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New Membership Contacts:
 Ken Sweet info@columbinekiwanis.org
 19Kiwanis15

Attendance

Attendance at the March 11 meeting was 45, including 15 guests: Alison Peck-SOM, with Mom Rebecca, Dad Jeremy, Sister Vanessa, Grandma Carol and Granddad Al. Sophie Lucero-SOM, with Mom Hope and Dad Austin, Isabella Rissmiller-SOM, with Mom Erin. Logan Meier-Asst. Principal, Jessica Deitchel-Counselor, and Dawn Powell.

Also: Andrea Weule-Kiwanis RMD Governor-Elect.

Project hours MTD for March is 225

Wednesday Meeting

6:45 Social, 7:00 Meeting

4G's Restaurant

5950 S Platte Canyon Road, Littleton, CO 80123

Links for signups and for reporting hours

Scan QR or click on link



[PROJECTS SIGN UP](#)

[VOLUNTEER 4HOURS](#)

Please report hours

Kiwanis Club of Columbine

Weekly newsletter for March 18, 2026

This Week's Presenter is David Boysen
 Topic "Ethiopia" (p)

Greeter /Pledge :Mike Jepkes Invocation: Dawn McEwen

Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to improving the world one child and one community at a time.



Mar 19 Kathy Athens

Upcoming Club Programs

Mar 25 Mike Jepkes – "Small Metal Discs" (p)
 Apr 01 Social Time – "How to Stay in Touch"
 Apr 08 Student of the Month

Future Club Events and Service Projects

Mar 09—13		Jr. Achievement – 3 rd grade - Tom Durkin
Mar 16	Mon	Blood Drive – Tom D -Please register
Mar 17	Tue	Satellite Meeting - Charlie Boyer– Colorado Credit Union
Mar 17	Tue	Terrific Readers and Writers Don Buck
Mar 19	Thu	Sharing with Sheridan - Ferris
Mar 21	Sat	NHDC judging Mitch
Mar 24	Tue	Kiwanis After Dark – George Kinzer, 303 Sports Bar 5:00 PM
Mar 29	Sun	Jefferson Symphony Spring Concert – Jim R
Mar 30	Mon	Project C.U.R.E. – George Kinzer
Apr 07	Tue	Satellite Meeting - Charlie Boyer– Colorado Credit Union
Apr 14	Tue	Kiwanis After Dark – George Kinzer, 303 Sports Bar 5:00 PM
Apr 20	Mon	Columbine Day of Service
Apr 26	Sun	Top Golf fund raiser – Jim F

Nourish Meals on Wheels (Note – check with master list)

Mar 18	Wed	Non-Kiwanis
Mar 19	Thu	Rod & Karen Hunley
Mar 20	Fri	Jim Johnstone & Abe Baltazar
Mar 23	Mon	Jerry & Jan Clayton
Mar 23	Tue	Non Kiwanis
Mar 25	Wed	Non Kiwanis
Mar 26	Thu	Karen & Rod Hunley
Mar 27	Fri	Janet Woodhull & Nancy Bierman
Mar 30	Mon	Les & Mary Ann Burns & Sally Kingman
Mar 31	Tue	Riggs & Bobbi Smith
Apr 01	Wed	Terri & Cleve McKinney
Apr 02	Thu	Karen & Rod Hunley

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March Students of the Month Event

At the Mar. 11th Club Meeting, our guests included 3 Students of the Month (SoM) and family members and school administrators / teachers in a recognition program for students that demonstrate positive influence in their school communities through personal development, service to others and informal leadership. The Club members enjoy getting an insight into the world of these young people that are evolving into contributors and leaders shaping the future. In all cases – the schools emphasized selecting students for their work ethic/dedication, focus on studies, kindness and empathy to others. What was especially rewarding this week was seeing how the MS students were so engaged in hearing and learning from the HS students' experiences - discussions were still ongoing outside between the HS student and one of the MS students 20 minutes after the meeting was over.

