



Kiwanis®
Monument Hill Club

K-News

May 24, 2025

Monument Hill Club - Service Since 1974

Today's Program



CARE AND SHARESM
FOOD BANK FOR SOUTHERN COLORADO

Care and Share
Nate Springer



President Bill Kaelin began the meeting at 8:00 a.m. Zoomers participating were Marlene Bizub, Don Johnson, Barrie Town, Rich Rima, and Steve Hall.

Dave Bailey was Sergeant at Arms.

******Larry Young says "Thank you! I was in a spot Saturday as it was my turn as Sgt-at-Arms and I was also the sponsor for our guest speaker. It would have been impossible to give proper attention to our speaker without Dean Snow and Dave Bailey, who stepped in and took on the Sgt duties for me. That kind of response is what makes our Club so great. Many thanks to Dean and Dave."

Chris Kupko led the Pledge Of Allegiance.

RF Smith was this week's Scribe.

Member Concerns

Rich Hicks led members' concerns.

Diane Zeiger had knee replacement surgery on Wednesday. She is at home but dealing with significant pain at this time.

Sharon Williams had hip surgery last week and is also dealing with a lot pain.

Please keep them both in your thoughts and prayers.

We welcomed back RF Smith and Dave Bailey after their respective and successful knee and hip surgeries. Great to see you!

The memorial service for Anne Campbell, former president of the Tri-Lakes Women's Club, will be June 7th at Family of Christ Church at 10 a.m. It will also be live streamed.

Rich led a morning prayer: Heavenly Father, On this Memorial Day weekend, we pause to remember and honor the brave men and women who gave their lives in service to our country. We are humbled by their sacrifice and forever grateful for the freedoms we enjoy because of their courage. Lord, bless our community with unity, peace, and a deepened sense of purpose. Help us to live lives worthy of the sacrifices made for us—lives of service, compassion, and gratitude. Amen



Visiting Kiwanians and Guests

Benny Nasser introduced Molly Stephens, Director of Programs & Services at Tri-Lakes Cares. Molly thanked us for our continued and big support of Tri-Lakes Cares. Welcome!

Bill Kaelin and Larry Young introduced our guest speaker, Care and Share CEO, Col (Ret) Nate Springer. Thanks for joining us!

Upcoming Programs

- May 31 - Biographies of Club Members
- June 7 - Jackson Creek Senior Living Garage Sale
- June 14 - Why Wait Stories, Lauren Ferrara
- June 21 - D-Day Weather Forecasts, Ed Tomlinson & Steve Sutherland
- June 28 - Living Thru Intel Nightmare, Warren Gerig

Announcements

Membership Minute

Bill Kaelin updated coming events for the membership.

- June 7 - Heart of Monument Playpark Garage Sale at Jackson Creek Senior Living
- June 10 - Happy Hour, Pikes Peak Brewery, 4 pm
- June 12 - Konnectors meeting, Barr Room at Pikes Peaks Brewery, 5:30 pm
- June 22 - Rocky Mountain Youth Leadership

Social Activities

Ed Tomlinson has openings for 3 players on Tuesday at Pine Creek Golf Club at 9:00 am. Please let Ed know if you are interested in playing. You will be Ed's guest! 719-488-9117.

Frank DeLalla is heading up the hiking group and looking for those interested. There are 15 people signed up so far and they are planning to have their inaugural hike the second week in June. Please touch base with Frank if you are up for exploring the countryside.

Bill Kaelin passed around social event signup sheets playing cards and for drinking beer. Bill asked those who are interested in organizing these events to put a star by your name. If the clipboard gets to the end and you don't see any stars, please put a star by someone else's name. Opportunities for having fun!

