/ Colorado Highway 21 traffic to move continuously through the intersection over Research Parkway. For many more details and rendering of final configuration, including a video showing new traffic flow, see <https://cccpi.net/cdot-powers-research.pdf>.

MVEA Scholarships and Trips

Mountain View Electric Association's Youth Leadership Trip Contest offers a chance to win a trip to Washington D.C. or be invited to Colorado Electric Education Institute's Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp in Steamboat Springs. Deadline Nov. 11. MVEA's college scholarship program deadline is January 17. See ad on page 16.

Volunteer for Tri-Lakes Cares

There are many areas within Tri-Lakes Cares that you can help serve. Volunteers interact with clients, stock the food pantry, distribute grocery orders, process donations, pack Snack Packs for local youths, and contribute in many other ways to the success of Tri-Lakes Cares. Becoming a volunteer is easy and fun. For details, contact Volunteer Coordinator Nichole Pettigrew, 719-481-4864 x113, VolunteerCoordinator@Tri-LakesCares.org; or visit <https://tri-lakescares.org/volunteer/>.

Tri-Lakes Cares needs us now more than ever

Tri-Lakes Cares is the only food pantry and human services organization located in and serving northern El Paso County through emergency, self-sufficiency, and relief programs. The community-based, volunteer-supported center is a critical resource for our neighbors in need. The best way to help support Tri-Lakes Cares is to make a financial donation. For more information about Tri-Lakes Cares or how you can help, contact Nicole Pettigrew, director of Volunteers and Community Partnership, at 719-481-4864 Ext. 111; communityengagementmanager@tri-lakecares.org; or visit www.tri-lakes-cares.org.

El Paso County Road Safety Plan

Tell us your thoughts on road safety issues in El Paso County and where you have experienced safety concerns. The county Road Safety Plan Project Team will incorporate this feedback into the plan including, but not limited to, identifying emphasis areas, selecting proven countermeasures, and in developing an implementation list. See website to enter comments on the interactive map. epc-saferoads.com/leave-comments

CDOT: stories of distracted driving victims

Distracted driving continues to be a dangerous issue on Colorado roads. An average of 42 crashes a day involve distracted drivers, and the consequences can be truly life-changing. Please rethink your distracted driving behaviors and consider the reactions of those around you. "Every time I see a distracted driver, my first thought is to get as far away from them as possible," said Susan Dane, founder of