Sophie Lucero is an 8th grader from Powell MS with a passion for art and knowledge. Moving from Albuquerque to Littleton 1 week before starting



7th grade was a social, academic and cultural challenge that she embraced and impressed the Powell community. Her high internal standards aligned with the expectations of the new school and many friendships were fostered by her wide interests, kindness and desire to talk to anyone of any age. She is a very talented and creative artist across all forms of media – excited by the art related opportunities offered in High School. She also excels in Math and Science, looking forward to Engineering classes next year. Her teachers note that she has a cool mind, is very thoughtful and asks excellent questions, seeking clarity and depth to fully understand material and directions which helps her peers. Sophie's creativity extends to her reading, cooking, and gaming. She loves Sci-Fi and Fantasy books that reflect alternate realities and has started writing a novel based on questioning "what-if things were different" scenarios. She is a member of the Dungeons and Dragons club playing the game after school. Sophie also has played soccer for many years and as a goalie or defender, she loves the challenge of anticipating and facing down opponents attacking her. After the presentation, she initiated display of another facet of her intriguing mind by telling me all about how the brain has no nerves to feel pain and how pain like headaches are actually caused. According to her dad – this is typical of wanting to share her quest for knowledge. Sophie comes across as a quieter person, but

upon engaging she exhibits depth and thoughtfulness. She is a true Renaissance person leading by example and enriching the lives around her. It's no wonder that the Powell community has been so excited and enriched by her.

Isabella Rissmiller - A real dynamo, Isabella was the Student of the Month from Ken Caryl MS. She, along with being a superior student, has dedicated an amazing amount of time to her love of dance. With over 30 hours a WEEK spent on the art, she has become a regionally



recognized ballerina. She has been working with both the prestigious Denver Ballet and the Salt Lake City Ballet as an invited performer and understudy, a huge recognition. In addition, she has been a Sunday School volunteer, working every week with the 2 years olds. Isabella was further praised by counselor Jessica as an empathetic and caring student who always demonstrates that character in school. Mom Erin, who teaches preschool at Normandy Elementary, shared that Isabella has a great work ethic in both school and dance and is self-starter. Grandparents, Cari and Mark, added that they could not be prouder of how she handles various challenges in life and how mature she is at her age. She looks forward to gaining a college degree with probable emphasis on her math and history favorites and to seeing where her dance success might take her. Yep, a dynamo for sure!

Alison Peck - Columbine Kiwanis was visited and entertained by an impressive Student of the Month from Arapahoe HS. She was accompanied by her parents, Rebecca and Jeremy and sister



Vanessa as well as her grandparents, who Alison celebrated for attending throughout her life every athletic, musical, theatre, etc. event she has participated in. Alison is a Nat. Honor Society member and has maintained a 4.0 GPA throughout her high school career. She has been a 2-year member of Key Club, performed in several school drama plays, been a member of the debate team and takes numerous AP and CE (college credit) courses. She plans to attend Arap. CC with the intention of transitioning to a 4-year college

subsequently with ambitions to pursue business and healthcare as potential careers. She spoke passionately of her involvement with the Wind River Reservation org. which celebrates the 30+ years of affiliation between the Arapahoe nation and the Arap. HS "Warriors"; including a trip up to Wind River in Wyoming. She enjoys music, rock climbing, hiking and camping and has demonstrated an earnest desire to engage with her teachers to inquire and question what is being taught to further her learning and understanding. Our membership was impacted by her presence and verbal skills in expressing herself as well as evidencing her thoughtfulness, confidence and modesty....a definite WOW!

Parent Feedback - Dear Kiwanis, It was such a pleasure to meet you this morning and witness the Kiwanis Club in action. It was wonderful to meet some other shining stars from other schools too. Thank you so much for spending time with us and our daughter Sophie. Thank you for presenting her strengths and interviewing her. She isn't often in situations where she speaks to a room full of people staring at her and I appreciate the care and grace you handled her with. She really felt special and I am so glad she was recognized by her school and teachers for being the student and person that she is. Thank you to the other members and the club for putting such a special, intimate event together to celebrate the great kids in our community!! We really enjoyed it and felt honored to take part!



Columbine Kiwanis Scholarships

Our club is giving out two scholarships this year, for high school students. The lead on this project is Geri. She is looking for people to be on the committee to judge applications. If interested, please contact her. - Lane

The Kiwanis Satellite Group

will meet next Tuesday, March 17th, at 12:30 PM at the Colorado Credit Union, 10026 W. San Juan Way. It will be St. Patrick's Day, so be sure to wear some green! We'll talk about the kind of music you like best and what you like about it. See you then! - Charlie Boyer

Columbine Day of Service

Dear Raccoon Families,

In slightly more than a month we'll celebrate Columbine Day of Service on Monday, April 20th, and we'll have about 100 high school students in our hallways finishing the hallway painting, we'll need about 15 adults each hour to supervise and for quality control. We also have opportunities the rest of that week for adults to put the finishing touches on the hallways. If you're available, please sign up for an hour (or more) on the Columbine Day of Service

SignUpGenius: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/DayofService2026>.

