

## Higby Road cleanup, Apr. 25



**Above:** On April 25, an extensive roadside cleanup along Higby Road, from Jackson Creek Parkway east, was accomplished by members of the Palmer Ridge High School Kiwanis Key Club (PRHSKC). The idea for this community service project was sparked by Zoe Johnson, president of PRHSKC, as she was driving to and from school observing the growing, large amount of trash collecting in various sections of this particular traffic route. This event was coordinated in conjunction with Earth Day Great American Cleanup Week. From left are Mike Luginbuhl, Monument Hill Kiwanis Palmer Ridge advisor; Amber Wright, PRHSKC member; and Johnson. *Photo by Sharon Williams.*

## Black Forest Spring Show returns



**Above:** Potential customers browse the aisles on a Friday afternoon at the 57th Annual Black Forest Arts & Crafts Guild (BFACG) Spring Show that took place April 29 to May 2 at the Black Forest Community Center. Although a small venue, the room was brimming with handcrafted locally-made arts and crafts, homemade baked goods, jams and jellies, and many other items and gifts. Attendance was as high over the four days as at previous shows. Guild member Della Clark said the Black Forest crafters were glad to finally bring the Spring Show back for 2021. The COVID-19 pandemic forced the cancellation of the 2020 Arts & Crafts Spring and Fall shows. The BFACG is a nonprofit organization that continues to raise funds for its Scholarship Fund which benefits local high school seniors. The guild also accepts non-perishable food donations at every show for the Black Forest Cares food pantry. For more information about future events and membership information, visit: [www.BFACG.org](http://www.BFACG.org). *Photo by Natalie Barszcz.*

## Wildfire mitigation demo, May 15



**Above:** On May 15, chainsaws buzzed as Tri-Lakes Monument fire personnel thinned pines to create fire-mitigated property on the north side of Lewis-Palmer Elementary School. It was selected as a public demonstration of how to create good wildfire defensible space. The International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) created a Tri-Lakes' custom version of its Ready, Set, Go! brochures and provided grant money for the Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District to do mitigation work. Pikes Peak Regional Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) handed out information on general preparedness, and Tri-Lakes United Methodist Church Emergency Preparedness Group gave advice to residents about why and how to reduce fuels around their homes in the "ignition zone." See [www.tlmfire.org](http://www.tlmfire.org). *Photo by Allison Robenstein.*

## Arbor Day in Monument, Apr. 30



**Above:** A Town of Monument Public Works crew planted a Rocky Mountain juniper April 30 in honor of Arbor Day. Town Gardener Cassie Olgren gave a waterwise and tree planting class in the new Waterwise Demonstration Garden at Second and Adams Streets. Olgren said growing plants in our high desert environment means "being wise about water use." She recommends mulching to prevent water loss. Shredded cedar is good for windy areas, or head to the Black Forest Slash and Mulch at 12375 Herring Road. Go to Black Forest Slash Mulch - SAMCOM ([bfslash.org](http://bfslash.org)) for more information, pricing, and hours. The demonstration garden will include four zones: native plants, raised-bed rock garden, primary colors, and pastel colors to show design alternatives. *Photo by Allison Robenstein.*

## PL firefighters honored, May 4



**Above:** Members of Palmer Lake Fire and Rescue were honored on National Firefighters' Day May 4. The event was catered by Arlene's Beans. From left are probationary firefighter Parker Davis, Assistant Chief John Vincent, Lt. William Berry, Arlene's Beans owner Arlene Padilla, Chief Chris McCarthy, Capt. Chris Evans, firefighter Max Herte, probationary firefighter Fernando Hernandez, firefighter Kyle Farquhar, and Capt. Dan Snelling. *Photo by Samantha Holmes.*

## "HollyDay" at Fox Run Park, May 15



**Above:** On May 15, District 1 County Commissioner Holly Williams joined the Friends of Fox Run for a hike through the park and a discussion on its present and future. As the group hiked, park information and its history were discussed. Williams announced the park will be the site for a northern nature center. Fundraising will begin in the near future, and the gazebo and other facilities need repairs. North District Park Supervisor Nathan Robinson said the park is designed for a daily maximum of 600 vehicles. During a two-day period this past year over 2,300 cars entered the park. This high level of use and, in some cases, misuse has created significant wear on the park and its facilities. Robinson said a new master plan is being developed to address signage, trails, the nature center, water access, roads, and other park features. Julie Haverluk, Janet Sellers, and John Anderson described various aspects about the park's history. Haverluk described the raising of silver foxes that occurred in and around the present park during the 1930s to 1946. Sellers and Anderson told the group about the significance of the culturally modified trees (CMT) that are throughout the park. This is the largest concentration of CMTs in the southern Rockies, with some trees 500-600 years old. *Photo by David Futey.*