

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 information number for that event.

Senior lunch now Mon. through Fri., new location

Senior lunches are now Mondays-Fridays, noon-1 p.m., at Mountain Community Mennonite Church, 643 Highway 105, Palmer Lake. Lunches are now provided by Silver Key Senior Services Golden Circle Nutrition Program. See the menu for the month in the Senior Beat newsletter, page 6, or online at www.trilakeshap.org/newsletter.php. A voluntary donation of \$2.25 is requested. Stay for bingo the second Thu. each month. Senior lunches will no longer be served at the Tri-Lakes Chamber building or the District 38 Big Red. For more information, call Judy, 487-9067.

Monument's Citizens Police Academy

The Monument Police Department will host a seven-week Citizens Police Academy Tuesday evenings, 7-10 p.m., **April 12-May 24**, at the Monument Police Department, 645 Beacon Lite Rd. There is no cost and it is open to all who live or work in the Tri-Lakes area and are at least 16 years old. Find out firsthand what law enforcement is all about and meet your local police officers. Learn about criminal law, patrol procedures, use of force, computer forensics, internal affairs, community policing, tactical considerations, and have the opportunity to shoot a variety of police weapons and much more. Applications are available at the Monument Police Department and on the website, www.townofmonument.org/departments/police. For more information, call the Monument Police Department, 481-3253; or e-mail Sue Kuchinsky, skuchinsky@tomgov.org.

Tri-Lakes HAP Thrift Store needs volunteers for move, Apr. 24-May 1

Tri-Lakes Silver Alliance (formerly Tri-Lakes Health Advocacy Partnership) is moving to a new location, 755 Highway 105, Suite N. Volunteers are needed **Apr. 24-May 1** to help with packing and moving from the old location, 790 Suite D, Highway 105. To volunteer, call 488-3495.

Monument Hill Foundation Call for Grants, apply by June 30

The Monument Hill Foundation is the granting arm of the Monument Hill Kiwanis Club. The foundation provides funds in support of the club's mission to support youth and the community, with a focus on the Tri-Lakes community. Club fundraising projects include the annual Empty Bowls Dinner that supports Tri-Lakes Cares and the Holiday Red Kettle Campaign collections that go directly to the Salvation Army. The club works on many other activities each year to raise funds that go to the Monument Hill Foundation for direct granting. A list of the latest grant recipients is posted on the website. Interested organizations may submit requests for grants now until **June 30**. Grant applications and instructions can be found at monumenthill-foundation.org.

Free income tax help

Through its Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, Pikes Peak United Way, in partnership with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), provides free income tax preparation assistance to individuals and families with a household income of \$52,000 a year or less. To find out if you qualify or to schedule an appointment, call 2-1-1 Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; or visit www.ppu-nitedway.org/vitaitc.html.

The military also partners with the IRS to provide free tax assistance to military personnel and their families. The Armed Forces Tax Council (AFTC) consists of the tax program coordinators for the Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard. Volunteers are trained and equipped to address military-specific tax issues, such as combat zone tax benefits and the effect of the EITC guidelines. For more information, visit www.irs.gov/Individuals/Military.

Taxpayers who prefer to file their own tax returns electronically have the option of using IRS Free File. IRS Free File offers brand-name tax software to taxpayers who earned \$62,000 or less in 2015 to file their returns for free. Taxpayers who earned more can use Free Fillable Forms, the electronic version of IRS paper forms. IRS Free File is only available through the IRS website by visiting IRS.gov/freefile.

Tri-Lakes Y youth spring soccer, register now

Indoor Soccer Clinic, ages 3-4 years-old, April 9-May 14; Indoor Soccer, ages 5-6 years old, April 9-May 14; Outdoor Soccer, ages 1st-6th grade, March 28-May 14; Spring Volleyball, ages 1st-8th grade, March 28-May 14; Flag Football, ages 1st-8th grade, March 28-May 14. Financial assistance is available. Register at www.pymca.org or at the Y, 17250 Jackson Creek Pkwy., Monument.

