

Local AARP chapter honors veterans

Shirley Karlstrum honored AARP Chapter 1100 veterans on Nov. 13 in Black Forest. The tribute was primarily directed to the 18 chapter veterans, including two from WWII, plus eight veterans' widows. All five branches of the U.S. military were represented: eight Army, five Air Force, two Navy, two Marines, and one Coast Guard. A traditional White Table was provided during the chapter Thanksgiving luncheon to commemorate all those military members who are listed as Missing in Action (MIA) and to honor their sacrifice for this country.

Retired Air Force Maj. Robert Apodaca described the moving ordeal of growing up without his father, an F-4 pilot who was MIA in the Vietnam War. He also recounted how his

Air Force Academy friends and classmates rallied together during very difficult times to assist his "bringing home" his father's remains once they were identified many years later.

Jim Tackett from the El Paso County Veterans Services office updated the membership on the latest benefits available to veterans and their widows. He also fielded questions on veterans benefits from the chapter membership and guests.

Black Forest AARP Chapter membership is open to all ages. For meeting information, call Chuck at 749-9227 or visit <http://aarpchapter1100blackforest.weebly.com/index.html>.

Photo and information provided by Stan Beckner.



Above: Black Forest Chapter veterans present at the Nov. 13 meeting were: from left, front row, Carol Billiard, Charles Karlstrum and Nick Kneebone (Army), Electa Beckner and Royce Brown (Air Force), Martin Brauns (Army), and Charles Eaton (Navy); rear row, Raymond Rozak and Donald VonGunden (Army), Stanley Beckner (Air Force), Howard Pease (Navy), Edward Lunacek (Marines), Waldo Pendleton (Coast Guard), and Howard Tilton (Air Force).

November and December library events

By Harriet Halbig

As the holidays approach, the library offers many entertaining programs and activities to enjoy with friends.

Family programs

Relax in the library while enjoying a seasonal concert by young harp musicians. Everyone is welcome on Saturday, Dec. 7, from 2 to 3:30 p.m. for Holiday Harps.

The Palmer Ridge High School Robotics Team presents Explore STEM Day. Come drive a Frisbee-throwing robot or try your hand at an underwater rover. Explore the opportunities with a Lego Mindstorms demonstration on Saturday, Dec. 14, at 1:30 p.m.

Decorate holiday cookies in the children's area of the library on Saturday, Dec. 21, from 11 to 3.

Also on Dec. 21, the Legos Club will meet from 10 to 11:30. It's open to all ages. The library provides the Legos and you bring your creativity. Be sure to bring your camera to record your creation, as all pieces used to make projects remain the property of the library.

The December homeschool program is about cookie decorating. Take a break and join your homeschool friends to do some decorating. We'll supply the cookies, frosting and sprinkles on Monday, Dec. 23, from 1 to 2:30 p.m.

Teens and tweens

December's Crafty Teens program on Wednesday, Dec. 11, from 3:30 to 5 p.m. is an opportunity to make various holiday ornaments. The program is open to ages 12 and up and requires no registration.

Is math homework getting you down? Do you need to brush up before the GED, ACT, or GRE? Students of all ages are welcome to sit down with our friendly volunteer math tutors to smooth over those trouble spots. No appointment is necessary, just drop in on Mondays between 3:30 and 7 p.m. Tutoring will not take place in D-38 or on

library holidays.

Don't just play video games—create one yourself! Learn how to use software programs to make your characters, games, and animated cards work. We'll explore a variety of software in future sessions that will get you started. Registration is limited to 20 boys and girls from third grade to teens on Friday, Dec. 27, 4 to 5:30 p.m.

Adult programs

The AARP Mature Safe Driver Program will be offered on Thursday, Dec. 5, from 1 to 5 p.m. This is the nation's largest classroom driver refresher course designed for motorists age 50 and older. Graduates may present their course completion certificate to their insurance agent for a discount in premiums. Charge for the four-hour course is \$12 for AARP members and \$14 for nonmembers. Class size is limited and registration is required. To register call AARP at 203-4972.

The Monumental Readers will meet at 10 a.m. on Friday, Dec. 20, to discuss Remarkable Creatures by Tracy Chevalier. All patrons are welcome to join this monthly book club.

On the walls during December, Lynn Lee displays her watercolor and colored pencil creations. In the display case will be a collection of presidential ornaments. Each year since 1981, the White House Historical Association has designed an ornament specifically for the White House Christmas tree.

Palmer Lake Library programs

The Palmer Lake Book Group meets at 9 a.m. on the first Friday of each month. New members are welcome. Please call 481-2587 for the current selection.

Kids of all ages are invited to combine icing, sprinkles, and holiday cheer to decorate colossal cookies on Wednesday, Dec. 18, from 2 to 5 p.m.

Become a Fibernista! Share and learn new tech-

niques of knitting and other fiber arts at the library, each Thursday from 10 to noon. Bring a new project or one in progress.

Please note that all Pikes Peak Library District facilities will be closed on Dec. 24 and 25. In addition, they will close at 4 p.m. on Dec. 31 and remain closed on New Year's Day.

Happy holidays!

Harriet Halbig may be reached at harriethalbig@ocn.me.

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Our Community Notices

By Judy Barnes, Events Editor

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

Dec. 11: Chicken Dijon, rice, & salad

Dec. 18: Bratwurst, sauerkraut, & potato salad

Dec. 25: No lunch—Merry Christmas!

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.

PPLD Seeks Photos,

Videos of Black Forest Fire

Pikes Peak Library District wants to preserve the record of the historic Black Forest Fire and its effects on our community. The district is collecting images for an online photo gallery, which you can send to photos@ppld.org. Feel free to include any personal accounts associated with



Join us for a free meal the third Saturday of each month.

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