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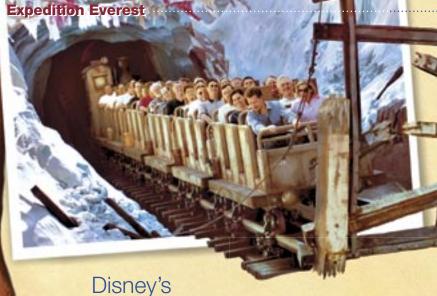
Monitor Calendar

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for some exciting news!

Do we have your email address? If not, take a second and register it online today. It's the best way to keep up with the very latest news and offers between issues of the Mickey Monitor. So go to disneyworld.com/passholder and register your email address today. Or if your email has changed, be sure to update it.





Expedition Everest

takes thrill rides to new heights

Imagineer Joe Rohde gives us the lowdown on Disney's newest e-ticket

You may have noticed something growing on the horizon lately. It's kind of hard to miss. After all, how often do you see a Himalayan peak plopped in the middle of Disney's **Animal Kingdom®** Theme Park? The quick answer? Never before now. Not until the best of Disney's best set their sights extremely high for their most recent attraction. Expedition Everest™, the latest addition to all the excitement of the Happiest Celebration On Earth.

So what's the best way to describe the newest Disney thriller? We asked Imagineer Joe Rohde, the creative lead on the project to give us his review.

"First of all, Expedition Everest is definitely a thrill ride," Joe explained. "It has good speeds and forces, comparable to Rock 'n' Roller Coaster®."

DISNEY STORYTELLING IN PEAK FORM

The next thing you're going to notice is how this ride is packed with incredible Disney storytelling. It transports you right into the middle of an adventure.

As Joe puts it: "The premise is that we, the Guests, are on an

expedition. We've arrived on this particular day in this little Tibetan town in the foothills of the Himalayas. And the little trekking company that we've engaged is going to get us on this train, which they've just refurbished, to get us to Everest really, really fast."

Many of the carvings were done by Himalayan artists in Kathmandu,

then distressed by Imagineers to make them appear properly aged.

"But to do that, we have to go through the realm of the Yeti. And traditional Tibetan thought holds the Yeti to be the protector of the hidden and forbidden reaches of the Himalayas. So the Yeti is doing his job as defender of the mountains when we encounter him. And it ends up that we have to escape from his wrath and make our way back to town in this high-speed escape adventure."

How's that for a nail-biter?

It takes a lot to support these high-speed thrills. 1,800 tons of steel went into the

mountain's structure.

MAKING A MOUNTAIN

Expedition Everest comes complete with some pretty amazing stats. How about 199 feet of absolute authentic Himalayan highland? One foot higher and it would have required a light on top so airplanes would know it's there.

The whole thing is a "how'd they do that" mind-blower. First off, it's now the tallest "mountain" in Florida, made from roughly 27,000 pieces of computer-bent rebar. It's also home to about six times the amount of steel an office building of the same size would be made of. Of course, when you're sending a runaway train rig that's going way beyond the speed limit up and down and all through this thing, you need to make it sturdy. And, that they did. Using 3D, 4D and probably some secret kind of 87D tools, Disney Imagineers were able to create the most impressive, multi-sensory, gravity coasters you'll ever scream

The end result? More twists and turns than a pretzel. An 80-foot drop that we figure to have at least 50% more screamonosity than the Splash Mountain® finale. And an encounter with the Yeti (a.k.a. Abominable Snowman) that's sure to make you regret ever doubting his existence.



You're in for quite a ride. The twisting, turning track on this attraction is nearly a mile long.

mickey monitor Expedition Everest

Expedition Everest:

A quest for absolute authenticity.

To build a mountain you start with the Roof of the World... the Himalayas, where Earth's mightiest peaks are steeped in deep lore and legend.

That quest is what inspired Walt Disney Imagineering.

And as far as authenticity goes—let's put it this way. You might want to take your passport.

Even the Tibetan- and Nepalese-inspired buildings in the village at the base of the mountain are the real McCoy. The Imagineers used a technique called "rammed earth." Basically, they hammer moist dirt and straw until it becomes the consistency of brick. In fact, everything the adventuresome Guest sees will be authentic. Disney Imagineers brought back over 2,000 handcrafted items from Asia to re-create the village.

