

Bakhita Mountain Home, Feb. 17



Above: Initial plans and the \$2.5 million fundraising campaign for Bakhita Mountain Home was launched to the public during the third session of the Human Trafficking Prevention Series on Feb. 17 at Pikes Peak Library 21C. This presentation by the charter Board of Directors was led and moderated by Sister Rose Ann Barmann (inset) OSB from a sponsoring community of The Sisters of Benet Hill Monastery. The first of its kind in Colorado, this home will address the need for residential resources for women survivors of human trafficking ages 18 and older. Human trafficking is a form of slavery in which persons are exploited through force, fraud, or coercion to perform commercial sex or labor. Bakhita Mountain Home is named after Saint Josephine Bakhita, born in 1869 in Sudan. As a child, she was sold into the Sudan slave market where she endured untold hardship and suffering. For more information, contact Sister Rose Ann OSB, sroseann@benethillmonastery.org or call 719-633-0655. *Photos by Sharon Williams.*

CERT, Feb. 18



Left: Regular people learned to make their community safer, better prepared, and more resilient at CERT class (Community Emergency Response Team) the week of Feb. 18 at Tri-Lakes United Methodist Church. Training in disaster first aid, search and rescue, fire safety, pandemics, wildfires, and more was provided free by the Pikes Peak Regional Office of Emergency Management and its partners. 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 epccert.org. *Photo by Lisa Hatfield.*

D38 Chess Tournament, Feb. 22



Left: The 14th Annual Chess Tournament was held on Feb. 22 at Lewis-Palmer Elementary School in Monument. The tournament was open to all K-12 students who live in D38 boundaries. All age groups of students participated in a competitive spirit. There were four rounds of playing to win the trophy in each age group. *Photo by Sreedevi Vangala.*

Parties for Parks, Feb. 27



Left: The guest speaker for the Friends of Fox Run Park monthly meeting on Feb. 27 held at Southwinds Art Gallery was Todd Marts, division manager of Recreation and Cultural Services, El Paso County Community Services Department. Marts shared the parks master plan progress for parks and an upcoming nature center for northern El Paso County, and then attendees discussed ideas they would like to see included in park plans for a northern region nature center including

education, wildlife, culturally modified trees, historic sites, family fun programs, and the nature center site locations currently being considered. After the Friends meeting, the group adjourned to the Parties for the Parks event celebrating county parks, held at the Pikes Peak Brewery community room in Woodmoor Center. The free event was hosted by the Trails and Open Space Coalition and El Paso County Parks, as a meet-and-greet for the community to join dedicated parks groups and staff and learn what's new in northern region parks, trails, and nature centers that include Fox Run Regional Park, Fox Run Dog Park, Black Forest Regional Park, Elephant Rock Open Space, and Santa Fe Regional Trail. *Photo by Janet Sellers.*

Michalicek at JCSL, Feb. 18



Above: On Feb. 18, Jackson Creek Senior Living hosted Dave Michalicek (inset), who played piano renditions to a large group of residents and visitors. Many of the "Musical Memories" were from the 1940s and 1950s, including songs from Errol Garner, Ella Fitzgerald, Jo Stafford, Dave Brubeck, and others. When he performed renditions from Jerome Kern and George Gershwin, people joined in singing. *Photo by John Howe.*

The Village discussed, Feb. 18



Above: On Feb. 18, Andrea Barlow of NES Inc. held a community meeting regarding The Village, a proposed development that would straddle Jackson Creek Parkway (JCP) from Highway 105 on the north to Bowstring on the south. The proposal for the 83.977 acres owned by Pinetree Properties would be to change the zoning from Planned Commercial Development to Planned Development. This development, formerly called Monument Heights, had been rejected by the Monument Board of Trustees due to a lack of commercial space. See <https://www.ocn.me/v15n12.htm#mbot-1116>. The current proposal includes about 628 mixed residential units, 18,000 square feet of commercial space, and 14 acres of trails and open space. About 50 people attended and asked questions about water, impact to the school district, and the expansion of JCP. Barlow said there is a traffic study that needs to be fleshed out, and the town has applied for funding for the design, engineering, and construction of the expansion of JCP. Questions were raised about through traffic from the neighborhoods to the west via Knollwood Drive or White Marble Drive. There are plans to connect those streets to JCP but not via a direct route to minimize shortcutting and increased traffic. The next step will bring the preliminary plan to the Monument Planning Commission on **March 11** at 6 p.m. at Monument Town Hall. You can see the packet at bit.ly/nes-village-packet and view a video of the meeting at bit.ly/nes-village. *Photo by Jackie Burhans.*

BOT Candidates, Feb. 25



Above: Monument Board of Trustees candidates met with the public on Feb. 25 at Bella Art and Frame. All said they wish to serve their community as trustee. See their statements starting on page 9. From left are Jim Romanello, Allison Thompson, Maggie Williamson, Mitch LaKind, Cheri Johnson Hysell, and Ann Howe. Jamy Unruh was unable to attend due to the weather. *Photo by Allison Robenstein*

Water workshop, Feb. 28



Left: During a workshop on Feb. 28, Assistant Public Works Director Stephen Sheffield explained how the Monument Water Department works, including the drinking water testing schedule controlled by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE). Public Works Director Tom Tharnish (shown on left) said the department has been working to

maintain CDPHE standards, so when they noticed radium levels trending upward in Well 9, the board approved spending \$700,000 in the 2020 budget to reduce or remove radium completely from the drinking water. The workshop came about as a result of the Monument Board of Trustees' comments during its Feb. 18 meeting. See the Monument Board of Trustees article on page 1. Sheffield said, "As of now the town of Monument is 100% in compliance with the state requirements." He added that Colorado is a primacy state, meaning its drinking water requirements exceed those of the EPA. Trustee Jeffrey Bornstein said, "This is not the Town of Monument's doing; there has been some documentation about the credibility of the personnel, this has nothing to do with that." *Photo by Allison Robenstein.*