

Seniors advised to protect identity, money against fraud

By Candice Hitt

On May 2, Bob Mayer of the AARP's Elder Watch program of Colorado spoke to seniors at the Lewis-Palmer District Administration Building in Monument about financial fraud and exploitation. The Elder Watch program works with, and receives grants from, the Colorado Attorney General's office to make presentations around the state informing seniors of the risks of fraud.

Mayer discussed the 2011 fraud statistics, stating Colorado is ranked first in the nation in fraud and related complaints and 11th in identity theft complaints. Greeley, Colorado Springs and Boulder are in the top 10 largest metropolitan areas in fraud cases. Ten million adults nationwide are victims of identity theft annually.

Ways to protect against fraud

Seniors are a target for fraud because they are often isolated and grew up in

a different time when fraud was not a big concern, Mayer said. Ways to protect against fraud were discussed at the meeting, including registering on the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) No Call list at www.donotcall.gov or 888-382-1222 and the Colorado No Call list at www.coloradonocall.com or 800-309-7041.

Seniors were advised that the safest way to pay bills is using online bill pay instead of the Postal Service and that they shouldn't carry their Social Security cards, or unneeded credit cards, with them.

Citizens can report fraud at 800-222-4444. For a more detailed list ways to prevent fraud or additional sources of information: www.aarpelderwatch.org.

Candice Hitt can be reached at candice.hitt@ocn.me.



Above: Seniors turn-out for the Elder Watch meeting.



Right: Bob Mayer of Elder Watch.

Photos by Candice Hitt.

Chefs meet the challenge at Taste of Tri-Lakes Cares



Above: Seth Chapin, left, and Tri-Lakes Cares Executive Director Haley Chapin, right, help Katie Saucedo and Brent Hedrick of First National Bank set up their game. Photos by Harriet Halbig.

By Harriet Halbig

An estimated 170 people attended the second annual Taste of Tri-Lakes Cares on May 7 at the Sundance Mountain Lodge.

This event brought together chefs from six restaurants, requiring them to use items from a list of those most commonly donated to the charity. These items included canned yams and apple-sauce, Jell-o, Vienna sausages, processed cheese, and Hamburger Helper. Chefs were then challenged to use all of the items assigned and were allowed to add others.

Participating restaurants were Champps, the R and R Coffee Café, Bella Panini, First and Ten Sports Bar, Texas Roadhouse, and Oakley's. In some cases, recipes were provided for those who came to taste the results of the challenge.

Several other businesses had booths offering games and other challenges. The Lewis-Palmer High School Key Club provided assistance with collecting donations and keeping supplies running smoothly.

Those who attended were charged a \$10 admission fee plus the donation of one of a list of specific items provided by



Above: Publicity Chair Judy Lyle, left, and Event Chair Kathleen Fulton put a tremendous amount of time and effort into planning the event.

Tri-Lakes Cares such as toiletries, laundry soap, and diapers. Tri-Lakes Cares also provides its clients with gasoline vouchers and rental, utility, and medical assistance.

Harriet Halbig can be reached at harriethalbig@ocn.me

Monument Art Hop opens for the season, May 17

By David Futey

The Monument Art Hop began on May 17 with its usual mix of art, food, and other entertainment. Downtown Monument galleries and businesses open their doors from 5 to 8 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month through September. Information on the Art Hop is at www.monumentarthop.org.

David Futey can be reached at dfutey@ocn.me.



Pictured: (Top) Brad Unfred of Shades of Amber demonstrates chalk paint. (Middle) At Margo's on the Alley, Tri-Lakes Monument FPD firefighter Franz Hankins displayed his photographs of landscapes, textures, and architecture. (Bottom) Palmer Lake resident James "Che" Arnholdt of Che's Art displayed his leather and bead works, North American art pieces, and carvings from aspen and pipestone. Photos by David Futey.