"Many of the details we saw there can be seen all across the Himalayas," Joe Rohde told us. "There's some architectural color, some props, and there's a little area in the standby queue where we're going to talk about the actual expedition—what we discovered, where we went, that kind of thing."

And what Himalayan experience would be complete without proper homage paid to the mythical Yeti? Throughout the village are statues and carvings of the beastly guardian of the mountain. Disney collaborated with actual Himalayan artisans to create them all.

"There are many, many portrayals of the Yeti spread through this village, reflecting this idea of the Yeti as a kind of protector of the environment," Joe said. "Just looking for those alone, you could spend hours."

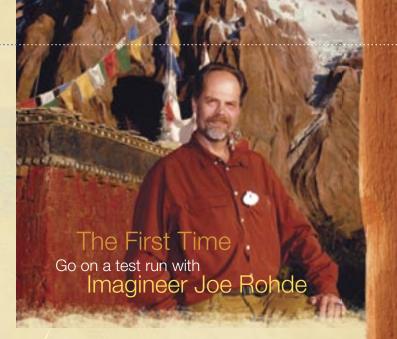
Watch the story of
Expedition Everest
come to life on Discovery Networks

To learn more about the Disney's quest for authenticity in creating Expedition Everest keep your eye on your TV listings. Discovery Networks will be airing original Everest-related programming across a number of its channels including Discovery Channel, Travel Channel and the Science Channel this April.

For the broadcast schedules of these special Everest programs, visit disneyeverest.com.



More than 900 bamboo plants, 10 species of trees and 110 species of shrubs were planted around the attraction to evoke the lowland landscape that surrounds Mount Everest.



After virtually experiencing Expedition Everest™ hundreds of times in models and computer programs, Joe Rohde couldn't wait to ride it for real. We asked him to share his thoughts about that first ride.

My first thought as I climbed on was basically what a great feeling it was to be on it and take in all the story details around me. Even though I'd been working on it for four years I felt as nervous about what was to come as anyone else would. It's a big coaster. But the huge thing was I couldn't help but think how beautiful it was.

Then the train left the station and as we made our way up the bridge I got that kind of helpless feeling. There is nothing around you but an intense feeling of being really, really high up.

I loved the way the ride built in intensity as we went forward – that was a big surprise to me – the level of intensity.

And then it starts to pick up speed. And when you start moving you really start moving and then—whoa! – it goes even faster. At this point, it's almost an overload for the senses and I'm already thinking I'm gonna have to ride it a bunch of times just to take everything in.

This ride had a different sensation, a different buzz than anything I've ever been on. Individually the drops are great, they're unexpected and scare the heck out of you. But when it finally comes to a stop, the biggest success of the ride is how all these thrills are wed with the storytelling and art direction. It really puts you in an incredible place. By the end of it all I just wanted to ride it again.



Repeat riders like Joe will be happy to hear that each ride is different depending on where you sit. "They're all good," Joe told us. "But each has its own unique sensation."



disneyeverest.com Join Expedition Everest from the comfort of your computer

Need a little dose of Disnev's

newest thrill between visits to the Park? Just let your mouse lead you to disneyeverest.com — your online source to all the stories behind this exciting ride. Enter "Yeti Vision" and take a tour of the attraction through the eyes of the Abominable Snowman in an in-your-face interactive adventure quest. Go behind the scenes for an insider's look at what went into the making the attraction.

Check out "Mission Himalayas," a look at a real-life expedition to these remote mountain lands. It shows the lengths to which Disney traveled to make the attraction absolutely authentic.

Get up to speed on the legend of the Yeti then find out what other Guests think in our "Guestimonials." So what are you waiting for?

Fire up your internet connection and join the expedition.

DOO

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

ESPN The Weekend is a great event for fans, sportscasters and athletes alike:



"I'm giddy about Mickey, Pluto and Goofy, plus it's a great time with the ESPN people and the athletes."

-Stuart Scott-



"My family has a great time and it gives me a chance to really enjoy the park and meet a lot of great people."

-Brian Urlacher-



"Great fun for everyone, family, friends and especially the Seven

-Julius Erving-

ESPN The Weekend

The ultimate sports fan weekend—Boo-Yah!

