

Cinderella Project



Left: Brooke Middents models a donated dress recently at Lillian's of Monument as part of Cinderella's Fairy Godmother Project. It all began with a simple conversation. The staff at Lillian's speculated about the number of prom dresses that would remain hanging unused in closets throughout the upcoming prom season. One idea led to another and, almost magically, Cinderella's Fairy Godmother Project was born. By contacting local high schools and using social media, Lillian's encouraged mothers and teen girls to donate gently used and ready-to-wear prom dresses, shoes, evening handbags, and jewelry to the shop. The donated items were then made

available free of charge to any girls who wished to wear them for an upcoming prom. As of April 8, about 60 dresses had been donated and dress-seeking girls were beginning to arrive. Cinderella's Fairy Godmother Project began mid-March and ended April 30. Because of Lillian's philanthropic focus, girls should look for the project to reappear next year. *Caption and photo by Jennifer Kaylor.*

Hazel Miller at TLCA, Mar. 11



Left: Elegant, dynamic, and captivating are just a few of the adjectives that describe Hazel Miller and her band's performance April 21 at the Tri-Lakes Center for the Arts (TLCA). The audience had an inclination this night would be special when the first four songs sung by Miller, accompanied by Rich Lamb on bass, Dana Marsh on keyboard and Brian Mikulish on drums, were Pat Benatar's *True Love*, songs from Al Jarreau and Nancy Wilson, then the Beatles'

Come Together. Miller wanted to provide a "toe tapping affair." That and more were accomplished as audience members danced throughout the two sets to this engaging performer from Denver. Information on upcoming events at the TLCA is at trilakesarts.org. *Photo by David Futey.*

Lavelett Park expanded



Above: Progress by the Town of Monument is shown at Lavelett Park, Third Street and Beacon Lite. By closing a small section of Fourth Street, the north and south parts of the park are now connected. *Photo by John Howe.*

Great American Cleanup, Apr. 22



Left: Mother Nature was out in her full and unpredictable spring glory on Earth Day, April 22. However, the low fog, cold, and sleet didn't keep individuals and families from participating in the Great American Cleanup events around Monument. The annual Great American Cleanup is organized by the national nonprofit Keep America Beautiful. Its mission is

simply to make communities more beautiful by keeping them clean and green. Around Earth Day, many events are organized across the country to engage people in beautifying their own communities. This year, three events were held in Monument and organized locally by Pikes Peak Partners—two along the Santa Fe Trail and one along Jackson Creek Parkway. People were given safety vests, gloves, and garbage bags to collect litter along the heavily traveled routes. The events were well-attended, even with spring showers, and many bags of litter were collected and properly disposed of. Volunteers were treated to lunch at Monument Community Presbyterian Church once their garbage bags were filled. *Photo by Erin Poole.*

Arbor Day in Monument, Apr. 28



Left: Cassie Olgren, town gardener, invited the public to attend the tree planting ceremony at Dirty Woman Creek Park for the Arbor Day celebration on April 28. Shown with tools ready to plant the tree are, from left, Kellyn Bryan, Town of Monument, Olgren, and Don Wilson, Monument mayor pro tem, amid public works personnel and local citizens who cheered them on for the task. *Photo by Janet Sellers.*

I-25 "Gap" Planning



Left: Michelle Pinkerton, CDOT consultant, and Ron Standley are pictured viewing and discussing lane configuration alternatives for "the Gap," the section of I-25 between Monument and Castle Rock. CDOT's Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) study seeks to identify immediate and long-term solutions for issues related to safety, mobility, and travel reliability

along the I-25 corridor. The second series of public meetings, held on April 25 and 27 in Castle Rock and Colorado Springs, respectively, reported on the input provided by the public meetings held in January. CDOT is looking to advance an early action construction project on the Gap. Because most of CDOT's budget is dedicated to maintaining infrastructure, securing

funding for the construction is a top priority. Current considerations include improving interchanges, expanding alternate routes, and adding general purpose lanes, express lanes, peak period lanes, and full inside and/or outside shoulders. For more information or to submit input, see www.codot.gov/projects/I25COSDEN. *Photo by Jennifer Kaylor.*

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.

Free wildfire risk home assessments for Palmer Lake residents

The Coalition for the Upper South Platte (CUSP) is partnering with the Town of Palmer Lake and the Palmer Lake Volunteer Fire Department to offer free home assessments to make site-specific recommendations to reduce wildfire risk. The partners are also holding a free chipping day **May 6**. To schedule a home assessment, phone 719-748-0033.

Slash-Mulch season is underway
The El Paso County Black Forest Slash and Mulch program will accept slash (tree and brush debris only) through **Sept. 10**. Mulch will be available **May 13-Sept. 23** or when 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 bflash.org or phone Carolyn, 495-3127; Chuck, 495-8675; Jeff, 495-8024; or the County Environmental Division, 520-7878.

Monument Hill Foundation Call for Grants, apply by May 15

The Monument Hill Foundation is the granting arm of the Monument Hill Kiwanis Club. The foundation provides funds in support of the club's mission to support youth and the community, with a focus on the Tri-Lakes community. Club fundraising projects include the annual Empty Bowls Dinner that supports Tri-Lakes Cares and the Holiday Red Kettle Campaign collections that go directly to the Salvation Army. The club works on many other activities each year to raise funds that go to the Monument Hill Foundation for direct granting. The grant application form and information can be found at www.monumenthillfoundation.org.

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New Non-Profit Council forming, meets May 17

Attention nonprofits, schools, churches, government entities, businesses, other organizations and anyone else interested in serving the community. The Non-Profit Council will meet **May 17, 9 a.m.**, at the Tri-Lakes Chamber of Commerce, 166 Second St., Monument. The Non-Profit Council provides an opportunity for organizations to meet in a collaborative environment to understand each other's mission and to explore areas of cooperation. For further details, call Rich Strom with the Monument Hill Kiwanis Club, 719-963-4464.

Woodmoor Waves Summer Swim Clinics, enroll now

Two 3-week swim sessions will be held at the Country Club at Woodmoor, 18945 Pebble Beach Way, Monument. Classes are **Mon., Wed., & Thu., 10-10:45 a.m., Jun. 5-Jun. 22 and Jul. 10-Jul. 27**. Registration forms are available at the pool or online at www.woodmoorwaves.org. See the ad for \$5 off. For more information, contact Chris Bains,

303-506-0089, cbains@aol.com. See ad on page 18.

Thefts from vehicles and vehicle thefts

The Monument Police Department issued a press release April 12 about a rise in vehicles being entered illegally. Over the previous three weeks, criminals entered and stole items from 14 vehicles. All but one of these vehicles were parked at residences and the vehicles were left unlocked. In at least one of these cases, the suspects gained access to the vehicle by entering a garage whose main door had been left open. Also, three other vehicles were stolen during the same time frame. During the investigation, officers found that two of the vehicles had the keys left in them and the car doors were left unlocked. In the case of the third vehicle, the garage was left open and the suspect(s) entered the house, found the keys, and took the car without the homeowner's knowledge. The Monument Police Department urges everyone to lock their car doors, not leave valuables in plain view, or better yet, take valuables out of vehicles. If you see someone looking in vehicles or resi-