

## Black Forest Backyard Market



**Above:** The Black Forest Backyard Market continued what is considered a very successful season on Oct. 21. The market, on the corner of Black Forest and Shoup Roads, featured local farmers, a kids' corner, and young entrepreneurs. Products included jewelry, soaps, mushrooms, vegetables, and baked goods. Each booth's offerings were locally produced and grown. Pictured are the managers of the market for the last four years. As the season ends on Oct. 28, they are ramping up for the winter market. For more information, go to [www.thebackyardmarkets.com/holiday-markets](http://www.thebackyardmarkets.com/holiday-markets). *Photo by Marlene Brown.*

## WMMI Miners' Pumpkin Patch



**Above:** The Western Museum of Mining & Industry (WMMI) held its annual Miners' Pumpkin Patch on Saturdays throughout October. Attendees could choose from a multitude of activities. Gold panning, outdoor games, hayrides, riding a soap box derby car, watching the operation of a variety of museum equipment, indoor museum tours and, of course, picking out a special pumpkin or two for Halloween and catapulting one were among the activities. On Oct. 21, WMMI Executive Director Gant Dewey said, "It's a perfect fall day, visitors are enjoying the pumpkin patch, and the running of the museum's equipment really makes this a unique experience." Over 4,000 visitors attended the Pumpkin Patch through the first three Saturdays. *Photo by David Futey.*

## Snowy Halloween?



**Above:** I'm dreaming of a white ... Halloween? People in the Tri-Lakes area woke up to several inches of snow on Oct. 29. The snow gave beards or hats to ghosts and goblins. Lucky for trick-or-treaters, the weather was forecast to be in the 40s on All Hallows Eve. *Photo by Michael Weinfeld.*

## Colorado Kids Ranch Pumpkin Patch



**Above:** After working with the El Paso Board of County Commissioners to increase its parking, the Colorado Kids Ranch presented Colorado Pumpkin Patch again this year. Families from Denver to Colorado Springs came to enjoy an afternoon of fun for everyone on Oct. 21. The fun included tractor hayrides, huge bouncy pillows, tube swings, and pumpkins. The family farm operates a non-profit 501c3 Johnny Pumpkinseed that offers free admission and free pumpkins to families in-need and children of special needs. For more information on year-round events, go to <https://coloradokidsranch.com/activities>. *Photo by Marlene Brown.*

## MA boys cross country wins title



**Above:** Monument Academy Middle School's boys cross country team are the champs. They won the state title at the Colorado State Middle School Cross Country Meet at Fehrer Ranch Park in Denver on Oct. 21. They competed as a small 1a/2a school in the Blue Division against 4a/5a schools across the state. The boys team went undefeated this season and the full team of 49 kids won their league championship for both the boys and girls teams. From left are Preston Hall, Isaac Hawkins, Lukas Sturgeon, Ben Olds, Axel Mason, Tegegn Hall, and George Paulson. *Photo by Patrick Hall.*

## Ascent Church Trunk or Treat



**Above:** At the Ascent Church parking lot, the trunk or treat event included a pirate ship complete with kids walking the plank to get their treats. Some celebrants shared candies and fun wearing '90s vintage attire at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Trunk or treat is a fun and safe fall celebration. Many local churches and organizations offer it. *Photo by Janet Sellers.*

## Support Our Community Advertise in OCN!

Our Community News (OCN), with a circulation of over 23,400, is a unique all-volunteer monthly newspaper mailed FREE to every resident and business in the Tri-Lakes area. OCN is a primary source for Tri-Lakes area news that gives advertising preference to Tri-Lakes and Black Forest businesses. OCN's contract-free low ad rates and monthly publication schedule help stretch your ad budget while supporting an important Tri-Lakes-focused effort to present factual, comprehensive news to all Tri-Lakes area residents and business owners.

**For advertising information, contact John Heiser,  
(719) 488-3455, [ads@ocn.me](mailto:ads@ocn.me),  
or visit [www.ocn.me](http://www.ocn.me).**

## Our Community Notices

By Janet Sellers

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.

### Community volunteers

Many students need volunteer hours for scouting, civics classes, or other clubs volunteering hours. Friends of Fox Run Park will have some openings for student volunteers (and grownups, too) most of the year.

Friends of Fox Run Park has openings for volunteers for various tasks. Besides tasks, the group offers information and skills demonstration for each 2-3 hour session, and celebrates volunteers at the park with the annual community holiday cheer/ ornament party in December. The Tri Lakes Cares on-site Garden in Monument needs volunteers in Fall, Spring and Summer. Gardening tasks include preparing garden beds, weeding, sowing seeds, and developing the compost. Bring gardening gloves, some tools will be provided on the workdays. Contact Janet Sellers at [\[ers@ocn.me\]\(mailto:ers@ocn.me\) or Marlene Brown at \[MarleneBrown@ocn.me\]\(mailto:MarleneBrown@ocn.me\) for more information.](mailto:JanetSell-</a></p></div><div data-bbox=)

### MVEA outage notifications

Please add your phone number to your MVEA account to streamline outage reporting and restoration notifications. To report an outage please call or text "OUT" to (800) 388-9881. Visit MVEA's Outage Center before the storm. There is information about preparing for outages, electrical safety, outage reporting, a link to the outage map, and more.

### Get Help in Larkspur

Larkspur Church has a Food Bank and Care

Center that offer a good variety of non-perishable food items, as well as clothing for men, women, and children, some household items available too. We're here to help. If you are in need, or know someone who is, please reach out to Jeff at [gethelp@larkspur.church](mailto:gethelp@larkspur.church). If you would like to donate contact Jeff by the same email to arrange a pick up.

### The Sunflower is for people with non-visible disabilities

Watch for green and yellow sunflower lanyards, bracelets, and ribbons, discreet ways to make the invisible visible. Wearing the Sunflower discreetly indicates to people