On Friday, March 3rd thru Sunday March 5th, it's a whole new ball game at **Disney-MGM Studios**. That's because we're sporting the 3rd Annual **ESPN The Weekend**.

It's an entire weekend dedicated to true sports fans. The game plan boasts celebrity sportscasters including Stuart Scott and Chris Berman. Check out Q&A sessions with star athletes like Chicago Bear great Brian Urlacher and basketball legend Julius "Dr. J" Erving. Go behind the scenes and be a part of the studio audience at live telecasts of Sports Center. You'll also enjoy specially themed sports shows, an interactive sports zone and a sports edition of Who Wants To Be A Millionaire—Play It! Not to mention, all the fun of **Disney-MGM Studios** itself!

For the full play-by-play of this event, checkout **espntheweekend.com**.

How to make your Annual Pass into "The Love Pass"

Celebrate Valentine's Day by re-enacting these famous romantic scenes throughout the **Walt Disney World**® Resort:

- ♥ Lady and the Tramp Hum "Bella Notte" as you share spaghetti at Tony's Town Square Restaurant. Guys, be sure to nose that last meatball towards your lady.
- ▼ The Lion King At Festival of the Lion King, watch the performers fly through "Can You Feel the Love Tonight," and imagine it's just the two of you gliding up there.
- **▼ 101 Dalmatians** Recreate Roger and Anita's nuptials by renewing your vows at Disney's Wedding Pavilion.
- ▼ The Love Bug On Tomorrowland® Indy Speedway, your love muffin can operate the gas pedal while you try to steer, feigning surprise that "this car has a mind of its own!" Then, hop over to Disney-MGM Studios to see Herbie at Lights, Motors, Action!™ Extreme Stunt Show.

And what's more romantic than *Cinderellabration* and *Beauty and* the *Beast – Live on Stage*? You can even re-enact Sleeping Beauty with a Disney Resort stay (see page 12 for information on a new Passholder Resort Benefit).





PODCASTERS PUT ON MICKEY EARS

Hooked on Podcasting yet?
Well, you will be when you download the new "Walt Disney World" Resort: Plugged In"
Podcast series. Listen to behind-the-scenes interviews with Imagineers, chats with visiting celebrities, special event news, and more. Just visit disneyworld.com/podcast to plug into the fun.

CLUB COOL POPS OPENS

All you **Epcot®** fans who missed Ice Station Cool while it was being "refreshed", take heart. It's open again with a new name and vibrant red and white design. "Club Cool" still features an eclectic assortment of Coca-Cola® merchandise and (Yum!) complimentary beverage samples from around the world.



WORLD OF DISNEY ADDITIONS TO COME

Perhaps you've noticed all the activity around the World of Disney® store at the Downtown Disney® Marketplace? Insiders tell us to expect cool princess 'makeover' experiences at a new "Bibbidi Bobbidi Boutique" and a "tech bar" where kids can sharpen their gaming skills. It's all due this April. Look for details in our next issue.

Romance puts its special stamp on Flower and Garden Festival

When the Epcot International Flower & Garden Festival blossoms April 21-June 11, you won't find any wallflowers. You'll see topiaries of Daisy and Donald Duck riding the Tunnel of Love, Cinderella waltzing with her prince, and other Disney character couples amid the sweet scent of love in bloom (actually, millions of blooms).



The theme is in the mail

This year's Festival theme was inspired by the historic release of "Romance," (part of "The Art of Disney" stamp series produced by the U.S. Postal service). You'll be able to purchase the four stamps, featuring Mickey and Minnie, Belle and Beast, Lady and the Tramp, and Cinderella and Prince Charming, in multi-stamp sheets, special merchandise and collectible first day issues (see below).



You can learn a lot of things from the flowers

Of course, there'll be a lot for everyone at the Festival. Among the many kids' treats is Minnie's Magnificent Butterfly Garden, where they'll journey among hundreds butterflies and see how caterpillars undergo miraculous transformations. Informative horticulture sessions feature renowned experts including Paul James of HGTV's "Gardening By the Yard". Brand-new is The Garden Party, three separate themed experiences presented by The Home Depot, each alive with outdoor party ideas for weddings, luaus and childrens' birthdays.





