

## Short-term rental assessments



**Above:** El Paso County Assessor Stephen Schleiker has been holding community meetings to explain his concerns about assessing properties used for some short-term rentals with regard to property taxes. On Sep. 10, Schleiker explained the Gallagher amendment, passed in 1982, requires commercial properties to pay a 29% tax rate, while the residential rate is set at 7.15%. Short-term rentals like Airbnb and Vrbo are not covered in the state's property tax statutes. Some of Schleiker's concerns with the changes to property tax rates include: (1) Some lenders, like Veterans Affairs, don't lend for commercial property, so if a military property owner decided to change from residential to commercial, the lender could possibly call the note. (2) Americans With Disabilities Act compliance needs for commercial are much more difficult to attain than for personal property. To see Schleiker's full presentation, go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jkJXZ7F8O4Q>. *Photo by Allison Robenstein.*

## Sertoma Patriot Golf, Sep. 17



**Above:** Pikes Peak region scenery surrounded golfers at Gleneagle Sertoma's 18th annual Patriot Golf Tournament fundraiser Sept. 17 at Flying Horse golf course. Donations raised will help support injured Colorado Springs Police Officer Cem Duzel and the family of Pueblo Police Officer Jonathan Bell. *Photo by Janet Sellers.*

## Somers at Outpourings, Sep. 17



**Above:** Dr. KC Somers, Lewis-Palmer D38 superintendent, spoke about his vision for the district at a well-attended Outpouring event Sept. 17 at Pikes Peak Brewery. He described his background and the people who have influenced him in his leadership journey, sharing his Emergenetics profile and describing why, how, and what he does as a superintendent. He noted his goal to equip young people to answer the question: "What is life, and who am I in it?" Toward the end he answered audience questions on the 4A school bond. Outpouring talks are held on the third Tuesday of each month at Pikes Peak Brewing Company. More information on these talks can be found at <http://tlumc.org/outreach/outpouring>. *Photo by Jackie Burhans.*

## New Christy Minstrels at TLCA



**Above:** On Sept. 20, Randy Sparks and The New Christy Minstrels (NCM) performed at a sold-out show at the Tri-Lakes Center for the Arts. Sparks started the group in 1961 after performing solo at places such as the Purple Onion Cafe in San Francisco and "working on my craft every day." There have been more than 300 group members over the years, with the 86-year-old Sparks providing the continuity. With Sparks noting that "music is more than something that vibrates your car," he opened with a few solo numbers and then with the band performed NCM hits such as Julianne and Mighty Mississippi and covers such as Across the Great Divide, Sixteen Tons, and Orange Blossom Special. *Photo by David Futey.*

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## RMMA Concert, Sep. 14



**Above:** The Rocky Mountain Music Alliance (RMMA) held its first concert of the season at The Church at Woodmoor on Sept. 14. The performance featured Zahari Metchkov on piano, Alice Woo on cello, and Geoffrey Herd on violin, and highlighted music from women composers. German pianist and composer Clara Schumann's pleasing Three Romances started with the piano and violin in harmony, each telling the same story. The violin asks the piano a question, and it answers back. The cello was delicate in Rebecca Clarke's Passacaglia. In Shulamit Ran's Soliloquy, the violin carried the Middle Eastern melody. During Emma Lou Diemer's Toccata, Metchkov reached into the piano to pluck the strings. All three instruments were played in Clarke's three-part composition. From left are Geoffrey Herd, Zahari Metchkov and Alice Woo. For a schedule of concerts, see [www.RMMAconcerts.org](http://www.RMMAconcerts.org). *Photo by Allison Robenstein.*

## Flying Horse VIN Festival, Sep. 15



**Left:** Attendees of the third annual VIN Festival hosted by The Club at Flying Horse on Sept. 15 sampled wine, craft beers, and local artisan products from over 26 vendors while watching Sunday afternoon football. Guests also enjoyed contemporary jazz from Colorado band Dotsero on the courtyard and tasted food truck fare. The charity event drew

300 guests in support of the Colorado Professional Firefighters Foundation. For more information, visit [www.cpff.org](http://www.cpff.org). *Photo by Natalie Barszcz.*

## Hope Restored in Black Forest



**Above:** For the last seven years since the Black Forest Fire, the Hope Restored Disaster Relief ministry has been felling, limbing, and bucking huge pine trees killed in the fire. Now the volunteers are cutting and splitting the logs to donate to people who desperately need wood to heat their homes but are limited physically or by finances. This effort will also help some owners of burned-out Black Forest properties who still need help with clearing their devastated land. Much more work has yet to be done, and any community service groups who can offer a few hours of help on Wednesdays or Saturdays in October should contact Byron at [firewood@hoperestored.org](mailto:firewood@hoperestored.org) for work dates and locations. *Photo by Lisa Hatfield.*

## Bines and Brews, Sep. 21



**Left:** Rick Squires, founder of Bines and Brews, left, and Terri Hayes of the Tri-Lakes Chamber of Commerce lift their glasses at the annual brew and distillery fundraiser held Sept. 21 at Limbach Park, attended by a joyful crowd benefitting local charities. *Photo by Janet Sellers.*