Pikes Peak Soap Box Derby, register by May 1

This is the 13th consecutive year for the derby in the Springs. Fifty kids in their hand-built race cars will vie for the opportunity to represent Colorado Springs at the International Soap Box Derby held in Akron, Ohio, July 15, the greatest amateur racing event in the world. Three Tri-Lakes service organizations—Monument Hill Kiwanis, Gleneagle Sertoma, and Legacy Sertoma—contribute to the success of this annual event. The registration deadline is **May 1**. Practice day/inspection is **June 5**, 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Race day is June 12, 8 a.m.-3 p.m., at the 400 block of East Costilla Street, between El Paso and Wahsatch. The public is welcome; there is no admission fee and food service will be available. For additional information, contact Duane Gritzmaker, 719-649-9220, duane_gritzmaker@earthlink.net.

Host a teenage Spanish student for a month

Become a host family for only one month this summer, and receive \$125 per week to support activities. Students arrive June 25-July 23. For details, call 481-4412 or visit www.xploreUSA.org.

Citizen Engagement Survey

El Paso County is updating the Strategic Plan that will include objectives for the next five years. The Strategic Plan guides the county's efforts to provide quality and cost-effective services that are valued by county residents. The county invites all citizens to complete a five-minute citizen engagement survey to help guide the development of the Strategic Plan. The survey can be found at www.elpasoco.com.

Enroll for preschool and kindergarten

Lewis-Palmer School District preschool and kindergarten registration for the 2016-17 school year has begun. Please contact your neighborhood school or the district registrar at 488-4700 for detailed information. Registration packets are available now at all preschools, elementary schools, and the Administration Building, 146 Jefferson St., Monument. Registration packets are also available online at www.lewispalmer.org.

St. Peter Catholic School enrolling for preschool-eighth grade

The school offers full and half-day preschool, Core Knowledge Curriculum with small class sizes, Christ-centered education, athletics, and more. Call or visit: 124 First St., Monument; 481-1855; www.petertherock.org.

County seeks citizen input on transportation

Residents throughout El Paso County are invited to participate in planning the county's future transportation system by getting involved in the Major Transportation Corridors Plan (MTCP) Update. To find out how you can participate, visit epcroadplan.com. For more information, contact Victoria Chavez, 520-6884, VictoriaChavez@elpasoco.com.

Property tax exemption for qualifying senior citizens and disabled veterans

El Paso County Assessor Steve Schleiker reminds residents that the Colorado Constitution establishes a property tax exemption for senior citizens and disabled veterans. For those who qualify, 50 percent of the first \$200,000 in actual value of the primary residence is exempted from property tax. The State of Colorado pays the property taxes on the exempted value. The application deadline for disabled vets is **July 1**, and for seniors is **July 15**. For an application or a brochure that explains the exemptions or for questions regarding the exemptions, please call the assessor's office at 520-6600, email ASRWEB@elpasoco.com, or visit www.elpasoco.com and click on "News Releases."

Postal Service asks for help with winter mailbox access

Help your mail carriers deliver the mail by clearing snow and ice from mailboxes and walkways. If you receive delivery of mail to a rural-type post mailbox, please clear around the box to allow your carrier to drive up to the box,

deposit mail and drive away. If your mail is delivered at your residence or business, please keep the path to your mailbox or slot clear of snow and ice. Delivery personnel, meter readers, friends, and family will also benefit from a safe and convenient path to your door.

Sheriff's Office warns of phone scam

In this scam the suspects are claiming to be an employee of the Sheriff's Office. They give a "badge" number and threaten the individual they are speaking with if they don't follow directions to clear up a warrant, they will be arrested. In some of these cases, they use the name of an actual employee of the Sheriff's Office. They take time trying to coax individuals into going to a grocery store to obtain green dot cards to clear up a warrant. The Sheriff's Office reminds citizens that their office never calls to inform individuals they have an active warrant and never asks individuals to make payments to clear up a warrant. Also, they never call to ask for money for any reason. If you have information about, or have fallen victim to, this or any other scam, please contact 719-390-5555, and ask to have a deputy come out and take a report.

Carbon monoxide risk: Make sure furnace vent pipes are clear of snow

Snow drifts can block side wall ventilation pipes critical for safe operations of modern gas appliances. Residents with modern high-efficiency furnaces in their homes and businesses should make sure the outside vent pipes for those appliances are not blocked by snow and ice. High-efficiency furnaces are not installed using the old style metal vent pipes that extend through the roof. Instead, they use shorter PVC pipes typically vented through a side wall near the ground. While these installations offer great efficiency, the side vent pipes can be covered by snow drifts or clogged by snow and ice, leaves, animal nests or other debris. Obstructed vent pipes can result in the furnace shutting itself down, or in the worst scenario, deadly carbon monoxide could be released into your home or

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