BE PART OF DISNEY STAMP HISTORY

On April 21, the U.S. Postal service officially releases "Romance," the third and final set in the "The Art of Disney" stamp series. This is a big day for stamp collectors, because this is the day you can purchase a "first day cover," which is a commemorative envelope with the stamp canceled on the actual day it's issued.

The two earlier U.S. stamp sets featuring Disney characters, "Friendship" and "Celebration," were issued at Disneyland® Park, but this time Epcot® is the official issue site. And as an Annual Passholder, you can be there for this magical moment in Disney and U.S. history!



Before the new, 10-foot Daisy Duck topiary takes her place next to Donald at this year's Festival, she starts out as a 7-1/2 inch "maquette," sculpted by Walt Disney Imagineering Art Director Joni van Buren.

Maquettes are 6- to 18-inch "blueprints" for topiaries and other posed Character figures. "In maguette size, I can play with arm movements, head tilts, and shifts of direction in a few minutes," Joni explains. "With a full size figure, it would take weeks." Under Joni's guidance, the topiary is shaped, grown and trimmed to match the sculpture.

Maquettes allowed Disney topiaries to evolve beyond the silhouettes and basic shapes of days past. "Guest feedback is fabulous." Joni says. "They really notice the difference. We never underestimate our Guests, what they see and what they expect."



SOMETHING TO SING ABOUT

What would a romantic, flower-filled interlude be without music? The Flower Power Concert Series at America Garden Stage will welcome newcomers Tony Orlando and The Tokens as well as popular favorites.

Perfomers	Dates
The Nelsons	April 21-24
The Buckinghams	April 25-27
Gary Puckett	April 28-May 1
The Grass Roots	May 2-4
Paul Revere & The Raiders	May 5-8
The Association	May 9-11
Davy Jones	May 12-15
The Tokens	May 16-18
B. J. Thomas	May 19-22
Felix Cavaliere's Rascals	May 23-25
The Guess Who	May 26-29
Tony Orlando	May 30-June 1
Arlo Guthrie	June 2-5
The Turtles	June 6-7
Herman's Hermits	June 8-11



MORE EVENTS WITHIN THE EVENT

Art in the Garden Weekend May 5-7 A celebration of "living art" with experts showing you how to make your own creations.

Mother's Day Weekend May 12-14 All the Mom's are VIPs on these days, with special presentations and a complimentary rose for every Mom.

Mother's Day Brunch May 14

A sumptuous unlimited gourmet feast with live entertainment and a mimosa for Mom. Call 407-WDW-DINE (939-3463) for information & reservations.

Characters In Bloom Weekend May 19-21 Dozens of your favorite characters from Disney classics join you

I Dig Bugs Weekend June 2-4

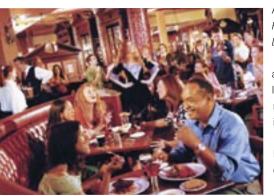
to celebrate Spring!

Fun-filled encounters of the crawly kind. with hands-on demonstrations, games and crafts for kids.



New Irish pub is absolutely O'thentic

Raglan Road features the best in Irish food, flair, and fun



A true slice of Ireland has arrived with the opening of Raglan Road™ Irish Pub and Restaurant at Downtown Disney Pleasure Island.

There's no better place to belly up to the bar and raise a pint to toast good times. You'll find a full selection of Irish stouts, lagers, and creamy ales. Add nightly live music by a band direct from Ireland and the ambiance is complete.

The new restaurant is immersed in genuine Irish fun. It's warm and welcoming with custom furnishings all designed and built in Ireland by Irish craftspeople.

Celebrated Irish chef Kevin Dundon is behind the superb cuisine, and calls the concept "fine dining

standards in a casual context — with Celtic creativity."

According to Paul Nolan, Raglan Road co-owner, who hails from Dublin, "It's like lifting a pub from Ireland and dropping it here." Stop by for dinner on Saint Patrick's Day or any old day. Pleasure Island club admission is not required for entrance.

Disney music fans rejoice!

There's a treasure trove waiting for you at Main Street Cinema at Magic Kingdom® Park and Once Upon a Toy at Downtown Disney® Marketplace. The new Wonderland CD system creates new

> compact discs from over 60 classic full-length Disney albums. Over 20 albums are on CD for the first time and virtually all are unavailable in stores.

