

Pineries hike, Feb. 29



Above: On Feb. 29, Ross Williams and Theresa Odello of El Paso County Recreational and Cultural Services led a 3.7-mile "preview" hike through the new Pineries Open Space. The Pineries is 1,070-acres of rolling hills, ponderosa pines, grassy meadows, ponds, and wetlands that will be open to the public in mid-June. Trailhead facilities and single-track trails will accommodate hiking, mountain biking, and horseback riding. Habitat is managed for elk, mule deer, a few white tail deer, coyotes, and raptors in the area, which was partially burned in the Black Forest Fire in 2013. The burned areas are being "masticated" and chipped and will be re-seeded with a "Black Forest" seed mix of native vegetation. This property is the county's largest open space holding. The Trails and Open Space Coalition has also been a key supporter in securing land for public use. *Photo by Steve Pate.*

Songwriters at TLCA, Feb. 29



Left: On Feb. 29, the Songwriters in the Round series returned to the Tri-Lakes Center for the Arts. The assembled songwriters were Liz Barnez, the 2020 "Best

Singer-Songwriter" for the Fort Collins Musicians Association Peer Awards; national touring artist Rebecca Folsom; Buddy Mondlock, whose songs have been recorded by Garth Brooks, Joan Baez, and Janis Ian; and Mary Huckins, lead singer and a founding member of Dakota Blonde. Each artist performed their songs in turn, often accompanied by one or more of the others. Barnez performed *Whiskey Bay*, about an interstate exit near Baton Rouge; Folsom performed a homage to her home state, Colorado, along with *Wonder*; Mondlock performed *Cats in the Coliseum*, about his visit to the Rome Coliseum and his interactions with the numerous cats who called it home; and Huckins's selections included *Something Simple* and *I Think I'll Go Down to the Ocean*. *Photo by David Futey.*

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 (click on Palmer Lake Bridge Fundraising Project). Sponsor your own locomotive, box car, or caboose and become part of Palmer Lake history.

Monument Academy tours

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

MVEA Electrical Safety Poster Contest, enter by March 9

All kindergarten through fifth-grade students are invited to enter this poster contest to win exciting prizes. For more information including a submission form and electrical safety theme ideas, phone Erica Meyer, 719-494-2654, or visit www.mvea.coop.

Tri-Lakes Women's Club's 2020 grants, 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 (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. For more information, visit www.tlwc.net.

Sixth Annual Pikes Peak Birding and Nature Festival

Registration for the festival (**May 15-17**) begins **March 21**, 10 a.m. The festival offers numerous activities and field trips including geology exploration in the restricted-access portion of the Paint Mines Interpretive Park. Some events fill up fast, so register early for discounted festival cost and a spot in your preferred workshops and trips. For details, visit www.pikespeakbirdingandnaturefestival.org.

Seedling Tree Program offers low-cost seedling trees

The Colorado State Forest Service Nursery provides landowners with low-cost container and bare root seedlings to help achieve conservation goals such as restoring land after fires, floods and natural di-

asters; growing shelterbelts, windbreaks and living snow fences; providing wildlife and pollinator habitats; protecting homes, cropland and livestock; and stabilizing soil and controlling erosion. Order online until March 30 at www.csf.colostate.edu/southeast/ (click on "Seedling Tree Nursery" at the top, then on "Inventory"). For more information, phone 719-687-2951 or email csfs_woodlandpark@mail.colostate.edu.

Volunteers needed for airport emergency exercise, May 13

Volunteer patients, adults, children, people with disabilities (real or simulated), and non-English speakers are all encouraged to participate in the Colorado Springs Airport triennial "plane crash" exercise so local hospitals can practice their "mass influx of patients" plans. The exercise takes place May 13, 5 a.m.-noon. Many local schools include student participation in this exercise for community service hour requirements. Sign up and get details at may13airport.eventzilla.net.

Monument Hill Kiwanis grants, apply by 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 monumenthillfoundation.org (select "Apply for a Grant"). See ad on page 12.

Free admissions with your library card

You can now check out free admission passes with your library card at ppld.org/culturepass.

Participating organizations include the Western Museum of Mining and Industry, Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College, U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Training Center, ProRodeo Hall of Fame, Space Foundation Discovery Center, The Money Museum, and Rock Ledge Ranch Historical Site. For more information, call 719-531-6333 or visit ppld.org/culturepass.

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.

MVEA board nominations open

The board election will take place during the annual meeting **June 4**. If you are interested in being a candidate, find application details at www.mvea.coop. For more information, phone 719-494-2528 or email candidate@mvea.org. See ad on page 13.

Our Community Calendar

By Judy Barnes,

Community Calendar 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 info number for that event.

