

Rocky Mountain Music Alliance Concert, Jan. 19



Above: Dr. Zahari Metchkov, president of the Rocky Mountain Music Alliance (RMMA), played piano selections for a packed crowd Jan. 19. Hosted by the Church at Woodmoor, Metchkov began the evening with Messiaen's Twenty Visions of Infant Jesus. He followed with two pieces from Claude Debussy, including

the lovely Clair de Lune. Metchkov finished the show with two piano compositions by Liszt. The next RMMA concert is at 7 p.m. Feb. 23 at Lewis-Palmer High School. See <http://www.rmmaconcerts.org/>. Photo by Barbara Taylor. Caption by Allison Robenstein.

CERT teaches people how to be prepared and helpful in emergencies



Above: Volunteer CERT instructor Gary Nelson taught units on general emergency preparedness, terrorism awareness, and search and rescue principles. Photo by Lisa Hatfield.



Above: Tall snowbanks didn't deter students learning to use fire extinguishers. Ricky Swanson, left, practiced the correct technique with the help of William Reeve and the CERT instructors. Photo by Lisa Hatfield. **Left:** Ricky Swanson, center, and Jason Ward practiced "Stop the Bleed" wound-packing techniques under the supervision of Robin Adair, Community Emergency Preparedness and CERT program coordinator. Photo by Andre' Mouton.



By Lisa Hatfield

Anyone interested in making their community safer, better prepared, and more resilient? Citizens who take CERT class (Community Emergency Response Team) will learn basics about how to respond to a disaster or emergency in their community through training provided free by the El Paso County Office of Emergency Management and its partners.

The week of Jan. 22, 26 people spent 20 hours with volunteer CERT instructors learning about how to identify and anticipate local hazards, extinguish small fires, set up medical treatment areas, practice family emergency preparedness, and many other topics.

These students might next choose to organize a "Ready and Resilient Neighborhood," or they could volunteer for the El Paso County CERT Team to participate in additional training. This could include emergency com-

munications, traffic and crowd control, flood safety, advanced preparedness kits, animals in disasters, staffing emergency call centers, and wildfire risk reduction for homes and property. CERT members also can volunteer at special events, evacuation exercises, or actual emergency activations.

The Jan. 22 class series was hosted by the Tri-Lakes United Methodist Church Emergency Preparedness Group. Any neighborhood, church or community organization that is willing to host a CERT class should contact Robin Adair, Community Emergency Preparedness and CERT program coordinator. She will arrange for instructors and materials for up to 30 people. RobinAdair@elpasoco.com, amateur radio KE0MIX, office (719) 575-8858 or see <https://publicworks.elpasoco.com/office-emergency-management/cert/>.

Lisa Hatfield can be contacted at lisahatfield@ocn.me

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.

County Parks looks at rule changes, comment by Feb. 4

El Paso County Parks is exploring several changes to the county's Park Rules and Regulations to address safety and security concerns. The first suggested change includes changing the operational hours for Regional Parks from 5 a.m. to 11 p.m. to open one hour before sunrise to closing one hour after sunset. The second potential change will require that dogs and domestic animals be on a leash in a county park outside of designated dog parks. The current rule allows dogs and domestic animals to be off-leash provided they remain under control. County Parks is accepting public comments on these proposed changes through Feb. 4 by emailing toparks@elpasoco.com or calling 520-7529. The Park Advisory Board will consider the potential rule changes at its meeting Feb. 13 at 1:30 p.m. at Centennial Hall, 200 S. Cascade. Interested citizens are encouraged to attend. If the rule changes are supported, final approval will be required by the Board of County Commissioners.

Volunteers needed for County Community Development Advisory Board, apply by Feb. 15

The El Paso Board of County Commissioners is seeking community-minded citizen volunteers to serve on the Community Development Advisory Board. Applications are due by Feb. 15. The volunteer application is located at www.elpasoco.com. Click on the "Volunteer Boards" link. For more information, call 520-6436 or visit www.elpasoco.com.

Tri-Lakes Women's Club's 2019 grant process, apply by March 15

Tri-Lakes Women's Club's (TLWC) grant application for 2019 is available online until March 15 on the TLWC website, www.tlwc.net/a-tradition-of-philanthropy/grant-awards. The application package includes instructions and other important qualifying information. Eligible organizations include nonprofit and public service organizations as well as public schools that serve the Tri-Lakes area. Special program and project requests are welcomed.

In 2018, TLWC awarded nearly \$45,000 in grants. Recipients included the Monument Police Department, the Palmer Lake Fire Department, Tri-Lakes Cares, and numerous District 38 schools. Since 1977, the

organization granted over \$940,000 to nonprofit, public service, and public education programs through fundraising efforts.

The Tri-Lakes Women's Club was named the 2017 Non-Profit of the Year by the Tri-Lakes Chamber of Commerce. Go to www.tlwc.net to join or click on the donate button to help make a difference.

Sign up for "Reverse 9-1-1" emergency notifications to your cell phones

The Emergency Notification System (powered by Everbridge), commonly referred to as Reverse 9-1-1, is a tool that can make rapid notifications to specific geographic areas to alert you to emergency situations including man-made disasters, evacuations, hazardous materials incidents, missing persons, and more. Reverse 9-1-1 is not the same as Amber Alerts, which are generated by a different system. You must register to receive emergency notifications on any phone other than your landline. You can list up to five locations and up to eight points of contact. Sign up at www.elpasoteller911.org.

Monument Hill Kiwanis grants, apply April 1-May 15

The Monument Hill Foundation, the charitable arm of the Monument Hill Kiwanis Club, has an annual granting program. Grants are awarded to charities as defined

by the IRS, to various qualifying youth activities, and to schools for various educational activities and scholarships. Applications will be accepted April 1 through May 15. The grant application is available at www.monumenthillkiwanis.org/forms/mhf_grants.

Tri-Lakes Y Youth Spring Sports, register now

Practices begin April 1 for indoor/outdoor soccer, volleyball, and flag football. Financial assistance is available. Register at www.pymca.org or at the Y, 17250 Jackson Creek Parkway, Monument. See ad on page 6.

Pikes Peak Library District eliminates overdue fines

In February the library officially ends fines for overdue items. Additionally, the library will roll out automatic renewals as long as no other patron placed a hold on the material.

County launches Citizen Connect app

Citizen Connect is a new tool that allows citizens to report problems and put in service requests with the click of a mouse or touch of a button. Citizens can download this app, EPC Citizen Connect, for I-Phone or Android phone. For more information visit www.elpasoco.com/county-launches-citizen-connect.