

## Human Trafficking, Jan. 27



**Left:** On Jan. 27, Session 1 of a four-part free, informative Human Trafficking Prevention Series was launched at Pikes Peak Library 21C. This riveting presentation by Jenni Jessen: “A Survivor’s Story—From Captivity to Catalyst” was introduced by Sister Rose Ann Barmann OSB from the sponsoring community of The Sisters of Benet Hill Monastery. Jessen, an American survivor of human trafficking, along with her husband KJ, provided current compelling statistics of this human crisis locally, nationally, and globally. The next series: Monday evenings Feb. 3, 10, and 17. For more information or questions, contact Sister Rose Ann OSB: [sroseann@benethillmonastery.org](mailto:sroseann@benethillmonastery.org). or call 719-633-0655. *Photo by Sharon Williams.*

## Birds of Colorado, Jan. 27



**Above:** On Jan. 27, Peter Kummerfeldt presented “Birds of Colorado” at the Limbach Theater, Jackson Creek Senior Living, to a group of about 40 residents and guests. Wild birds seen along the Front Range were described and various types of feeders were shown. The lark bunting is Colorado’s state bird but is seldom seen along the Front Range. Kummerfeldt described many types of feeders and how to present food and water to attract birds and minimize access by squirrels and other animals. Millet is not a favorite of wild birds. The mix should contain sunflower seeds, Niger seed, and other grains. Kummerfeldt stated that millions of birds are killed annually by domestic cats that are allowed outside and by feral cats. A few other predators such as Cooper’s hawks and other falcons, raccoons, and foxes also diminish wild bird populations along with habitat destruction. *Photo by Steve Pate.*

## D38 Community Collaboration: “What’s next for D38?”, Jan. 27



**Above:** On Jan. 27, K C Somers, superintendent, presented an overview of Lewis-Palmer School District 38’s performance statistics, teacher salaries, student/teacher ratios, etc., and how it compares with other districts. Teacher salaries are considerably lower in D38 than Academy School District 20, for example. Student/teacher ratios are higher. After Somers’s overview, the attendees, made up of parents, a few teachers, and other interested participants, took a networked survey that divided participants into focus groups to discuss ways forward. The groups saw elements of “what’s next” as linked: classroom overcrowding, large class sizes, and

the inability of teachers to give proper attention to students’ learning, emotional and social well-being, and safety. Participants’ recommendations will be tabulated and evaluated along with similar community collaborations throughout the district. Results should be available by the end of February. An earlier D38 Community Collaboration event was held Jan. 15 at Bear Creek Elementary School. See the ad on page 9 for the times and locations of additional Community Collaboration events scheduled for Feb. 4, 11, 13, and 20. *Caption by Steve Pate. Photo by Jackie Burhans.*

## 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.*

### Leave your legacy on the Palmer Lake pedestrian bridge

The Palmer Lake pedestrian bridge will soon be open to foot traffic. You can help “bridge” the funding gap by buying CNC-cut steel engines, cars, and cabooses that will add support and decoration. See the selection at [www.awakepalmerlake.org](http://www.awakepalmerlake.org) (click on Palmer Lake Bridge Fundraising Project). Sponsor your own locomotive, box car, or caboose and become part of Palmer Lake history. See ad on page 2.

### Monument Academy tours

Choice enrollment is now open. Learn about this growing school; schedule a tour at 481-1950 ext. 1710, [www.monumentacademy.net](http://www.monumentacademy.net). See ad on page 10.

### Free child’s admission at WMMI

Receive a free child admission with one regular adult admission, one per family or group, through Feb. 29. WMMI is located at 225 North Gate Blvd. (I-25 exit 156), and is open Mon.-Sat., 9 a.m.-4 p.m. For more information, call 719-488-0880, or visit [www.wmmi.org](http://www.wmmi.org).

### TLWC 2020 grant process, apply by March 16

Tri-Lakes Women’s Club’s (TLWC) grant application for 2020 will be available online through **March 16** on the TLWC website, [www.tlwc.net](http://www.tlwc.net) (click on Community Support, then Grant Awards). Eligible organizations include nonprofit and public service organizations and public schools that serve the Tri-Lakes area. This year, eligible

organizations can apply for small as well as large grants. Special program and project requests are welcomed.