Also, there are opportunities to help prep the space for painting on 4/17 starting at 1 p.m. Sign up on the link above. Thanks in advance for jumping in on this important day!

Sincerely,



Ryan R. Lucas
Principal

Stay In Touch

How are you doing? Have you been able to attend meetings lately? To volunteer in projects? Does anyone ask you these questions?

The Club has 70 members. Each member can be forgiven for losing touch with some of the other 69 members. However, we can do something about that. To that end, I propose a "Stay In Touch" program that establishes small groups of 5-6 members. This approach allows you to focus on 4-5 other members. I have created the "groups" by myself, using a highly sophisticated algorithm that did not require help from AI.

On April 1, the Wednesday morning meeting has a Social Time (meaning no speaker), during which I will explain further. I will also visit the Satellite group in early April.

Ruthann

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Blood Drive

Be Cooler Than The Average Donor

Thank you for being a loyal donor!

We think you deserve to be rewarded!

Exclusive Gift for Loyal Donors Like You

. Step 1: Donate Give blood with Vitalant 4+ times between January 1,

2026 and December 31, 2026.

. Step 2: Redeem Log into your Donor Rewards acct to claim your exclusive

Vitalant backpack cooler.

. Step 3 Celebrate! Proudly plan a picnic, head to a tailgate or enjoy a day at the pool with your new backpack cooler, knowing that you've made a real difference for trauma patients. Plus, you'll earn 200 points in the Donor Rewards program for each blood donation. After four donations, that's enough to redeem for a \$10 gift card of your choice!

SAVE THE DATE for your first donation at the

Riverwalk Clubhouse

2751 Riverwalk Circle

March 16th

Link for registration

<https://donors.vitalant.org/dwp/portal/dwa/appointment/guest/phl/timeSlotsExtr?token=ivmMbU%2FVYEQqkEYtc3fahEtUhJRzqoEEJdj5%2BMLbwHA%3D>

District Mid-Winter Conference Report

The District Mid-Winter conference was held with an estimated attendance of around 100 participants. The event proved to be both enjoyable and informative, offering valuable insights and ideas to all who attended.

A picture was taken of Ken, Domi, and Susan during the conference. Domi, who is a candidate for governor elect, has made significant contributions to Kiwanis.



ProjectCURE

Kiwanis Friends -

We will be making our usual monthly visit to ProjectCURE on the morning of Monday, March 30. For those who desire to carpool, we will meet at the 4Gs parking lot and depart at 9:00am promptly. Our usual work session lasts until Noon. We never know what tasks will be assigned, but it is always something useful. Last month we were divided into two groups, each with a different task.

If you would like to join us, please go to the Signup Genius site and add your name to the volunteer list. Let me know if you have any questions about this project. - George

TopGolf Fundraiser Sponsorship

We still have opportunities for TopGolf Fundraiser Sponsors. We encourage you to share this information, especially with businesses and potential donors who may be interested in supporting the event. Columbine Kiwanis provides an outstanding audience for advertisers. Businesses looking to promote their products or services can benefit from engaging with event participants.

TICKETS ON SALE NOW

\$125 / PERSON

Kiwanis Top Golf 2026 Tournament Auction



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The Gentleman Farmer

Ferris Forar has been involved with feeding people his entire life. He was born in Arlington, Washington, about 50 miles from the Canadian border. His father was a machinist who bought a dairy farm when Ferris was 11 years old. Prior to the purchase of the dairy farm Ferris was leaning to play the clarinet, but he ultimately had to abandon his lessons because his hands became too stiff from shoveling hay with a pitchfork to feed their 100 cows.

Ferris went to Washington State University in Pullman, Washington and obtained a degree in dairy management. He then accepted a position as the assistant manager of the university's dairy farm and was a part-time lab instructor for students and interns when they had lab classes at the dairy farm. He spent his entire career working for the university.

Ferris was involved in all aspects of cow care, including insemination of cows and the birthing of calves. (For those of us who grew up in an urban area, calves are born with their front legs coming out first, with their heads tucked between their legs). Although some may assume that family farms have been replaced by are giant corporations involved in milk production, Ferris indicated that over 90% of dairy farming is done by family farms.