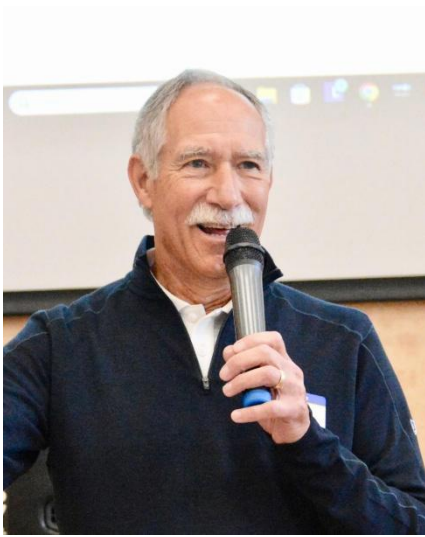


Social Groups



*a collection of individuals gathering together with a common interest.
Informal, encouraging socialization & camaraderie, flexible attendance*

- Golf
- Hiking/walking
- Snow skiing/snowboarding
- Cards – poker, bridge, pinochle
- Wine Tasting
- Beer Drinking
- Lunch
- Museum Trips (US Olympic & Paralympic, WWII Aviation, Western Mining, ProRodeo Hall of Fame, Michael Garman, etc.)
- Tours - Denver Mint, State Capital, USAFA
- Outdoor Trips – sightseeing, fall colors
- USAFA Sports – football, hockey, basketball, baseball (*wolf*)
- Rocky Mountain Vibes Baseball games (*wolf*)



Grace Best Move Out

Bill Kaelin is asking for help on Wednesday, May 28 at 1:00 pm to help move out items stored at Grace Best Elementary. Pickup trucks and SUVs are needed. Contact Bill or just show up on Wednesday at 1:00 pm.

Thank You

Bill also told us that we received a letter of appreciation from Ethan Ortega, one of our career starter recipients. The letter said: "Dear Kiwanians, Thank you for your investment in my future. The support and encouragement of the Kiwanis means so much to me. I'm grateful to all of you."



Saturday, June 7, 2025 | 8 a.m.–2 p.m.
Jackson Creek Senior Living's Backyard
16601 Jackson Creek Parkway, Monument, CO

Jackson Creek Senior Living is partnering with the Kiwanis Monument Hill Club and other local organizations to host a community yard sale benefiting the future Heart of Monument Play Park. Stop by to browse items sold "as-is," check out special "Beyond the Bag" bundle deals, and grab a hot dog lunch — all proceeds from the event support the future park. Cash and credit cards accepted. Guests are kindly asked to park on the north side of the building.

Donations **May 1–June 5**

Jackson Creek Senior Living will collect gently used items Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Donations may be dropped off inside the community's main entrance.

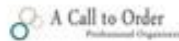
Accepted Items:

- Housewares
- Décor
- Clothes
- Toys
- Furniture
- Gardening Supplies

To learn more, call 719-259-5248 or
visit jacksoncreekseiorliving.com/events.



Heart of Monument Play Park Fundraiser Sponsors
www.HeartOfMonument.org



Yard Sale at Jackson Creek Senior Living June 7th

On June 7th, we are replacing our regular Monument Hill Kiwanis meeting with a garage/yard sale at Jackson Creek Senior Living. Items will be sold "as is" and all proceeds from the event support the Heart of Monument Play Park. There are a couple of ways to help: 1) donate garage sale items at JCSL starting May 1st, and 2) on Saturday, June 7th, MHKC Will run this garage sale from set up at 6:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

We need folks to help pick up items and organize products ahead of June 7. On the 7th we need folks in two-hour shifts from 6:00AM – 4:00 PM setting up tables and tents, staffing tables of products and cleaning up after the sale ends at 2:00PM. If you can help, here is a link to SignUpGenius:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B044BAEAF2CABF94-56660971-jackson>

See Scott Ross with additional questions - scott@rosses.me or 719 661-9078. See poster above for more details.



Service Leadership Program

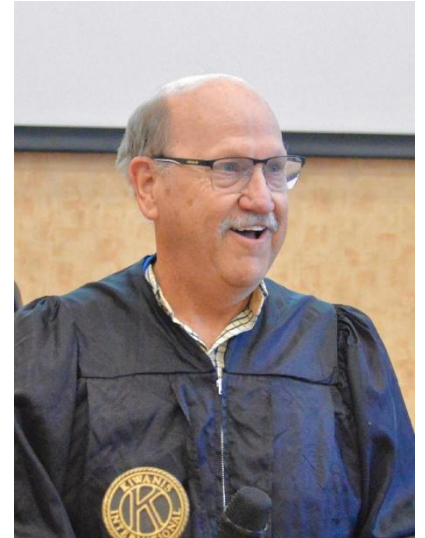
Mike Luginbuhl said things are winding down for SLP as the school year ends. SLP kids will participate in the 4th of July parade. There is one area the Palmer Ridge High School could use volunteer help is their Outdoor Learning Lab. It is up and running and summer is the growing season. They could use help on a regular basis. The Outdoor Learning Lab (OLL) is an experiential learning space that engages students in multiple disciplines, including science, construction, engineering, world languages, art, digital media, marketing, special education, math, and more. Classes use the space to engage and excite students with authentic learning experiences with a cross-categorical reach. The OLL contains several different areas and gardens, including a pollinator garden, a cover crop demonstration area, an ornamental garden, a Colorado native plant garden, a transect area for year-to-year research, two greenhouses, and raised and elevated garden beds. They will also have a weather station. PRHS carpentry classes built the greenhouses, raised beds, and seating for the OLL. Here is a link to the OLL Homepage with links for their newsletter and volunteer signup (they would like up to 20 volunteers a couple times a week):

