

## Special Events and Notices

By Judy Barnes, Editor Emeritus

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 info number for that event.

### Wednesday Senior Lunch at Big Red

**April 4**—Turkey breast, stuffing & cranberries

**April 11**—Ham, scalloped potatoes & million dollar salad

**April 18**—Mandarin chicken (pineapple, mandarin oranges, peppers) & rice

**April 25**—Pulled BBQ pork sandwich, pickle & potato salad

Rolls and butter are served with each meal except sandwiches. Dessert is also provided.

An activity of Tri-Lakes Health Advocacy Partnership. Meals are provided by Pinecrest Catering, Palmer Lake; Nikki McDonald, executive chef, 481-3307.

### Click It or Ticket 2012

Buckle up, rural Colorado, no matter how far you travel. According to Colonel James Wolfenbarger, Chief of the Colorado State Patrol, last year 187 people were killed in crashes on rural roadways, representing 60 percent of the state's total fatalities. More than half of those killed in rural areas (58 percent) were not wearing a seat belt, compared to 34 percent in urban areas. One of the biggest reasons people give for not buckling up is that they aren't traveling very far. The reality is that 85 percent of crashes occur within five miles of a person's home. Others say they simply forget to buckle up because they never developed the habit. Drivers of pickup trucks have the lowest overall seat belt use at just 70 percent, compared to 82 percent in cars. Last year 67 percent of people killed in pickup trucks in Colorado did not wear a seat belt. Pickup trucks are twice as likely to roll over in a crash, despite the belief that they are safer vehicles. So, no matter how far you are going or what type of vehicle you are riding in, buckle up and make sure everyone else in your vehicle does the same.

### Free veterinary care for families in need

Front Range Animal Hospital in Monument, in coordination with The Colorado Veterinary Medical Association and 9News, are participating in the 9PetCheck. They will provide 72 free wellness exams and rabies vaccines for pets of economically disadvantaged pet owners. To make an appointment, pet owners living on a low income or those who have recently lost their jobs must call the live phone bank, 1-855-699-6397, **April 9**, 4-6:30 p.m. Appointments will be filled on a first come, first served basis.

### Public meeting on Baptist Rd. west of I-25

El Paso County will hold its initial public meeting for the Baptist Road West Corridor Study **April 10**, 5-7 p.m., at Lewis-Palmer High School, 1300 Higby Rd., Monument. The study will review requirements for safety, capacity, and mobility improvements on Baptist Road West between I-25 and Forest Lakes Drive. The study will further investigate the feasibility of a grade-separated railroad crossing to improve traffic safety and alleviate the congestion and delays resulting from the existing at-grade Union Pacific railroad crossing. The open house will feature informational displays and initial findings. The public is encouraged to provide input. The transportation planning and engineering firm Felsburg, Holt, and Ullevig will conduct the corridor study on behalf of El Paso County. The study is scheduled to be completed by fall. Preliminary and final designs are expected in 2013. Construction schedules will depend on available funding. More information about the study is available on the project website [www.baptistroad.com](http://www.baptistroad.com).

### Call for logo and website proposals

The Tri-Lakes Economic Development Corp. is accepting proposals for developing its new logo and website. Please email [board@trilakesedc.com](mailto:board@trilakesedc.com) to obtain a copy of submission requirements and scope of work details. All submissions must be received by **April 15**.

### Free income tax filing assistance by AARP

Free income tax filing assistance and e-filing is offered by the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) Tax-Aide program. Trained AARP volunteers will be available every Monday and Thursday, through **April 16**, 1-7 p.m., at Tri-Lakes Cares, 235 Jefferson St., Monument, to answer questions and to assist filers in completing their federal and state income tax returns. Volunteers will assist taxpayers in preparing their Forms 1040, 1040A or 1040EZ. Filers are asked to bring proof of Social Security

numbers for themselves and for any dependents they are claiming. Filers should also bring their W-2s, 1099-INT, 1099-DIV, etc., to complete their 2011 return, plus a copy of last year's (2010) tax return. For additional locations, visit <http://www.aarp.org/VMISLocator/searchTaxAideLocations.do>. For more information, or to make an appointment (recommended), call Jim Taylor, 488-1317.

### Electrical Committee needs volunteer

The El Paso County Board of Commissioners is seeking a community-minded citizen volunteer to serve as an electrical engineer representative on the City/County Electrical Committee. Applications are due by **April 20**. The City/County Electrical Committee reviews registration of applicants, work performance, and minor variance requests under the electrical code. Further information and volunteer applications are available at the website, [www.elpasoco.com](http://www.elpasoco.com). Click on the "Volunteer Boards" link at the top of the page. For more information, call 520-6436.

### Slash-Mulch Season is rolling around!

The annual Forestry Stewardship Meeting (fun, information, and door prizes!) will be **April 28**, 9 a.m.-noon, at the Black Forest Community Hall, 12530 Black Forest Rd. The site opens for slash hauling **May 5**, 7 a.m. Mulch will be available after **May 19**. The Forest Management Demo Day is **June 9** at the Black Forest Fire Department training room. The Black Forest Slash-Mulch Program is co-sponsored by El Paso County Environmental Division and the Colorado State Forest Service in cooperation with the Colorado Forestry Association and Black Forest Fire Department. The Slash and Mulch Committee is the citizen volunteer organization that runs the operations. More than 400 people volunteer for this program to keep it running May through mid-September. For more information call Carolyn Brown, 495-3127; Jeff DeWitt, 495-8024; or the county Environmental Division, 520-7878.

