

## Great American Clean Up, Apr. 24



**Above:** Employees from Starbucks spent their Saturday morning April 24 cleaning up the Santa Fe Trail, starting at the Baptist Road Trailhead. Jennifer Cummings, supervisor and environmental specialist for El Paso County, was there to hand out trash bags and help the volunteers. Coffee was handed out, and the volunteers were ready to go. *Photo by Marlene Brown.*



**Above:** A group of 35 to 40 volunteers organized by Lea Grady met in the parking lot near Staples on Saturday, April 24 to take part in a cleanup along Jackson Creek Parkway (JCP). At 9 a.m., small groups attacked the trash from the meeting point north to Highway 105. The Monument Police Department set up warning signs to alert drivers traveling along JCP. Trash bags and other supplies were provided by Home Depot, which also disposed of the trash free of charge. The group of volunteers was not part of the larger cleanup effort in the area, just local residents who care about the appearance of our neighborhood. Grady said a total of 64 trash bags were filled. *Photo by Steve Pate.*

**Right:** The Oliverius and Gordy families took part in the Great American Cleanup on April 24. They worked at Monument Cemetery along with a dozen other people. Other crews worked at the parks, the Santa Fe Trail, and various areas in town, picking up numerous bags of trash. *Photo by Theresa Rust.*



## OCN photo contest winner



**Above:** Spotted in the pond near the Monument Library, an American white pelican. Quite the sight on Earth Day. The knob on his beak indicates that he's a breeding-age male. *Photo by Suzanne Schwartz.*

**Keep them coming!** Send your best "Life in Tri-Lakes" photo to [editor@ocn.me](mailto:editor@ocn.me) no later than **May 21**. 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.

## Our Community Notices

*By the OCN calendar team*  
We miss Judy Barnes' expert work on the calendar and notices.

**If you are interested in helping OCN compile the monthly calendar and notices, please write to [calendar@ocn.me](mailto:calendar@ocn.me). We would love to have your help!**

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. Please notify us if your event listing needs to be updated.

### Red Flag Warning

A Red Flag Warning means warm temperatures, very low humidity, and stronger winds are expected to combine to produce an increased risk of fire danger. Extinguish all outdoor fires properly. Drown fires with plenty of water and stir to make sure everything is cold to the touch. Do not throw live charcoal on the ground and leave it. Never leave a fire unattended. Sparks or embers can blow into leaves or grass, ignite a fire, and quickly spread. See [www.elpasoco.com/fireworks-burn-ban-information/](http://www.elpasoco.com/fireworks-burn-ban-information/).

### Feeling hopeless, anxious, or depressed? Free help is a phone call away

Everybody needs a little help sometimes. Pikes Peak Suicide Prevention Connection has a support group for young people, Teen Talk Group, that meets **Sundays** at 6 p.m. The Adult Peers Support Group meets **Mondays**, 7-8 p.m. The Colorado Crisis Services Line is available 24/7. Call 1-844-493-TALK (8255). For more information visit [pikespeaksuicideprevention.org](http://pikespeaksuicideprevention.org), or call 719-573-7447, or text 719-232-4875, or email [info@pikespeaksuicideprevention.org](mailto:info@pikespeaksuicideprevention.org). If you are experiencing a life-threatening emergency, please

call 911.

### Jewish Family Service offers virtual counseling for all

Jewish Family Service (JFS) of Colorado's virtual counseling services are available to anyone throughout the state who is feeling overwhelmed or in crisis at this time. JFS supports everyone, not just those of the Jewish faith. JFS accepts private insurance, self-pay, Medicare, Medicaid, and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and offers a sliding-fee schedule for those with limited financial resources and will not turn away anyone in crisis. To find out more about virtual counseling and the various services JFS offers, phone 303-597-5000 or visit the website, [www.jewishfamilyservice.org](http://www.jewishfamilyservice.org).

### High School Senior Scholarship Applications Due May 7

The Black Forest Arts and Craft Guild will be awarding at least one scholarship of \$1,000 to a high school senior. See [www.bfacg.org](http://www.bfacg.org) for application and submission information. Please note that you must reside within our boundaries listed in the instructions. Due **May 7**.

### Don't Wait! Vaccinate!

El Paso County is vaccinating people age 16 and older against the COVID-19 virus. If you have non-urgent questions about COVID-19, please call the El Paso County Public Health call center at 719-575-8888. Hours are Mon.-Fri. 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. See [www.elpasocountyhealth.org](http://www.elpasocountyhealth.org)

### CDC's new mask guidelines for vaccinated people

The CDC released new mask guidelines on Tue., April 27, stating those who are fully vaccinated are no longer required to wear masks in public. New data found by the CDC says that more than half of the united states population is vaccinated.

The data also confirms that more than a third of the American people are fully vaccinated. Even if fully vaccinated, the CDC still requires masks indoors; however, CDC Director Rochelle Walensky reassured people that interaction is safer now. She said, "We know that masked, fully vaccinated people can safely attend worship services inside, go to an indoor restaurant or bar, and even participate in an indoor exercise class."

### Are you experiencing hardship due to COVID-19?

Connect with Tri-Lakes Cares for assistance with groceries, rent or mortgage, utilities, car repair, and medical assistance at [www.tri-lakescares.org/coronavirus](http://www.tri-lakescares.org/coronavirus). For more information, call 719-481-4864.

### 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 youths, 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](mailto:VolunteerCoordinator@Tri-LakesCares.org); or visit <https://tri-lakescares.org/volunteer/>.

### Tri-Lakes Cares youth internship opportunities

Do you know a youth who wants to improve their technical skills and contribute to our local community in a meaningful way? If so, we want to connect with them! Systems Development Internship & Website Development Internship. See <https://tri-lakescares.org/about-tlc/employment/>.

### Tri-Lakes Cares needs us now more than ever

Tri-Lakes Cares is the only food pantry and human services organization located in and serving northern El Paso County through emergency, self-sufficiency, and relief programs. The community-based, volunteer-supported center is a critical resource for our neighbors in need. The best way to help support Tri-Lakes Cares is to make a financial donation. For more information about Tri-Lakes Cares or how you can help, contact Nicole Pettigrew, director of Volunteers and Community Partnership, at 719-481-4864 Ext. 111; [communityengagementmanager@tri-lakescares.org](mailto:communityengagementmanager@tri-lakescares.org); or visit [www.tri-lakescares.org](http://www.tri-lakescares.org).

### 2021 Black Forest Slash-Mulch Schedule May 1-Sept. 12

Black Forest Slash-Mulch Program is a Wildfire Mitigation and Recycling Program. It accepts slash (trees, limbs, and brush debris only, max. length 6 feet, max. diameter 8 inches) (no stumps, roots, weeds, grass, lumber, or trash). Cost to drop off slash is \$2 per load. Mulch loader fee \$5 per bucket, about 2 cubic yards. Co-sponsored by the El Paso County Environmental Division, Colorado Forestry Association and the Black Forest Fire Department, in cooperation with the Colorado State Forest Service and the State Board of Land Commissioners. Hours: **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. on specified days. See [www.bfslash.org](http://www.bfslash.org) for form to bring with you, or phone the county Environmental Division, 520-7878. Southeast corner of Shoup and Herring Roads in Black Forest.