

Volunteers improve the PL parks



Above: On May 22, Reid Wiecks and the Palmer Lake Parks Committee held a service day to clean up and improve areas around the lake and Glen Park. Over 45 volunteers met Saturday morning and split into two teams; one team picked up trash and debris around the lake and installed new equipment on the east side of the lake; the other team went to Glen Park to improve trails and spread mulch around the playground area. In three hours, the volunteers made huge improvements in preparing for summer. *Photo by Steve Pate.*

Memorial Day ceremony, May 31



Above: Rain held off long enough to allow the Monument Memorial Day ceremony to proceed at Monument Cemetery on May 31. A crowd of about 200 people showed up. Mayor Don Wilson introduced honored speaker Hospital Corpsman, Fleet Marine Force Redmond Ramos. The Knights of Columbus-St. Peter Church and Boy Scout Troop 17-St. Peter Church prepared to present the American and POW/MIA flags. *Photo by John Howe.*

LPMS concert, May 12



Above: On May 12, Lewis-Palmer Middle School performed its spring concerts featuring the Seventh Grade Concert Band and Eighth Grade Symphonic Band. The concerts were held in the Palmer Ridge High School auditorium under the direction of Lisa Smith. Shown is the Seventh Grade Concert Band, which performed music from *The Hunger Games*. *Photo by Steve Pate.*

OCN photo contest winner



Above: My neighbors in Pleasant View Estates thought foxes were wiped out by disease years ago. But this spring, many of them have been spotted, including kits. I saw this fox in the yard adjacent to ours on March 30. I've seen him sleeping in that yard many times. *Photo by Bethany Bracht.*

Keep them coming! Send your best "Life in Tri-Lakes" photo to editor@ocn.me no later than **June 18**. 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

If you are interested in helping OCN compile the monthly calendar and notices, please write to 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.

County bans fireworks

Despite the recent rains, locally dry conditions leave El Paso County vulnerable to wildfire and compound the danger of using fireworks. Effective June 1, Sheriff Bill Elder made the sale, use, or possession of fireworks of any kind illegal within unincorporated El Paso County. Violators may be punished by a fine of up to \$750, and/or imprisonment for up to six months. Illegal fireworks in El Paso County include: Bottle rockets, firecrackers of any type, mortars, roman candles, fountains, ground spinners, smoke bombs, and sparklers. Call the El Paso County Sheriff non-emergency number (719) 390-5555 if you see anyone selling or using fireworks. Reserve calling 911 for emergencies. For more information, see www.epcsheriffsoffice.com/news-releases/fireworks-information-for-unincorporated-el-paso-county.

Red Flag Warning means be careful!

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/.

Volunteer to help with parade on July 3

Monument Hill Kiwanis Club Independence Day Parade is July 3. Traditional community celebration events planned. See MHKiwanis.org. Want to volunteer to help? Email monument-hillkiwanis@gmail.com. See ad on page 3.

2021 Black Forest Slash-Mulch Schedule

Black Forest Slash-Mulch Program is a Wildfire Mitigation and Recycling Program. It accepts slash (trees, limbs, and brush debris only, maximum length 6 feet, maximum 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:** Sat., 7 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sun., noon-4 p.m.; Tue. & Thu., 5-7:30 p.m. The mulch loader schedule is Sat. only, 7 a.m.-4 p.m. on specified days. See www.bfslash.org for a form to bring with you, or phone the county Environmental Division, 520-7878. Southeast corner of Shoup and Herring Roads in Black Forest.

Donate live trees

Black Forest Together needs your help! BFT is hoping to launch the fourth year of our Trees 4 Tomorrow program, which has transplanted just under 4,000 trees into the burn scar. We need new tree donor sites in order to launch the program. As always, all tree donations are tax-deductible. Donating your trees is a great way to help mitigate your property and help your burn-victim neighbors restore theirs. To help keep overhead and costs down: site must be 25 acres or larger, have easy access for a truck and trailer, have at least 100 trees to donate. Trees need to be 3 to 8 feet tall, with a trunk diameter of 2½ to 4 inches. Doghair (thickets of seedlings) will not be removed. If you are interested in donating to our program or know someone who is, please contact us at Resourcecenter@blackforesttogether.org or call 719-368-0500.

El Paso County Road Safety Plan

Tell us your thoughts on road safety issues in El Paso County, and where you have experienced safety concerns. The county Road Safety Plan Project Team will incorporate this feedback into the plan including, but not limited to, identifying emphasis areas, selecting proven countermeasures, and in developing an implementation list. See website to enter comments on the interactive map. epcsaferoads.com/leave-comments

Stories of distracted driving victims

Distracted Driving continues to be a dangerous issue on Colorado roads. An average of 42 crashes a day involve a distracted driver, and the consequences can be truly life-changing. Please rethink your distracted driving behaviors and consider the reactions of those around you. "Every time I see a distracted driver, my first thought is to get as far away from them as possible," said Susan Dane, founder of Coloradans Organized for Responsible Driving (CORD). "My second thought is to ask: is

it worth it? I lost two friends to a distracted driver, there's no reason for more lives to be lost due to distracted driving." Hear from the victims themselves at <https://www.codot.gov/safety/distracteddriving/victims>.

YMCA Outdoor Season Pool Pass

Monument Valley Pool, Prospect Lake Beach & Wilson Ranch Pool. Daily, monthly & season passes available. Find out more at ppymca.org/poolpass. See ad on page 6.

Mining Heritage of Colorado Springs

WMMI is celebrating the 150th anniversary of Colorado Springs with "The Mining Heritage of Colorado Springs," through August. The exhibit will highlight the operations of the coal industry, the gold ore processing mills that stood west of the city, the railroads that serviced the coal and mining industries, Winfield Scott Stratton and his legacy, the El Pomar story, Cripple Creek railroad millionaires and their Colorado Springs mansions. 225 North Gate Blvd., Colorado Springs 80921, 719-488-0880. For additional information, <https://wmmi.org/>.

Silver Key Senior Citizen Luncheons

Connections Café sites will have "grab and go" (prepared meals). every Mon.-Fri., noon-12:30 p.m., Mountain Community Mennonite Church, 643 Hwy. 105, Palmer Lake. A \$2.25 donation is requested. Please call 719-884-2300 to reserve your meal. See the menu for the month in the Senior Beat newsletter. Meals on Wheels and Home Delivered Meals will deliver frozen meals for the week to Monument on Wednesdays. Food Pantry offers a "pick up only" model for clients.

Volunteer today!

Links to local organizations with an immediate need for volunteers are listed on the county's website, www.elpasocounty-health.org/volunteering-and-donations, for groups like Care and Share, Crossfire Ministries, blood donations, Early Connections (volunteer from home opportunity), foster an animal, Medical Reserve Corps of El Paso County, Salvation Army, Silver Key, and United Way (ongoing opportunities).

Senior Beat newsletter—subscribe for free
Each monthly *Senior Beat* newsletter is full of information for local seniors, including the daily menu of the senior lunches offered Monday through Friday at the Mountain Community Mennonite Church, 643 Highway 105, Palmer Lake. It also contains the schedule of the classes and events for the month at the Senior Citizens Center and senior-friendly library programs. To subscribe, send an email with your name and mailing address