

come, and no registration is required. Please call 481-2587 for the current selection.

A fresh photographic display, *Risa's Rabbits*, can be seen on the walls, and work by Palmer Lake Elementary

School students will be in the children's area. There will be two art show openings on **April 4** and **April 25**, both at 4:30.

The hours of operation at the Palmer Lake Library

will remain the same.

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

Palmer Lake Historical Society, March 21

Women who fought as men in the Civil War

By Bernard L. Minetti

At the March 21 meeting of the Palmer Lake Historical Society, Sons of Union Veterans member Benny Nasser presented an overview of the history of women who disguised themselves as soldiers in the Civil War. He said 300 to 400 women participated as male soldiers in this conflict. Many never had their true gender discovered, and some even retired at their wartime rank. In that era, women had no property rights, were not allowed to vote, and could not enter the legal or medical profession. This was a way for them to participate.

Nasser explained that women sought to volunteer to enter the Union Army for several reasons. Some did it for patriotic reasons, while others sought to follow a husband, brother, father, or lover. Others were independent and simply did what they wanted to do. Some wanted to avenge the death of a loved one, while others sought to take advantage of the bounties placed on the enemy. Some were enlisted, while others were disguised as officers. They served effectively and helped to achieve the ends of the Union's cause.

Monument Trustee John Howe addressed the 63 assembled attendees and briefed them on a new project that he is starting. He stated that for 2 1/2 years he had been studying notes, maps, and documents that were in the town's files but not organized or verified. He stated that what were claimed to be the first burials in Monument Cemetery did not match headstones and handwritten notes from the 1880 Census. He continued by stating that human error had led to inaccurate mapping of the cemetery.

Howe said that the Town of Monument clerk had done audit work for the past 11 months to try to correct the errors. Early burials sometimes were performed by family members without permits, generally as a result of a flu epidemic. A train wreck in the early 1900s resulted in deaths that also caused the burial of people with no identification.

Howe indicated that he personally would continue the investigative process to correct the errors and at some time would publicly open the task to volunteers.

Lucretia Vaile Museum Director Rogers Davis described the museum's docent program and stated the need for volunteers. Volunteers interested in participating can contact him at the museum on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. He noted that many local historical items are in the museum. Volunteers would learn much about the local

area just by being on duty in the museum, he said.

The April 18 meeting of the society will feature the topic "Mining for the Real Baby Doe." Joyce Lohse, author of *Baby Doe Tabor: Matchless Silver Queen*, will give an overview of Colorado's favorite female mining legend. The meeting will be at 7 p.m. at the Palmer Lake Town Hall. The public is invited to attend.

Bernard Minetti may be contacted at bernardminetti@ocn.me.



Above: Sarah Rosetta Wakeman, alias Private Lyons Wakeman of the 153rd Regiment, New York State Volunteers, was on active duty from 1862 to 1864. Photo courtesy of Benny Nasser.



Above: From left are Sons of Union Veterans (SUV) Senior Vice Commander Tom Zink, Commander of the Centennial Company of the SUV Gene Cheney, SUV member Benny Nasser, who narrated the Palmer Lake Historical Society's March 21 presentation, and James Barker, past commander of the Centennial Chapter of the SUV. Further information is available by contacting Gene Cheney at 719-357-7011. Photo by Bernard Minetti.



Above: Lucretia Vaile Museum Docents are, from left, Hobie Edwards, Rodger Voelcker, museum Director Rogers Davis, the Rev. John Snyder, and Gerry McDuffee. Volunteer docents are always needed. The museum is open on Saturday mornings. Photo by Bernard Minetti.

Special Events and 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 April Menu

April 10—Ham, scalloped potatoes, & salad

April 17—Spaghetti with meat balls & Caesar salad

April 24—Bratwurst, coleslaw, & potato chips

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 2013, April 1-7

In an effort to increase seat belt use and save lives on rural Colorado roadways, the Colorado State Patrol and 18 rural law enforcement agencies in 25 counties (including rural El Paso County) are mobilizing for a *Click It or Ticket* seat belt enforcement period during the first week of April. The enforcement is combined with a seat belt education campaign targeting male pickup truck drivers, as they have the lowest seat belt use in the state. In 2012, 39% of unrestrained fatalities in Colorado occurred in pickup trucks. Pickup trucks are twice as likely to roll

over in a crash and drivers of pickup trucks have the lowest overall seat belt use at just 71%, compared to 81% of seat belt use among car drivers. 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 income tax filing assistance by AARP, ends Apr. 15

The American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) is offering free income tax filing assistance in the Tri-Lakes area. Trained AARP volunteers will be available to answer questions and to assist filers in completing their federal and state income tax returns every Monday and Thursday, 11 to 7 p.m., at Tri-Lakes Cares, 235 Jefferson St. in Monument, until **April 15**. Free e-filing of both federal and state returns is available. Taxpayers with more complicated returns should seek the advice of a paid professional. Filers are asked to bring their W-2s, 1099-INT, 1099-DIV, etc., needed to complete their 2012 tax returns, plus a copy of last year's (2011) tax return. A photo ID and copy of your Social Security card is also required. Appointments are recommended. For more information or to make an appointment, call 481-4864 Ext. 118. Leave your name and number and someone will return your call.

Citizens' Police Academy, April 16-June 4

The Monument Police Department is taking applications

for the Citizens Police Academy so that citizens can see firsthand what law enforcement is all about. This no-cost, eight-week program will be held Tuesday evenings, **April 16-June 4**, at the Monument Police Department, 645 Beacon Lite Rd. It is open to all who live or work in the Tri-Lakes area. Participants will learn about criminal law, patrol procedures, use of force, computer forensics, internal affairs, community policing, tactical considerations, and will have the opportunity to shoot a variety of police weapons. For more information or to download an application, visit www.monumentpd.org and click on the Community Services button. Or you can stop by the Monument Police Department and pick up an application. For more information, call the Monument Police Department, 481-3253, or email Officer Jon Hudson at judson@townofmonument.net.

Volunteer needed for Citizen Outreach Group, apply by April 19

The El Paso County Board of Commissioners is seeking a community-minded citizen volunteer to serve as an at-large member on the Citizen Outreach Group, an advisory board created by the El Paso County Board of Commissioners to reach out to county residents and encourage open communication between citizens and their commissioners. Applications are due by **April 19**. The volunteer application is located at www.elpasoco.com and can be accessed by clicking on the "Volunteer Boards" link. For