

Slash & Mulch program popular



Above: The El Paso County Slash and Mulch program accepts slash (tree and brush debris only) through Sept. 15. Mulch will be available through Sept. 21 or until it runs out. Hours of operation are: Saturdays, 7 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sundays, noon-4 p.m.; and 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 www.bfslash.org or phone the county Environmental Division, 520-7878; Carolyn, 495-3127; Chuck, 495-8675; Jeff, 495-8024. *Photo by Natalie Barszcz.*

YMCA Volunteer Fair, Aug. 22



Above: Tri-Lakes YMCA, JustServe, and the Town of Monument joined forces to host a first annual Community Volunteer Fair. Held Aug. 22, about 22 organizations shared ways in which volunteers can offer their time and energy. *Our Community News (OCN)* volunteers, Managing Editor Lisa Hatfield (center) and reporter John Howe (right) discuss the various *OCN* volunteer opportunities with Deb Muir. *Photo by Jennifer Kaylor.*

BBQ at Jackson Creek Senior Living



Above: On Aug. 23, Jackson Creek Senior Living hosted a barbecue for residents, friends, and families. The event was to include a classic car show, but it was canceled because of threatened storms. A sudden downpour moved the dinner indoors instead of in the gardens. Dinner included ribs, burgers, and brats, and everyone praised the work of the chefs. **Pictured from left:** Carol Baker, Betty Baker, Kristen Carlson, Bruce Baker, and David Carlson. *Photo by John Howe.*

Tom Rush at TLCA, Aug. 27



Left: Tom Rush guided a near capacity audience through a symphony of folk music history Aug. 27 at the Tri-Lakes Center for the Arts (TLCA). Rush is credited with introducing the singer/songwriter era and promoting musicians through his recordings in the early 1960s. His interest in music began through a cousin who played the ukulele, and he later got his first guitar by trading in a parade rifle that would not shoot. However, it was when Rush was 16 and heard blues legend Josh White that propelled him into his now 57-year music journey. Accompanied by Matt Nakoa, Rush's two sets included songs from his latest release, *Voices*, Joni Mitchell's *Urge for Going*, as he was the first major performer to record her songs in 1966, a compilation of train songs by Bukka White, local icon Chuck Pyle's *The Remember Song*, and *Old Blevins* by the Austin Lounge Lizards. *Photo by David Futey.*

I-25 HazMat Survey, Aug. 19



Above: The Pikes Peak Regional Office of Emergency Management (PPR OEM) conducted the first-ever "commodity flow survey" at the Monument Port of Entry on I-25. For 15 hours on Aug. 19, volunteers from Pikes Peak Regional CERT (Community Emergency Response Team), including "Dack" Anderson, right, with SMS-gt. Matthew Toenniges, helped Hazardous Materials Coordinator Rich Heaverlo and other OEM staff document over 4,000 passing truck and trailer types and what classes of hazardous materials some of them transported. Any people interested in general emergency preparedness should see www.EPCCERT.org for free upcoming CERT classes and other resiliency trainings. *Photo by Lisa Hatfield.*

100's attend RAD event, Aug. 23



Above: On Aug. 23, the Monument Police Department and Chick-Fil-A partnered for a movie/fun night for high school students through the Real Alternatives to Drugs and Drinking (RAD) program. See www.lewispalmer.org/domain/4122 and www.ppymca.org/programs/youth/teens/rad-program for more information. Students began arriving at 8 p.m. before the doors opened at 8:15 at the YMCA. When the doors opened, the youths streamed in to have their identification checked before admission to the event. Four hundred students were expected to join in the festivities, including the movie presented by the Town of Monument. The Chick-Fil-A "cow" appeared and mingled throughout the crowd. *Photo by John Howe.*

New signal on Highway 83



Above: The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) has installed a new temporary traffic signal at Highway 83 and Palmer Divide Avenue/County Line Road; however, there is no protected left turn for drivers headed in either direction on Highway 83 who need to make a left at this intersection. CDOT Communications Manager, Region 2 Michelle Peulen told *OCN* this is a temporary signal that is being used to ease congestion on Highway 83 during the I-25 Gap project. El Paso County Commissioner Holly Williams said it was "outreach by neighbors" who made CDOT and local representatives realize what a dangerous intersection this had become. There are no separate left-turn lights for either Highway 83 or Douglas County Road 404 at this time. This Aug. 30 photo shows the glare drivers deal with at 5 p.m. during rush hour. *Photo by OCN reporter emeritus Jim Kendrick.*