This is big news for those of us who wore out our old Disney discs when we were kids—or those who never realized how many great Disney albums existed—from Mickey Mouse Club in the last century to House of Mouse in this one. The special kiosks allow you to hear samples from Grammy® nominees The Parent Trap and Babes in Toyland, character showcases Mickey Mouse and His Friends and The Disney Afternoon, pop hits Mouse House Dance Mixes and TiggerMania, plus albums featuring Park attractions, movie /TV favorites, and Disney stars.

Just select the albums you'd like and less than two minutes later. you have a brand-new CD in its own "jewel case" featuring original cover art by some of Disney's greatest illustrators.

And they sound fantastic—it's magic to your ears!

Passholder kids do the funnest things!

It's always great to discover new things for your kid to enjoy in the Parks, particularly with Spring vacation approaching. They're complimentary, too!

Jr. Chef, presented by Nestlé Toll House Cookies

With the help of a "magic oven," kids 4-12 are invited to mix, bake and taste a fresh batch of cookies from scratch. Nearby, all ages can take the Cookie Personality Quiz on computer screens. This is all especially nice if your kids are too little for Soarin'™ or you're looking for fun before your FASTPASS® time arrives. Jr. Chef presented daily at 12:30, 1:30, 2:30, 3:30 and 4:30 pm at the new Sunshine Season Food Fair in The Land at **Epcot**®.



This is part of the excitement of *Disney's Virtual Magic Kingdom*™ online multi-Player game (vmk.com), where you can create your own character, play action-packed games and interact with players worldwide. The in-Park Quest is a scavenger hunt that extends the game into the real-life Magic Kingdom® Park.

Visit "VMK Central" at Main Street Cinema for your Adventureland®, Frontierland® and Fantasyland® Quest cards. Explore Magic Kingdom

Park to answer the multiple-choice questions about attractions, shops and little details.

Return the cards to Main Street Cinema and if your answers are correct, you'll win a glow-in-the-dark wristband and virtual prizes you can use in the



kick some pirate booty



join a jungle cruise



go 2 vmk.com



New Benefit! Enjoy extra Disney Water Park fun!

Planning a Disney Resort getaway? Now Disney Resort Guests can head for the Disney Water Parks and take advantage of a splashy new Extra Magic Hours Benefit.

> The Deal: Enjoy admission into Disney's Typhoon Lagoon Water Park and Disney's Blizzard Beach Water Park an hour earlier than park operating hours, secure preferred seating for the day and start to enjoy the many attractions at either Park.

> > The Ins & Outs: This extra fun is included with your valid Resort I.D. and valid Water Park admission.

Parks may close due to inclement weather or refurbishment. Admission media is nonrefundable.

Artist brings a little bit of Africa to Disney Resort

For one weekend every month, the Zawadi Gift Shop at Disney's Animal Kingdom Lodge becomes a makeshift studio for Timothy Babatunde Adebule. That's when the artist known as Bushman #1 ("araoko akoko" in his native tongue) takes the stage to create his African-inspired art in front of Disney Guests.

"I love for people to ask me about my art and life," Timothy told us. "They can see the creative process while asking me questions about my technique."

Timothy grew up in Nigeria, where his passion for art developed at an early age.

"I draw and create from life experiences in Africa," said Timothy. "But, being at the Lodge inspired quite a few pieces of mine. And sometimes a Guest will suggest something I have not drawn — that's how many of my animal pieces came to be."

For Timothy's schedule of appearances, call the Zawadi Gift Shop at 407-938-4787.



New Resort Benefit for Passholders



Being a Passholder gets better and better! Now you can enjoy a new benefit to Passholders that offers great Resort rates and lets you book your stays months in advance or at the last minute.

Replacing the Passholder Best Rate program, this new program gives you more flexibility. If you're someone who likes to plan ahead, you can choose from future Resort offers. Or if you tend to make last minute plans, this new Resort benefit allows you to book a room right up to your travel period (subject to availability). In addition, for this new Resort benefit, normal deposit/cancellation fees apply.

Booking couldn't be easier. You can access great offers online any time of the day or night for the ultimate convenience. And you can also book by calling 407-560-PASS or your Travel Agent.

The Ins and Outs: For more information, go to disneyworld.com/passholder and get all the details on the great rates that are now available through this benefit.

