

Stars of Tomorrow winners, Mar. 16



Above: Two pianists, three Broadway-style singers, and a ballet dancer who played the drums won the top prizes at the Monument Hill Kiwanis Club's Stars of Tomorrow talent show held at Palmer Ridge High School in Monument on March 16. Pianist Annabelle Carter, a homeschooled high school junior, earned the top prize of \$2,000. In second place among high schoolers was singer Ruby Taylor, a Palmer Ridge junior, who took home \$1,000. The third-place prize, worth \$500, went to another singer, Winn Sienkowski, a Palmer Ridge High

School junior. Among middle-schoolers, Aubrey Davis, a sixth-grader at Palmer Lake Elementary School, came in first for her performance that combined ballet and playing the drums. She earned \$750 while singer Lila Brown, an eighth-grader at Lewis-Palmer Middle School, was second, earning \$500. Finally, the elementary school winner was pianist Thomas Carter, who took home \$500. Pictured from left to right: Thomas Carter, Ruby Taylor, Winn Sienkowski, Annabelle Carter, Aubrey Davis, and Lila Brown. *Photo by Michael Weinfeld.*

Whitecaps on Palmer Lake, Mar. 17



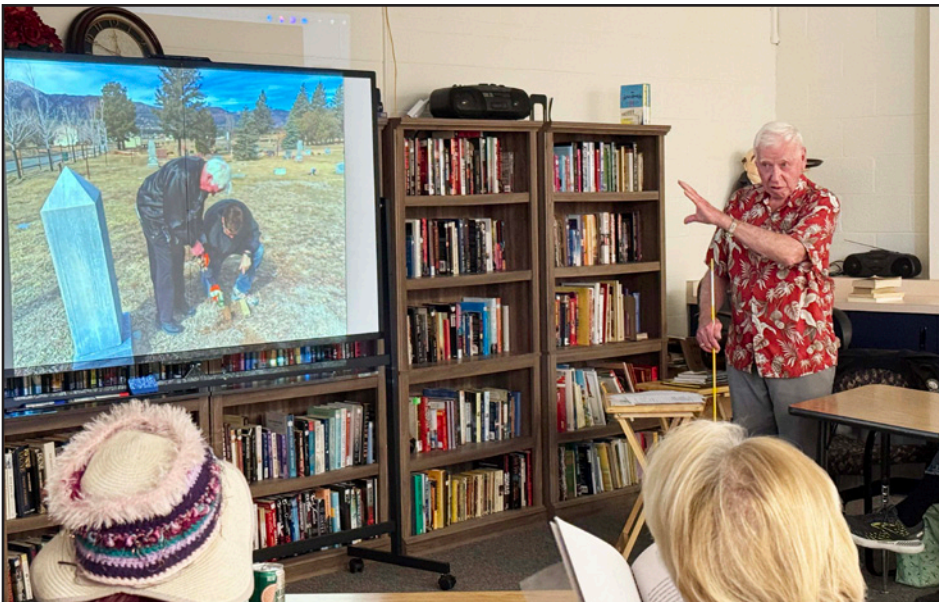
Above: On Monday, March 17, the Tri-Lakes area including the lake at Palmer Lake was affected by 55-plus mph wind gusts. The gusts created very choppy waters in a northerly direction with whitecaps. Near-blizzard conditions affected the area the following day and into Wednesday morning. *Photo by David Futey.*

Wildfire risk reduction, Mar. 17



Above Wildfire hazard management, forest health, and safer ingress/egress routes were described by Jonathan Bradley, Monument Fire's division chief of Community Risk Reduction, on March 17. He spoke to residents of Pleasant View Estates, Sun Hills Estates, and the nearby Raton neighborhood. He urged all homeowners in the area to make each house and the zone around it less flammable, so it could not be ignited by flying sparks and burning embers. Residents should cut back trees and fuel from the right-of-way in front of each property so that in a wildfire, flames have less chance of blocking the escape route for residents and access for firefighters. For more "home hardening," "fuels reduction," and emergency planning ideas, search online for Colorado State Forest Service Home Ignition Zone brochure or see Ready, Set, Go! evacuation ideas at www.wildlandfirersg.org/. *Photo by Lisa Hatfield.*

Monument cemetery talk, Mar. 21



Above: The team of Michael Weinfeld and John Howe has been nominated for the Tri-Lakes Chamber of Commerce honor of Volunteer of the Year. They'll compete against other nominees and will learn who won at the chamber's annual awards gala on April 25. Weinfeld and Howe gave two presentations about their book *Shootouts, Killings, and War Heroes: The History Hidden in Monument's Cemetery*. They spoke at the Tri-Lakes Senior Center on March 21 (in photo) and the Monument Hill Kiwanis Club on March 22. *Photo by Tia M. Mayer.*

WWII Vet Jim Clemmons' 100th



Above: About 100 people, one for every year of Jim Clemans' life, attended his centennial birthday party at Jackson Creek Senior Living in Monument on March 22. Clemans is a Navy veteran who served during WWII aboard the escort carrier *Wyndham Bay*. He saw action at Iwo Jima and the Battle of Okinawa. Clemans was also active in the Monument Hill Kiwanis Club, serving as grand marshal in the Fourth of July parade in 2023. Asked by an OCN reporter what tips he could give for reaching 100 years of age, Clemans said, "Just relax and don't worry about it." *Photo by Michael Weinfeld.*

WMMI Geology Day, Mar. 22

Right: During the Western Museum of Mining & Industry's (WMMI) annual Geology Day on March 22, WMMI Curator Jaime Gorrell assists museum visitor James Bolding with one of the activities. Bolding built a mineshaft structure made of toothpicks and marshmallows. To test the structure's strength, it is placed in sand with wax paper over it then sand over top. A camera directed underneath the wax paper and attached to the adjacent laptop shows how the structure holds up under the weight of the sand. Besides this activity, visitors had the opportunity to interact with a variety of organizations, including the Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society, the Phoenix Gold Mine, SSR Mining from Cripple Creek & Victor, Lafayette History Museum, and Maptex staff demonstrating a Linder scanner. WMMI Executive Director Grant Dewey said he "greatly appreciates the exhibitors enhancing the museum's visitors' educational experience and understanding of geology." *Photo by David Futey.*



TLWC donates baby products

Right: Volunteers with the Tri-Lakes Women Club (TLWC) donated 507 pounds of diapers and wipes to Tri-Lakes Cares (TLC) on March 24. The donation was needed because TLC can give women only seven diapers a week and as any parent will tell you, that's not nearly enough to keep a baby dry. In addition to the baby products, TLWC raised nearly \$500 to donate to TLC. TLC still needs other donations. To find out what else they could use, visit <https://tri-lakescares.org/current-pantry-needs/>. In the photo are TLWC volunteers Maureen Morgan (in front) and Kayleen Jackson. *Photo by Michael Weinfeld.*

