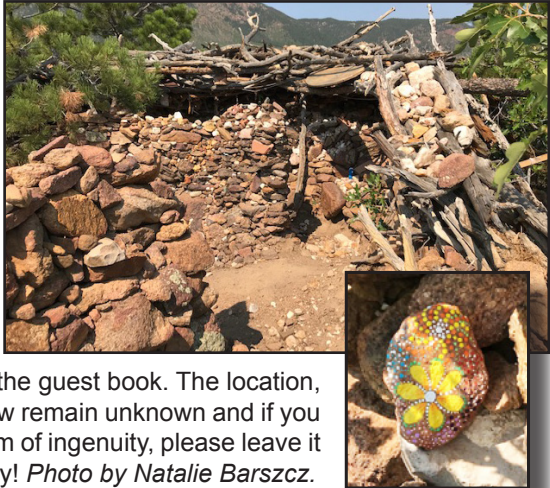
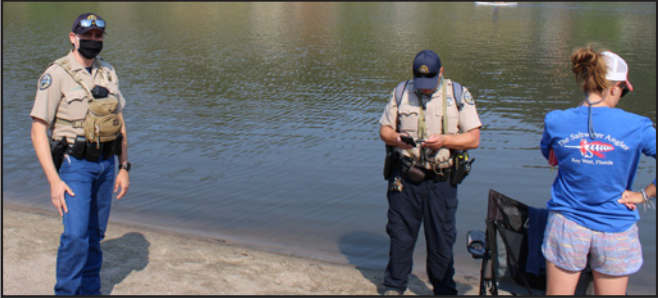


“Forest Den” - a mystery

Right: “The Den” nestles in the shadows of Mount Herman on Aug. 15. Blending into the landscape and constructed entirely of on-site loose rock and weathered pinon pine branches, this secret hideaway has been carefully built with great imagination and a boatload of determination. Hikers are welcome to leave a found treasure such as a feather on the display clips provided and a comment in the guest book. The location, the architect and construction crew remain unknown and if you happen to stumble across this gem of ingenuity, please leave it as you find it for everyone to enjoy! *Photo by Natalie Barszcz.*



Fishing license checks, Aug. 15



Left: Colorado Parks and Wildlife agents were checking fishing licenses on Aug. 15 at Palmer Lake. Licenses are required for anyone 16 years old or older who fishes in public waters. Fishing or hunting li-

censes are also now required for anyone who camps or hikes in state parks in Colorado. License fees are used to help maintain trails and facilities on state land. Two Parks and Wildlife agents checking licenses during the Palmer Lake TRY-athlon asked a woman for her fishing license, and she did not have a current one. An agent helped her buy a license using her cell phone and avoided the need to cite her. *Photo by Steve Pate.*

Palmer Lake virtual TRY-athlon



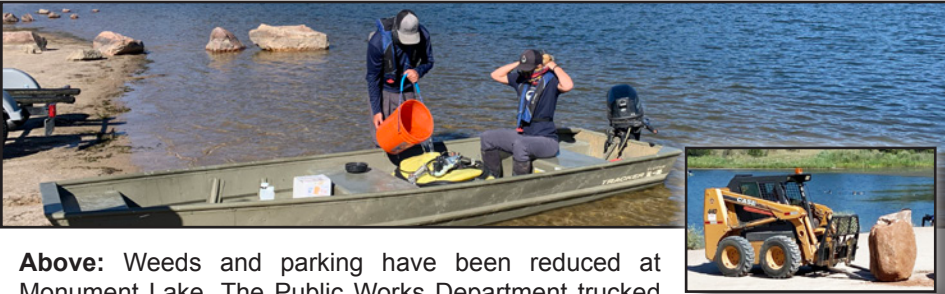
Above: On Saturday, Aug. 15, in lieu of its annual TRY-athlon at Palmer Lake, Awake the Lake sponsored a “virtual” TRY-athlon. This year, instead of an organized event with participants swimming, “running,” and cycling in groups, there was no organized “race” event. Supporters of the fundraiser swam across the lake, ran (or strolled) to a pre-positioned bicycle (or trike) and finished at one’s own pace or “virtually” in one’s own mind. Jeff Hulsmann and April Fullman distributed T-shirts, stickers, and inflatable “donuts” to participants at the pavilion on the east side of the lake for those who did not pick up their “race” packet at O’Malley’s previously. This fundraiser and the upcoming .5 (POINT 5) K “Race” in October are sponsored by Awake the Lake to help maintain parks and natural beauty in Palmer Lake. These activities are organized and staffed by volunteers. *Photo by Steve Pate.*

Hip, Hip Hooray, PLVFD! Aug. 15



Left:A huge shout out to the Palmer Lake Volunteer Fire Department, in association with the Palmer Lake Firefighters Association, for conducting a successful chipping day for Palmer Lake residents Aug. 15. These guys donned heavy gear/protective clothing and worked well over eight hours in 90-plus degree heat to get it done. They only took breaks to respond to two fire calls. From left are Lt. William Berry, Lt. Dan Snelling, and Chief Christopher McCarthy. Thank you for your service to our community. *Photo by Samantha Holmes.*

Monument Lake maintenance



Above: Weeds and parking have been reduced at Monument Lake. The Public Works Department trucked in several huge boulders on July 20 to block some areas where people had been parking. On crowded days, so many vehicles had been parked at the lake that emergency vehicles wouldn’t have been able to gain access in case of an emergency. From left, aquatic biologists Noel Browning and Katelyn Behounek of SOLitude Lake Management in Denver prepared to launch their boat on July 29. They applied an herbicide to get rid of the invasive Eurasian watermilfoil that had clogged parts of the lake. *Photo by Michael Weinfeld.*

Hummingbird Festival, Aug. 21



Above: As the hummingbirds began their flight out of town, Southwinds Fine Art at Roller Coaster and Baptist Roads celebrated with the second annual Hummingbird Festival. The family-friendly festivities included educational talks about hummingbirds by local artist and author Janet Sellers, gallery tours, and a farmers market. Tom Tezlaf, featured vendor/owner of DWB Wild Bird, had hummingbird feeders, nectar, bird seed, and feeders and accessories for other local bird species. You can find Tezlaf at local farmers markets and at dwbwildbird.com. Southwinds Fine Art will continue to have a farmers market every Friday through Sept. 11. For vendor information, call or text 719-492-0355. *Photo by Marlene Brown.*

Inline skating at LPMS

Right: The Synergy Inline Speedskating Club of Colorado skates every Saturday morning at 10 a.m. at Lewis-Palmer Middle School. The group practices all along the Front Range in 11 locations from Loveland to Colorado Springs. All ages and abilities are welcome. The team includes skaters age 6 to 66, including five Olympians. For more information, see <http://www.synergyinline.com/team/colorado>. *Photo by Allison Robenstein.*



Chamber guest speaker, Aug. 26

Right: The Tri-Lakes Chamber of Commerce held its quarterly members’ luncheon Aug. 26 with Gregory V. Williams as guest speaker. Williams gave a detailed talk on effective communication relating especially to business dealings. There were about 65 people present (socially distanced) at Ascent Church in Woodmoor and several on Zoom. Terri Hayes, chamber executive director, introduces Williams. *Photo by John Howe.*



OCN photo contest winners



Above: July 19 sunrise at Forest Lakes. Getting ready to put the kayaks in the water. My sister-in-law Sharann Mills and I took in God’s gift of this glorious sunrise. *Photo by Laura Mills.*

Photo contest winners continue on page 27