

BFFRPD Open House, July 13



Above: From left are Flight Nurse Jan Rawson, Pilot Steve Patton, Flight Medic Andy Roberts from UC Health EMS Lifeline, and Keith Lonquist with Bailey his El Paso County Search and Rescue dog in training, at the Black Forest Fire Rescue Protection District annual open house on July 13. The event was well attended by over 225 people, and visitors toured Station 1, enjoying barbecue and snow cones served in the bay. Many enjoyed exploring and learning about all the vehicles, especially the new 711 Engine and the visiting EMS Lifeline and Flight For Life Colorado helicopters. A live extrication drill took place and the following organizations provided information and fun activities: El Paso County Search and Rescue, UC Health, Penrose St. Francis Trauma Service and Cancer Center, and Belfor Property Restoration. *Photo by Natalie Barszcz.*

Chief Shirk’s retirement party



Left: On July 13, the Town of Monument held a retirement party for Police Chief Jake Shirk at the Secret Window Wedding & Event Venue. Mayor Pro Tem Kelly Elliott, as well as many of the Monument Board of Trustees members, attended the event to say farewell to Shirk. *Photo by Allison Robenstein.*

Suzy Bogguss at TLCA, July 17

Right: On July 17, a capacity crowd welcomed Country Music Award and Grammy Award winner Suzy Bogguss to the Tri-Lakes Center for the Arts. Bogguss, accompanied by Elio Giordano (bass) and Craig Smith (guitar), opened the evening with a little humor, stating “we are going to play songs we know.” Those songs in her two-set performance started with Outbound Plane, continuing with the breakout Aces, Letting Go, a song written by her husband Doug Crider, and covers by Merle Haggard, The Beatles, John Hiatt, and Chuck Pyle, and such classic songs as Red River Valley. Colorado is a special place for her as she started her musical career in the early 1980s as a “troubadour in a camper van with my dog.” She traveled the country for five years finding particular success at the ski resorts, clubs, and coffeehouses here and in Wyoming. *Photo by David Futey.*



Butterfly Tour, July 13



Above: Although not a professional lepidopterist, Steve Fisher discovered his passion for butterflies at age 13 and has been studying (and chasing) them ever since. Elise Hughes Berheim possesses a master’s degree in wildlife sciences and facilitates environmental activities that engender conservation thinking. The morning of July 13, the two led a small group on a hike—the second of the summer—to explore a butterfly-filled meadow adjacent to Palmer Lake. Fisher educated the group about common butterfly predators, various plants that attract different species, and the impact of sunlight and temperature on the transition from chrysalis to butterfly. Berheim identified plants along the trail and discussed their importance to the environment. **Pictured:** Steve Fisher shows young visitor Olivia Chaffin how to flip the butterfly net to avoid harming specimens. *Photo by Jennifer Kaylor.*

Fox Run Park cleanup, July 13



Above: Volunteers from Wells Fargo Bank Jackson Creek Branch and Our Community News helped tidy the north trail entrance to Fox Run Park by weeding and cleanup July 13. The cleanup workday included a short hike to take in the forest atmosphere and Native American history of the area, followed by refreshments across the street at Southwinds Fine Arts. *Photo by Janet Sellers.*

MVEA thanks members, July 18

Right: Mountain View Electric Association (MVEA), an electric cooperative, held a member appreciation dinner July 18 at the Monument office. MVEA had the lineman aerial lift equipment on hand for “bucket rides” for attendees to ride with an MVEA specialist, and all were harnessed into the equipment for the high ride into the air and back. The event served to celebrate as well as educate members on electrical conservation and safety, especially regarding tree dangers (MVEA will trim trees near power lines for free). *Photo by Janet Sellers.*

