

Car break-in warning



Car break-ins are happening all over the Tri-Lakes area. Resident Julia Skelley shared this photo of her recent upsetting experience and warned everyone, “This could have easily happened anywhere in our community.” In the late afternoon of June 30, she was parked for one hour near the front door of the Tri-Lakes YMCA on Jackson Creek Parkway. She found her driver’s side window smashed completely out and lying on the driver’s seat. “My purse was stolen in broad daylight.” Skelley is grateful to the Y staff and Monument police officers who helped her and her children afterward. “What’s so scary to me is that this happened in a family place where I go multiple times a week.... I clearly made a mistake by leaving my purse out on the passenger seat. Please be alert about your surroundings and don’t leave anything of value visible in your car.” She asked that anyone with information about this particular break-in to contact her, which you can do by writing to OCN at editor@ocn.me. *Photo by Julia Skelley.*

Moe Bandy at TLCA, July 6



**Above:** On July 6, country music legend Moe Bandy brought a bit of Nashville and Branson to the Tri-Lakes Center for the Arts (TLCA). Bandy got started playing music and singing at the age of 6 as both parents had musical interests. Though Bandy’s musical career started as “a family thing,” it led to a career of 10 No. 1 hits, 40 top 10 hits, over 60 albums, and other accomplishments. At the TLCA, Bandy and his five-piece accompaniment weaved together music, jokes, storytelling involving country music history and playing at honky-tonks, and audience engagement. Bandy played songs from his latest album, old favorites such as Bandy the Clown (his first No. 1 hit), and a medley containing songs he turned down that were eventually recorded. Information on upcoming events at the TLCA is at [www.trilakesarts.org](http://www.trilakesarts.org). *Photo by David Futey.*

Bruce Carroll at TLCA, July 21



**Above:** On July 21, Bruce Carroll (left), two-time Grammy and seven-time Dove Award winner, performed at the Tri-Lakes Center for the Arts (TLCA). Carroll performed his faith-based songs solo and with his son Taylor, who is co-producing his next album. Bruce Carroll started performing at the age of 12 with his siblings in Texas. This led to modest success as a folk musician during his early adult years. However, the road lifestyle also led to addiction until 1979, when he became a born-again Christian. This not only changed the course of his life, as he eventually became a pastor, but led to a Christian music career of over 30 years. Carroll said songwriting is sometimes about taking “what happens to us and those around us and relating it in song” for others to connect with. The TLCA audience clearly found a connection with Carroll and his songs this evening. *Photo by David Futey.*

July 4 festivities

*Photos by David Futey*

The Tri-Lakes area’s Fourth of July celebration started with the 35th annual Palmer Lake Fun Run, which benefits Lewis Palmer Elementary School (LPES). The run starts at the lake in Palmer Lake and ends 4 miles later in Monument. Megan Smallman, LPES Parent-Teacher Organization president, said nearly “1,100 were expected.” Smallman said proceeds from the Fun Run, expected to reach \$25,000, “will be used at LPES for a 3D printer, playground upgrade, teacher grant programs, field trips, and other educational needs.” She also thanked “all the volunteers, parents, PLES staff, and community, along with the sponsors for making the run a great success.” Timothy Howley (19:57) of Colorado Springs and Erin Storie (23:19) of Colorado Springs placed first in the male and female categories respectively. **Pictured:** Susan Gentry (center), with daughter Paige and son Cameron, ready themselves for Fourth of July Fun Run. This is the second time the family trio has run the race together.



**Left:** In the St. Peter Catholic School walkway, the Knights of Columbus Council 11514 held its annual Fourth of July Pancake Breakfast. Pancakes, eggs, sausage, and drinks were available for the price of admission, with preparations made for 1,500 attendees. Proceeds from the breakfast go toward St. Peter school, scholarships to St. Peter and college, and local organizations such as Tri-Lakes Cares and Marion House. Past Grand Knight Bob Leise monitored the pancake making and offered these tips: “The secret is to mix the batter in a 5-gallon bucket, get 24 pancakes on the grill or you are an underachiever, and keep cooking till I say stop.”

**Right:** Maliyah Stewart of Colorado Springs was attending her second Fourth of July Monument Children’s Parade. **Below:** Children’s Parade in action.



The Tri-Lakes area celebrated the country’s 241st year of independence on the Fourth of July with its annual Monument Hill Kiwanis Club parade. The parade was themed “Planes, Trains, and Automobiles – Moving America Forward” and had three grand marshals: Watt Hill (WWII and Vietnam fighter pilot), Mel McFarland (local author and train historian) and Don Begier, (founder of the Beau Begier Memorial Foundation) representing those transportation modes. After a jet flyover, over 90 entries participated in the two-hour-long parade as spectators lined the streets of Monument. Among the entries were floats from Integrity Bank, Tri-Lakes Women’s Club, various military organizations, churches, politicians, Renaissance Festival performers, elephants and camels, cheerleaders from Tri-Lakes area schools, classic cars, motorcycles, Al Kaly Shriners, horseback riders from Kit Carson Riding Club and the El Paso County Fair, and fire engines from local departments closing out the parade. **Below:** Lewis-Palmer Ranger Poms.