<https://sites.google.com/lewispalmer.org/proutdoorlearninglab/home>. Also, here is a good news article about the program: <https://www.lewispalmer.org/o/lpsd/article/2192193>

4th of July Parade

The parade this year is on Friday, July 4th. The biggest need for volunteers is as parade marshals according to Frank DeLalla.

Also, Chief Judge Greg Bielanski is looking for three more associate justices to participate in the judging of floats, equestrian, military, pedestrian, and motorized categories. Please see Greg to help. BTW, you don't have to wear a black robe.



Empty Bowls

Heidi Baker provided an update on Empty Bowls which is only four months away. Work is already starting with Tri-Lakes Cares working on the Silent Auction, Tri-Lakes Women's Club is lined up to do lots of desserts, and there is a good Monument Irish Band lined up to play. Things are starting to look good!



News & Notes

Happy Birthday

Courtesy of Frank Wynne

John F. Kennedy, the 35th President of the United States, was born.
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Bill Stoner

MAY 29th

**Joined 2007
Sponsor Barrie Town**



On MAY 29th in HISTORY

- **1917:** John F. Kennedy, the 35th President of the United States, was born.
- **1990:** Boris Yeltsin was elected president of Russia, marking a significant shift in the country's political landscape
- **2004:** The World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C., was dedicated.

Humor

Courtesy of Frank Wynne



An old Italian man lived alone in New Jersey. He wanted to plant his annual tomato garden; but it was very difficult work as the ground was hard. His only son, Vincent, who used to help him, was in prison. The old man wrote a letter to his son and described his predicament:

Dear Vincent,

I am feeling pretty sad, because it looks like I won't be able to plant my tomato garden this year. I'm just getting too old to be digging up a garden plot. Now if you were here my troubles would be over. I know you would be happy to dig the plot for me, like in the old days. Love, Papa

A few days later he received this letter from his son:

Dear Pop, Don't dig up that garden. That's where the bodies are buried. Love, Vinnie

At 6 am the next morning, FBI agents and local police arrived and dug up the entire area without finding any bodies. They apologized to the old man and left. That same day the old man received another letter from his son.

Dear Pop, Go ahead and plant the tomatoes now. That's the best could do under the circumstances. Love, Vinnie

Happy Bucks



Mike McGrath was happy on Saturday because Stars and Stripes newspaper has just published his expose of the VA after Mike discovered 2012 phony POWs in the VA. Here is a link to the story: <https://www.stripes.com/veterans/2025-05-19/pow-veteran-counting-vietnam-gulf-17786591.html>.



Dennis Beasley was happy to attend the graduation party for his Stars of Tomorrow co-host for the past 3 years, Anna Hacker who just graduated from Lewis Palmer High School. She has been accepted to the School of Honors at Syracuse University to study both political science and communications. Dennis told her dad - Don't get in her way, she'll be serving the nation at a high level very soon.



Randy Vernon was happy because his granddaughter who will graduate from Windsor High School on Sunday and in the fall will attend Western Colorado University with a swimming scholarship.



Dave Bailey had a happy buck now that he can walk again!



A couple of weeks ago, Pete Peterson and his wife, Vicky, had a fun road trip to Amarillo where they had dinner at The Big Texan and watched five guys try to eat 72 oz steaks. None of them made it. Then they traveled to Little Rock and saw the Clinton library, then



Jack Fry was very happy because his grandson is graduating from Northfield High School and then will go on to Colorado School of Mines.

on Walmart's Bentonville, then Independence and saw Harry Truman's library, then on to Abilene for the Eisenhower library. It was a fun trip and he would recommend it.



