

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.

Wednesday Senior Lunch at Big Red February Menu

Feb. 11: Ham, scalloped potatoes, salad

Feb. 18: Raspberry chipotle chicken, roasted potatoes, salad

Feb. 25: Lasagna, Caesar salad, garlic bread

Rolls and butter are served with each meal except sandwiches. Dessert is also provided.

Lunch is at 11:30 a.m. at 146 Jefferson St., Monument (the School District 38 Administration Building, "Big Red"). \$3 voluntary donation. Entertainment follows lunch. For more information, call Judy, 487-9067. An activity of Tri-Lakes Health Advocacy Partnership. Meals are provided by Pinecrest Catering, Palmer Lake; Nikki McDonald, executive chef, 481-3307.

Free income tax filing assistance by AARP

The American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) is offering free income tax filing assistance. Trained AARP volunteers will be available to answer questions and to assist filers in completing their federal and Colorado income tax returns every Monday and Thursday, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., at Tri-Lakes Cares, 235 Jefferson St., Monument, until **April 13**. Free e-filing of both federal and Colorado returns is available.

Taxpayers with more complicated returns should seek the advice of a paid professional. Filers are asked to bring their W-2's, 1099 INT, 1099 DIV, any health insurance information received, etc. Appointments are recommended. Please call 481-4264, ext. 118, and leave your name and telephone number and you will be contacted for an appointment.

Tri-Lakes HAP Thrift Store February specials

The Tri-Lakes Health Advocacy Partnership Thrift Store at 790 Highway 105, Suite D, is open Mon.-Sat., 10 a.m.-4 p.m. This month get 20 percent off everything **Feb. 7**; 20 percent off kitchenware **Feb. 9-28**. Seniors age 62 and older get a 20 percent discount every Wednesday. For more information, contact 488-3495.

Academy North Gate bridge work through summer

Two bridges outside the U.S. Air Force Academy's North Gate will be under repair through August 2015. To ease congestion, the academy will make the gate a one-way, entrance-only road in the mornings. From 7-9 a.m., no out-bound traffic will be allowed through the North Gate, and travelers exiting the academy during those hours will have to use the South Gate.

Monument Academy Preschool open enrollment, through Feb. 20

Classes encourage self-autonomy, academics, and creative play. All classes offer Core Knowledge curricula, beginning elements of Saxon Math, and the Love & Logic discipline system. For more information, contact 481-1950, www.monumentacademy.net.

Choice enrollment now open in D-38, tours offered

Choice enrollment for all grade levels is now open through **Feb. 20**. This is the time for residents and non-resident students to apply to attend any D-38 school. Details and forms are posted on the district website, www.lewispalmer.org. Both D-38 high schools are offering tours for families on the following dates. Lewis-Palmer High School, **Feb. 13**, 1:30 p.m.; Palmer Ridge High School, **Feb. 20**, 1:30 p.m. Please contact Palmer Ridge at 867-8600 or Lewis-Palmer at 488-6186 to sign up. These tours are intended for district or non-resident students wishing to choice enroll or for new families moving to our area. Check with individual schools for additional open houses and tours.

St. Peter Catholic School enrolling for preschool-eighth grade, 2015-2016

The school offers full and half-day preschool, Core Knowledge Curriculum with small class sizes, Christ-centered education. NCA accredited, state licensed, financial aid available. Call or visit: 124 First St., Monument; 481-1855; www.petertherock.org.

Tri-Lakes Women's Club announces 2015 grant process, apply by March 15

Tri-Lakes Women's Club (TLWC) grant application for 2015 will be available until **March 15** on the TLWC website, www.tlwc.net. Eligible organizations include non-profit and public service organizations and public schools

that serve the Tri-Lakes area. Special program and project requests are welcomed. The application package includes the instructions as well as other very important qualifying information. For more information, contact the committee chair, Donna Wagner, at granting@tlwc.net.

Sponsors needed for Lewis-Palmer Football Old School Golf Tournament, May 23

This scramble tournament fundraising event still needs hole sponsors, \$100 per hole, with a sign at a hole; a company to cater lunch for 80 people at Lewis-Palmer High School; and prize donations. To become a sponsor or for more information, contact Coach Tupper, dtupper@lewispalmer.org.

Exchange student host families needed for 2015-16 school year

Welcome a new culture into your home and provide a life-changing experience for a teenager from another country. EF (Education First) High School Exchange Year program offers exceptional and financially secure exchange students. Contact local exchange coordinators Sheryl and Dave Ellis, 208-9739 or sheryl.ellis@EFexchangeyear.org. For more information about the program, visit www.EFexchangeyear.org.

Sheriff's Office warns of phone scam

The El Paso County Sheriff's Office has received information of fraud which involved impersonation of a deputy sheriff. On both occasions the victims received a phone call; the caller identified himself as a deputy from the Sheriff's Office. The suspect told the victims they had a warrant and needed to report to the Sheriff's Office at 27 E. Vermijo Ave. to make a \$1,000 payment to clear up the warrant. The Sheriff's Office reminds citizens that the office never calls and informs individuals they have an active warrant and never asks individuals to make payments to clear up a warrant. Warrants must be taken care of at the Criminal Justice Center, by being booked into jail and then bonding out. If you have information about these events or have experienced something similar, please call the Sheriff's Office Communications Center non-emergency line at 390-5555.

