

# 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

**March 11:** Tuna on a croissant, avocado, chips

**March 18:** Chicken with artichokes, rice, salad

**March 25:** Chicken 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 481-4864, ext. 118, and leave your name and telephone number and you will be contacted for an appointment.

## 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](http://www.tlwc.net). Eligible organizations include nonprofit 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](mailto:granting@tlwc.net).

## Tri-Lakes Y spring sports, sign up now

Practices begin the week of March 30 for Spring Volleyball, grades 1-8, Spring Soccer, 3 years old through grade 6, Spring Flag Football, grades 1-6. All spring sessions run April 11-May 16. Financial assistance is available. Register at [www.pymca.org](http://www.pymca.org) or at the Y, 17250 Jackson Creek Pkwy., Monument.

## "Pet of the Year" local photo contest

Win \$600 in prizes. Kirkland Professional Photography is offering free sessions to get some new photos of an amazing pet, and pet with people. These will be used for marketing their pet photography. In addition to your free session (regularly \$189), Kirkland will give you a free 5-by-7 portrait to show their appreciation for your participation. One lucky client will win a \$500 Kirkland Professional Photography gift certificate. Woodmoor Veterinary Hospital, the photo contest judges, will award a \$100 gift certificate to the winner as well. Tri-Lakes Cares will receive a donation from Kirkland Photography for every entry. Kirkland will photograph your pets in **March and April**; a limited number of sessions are available. Call 487-1779 to make a reservation.

## 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](http://www.petertherock.org).

## 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, 867-8029, or email [dtupper@lewispalmer.org](mailto:dtupper@lewispalmer.org).

## Monument Hill Country Club 3 Sport

### All Day Summer Camps

For ages 7-13: Golf, Swim, Tennis, Bingo. Session 1, **June 8-12**; Session 2, **July 6-10**; Session 3, **July 20-24**; Session 4, **Aug. 3-7**. Cost: \$210 members, \$250 non-members. Sign up with Keegan, [Keegan@monumenthillcc.com](mailto:Keegan@monumenthillcc.com). Info: [monumenthillcc.com](http://monumenthillcc.com), under Events.

## Donate live trees for Black Forest burn area

If you are doing wildfire mitigation, you might have good live trees to donate to Black Forest burned-out areas. The Black Forest Together (BFT) Tree Donor Program is accepting live trees to be either transplanted in the Black Forest burn area or sold to support the cost of this program. Trees up to 12 inches in diameter (or up to 38 inches around) are ideal. The size of trees is measured at ground level. For more information, contact [BILLMANTIA@aol.com](mailto:BILLMANTIA@aol.com).

## 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](mailto:sheryl.ellis@EFExchangeYear.org). For more information about the program, visit [www.EFExchangeYear.org](http://www.EFExchangeYear.org).

## Become a CASA volunteer

Become a CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate). CASA offers a volunteer opportunity like no other. As appointed representatives of the court, CASA volunteers are empowered to make a lifelong difference in the lives of abused and neglected children. Learn more at <http://www.casappr.org/volunteer-colorado-springs/> or contact Kelly at 447-9898, ext. 1033 or [kellyp@casappr.org](mailto:kellyp@casappr.org).

## Colorado State University Extension offers spring gardening classes

Spring gardening/landscaping classes will be conducted Saturdays, 10 a.m.-noon, at Devry University, 1175 Kelly Johnson Blvd., Colo. Springs. The cost for each class is only \$15. For more information and a list of classes available, visit <http://elpasoco.colostate.edu> or call 520-7688.

## HAP needs volunteers

The Tri-Lakes Health Advocacy Partnership (HAP) is a nonprofit, all-volunteer organization that serves and supports seniors in our community. HAP currently needs volunteers, three hours a week; and active board members, 8 to 10 hours a month. For more information, call HAP board president, Dave Betzler, at 205-7651.

## Tri-Lakes Cares receives \$1,000 donation

Tri-Lakes Cares received a \$1,000 donation as part of the Glass Slipper Ball held Jan. 24. During the event, local chefs competed for patrons' votes in certain categories. Kelly Shearwood, executive chef at the MoZaic at The Inn at Palmer Divide, won the People's Choice Award with her Ancho Chili Pork Belly with Chorizo Posole. The prize was \$1,000 to give to the charity of her choice, and Shearwood named Tri-Lakes Cares as the benefactor. The Glass Slipper Ball is designed to build awareness and funding for local and global women's initiatives. Tri-Lakes Cares has been serving the Tri-Lakes area for 30 years, with a food pantry, medical clinic, case management, housing and utility assistance, seasonal programs, and more to help people manage and overcome poverty. For more information on Tri-Lakes Cares, visit [www.tri-lakescares.org](http://www.tri-lakescares.org) or call 481-4864.

## Sheriff's Office warns of phone scam

The El Paso County Sheriff's Office has received information of fraud that involved impersonation of a deputy sheriff, even using the Sheriff's Office Dispatch number of 719-390-5555. This can be done by using an application called "Spoof Card." 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.

## 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 outbound traffic will be allowed through the North Gate, and travelers exiting the academy during those hours will have to use the South Gate.

## 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](http://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. Call 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](http://TriLakes-mcts-sshs.org).

## Volunteer drivers needed for seniors' transportation service

Mountain Community Transportation for Seniors is a nonprofit, 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 [mcseniorservices@gmail.com](mailto:mcseniorservices@gmail.com) or call the MCSS dispatch hotline at 488-0076.

## LEAP—Help for heating bills, and more

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. LEAP now offers additional services to eligible residents. The crisis intervention program provides assistance with the repair or replacement of the home's primary heating system. The weatherization program improves energy efficiency in homes, helping to reduce heating costs permanently. 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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:SeniorBeat@TriLakesSeniors.org). Senior Beat can also be viewed online at [www.TriLakesHAP.org](http://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](http://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/](http://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/](http://www.elpasoco.com/) or call 520-6337 (MEDS). □