Warren Gerig was happy for his grand niece who will be graduating from the Air Force academy on Thursday. Their whole family will stay with the Gerigs for a week.



Tony Trifiletti said he was in Ohio last week visiting his parents grave and having lunch with classmates. He also visited a high school and presented an award for their new Navy ROTC unit being established. Tony's son came with him so it was a really great week!



Jim Taylor was happy because this week, his youngest grandson, Henry, a graduate of Palmer Ridge High School will graduate from the Air Force Academy. Jim will have the honor of commissioning him if he can fit in his uniform.

Jeff Baker had 5 bucks for himself and Heidi. Last weekend they ran the 5K race in Denver as part of the Colfax Marathon. They both had a respectable times crossing the finish line. Jeff was proud of himself because for the whole race there was a person in an avocado suit 50 yards ahead of him. In the last 20 yards of the race, he passed her. Congratulations!



RF Smith was happy to be back after his surgery and to see his good friend, Dave Bailey back among the living after his hip surgery. RF was also thankful for those who have signed up to be parade Marshals - we need about 46 and are about a third of the way there. He said it's the best seat in the house, so if you have friends or neighbors who would like to participate, please invite them. RF emphasized that even if you are a lineup marshal or a judge, you can also be a parade marshal. Please see RF to help.



Weekly 50-50 Drawing

There was \$48 up for grabs and 7 chips in the bag. Dean Snow had the right ticket number but only found a red chip.

Program



Care and Share

Nate Springer

Scribe: RF Smith

Our speaker was Col. Nate Springer, currently CEO and President of Care & Share.

Nate is a veteran of 24 years in the US Army, serving in 44 nations and living at various times in the Middle East, Africa and South Asia as well as in the Pacific area. Nate's service included multiple deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan. His involvement in Afghanistan earned him several mentions in the book *The Outpost* that was eventually made into a movie. Nate also contributed to the book *Leadership, the Warrior's Art* by co-authoring the final chapter titled *Eight Leadership Lessons We Learned in Combat*. Nate retired as Garrison Commander at Fort Carson and managed to stay retired for about 1 week before taking his current position. Nate began his presentation by telling us about his personal Memorial Day observance, which included honoring the 121 men and women who were killed in the units that he served with in Iraq and Afghanistan. He and many others who served with those units meet at Arlington National Cemetery where 38 of those men and women are buried. They visit each of the grave sites and share the honor of having been able to serve with people like that. Nate offered his hope that each of us would remember this weekend somebody special that made the ultimate sacrifice for our country.

When Nate retired from the Army in the summer of 2022, he was about to choose from two or three for-profit opportunities he had been researching when he was speaking in Washington D.C. about defense communities. It turned out that the Chamber and the Economic Development Council from Colorado Springs were there in the audience. They were about 60 days into their search for a new CEO and decided that Nate fit the bill best. So, Nate passed the flag of Fort Carson, on a Wednesday, and started at Care and Share on a Monday.

About to start his fourth year with Care & Share, Nate told us about the organization. Care & Share is a food-based member of Feeding America. Feeding America is a nonpartisan organization that provides food to the whole country. It's the largest non-profit in the country. It touches every county in the United States, and in our U.S. Territories, with 198 food banks in the network.



At Care and Share Food Bank,

We believe no one should go hungry.

Care & Share touches 29 counties in southern Colorado, from Monument, south to the border into Mexico, about 47,000 square miles. That's about 1,000 square miles larger than the state of Pennsylvania. They have the honor of supporting 289 partner agencies in their half the state, including Tri-Lakes Cares. Nate explained that every one of the Feeding America food banks is a separate 501c3 non-profit and served by Feeding America in 3 ways. First, Feeding America does the high-end fundraising. As an example, about 2 years ago, Mackenzie Scott gave Feeding America \$100 million. Second, because Feeding America is the largest non-profit and charitable food system in the country, they are able to develop cost saving relationships with almost every big food distributor—like Tyson, Del Monte, Big Ag, Big Farms. In this way, Care & Share can usually take a dollar and purchase \$5 worth of food through Feeding America. Thirdly, Feeding America manages government policy. As the largest nonprofit in the country, they have a big voice in Washington, D.C, about the importance of the food security. Nate explained that, as a member of the Feeding America government policy team, he is one of only 10 of the 198 food banks represented on that government policy team which gives our Care & Share a direct input to that policy.