Emergency Notification System update

If you registered for the Emergency Notification System (reverse 911) prior to July 2013, you may need to create a new account. Go to www.elpasoteller911.org and select "sign up" on the registration page. If you are able to log in using your existing user name and password, no further action is needed. If you get an error message indicating your email or password is invalid, press the sign-up button and create a new account. If you need assistance, dial 785-1971 and a staff member will return your call.

Free transportation and safety services for seniors

Mountain Community Senior Services offers free transportation and safety services to Tri-Lakes seniors. If you need a ride to a medical appointment, grocery shopping, or the local senior lunches, a volunteer driver will be happy to help you. The number to call is 488-0076 to leave a message for the dispatcher. If you are in need of grab bars in the bathroom, a ramp to your door, or repair of stairs or railings, please call Cindy Rush, 488-0076, and leave a message.

Free Senior Safety Handyman Services

Senior Safety Handyman Services is a unique program funded by the Pikes Peak Area Agency on Aging. It is designed to help seniors (age 60 and over) in northwest El Paso County with safety-related handyman projects. Dedicated, paid contractors and volunteers install grab bars, wheelchair ramps, railings, steps, etc., to help seniors to continue to live independently in their own homes. For service, call 488-0076 and leave a message for Cindy Rush. For more information, visit TriLakes-mcts-sshs.org.

Volunteer drivers needed for seniors' transportation service

Mountain Community Transportation for Seniors is a non-profit, grant-funded organization that provides free transportation to Tri-Lakes seniors 60 years old and over. The program needs additional volunteer drivers. For information, email MCSS at mcseniorservices@gmail.com or call the MCSS dispatch hotline at 488-0076.

LEAP—Help for heating bills

The Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP) is a federally funded program that provides cash assistance to help families and individuals pay a portion of winter home heating costs. The eligibility period for LEAP runs through April 30. Application packets will automatically be mailed to residents who received LEAP assistance last year at the address where they were living at that time. To find out if

you qualify for LEAP, call 1-866-HEAT-HELP (1-866-432-8435) or visit www.colorado.gov/cdhs/leap.

Donala's Customer Assistance Program

The Donala Water and Sanitation District offers a Customer Assistance Program in conjunction with Tri-Lakes Cares to help Donala customers in financial hardship, unable to pay their water and sewer bills. Applications can be picked up at the Donala office at 15850 Holbein Dr. in Gleneagle or at Tri-Lakes Cares in Monument. For information call 488-3603.

Monument Marketplace Facebook page

Tri-Lakes residents can sell their used items, trade items, and chat about anything local goings-on at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/monumentmarketplace/>.

Get volunteer help for your nonprofit

Due to popular demand, the Lewis-Palmer School District is adding a list of volunteer opportunities to its Youth Activities Directory online. If your nonprofit has a need for volunteers for a one-time project or an ongoing effort and can use volunteers under age 18, obtain a directory listing form on the district website www.lewispalmer.org under the community tab. Nonprofits may list their volunteer needs in the directory free of charge. For information, contact Robin Adair, P.O. Box 40, Monument, CO 80132; call 785-4223 or email radair@lewispalmer.org.

Attention Tri-Lakes residents with medical conditions

If you have a medical condition or a physical disability, please contact Jennifer at Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District, 484-0911, to register for emergency assistance if evacuation is required.

Tri-Lakes HAP Senior Center programs

The Tri-Lakes Health Advocacy Partnership Senior Citizens Center is next to the Lewis-Palmer High School Stadium (across from the YMCA) and is open 1-4 p.m., Tue.-Fri., and earlier for scheduled activities. The facility has a lounge, craft room, game room, and multipurpose room. Programs include pinochle, National Mah-jongg, line dancing, tea time, bingo, and more. Ping-pong, Wii video games, puzzles and board games, refreshments, a lending library, computers with Internet connections, and an information table are also available. For information about programs for seniors, visit www.TriLakesSeniors.org.

Senior Beat newsletter—subscribe for free

Each monthly Senior Beat newsletter is full of information for local seniors, including the daily menu of the senior lunches offered Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays in Monument. It also contains the schedule of the classes and events for the month at the Senior Citizens Center. To subscribe, send an email with your name and mailing address to SeniorBeat@TriLakesSeniors.org. Senior Beat can also be viewed online at www.TriLakesHAP.org.

Senior Safety Program

Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District offers a free senior safety program to all Tri-Lakes seniors. The program includes smoke detector evaluations, home safety assessments, vial of life, and fire prevention. For information call 484-0911 or visit www.tri-lakesfire.com.

County prescription discount program could save you money

El Paso County's prescription discount program saved 10,000 residents \$250,000 in discounted medicines over 18 months at no additional taxpayer cost. People using the card saved an average of 23 percent. There are no eligibility requirements and no strings attached to receive the discounts. You can pick up a free Prescription Discount Card at most county government locations or you can download your own personalized prescription discount card on the county website (bottom of the front page) at www.elpasoco.com/. Any county resident without prescription coverage can use this program. Even if you have insurance for prescription medications, the discount card might save you money on prescription medications your existing plan does not cover. For information, visit www.elpasoco.com/ or call 520-6337 (MEDS).

Free gun-lock kit

The Monument Police Department is offering free firearm safety kits to local residents through a partnership with Project ChildSafe, the nationwide firearms safety education program. Each kit contains gun safety information and a cable-style gunlock that fits most types of handguns, rifles, and shotguns. The Police Department administrative offices at 645 Beacon Lite Rd. are open Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Drop by during those times to pick up a free gun-lock kit. For information, phone 481-3253.

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