

other fuel vegetation. Many trails have been damaged by the tires and tracks of this heavy machinery.

To participate in FOMP trail nights, you may simply show up or check the FOMP website, [fomp.org](http://fomp.org), for more details and schedules. These work nights will be from 5 to 7 p.m. in April through October and 6 to 8 p.m. May through September. Meet in the parking lot at the intersection of Mount Herman and

Nursery Roads, the Mount Herman trail trailhead.

While the original plan was to leave “islands” of ponderosa pines, small pines, and larger oaks, many areas have been razed while other areas are partially cleared or not touched at all. While this appears to be indiscriminate elimination of vegetation, it will eventually grow back. In the meantime, be cautious while hiking or biking in the



preserve and be alert for debris.  
Steve Pate can be contacted at [stevepate@ocn.me](mailto:stevepate@ocn.me).

**Above:** Wildfire mitigation area north of Mount Herman Road, March 6.  
Photo by Steve Pate.

### Art Matters

## Paper mache: a high art with a long history

By Janet Sellers

Paper and paper mache are materials that have found a high calling in fine art. In making art, an artist creates meaningful communication. Artists can use nearly any medium to create their art, and the value lies in the intention and imagination more than mere materials. Paper mache as artifacts will last hundreds of years if made well and kept properly. Treasured lacquerwares of Asia and Europe have kept their value in the art market, too.

The earliest paper mache has roots in the Far East and Middle East. At the time, it was a way to reuse a material that was rare, costly, and strong. Its

light weight gave advantages over other, heavier materials. The term “paper mache” (the English spelling) comes from the French for “chewed paper” as the rare and costly paper was mashed and recast into objets d’art and other artifacts.

Paper was invented in China in 105 A.D. and has both a humble and mighty reputation in the fine arts. There is a Chinese saying, “Life is as fragile as paper.” But in fine art and even warfare, paper is powerful. Wu dynasty impenetrable armor was made with paper mache.

The oldest preserved paper mache artifact is a falcon sarcophagus from

the Sassanid dynasty in Persia (224 A.D.), considered one of the best materials to use for coffins. Also used for pot lids, furniture, trays, bowls and even eyeglass cases, paper mache is a wildly popular creative medium for fine art, décor, and playthings.

Italian cartapesta was used in southern Italy instead of marble for life-size and larger-than-life religious statues and monuments since the 1700s. Italy Magazine reports that while cartapesta began in Lecce in the 17th century, it possibly had its origins in Naples with presepe (nativity) figures as well as the life-size models of saints made for Holy Week processions—

lighter to carry than wooden statues.

Today, artists worldwide use paper and paper mache for their fine art works. It embodies aesthetic characteristics and techniques like no other material. Its light weight, workability, and durability maintain its unique position in the art world and for posterity.

Janet Sellers is an artist, writer, and speaker. Her paintings, sculptures, and digital artworks are exhibited in the western U.S.A., and locally in Colorado. She can be contacted at [JanetSellers@ocn.me](mailto:JanetSellers@ocn.me).



## Snapshots of Our Community

### Palmer Lake Broomball, Feb. 26



**Above** On Feb. 26, the Palmer Lake Parks Commission sponsored the Second Annual Palmer Lake Winterfest Broomball Tournament. Proceeds from the event will be applied toward park improvements in Palmer Lake. The tournament had three divisions: Adult, Family/Friends, and Youth, with 10 teams signed up. Each team consisted of six players including the goalie. Teams could also have substitutes. Players needed to bring their own brooms and the desire to have a fun day on the Palmer Lake ice. Players and spectators also enjoyed music, s’mores, drinks, and various treats throughout the afternoon. Photo by David Futey.

### Team Rubicon wildfire mitigation



**Above:** On March 4 and 5, 40 volunteers of Team Rubicon conducted wildfire mitigation operations in the foothills west of Larkspur. Their efforts included Home Ignition Zone mitigation education and the reduction of potential wildfire fuel through tree thinning operations. This area has been designated as high risk for extreme wildfires. The team’s efforts are part of a county-wide collaborative effort to protect life, property, and critical infrastructure outlined in the Douglas County Community Wildfire Protection Plan. Team Rubicon is a veteran-led volunteer disaster prevention and response group. This is the second of seven wildfire prevention efforts planned for this year in various Colorado communities. Caption by David LaRivee. Photo by Sharon Williams.

### The Stickmen at the TLCA, Mar. 1



**Above:** The Stickmen brought their unique progressive rock style to the Tri-Lakes Center for the Arts (TLCA) stage on March 1. The trio is composed of bassist Tony Levin, drummer Pat Mastelotto, and guitarist Markus Reuter. The band’s name is derived from the Chapman Stick played by Levin. The Chapman Stick is a 10- to 12-string instrument that offers the versatility of being used to play bass lines, melodies, and chords. Levin is considered one of the preeminent Chapman Stick players in the world. The Stick along with the U8 Touch guitar played by Reuter are both typically played by tapping and other techniques without the use of a guitar pick. The trio played selections from their 2022 EP titled *Tentacles* including *Ringtone*, *Danger in the Workplace*, and the title track *Tentacles*. Their set also included *Prog Noir*, *Crack in the Sky*, which is based on a Levin poem, and three King Crimson songs including *Red*. Levin and Mastelotto are longtime members of that band. Levin also has the distinction of having played on over 1,000 albums, being one of the most recorded bassists in music history. Photo by David Futey.

### Drilling through the night



**Above:** Monument’s Well 13 near Santa Fe Trail and Fourth Street had a drilling rig operating 24 hours a day with a sound barrier wall and a well-lit tower and work space. The drilling took place over the last few weeks and is now completed, providing water for Monument’s residents. Photo by Jackie Burhans.