Please note: Reservations that have already been booked through the Passholder Best Rate Program will not be affected by this change

> Get a "suite" seat at an Atlanta Braves Spring Training game Saturday, March 11, 2006 - 1:05 p.m.

The Deal: The Passholder Suite is back! So hurry and reserve your spot to catch the Atlanta Braves take on the New York Mets at **Disney's Wide World of Sports®** Complex, Saturday, March 11. The deal includes admission to the game, a game program, and an all-you-can-eat buffet from noon to 1:30 p.m. There's also a cash bar. Tickets are \$57 for Guests ages 10 and up, and \$45 for Guests ages 3-9. To reserve yours, call 407-938-3223. (Tickets go on sale February 1 — but hurry, we sell out every year.)

The Ins & Outs: Gates open at 11:05 a.m. Valid Passholder I.D. required. Tickets are limited. Game date, time and opponent are subject to change without notice.



A World of Magical New Choices with Disney Rewards® Visa Card from Chase

The Deal: As a Passholder, when you apply, are approved and use Disney Rewards Visa Card, all these wonderful choices are vours to eniov:

- Choose your favorite Disney design for your card (from the photos on this page)
- Receive a complimentary Walt Disney World 1-Day Magic Your Way Base Ticket1 after your first card purchase. Choose a lucky friend to share the fun.
- Earn Disney Rewards^{SM2} on everyday card purchases and choose from a variety of rewards, including Disney hotel stays, DVDs or dining in **Downtown Disney**®.

And there's no annual fee or block-out dates for redeeming your rewards. Apply today by calling 1-800-325-2720 or by visiting www.disneyworldfriendfree.com. Don't forget to mention offer code 692Y01.

The Ins & Outs: 1This offer is limited to a one-time award for new cardmembers of one 1-Day Magic Your Way Base Ticket valid for admission at one of the four Walt Disney World Theme Parks upon approval of your application for a Disney Rewards Visa Card and first use of your card. You must use the phone number, website, or application (if provided) contained herein to be eligible for this offer. New cardmembers applying for this offer may not be eliqible for other new cardmember premiums. Please allow 4 to 6 weeks for delivery of your ticket after your first purchase, balance transfer, use of any checks that access your account or cash advance. Tickets may not be sold or transferred for commercial use and are not redeemable for cash or upgrades to other admission media. Other restrictions may apply. Must use your Disney Rewards Visa Card by 6/30/06 to be eligible for this offer. Subject to change without notice

²Disney Dream Reward DollarsSM are subject to the terms and conditions of the Disney RewardsSM Program. Once enrolled, your rewards disclosure will be sent to you containing all the program guidelines, restrictions and benefits.

Disney Rewards Visa Card is available to U.S. residents only, 18 and older (19 in AL and NE), and subject to credit approval. Disney Rewards Visa Card is issued by Chase Bank USA, N.A., and may be serviced by its affiliates.

What's hap-PIN-in'!

Tinker Bell's taking a Limited Edition flight!

Our latest Limited Edition Passholder exclusive pin is the most magical yet! Our favorite pixie flies in front of Cinderella Castle for a Magic Kingdom salute. In addition to sporting a fun spinning effect, this pin fits together with three future Passholder pins like a puzzle.

You can purchase it starting February 15, 2006 for \$12.95 (plus tax). There will only be 7,000 issued and there is a limit of two pins per Passholder per day.

PICK UP YOUR PINS AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

Disney-MGM Studios -Sorcerer Hat Shop

Magic Kingdom® Park -Uptown Jewelers on Main Street, U.S.A.®

Epcot® - Pin Central

Disney's Animal Kingdom® Theme Park -Island Mercantile

Downtown Disney® Marketplace -Disnev's Pin Traders

REMEMBER:

Valid Passholder I.D. required at time of purchase. For more information about Disney Pin Trading and collecting, visit



passholder calendar











March 3-5

ESPN THE WEEKEND

Disney-MGM Studios

2006



Be sure to take a look at disneyworld.com/passholder for access to our special Passholder pages. We've posted some great new offers here as well as other useful information.

SEASONAL BLOCK OUT **DATES:** April 8-21, 2006, June 10-August 17, 2006, December 22, 2006-January 5, 2007

The Mickey Monitor is mailed 4 times a year: February, May, August and November.