GOVERNMENTAL BODIES

- **Woodmoor Water & Sanitation District Board Meeting**, Mon., **Mar. 9**, 1 p.m., 1845 Woodmoor Dr., Monument. Meets 2nd Mon. each month. Info: 719-488-2525, www.woodmoorwater.com.
- **El Paso Board of County Commissioners Meeting**, Tue., **Mar. 10**, 9 a.m. Centennial Hall, 200 South Cascade Ave., Suite 150, Colo. Springs. Meets every Tue. and Thu. Info: 719-520-6430, www.agendasuite.org/iip/el-paso.
- **Tri-Lakes Wastewater Facility Joint Use Committee Meeting**, Tue., **Mar. 10**, 10 a.m., 16510 Mitchell Ave. Meets 2nd Tue. each month. Info: Bill Burks, 481-4053.
- **Meet the Monument Board of Trustees Candidates**, Tue., **Mar. 10**, 6-8 p.m., 166 Second St., Monument. The town will hold its regular municipal election April 7, and three trustees will be elected for 4-year terms. Info: Terri, 719-481-3282.
- **Palmer Lake Sanitation District Board Meeting**, Wed., **Mar. 11**, 9 a.m., 120 Middle Glenway. Meets 2nd Wed. each month. Info: 719-481-2732, www.plsd.org.
- **El Paso County Park Advisory Board Meeting**, Wed., **Mar. 11**, 1:30 p.m., Centennial Hall, 200 S. Cascade. Info: 719-520-7529.
- **Monument Planning Commission Meeting**, Wed., **Mar. 11**, 6:30 p.m. Town Hall Board Room, 645 Beacon Lite Rd., Monument. Meets 2nd Wed. each month. Live-streamed at <http://bit.ly/2uZxjfa>. Info: 719-884-8017, www.townofmonument.org.
- **Monument Academy School Board Meeting**, Thu., **Mar. 12**, 6 p.m., Lab 312, 1150 Village Ridge Point, Monument. Meets 2nd Thu. each month. Info: 719-481-1950, www.monumentacademy.net/school-board.
- **Palmer Lake Town Council Meeting**, Thu., **Mar. 12**, 6 p.m., Palmer Lake Town Hall, 28 Valley Crescent. Meets 2nd Thu. each month. Info: 719-481-2953, www.townofpalmerlake.com.
- **Lewis-Palmer School District 38 Board Meeting**, Mon., **Mar. 16**, 6 p.m., Learning Center, 146 Jefferson St., Monument. Meets 3rd Mon. each month. Info: 719-867-8690, knameika@lewispalmer.org, www.lewispalmer.org.
- **Monument Board of Trustees Meeting**, Mon., **Mar. 16**, 6:30 p.m., Town Hall Board Room, 645 Beacon Lite Rd., Monument. Normally meets 1st and 3rd Mon. each month. Info: 719-884-8017, www.townofmonument.org.
- **El Paso County Planning Commission Meeting**, Tue., **Mar. 17**, 9 a.m., 2880 International Circle (off Union Blvd & Printers Pkwy). Meets 1st & 3rd Tue. (if required) each month. Find agendas: <https://planningdevelopment.elpasoco.com/el-paso-county-planning-commission/2019-meetings/>. Info: 719-520-6300.
- **Wescott Fire Protection District Board Meeting**, Tue., **Mar. 17**, 7 p.m., Station 1, 15415 Gleneagle Dr. Meets 3rd Tue. each month. Info: 719-488-8680.
- **Monument Sanitation District Board Meeting**, Wed., **Mar. 18**, 9 a.m., 130 2nd St. Meets 3rd Wed. each month. Info: 719-481-4886.
- **Triview Metropolitan District Board Meeting**, Wed., **Mar. 18**, 5:30 p.m., 16055 Old Forest Point, Suite 300, Monument. Meets 3rd Wed. each month. Info: 719-488-6868, www.triviewmetro.com.
- **Academy Water and Sanitation District Board Meeting**, Wed., **Mar. 18**, 6 p.m., Wescott Fire Station 1, 15415 Gleneagle Dr. Meets 3rd Wed. each month. Info: 719-481-0711.
- **Palmer Lake Planning Commission Meeting**, Wed., **Mar. 18**, 6 p.m., Palmer Lake Town Hall, 28 Valley Crescent. Meets 3rd Wed. each month. Info: 719-481-2953, www.townofpalmerlake.com.
- **Black Forest Fire/Rescue Protection District Board Meeting**, Wed., **Mar. 18**, 7 p.m., Station 1, 11445 Teachout Road, Colorado Springs. Meets 3rd