When asked what the craziest thing was he experienced in his career, Ferris said it was when Mt. St. Helens volcano erupted. Ferris was tending to cows in a field 300 miles to the east of the eruption, when a solid black wall of air (almost like a thunderstorm approaching) started coming towards him. The cows settled down immediately and the birds went to roost, and Ferris found it hard to breathe as 1/2 inch of fine ash started to fall over everything. At that time businesses were not as cognizant of the dangers of workplace exposure to harmful air particles, he was not provided with a mask or breathing apparatus. Ferris dealt with breathing in the ash for the next 10 years, because the ash had gotten all over the hay and ground, so he was breathing in ash whenever he shoveled hay or the land was disturbed.

Ferris has been a member of Kiwanis for 7 years and served 2 terms on the board. He has been involved with Sharing with Sheridan since before COVID and helped develop the current system of the drive-by method of distributing food that was necessary during the Covid pandemic. Ferris also volunteers with many other projects, including Project Cure and Sweet Dreams in a Bag. In keeping with his history with farming, Ferris has in the past volunteered with a non-Kiwanis event at

the Great American Beer Fest (after all, someone had to make sure they were using quality hops!)

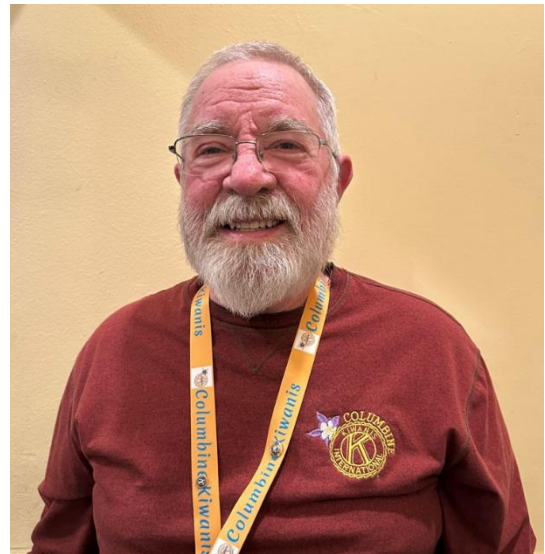
You will often see Ferris and Abe Baltazar together. They became acquainted through Ferris's son, who is a neighbor to Abe. They share a wonderful camaraderie as is evidenced by an interaction that occurred during the recent Nibbles and Sips fundraiser.

Abe (talking about Ferris): "I make him look taller."

Ferris (talking about Abe): "And I make him look smarter."

Ferris is so appreciated for all his volunteer work, and for sharing with us his interesting life story.
us his interesting life story.

Kathy Athens



Columbine Kiwanis 2026 TopGolf Tournament

Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to improving the world one child and one community at a time.

Sponsor Levels

Tournament Sponsor \$2000 Banner / Program Listing / Newsletter

- Fundraising Sponsor Recognition
- Banner / Program Listing / Newsletter (Large Font)

Buffet Lunch Sponsor \$1500 Banner / Program Listing / Newsletter

- Buffet Lunch Sponsor Recognition
- Banner / Program Listing / Newsletter (Smaller Font)

Drink Ticket Sponsor \$1000 Banner / Program Listing / Newsletter

- Drink Ticket Sponsor Recognition
- Banner / Program Listing / Newsletter (Smaller Font)

Golf Bay Sponsor \$750

- Sponsor Name Listed on Bay
- Program Listing
- 6 Sponsor Members Participate in Tournament
- Great Team Building Experience

Single Participant Ticket \$125

- 3 hours of TopGolf
- Buffet
- 2 Drinks



Sponsors will have their names prominently displayed on a banner at the event, ensuring visibility to all attendees. **Sponsors** will be featured in our newsletter for several weeks. The newsletter is distributed to approximately 300 recipients, providing sponsors with extended exposure. **Sponsors** will be listed with other sponsors and contributors with a description about the sponsors in a program distributed to all contestants.

Why Sponsor Columbine Kiwanis?

- **Help Local Community**
 - Every donated dollar goes directly to the local community. **0% Administration fees**
 - For the 2023-2024, Kiwanis Club of Columbine worked on over **60 service projects**, volunteered **8270 hours**, and **donated \$21,655** to local schools and community organizations.
- **Increasing Sponsor Visibility**
 - Published in weekly newsletter
 - Columbine Kiwanis has approximately 70 active members
 - Columbine Kiwanis newsletter has a circulation of over 300
- **Tax Benefit**
 - The Kiwanis Club of Columbine Foundation has been determined to be a public charity under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.
- **Partnership with Local Schools**
- **Columbine Kiwanis assists with either money, labor or both with the local community**

For more information about Columbine Kiwanis: [Kiwanis Club of Columbine – Come visit our club](#)

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