Working with 289 partner agencies, Care & Share sends out about 25 million pounds of food from their three distribution centers every year—about 21 million meals. Their largest distribution center is here in Colorado Springs—a 60,000 square foot facility with capacity to store 2.5 million pounds of food. They have a smaller facility in Pueblo, which supports the Pueblo community and the five surrounding counties. In 2023, we added our third distribution center in Alamosa, west of the La Veta Pass, which cuts their distribution time to the four corners area of western Colorado by half.

Nate told us that he has been working to help Feeding America touch the military in a more meaningful way. In 2023, they ran their first ever conference on military hunger in Savannah, Georgia, working with 35 food banks in from across the country that are near military installations, helping those food banks connect to the leadership of their installations. To assist with this effort, C&S recently began a partnership with Raytheon Technologies and with net \$1.5 million a year over the next 3 years for military and veteran hunger. Locally,

Care & Share will get about \$75,000 a year from that, to sustain our veteran and active program over the next 3 years.

Nate talked about organizations like Tri-Lakes Cares, where the need has exploded in southern Colorado and across the country because of inflation, because of how expensive things have become. He spent some time talking about SNAP, the food stamp program, and how recent legislation that is going through Congress will impact that program. SNAP is implemented with an EBT card that's charged with money every month, and a family can use at a grocery store. It's 9 times more powerful than our Feeding America network. SNAP is the most important program in the country. It's our number one nutrition program. Food banks like Tri-Lakes Cares, are the safety net, not the primary. The Senate is considering a \$286 billion reduction to SNAP. The fear is that this will raise the demand on the other 288 food pantries across the state, and there is no magic lever to go from 25 million pounds to 30 million pounds. Tri-Lakes Cares is likely to need even more help this year, because they are going to face unprecedented number of people that need help.



Nate assured us that Care & Share been around for 51 years and is a strong organization that will weather whatever economic storms arise from current conditions. They have just under 5,000 unduplicated volunteers that walk into the doors of our distribution centers every day to help us. They are in a good financial position. However, reductions in SNAP will have other impacts across the state, especially in rural communities where the SNAP income may represent 30% of the income for the only store serving people in a large rural area. Losing this income may mean that some of those stores may have to close, further deepening the impact on the people who need SNAP. Subsidies to farmers will be reduced, farmers who provide food to our local food banks at little or no cost. Several other smaller programs could be cut that will not return. The local impact is about a \$1 million reduction in the \$11.9 million budget for Care & Share.

Nate entertained some questions, explaining in some more detail how SNAP works and how proposed changes in minimum wage thresholds and purchase restrictions could further impact that program, reducing purchasing power by 20-30%. He also gave us a very good rundown on his efforts to make the organization more efficient and to support his employees, paid and volunteer, extolling the value of his dedicated force of 100 full time volunteers. We were encouraged to continue our support for Tri-Lakes Cares in both food drives

and cash donation collection. Overall, Nate gave us a great view of the work he and Care & Share are doing in Colorado and across the nation. Thank you, Nate Springer for your continuing service to our nation.

The Saturday Meeting video is available here - https://youtu.be/wF1_23t6s0Q

Quick Links

[Monument Hill Kiwanis Website](#)

[Facebook](#)

[Monument Hill Foundation Website](#)

[Instagram](#)

[Twitter](#)

Special Thanks

Senior Meals Drivers & Scheduler - Jim Murphy

Deliveries: Tues, Wed, Thurs; Senior Center; Grace Best Education Center

Photographers: Warren Gerig, Bonnie Nasser

Media Support: Scott Ross, Mark Zeiger, Jo Carroll, Frank DeLalla

Virtual Meeting Reminder

We need YOU to help with the K-News weekly.

It's FUN and a great way to support the club's communications efforts. Contact one of us to learn more!

[Rich Hicks](#) * [Mark Anderson](#) * [RF Smith](#)

K-News Crew

(click on a name to email us directly)

Members receive a link to each week's meeting via email.

In-person attendance is encouraged. Zoom is available.

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THANK YOU!

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