### Help on the way for heating bills

The Low-income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP) encourages Coloradans in need of financial assistance with home heating bills to take advantage of the program and apply for LEAP benefits before the **April 30** deadline. LEAP benefits provide assistance to help low-income families with their heating bills but are not intended to pay the entire bill. The eligibility period for LEAP runs Nov. 1 to April 30. For more information about LEAP benefits, call 1-866 HEAT-HELP (1-866-432-8435), or visit [www.colorado.gov/cdhs/leap](http://www.colorado.gov/cdhs/leap).

### Tri-Lakes Time Trial Bicycle Race

The race will be held Sat., **May 5**, in the Palmer Lake Recreation Area. Juniors (gear and bike restrictions apply) are free. All SM and SW divisions, \$32. Citizens/Fun Division (all non USAC-licensed riders), \$22. Pre-register online until **May 2** at <http://mad.sc/cvtlft> (USAC-licensed riders) or <http://mad.sc/may52012> (non-licensed Citizen/Fun ride). No racers/riders under 10 years of age. Start times posted at <http://mad.sc/cvtlft> by noon, **May 4**. Info: [www.coloradocycling.org](http://www.coloradocycling.org) (click on Events, then All Events) or email [cpracingteam@hotmail.com](mailto:cpracingteam@hotmail.com).

### Forest View Acres Water District election

The Forest View Acres Water District is conducting a mail ballot election **May 8**. If you are designated as an "active" elector in the El Paso County records, you will receive a ballot by mail. Ballots will be mailed April 16-20. "Inactive" electors will not receive a ballot automatically, but can request a ballot from the Designated Election Official (DEO), Sue Blair, (303) 381-4960, (303) 381-4961, or email [sblair@crsofcolorado.com](mailto:sblair@crsofcolorado.com). A ballot drop-off location is being provided on election day only (May 8) at the Town of Monument, 645 Beacon Lite Road, Monument, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. In order for your ballot to be counted, you must sign the affidavit provided on the return envelope, and it must be received at the offices of the DEO no later than 7 p.m. on election day (May 8). You are required to place postage on the ballot return envelope.

### Local host families needed for foreign teens

Foreign high school students are scheduled to arrive soon for academic year "homestay" programs, and Pacific Intercultural Exchange (PIE) needs a few more local host families. The students are all 15 to 18 years old, are English-speaking, have their own spending money, carry accident and health insurance, and are eager to share their cultural experiences with their new American families. To learn more about student exchange or arrange for a meeting with a community representative, call PIE, toll-free, at 1-866-546-1402. The agency also has travel/study program opportunities available for American high

school students as well as possibilities for community volunteers to assist and work with area host families, students and schools.

### Stuart Little auditions/workshop/production

Spotlight Community Theatre Fifth Annual Summer Musical Theatre workshop and production will be E.B. White's children's classic *Stuart Little*. Auditions and casting are scheduled for **May 30-31**. The workshop, rehearsals, and performances will be in June. Minimum age is 10. Every workshop participant will be cast in the production! Register now as spaces are limited. For more information, call 488-0775 or visit [www.SpotlightCommunityTheatre.com](http://www.SpotlightCommunityTheatre.com).

### Soap Box Derby, June 10

Calling all young drivers, ages 7 through 17, for the greatest amateur racing event in the world. This year's Pikes Pike Soap Box Derby race is **June 10**. The mission of the derby is to educate its young contestants, and inspire fair and honest competition. Mentors are available to help with vehicle design and construction. This year's derby is proudly sponsored by several local and national businesses and also by Kiwanis and Sertoma clubs. Registration deadline for the regional Pikes Peak Soap Box Derby race is **May 12**. For more information, visit the derby's website, [ppsb.com](http://ppsb.com), or contact Glenn Scott, director, at 488-8808 or [derbyguy@comcast.net](mailto:derbyguy@comcast.net).

### Commissioners use renovated auditorium

The Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) held its first regularly scheduled meeting in more than 20 years in the Centennial Hall Auditorium (200 S. Cascade Ave.) on April 3. In recent years the technologically obsolete auditorium hosted fewer public meetings and served as a training room for election workers and county volunteers. But with the recently completed installation of the updated technology required for live streaming of meetings from the auditorium, all regularly scheduled meetings of the BoCC will now be at Centennial Hall. Low-cost covered parking is available in the garage directly behind Centennial Hall on Sahwatch Street, with easy access to the Auditorium. Free parking is available along Sahwatch and metered parking spaces are available on both Cascade and Vermijo Avenues. The BoCC regular meetings are held Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9 a.m. All meetings can be viewed live online at [www.elpasoco.com](http://www.elpasoco.com) and are rebroadcast the following evening at 9 p.m. on Comcast Channel 17, the Pikes Peak Library Channel.

### Drivers needed to transport seniors

Mountain Community Transportation for Seniors is a nonprofit, grant-funded organization that provides free transportation to Tri-Lakes seniors 60 years old and over. It is the only transportation service in the Tri-Lakes area to take seniors to medical appointments, the grocery store or pharmacy, the bank, legal appointments, senior lunches, shopping, and to the many activities offered through the senior center and our community. The program is in need of additional volunteer drivers. Volunteers are provided with an orientation after criminal and driving records have been screened. Mileage is reimbursed if volunteers use their own vehicle. The program operates Monday-Thursday and is flexible; volunteers can be involved as much as they choose to be. For more information or to request brochures, email [browneyesmlk@hotmail.com](mailto:browneyesmlk@hotmail.com) or call Mary Ketels, 481-2470, or Faye Brenneman, 481-2527, or leave a message with the dispatcher, 488-0076.

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