

OCN photo contest winners (cont.)

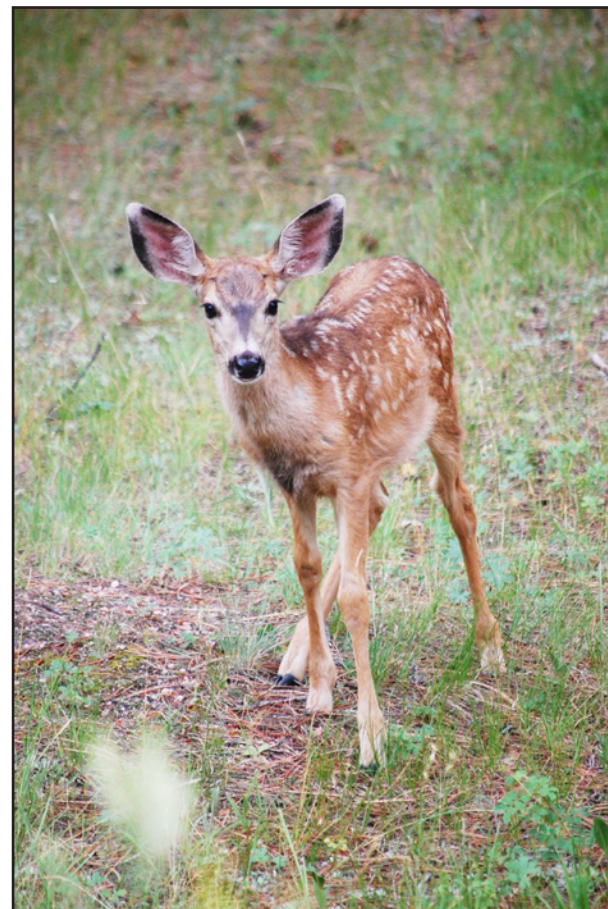


Above: Enjoying the field in Walden Subdivision at sunset on Aug. 9. We just moved here and cannot get enough of these Colorado sunsets and golden hour. My two boys, Trenton in yellow shirt and Gavin in white shirt, and our sweet dog, Liberty. *Photo by Lynse Schmidt.*

Right: I live in Pleasant View Estates and we have had sightings of a Mom doe and her two fawns. They showed up in my front yard and decided to give me a show. They were not afraid of the camera at all. In fact, the one fawn was curious—came within 4 feet of me and snorted at me! *Photo by Keith Knudson.*

Keep them coming!

Send your best “Life in Tri-Lakes” photo to editor@ocn.me no later than **Sep. 25**. Please don’t send more than two photos. Include names of any people in the photo, date taken, a description of the activity or location, and the name of the photographer. Call Lisa at 719-339-7831 with questions. We will print the winners in our Oct. 3 issue.



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.

Incomplete SNAP redeterminations will delay assistance

The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) helps feed families. The program experienced a surge in applicants across the state and country starting in late March. People who applied in March must turn in redetermination paperwork this month in order to receive September benefits in a timely fashion. As of Aug. 5, more than 2,000 SNAP recipients had files that were not complete and must take immediate action to submit documentation to receive benefits. Documents required for redeterminations may be submitted via PEAK at www.colorado.gov/PEAK, or in person at El Paso County Department of Human Services, 1675 Garden of the Gods Road. Those whose cases are current do not need to take action.

Online voter services available at GoVoteColorado.gov

Check that your voter record is up to date now; ballots will be mailed starting Oct. 9. The deadline to register to vote or update your registration and still receive a ballot in the mail is **Oct. 26**. For more information, phone 719-575-VOTE (8683) or visit govotecolorado.gov.

Election judges needed for November general election

The El Paso County Elections Department has many short-term election judge temporary jobs available to assist in the November general election. This is an exceptional opportunity to be involved in this historic presidential election. To learn more, visit govotecolorado.gov or contact Angie Leath, director of Elections, elections@elpasoco.com or 719-575-8683.

Sisters of Benet Hill Monastery welcome you

People of all faith traditions are welcome to the monastery to walk the prayer paths or labyrinth with social distancing. For more information, contact the retreat coordinator, Eileen Beuler: 633-0655 x132, www.benethillmonastery.org. See ad on page 11.

Small business grants available

The Energize Colorado Gap Fund will provide more than \$25 million in small-business loans and grants to boost small businesses impacted by COVID-19. Sole proprietors, businesses, and nonprofits with less than 25 full-time employees can apply for up to a \$15,000 grant and

\$20,000 loan for a possible combined total of \$35,000 in financial assistance. For more information, visit <https://energizecolorado.com>.

Stage II fire restrictions

Stage II fire restrictions are now in effect for all the unincorporated areas of El Paso County. The following activities are prohibited during Stage II fire restrictions:

- Open burning defined as campfires and warming fires, charcoal grills and outdoor wood burning stoves, the use of explosives, outdoor welding or use of acetylene or other torch with open flames other than in an area cleared of all flammable materials. Fires contained within liquid-fueled or gas-fueled stoves are permitted.
- The use or sale of fireworks of all kinds.
- Outdoor smoking except within an enclosed vehicle or building.

Violations of Stage II fire restrictions in unincorporated El Paso County may result in a fine of up to \$1,000. Please report any suspected violations of the order by phoning 719-390-5555. For more information, visit www.epcsheriffsoffice.com.