In 2019, TLWC awarded over \$45,000 in grants. Recipients included the Monument Police Department, the Palmer Lake Fire Department, Mountain Community Senior Services, Rocky Mountain Music Alliance, Tri-Lakes Cares, WMMI, and numerous District 38 schools. Since 1977, TLWC has granted over \$980,000 to nonprofit, public service and public education programs through fundraising efforts. The application package includes the instructions as well as other important qualifying information. For more information, visit [www.tlwc.net](http://www.tlwc.net).

### Monument Hill Kiwanis grants, apply Feb. 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 through May 15. The grant application is available at [www.monumenthillkiwanis.org/forms/mhf\\_grants](http://www.monumenthillkiwanis.org/forms/mhf_grants). See ad on page 3.

### LEAP—Help for heating bills

The Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP) is a federally funded program that provides cash assistance to help families and individuals pay a portion of winter home heating costs. The eligibility period for LEAP runs **Nov. 1-April 30**. Application packets will automatically be mailed to residents who received LEAP assistance last year at the address where they were living at that time. To find out if you qualify for LEAP, call 1-866 HEAT-HELP (866-432-8435) or visit [www.colorado.gov/cdhs/leap](http://www.colorado.gov/cdhs/leap).

### Essentrics comes to the Senior Center

The Tri-Lakes Silver Alliance Senior Center now offers Essentrics, a classical stretch fitness program that has aired on PBS for many years. It is designed to prevent injury and improve posture and flexibility, and can be done by all fitness levels. Classes will be held on **Tuesdays** at 12:30 p.m. and **Thursdays** at 8 a.m. at the Lewis-Palmer High School modular building across from the YMCA, on Jackson Creek Pkwy. Contact Sue Walker for more information and to register, 719-330-0241.

### Tri-Lakes Y Youth Spring Sports, register now

Practices begin the week of **March 30** for indoor/outdoor soccer, flag football, and volleyball. Financial assistance is available. Register at [www.ppymca.org](http://www.ppymca.org) or at the Y, 17250 Jackson Creek Parkway, Monument. See ad on page 6.

### Free income tax help, ends April 15

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program provides free income tax preparation assistance to individuals and families with a household income of \$56,000 a year or less. To find out if you qualify or to schedule an appointment, call 2-1-1 or text VITANOW to 85511 **Mon. through Fri.**, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

### Friends of Monument Preserve (FOMP) seeks board members

FOMP manages a 1,000-acre hiking/biking/equestrian trail area. The group is recruiting new board members. For more information, visit [www.fomp.org](http://www.fomp.org).

### Change a child’s story, become a CASA volunteer

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) offers a volunteer opportunity like no other.

As appointed representatives of the court, CASA volunteers are empowered to make a lifelong difference in the lives of abused and neglected children. To learn more, contact Uriko Stout, 447-9898 ext. 1060, [urikos@casappr.org](mailto:urikos@casappr.org); or visit [www.casappr.org](http://www.casappr.org).

### Officiate high school basketball

Make the right call and become a high school basketball official. Email the Colorado Springs Basketball Officials Association, [csboa.areadirector@gmail.com](mailto:csboa.areadirector@gmail.com), for information on training and certification.

### St. Peter Catholic School now enrolling

The school offers academics, athletics, and faith formation for preschool-eighth grade. Call or visit: 124 First St., Monument; 481-1855; [www.petertherock.org](http://www.petertherock.org). See ad on page 2.

### County seeks citizen input: master plan survey now online

El Paso County continues to seek citizen input in an online survey as it creates the new county master plan. To complete the survey, go online to [planningdevelopment.elpasoco.com](http://planningdevelopment.elpasoco.com). For more information, phone 719-520-6300.

### Sisters’ Thrift & Boutique

The Sisters of Benet Hill Monastery have a shop full of gently used treasures at 8674 N. Union Blvd., Colorado Springs. Store hours are **Mon.-Fri.**, 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m., and Saturdays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. The phone number is 719-282-0316.

### Volunteer drivers needed for seniors’ transportation service

Mountain Community Senior Services is a nonprofit, grant-funded organization that provides free transportation to Tri-Lakes seniors 60 and older. The program needs volunteer drivers. For more information,