

rials together for a projected outcome), and math (the geometry of visual understanding, the algebra of visual composition).

Yet, without artistic inquiry, we are burying our intelligent imaginations into test-taking machinery. Our work/screen lives have become visual entrapments. In *Art Practice as Research*, Second Edition, the author Graeme Sullivan presents a compelling theory that, “the creative and cultural inquiry undertaken by artists is a form of research. Sullivan argues that legitimate research goals can be achieved by choosing different methods than those offered by the social sciences. Art-

ists emphasize the role of the imaginative intellect in creating, criticizing, and constructing knowledge that is not only new but also has the capacity to transform human understanding.

“Research parallels between the visual arts and the sciences are clearly evident when we consider that in scientific research the process of replicating existing phenomena precedes the introduction of a variable during experimentation. In other words, the development of new knowledge in the sciences is predicated on repeating and challenging existing assumptions and paradigms with variables that then enable critical deconstruction

processes to occur, which casts existing knowledge into a state of uncertainty and reconsideration.”

People are becoming dangerously inured to visual screen drama and seek greater and greater stimulation or at least shock value to alleviate mental or emotional torpor. Joan Miro’s grandson warned at a Miro exhibit a few years ago, “If art has not changed you in some way, hopefully major, that art is worthless.” I would add “education” to that statement as well. Miro lamented the fact that art, artists, and museums have been promoting art that does not awaken the heart-mind, and thereby re-create meaning in

our lives.

Janet Sellers is an artist, writer, thinker and speaker, but not a mathematician. That, she will tell you, she leaves up to her mathematician offspring. She makes: public art sculptures that require her knowledge of engineering, algebra, chemistry, physics, and true grit, paintings that require a vast knowledge of chemistry, engineering, and the effects of chroma in the electromagnetic spectrum; and for her murals, also great fortitude. She can be reached at janetsellers@ocn.me.

Snapshots of Our Community

Monument Beautification



Above: On Sept. 4, a group of citizens/stakeholders met to showcase one of the Town of Monument’s floral displays and Monument Sanitation District’s new walls as part of the town’s encouragement to beautify historic downtown on Second Street. From left are, front row, Jodi Bliss of the Historic Monument Merchants Association (HMMA), Monument Economic Development and Marketing Manager Madeline VanDenHoek, and Lyndy Gerard, Mary Morris, and Vicki Mynheir, all of HMMA. Back row, Marylee Reisig and Sean Morris, both of HMMA, resident Michael Weinfeld, Tommie Plank of HMMA, and resident Jay Burgan. *Photo by John Howe.*

D38 Board Candidates Forum, Oct. 3



Above: The League of Women Voters of the Pikes Peak Region (LWVPPR) hosted a forum for Lewis-Palmer Board of Education candidates on Oct. 3. Jane Ard-Smith, LWVPPR moderator (left). Candidates (seated L to R) Matt Clawson and Adam Cupp (District 5), Theresa Phillips (District 2), and Ryan Graham and Ron Schwarz (District 4). Candidates gave opening and closing statements and answered questions about the most pressing issue facing the district, their views of the 4A bond issue, plus overcrowding, added operational costs, and more. For more information on LWVPPR, click www.lwvppr.org. *Photo by Jackie Burhans.*

Black Forest Together, Oct. 5



Above: 125 residents gathered in the Black Forest Community Center on Oct. 5 to enjoy supper from Carrabba’s Italian Grill and dance to classics from the piano jazz trio *All In Jazz* at the annual Black Forest Together dinner and silent auction fundraiser. The event raised \$3,600 for Black Forest Together Inc., a 501(c)(3) charitable organization dedicated to wildfire risk reduction and forest restoration through education and replanting Black Forest with its exchange tree program. Local residents started the group to help the community recover after the devastating 2013 Black Forest Fire. For more information, visit blackforesttogether.org or call 719-495-2445. *Photo by Natalie Barszcz.*

Empty Bowls, Oct. 2



Above: From left, Julie Wagnon, Susan Hunter-Smith, Tammie Oatney, and Cathy Fish-Wilcox display their chosen artisan ceramic bowls at the Annual Empty Bowls Dinner and Silent Auction before enjoying soup, bread and desserts in the Lewis-Palmer High School Cafeteria on Oct. 2. The annual event is organized and staffed by the Kiwanis Club of Monument Hill with all proceeds benefitting Tri-Lakes Cares (TLC). Donations from more than 218 statewide businesses, including restaurants, ceramic bowl artisans, and students, make this event possible every year. Over 650 people attended the 2019 dinner, raising \$14,500 from ticket sales and the silent auction. TLC is a community-based, volunteer-supported resource center whose purpose is to improve people’s lives through emergency and self-sufficiency programs. It operates the only food pantry in Northern El Paso County and relies solely on donations to operate. For more information, visit www.tri-lakescares.org or 719-481-4864 and www.monumenthillkiwanis.org or 719-488-2327. *Photo courtesy of Jackie Burhans.*

Songwriters at TLCA, Oct. 4



Above: On Oct. 4, attendees of the Songwriters in the Round at the Tri-Lakes Center for the Arts learned a bit about the inspiration behind and techniques involved in songwriting from four renowned artists. Songwriters Dana Cooper, Rebecca Folsom, Templeton Thompson, and Sam Gay performed their songs and provided background on each to give the audience an understanding of the songwriting process. *Photo by David Futey.*

Take a Kid Mountain Biking



Above: Kids of all ages turned out on Oct. 5 to learn safety tips and enjoy mountain biking with El Paso County Park staff and volunteers in Fox Run Park. The national event helps get kids enjoying the outdoors and includes learning about trail riding, a guided trail ride, prizes, and lots of fun. *Photo by Janet Sellers.*