Slash-Mulch season ending

The El Paso County Black Forest Slash and Mulch program will accept slash (tree and brush debris only) through **Sept. 13**. Mulch will be available through **Sept. 19** or until mulch runs out. Hours of operation are: Saturdays, 7 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sundays, noon-4 p.m.; 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.bflash.org or phone the County Environmental Division, 520-7878; Carolyn, 495-3127; Chuck, 495-8675; Jeff, 495-8024.

YMCA 5K Race Series and Kids Fun Runs

The annual three-race series includes the Creepy Crawl **Oct. 31** on the Santa Fe Trail in Palmer Lake, Turkey Trot **Nov. 26** at the Briargate YMCA, and the Jingle Bell **Dec. 12** at Fountain Creek Regional Park. A virtual race option is available so that you can choose the day, time, and location to run/walk at your own pace. Sign up online at www.pymca.org/raceseries.

YMCA fall youth basketball starts in October, register now

Registration is now open for youth basketball, which will start in October. Financial assistance is available. Register at www.pymca.org/basketball or at the Y, 17250 Jackson Creek Parkway, Monument. See ad on page 6.

Taste of Palmer Lake

This year your ticket will get you free food or beverage offerings from all of our local Palmer Lake restaurants. Purchase your ticket and receive a punch card for a one-time use for your free item anytime through Feb. 28, 2021. This is a limited time offer. Tickets are \$25, available at all Palmer Lake restaurants, and all the money goes to this year’s downtown Christmas decorations. Help light up Palmer Lake. For details, visit awakepalmerlake.org.

Tri-Lakes Cares online auction,

Due to COVID-19 there will be no Empty Bowls dinner this year. Monument Hill Kiwanis will distribute pre-paid bowls in a drive-through **Oct. 3** at the Lewis-Palmer High School south parking lot, but this fundraising effort won’t match the funds normally raised by the usual Empty Bowls event. So, Tri-Lakes Cares will hold an online auction **Oct. 3-10**. Check the website, tri-lakescares.org, later in the month and watch for details in the October issue of OCN.

Volunteer for Tri-Lakes Cares

There are many areas within Tri-Lakes Cares that you can help serve. Volunteers interact with clients, stock the food pantry, distribute grocery orders, process donations, pack Snack Packs for local youth, and contribute in many other ways to the success of Tri-Lakes Cares. Becoming a volunteer is easy and fun. For details, contact Volunteer Coordinator Nichole Pettigrew, 719-481-4864 x113, VolunteerCoordinator@Tri-LakesCares.org; or visit <https://tri-lakescares.org/volunteer/>. See ad on page 13.

Virtual Fill the Boot Campaign

Local firefighters won’t be able to conduct their campaign in person this year, but you can still support their fundraising efforts. Visit <https://filltheboot.donordrive.com/participant/Tri-Lakes-Monument-Fire> or see the ad on page 7.

VFW scholarship competitions

VFW’s Voice of Democracy Scholarship competition gives local high school students a chance to compete for thousands of dollars in scholarships and a trip to Washington, D.C. Students must write and record a three-to-five-minute essay on the selected theme using an audio CD or flash drive and present their recording, typed essay, and completed entry form to their local VFW Post by **Oct. 31**. The 2020-21 theme is “Is This the Country the Founders Envisioned?” Middle school students also have a scholarship competition, Patriot’s Pen. This year’s theme is “What is Patriotism to Me?” For more information about both contests, visit www.vfw.org/VOD.

MVEA Scholarships, enter by Jan. 18

Each year, MVEA awards \$1,000 scholar-

ships to 14 graduating high school seniors. Applications are due by **Jan. 18, 2021**. Apply online at www.mvea.coop/scholarships. For more information contact Erica Meyer, 719-494-2654, erica.m@mvea.coop. See ad on page 10.

MVEA youth leadership trip contest

High school sophomores and juniors can win a summer trip. Apply at www.mvea.coop/essay-contest. Leadership trip availability may change due to COVID-19. For more information, contact Erica Meyer, 719-494-2654, erica.m@mvea.coop. See ad on page 10.

Local team in

PBS inventions competition

Monument resident Allan McMullen and his son Ian are featured in Make48, a national home inventor competition on PBS. Each week, they had 48 hours to create a working prototype and a promotional video for an invention. How far did they make it in the competition? See Make48.com Season 4 online starting Oct. 2.

36th Annual

National Night Out, Oct. 6

National Night Out, a national community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships has traditionally been scheduled for the first Tuesday in August. This year it is delayed until Oct. 6 due to COVID-19. Turn on your porch light and go outside to join your neighbors to make a show of solidarity and strength. Plan a block party, barbecue, neighborhood walk, or other activity. Register for free and receive information and suggestions at www.natw.org.

Openings on

Monument’s boards

The Town of Monument has openings on its Planning Commission and Board of Adjustments. For more information, visit www.townofmonument.org.

Environmental Assessment for Preparatory Leadership Campus Construction at USAFA

The proposed action would construct new facilities and demolish old facilities on the Preparatory Leadership Campus. The public can review and comment on the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). A copy of the Draft EA and Draft FONSI is available for review at the USAFA Library, Community Center Building, 5136 Redtail Dr., Suite H103. The Draft EA and Draft FONSI are also available on the USAFA website. Go to www.usafa.af.mil/Units/Mission-SupportGroup/Civil-Engineer-Squadron, then click on Civil Engineer Squadron, then on the second Public Notice. Please provide any comments by Sept. 15 to Robert Fant, robert.fant.1@us.af.mil,