

Our Community News

Volunteers reporting on community issues in Monument, Palmer Lake, and the surrounding Tri-Lakes area



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Issue #137 — Volume 12 Number 7 — Saturday, July 7, 2012

Free

Local Events

See pages 35-39 for details of these and many other local events.

Concerts in the Park, every Wed through Aug. 1, 7-9 p.m.

Palmer Lake Community Garden Meeting, Mon., Jul. 9, 6-7 p.m.

Firewise presentation by The Palmer Lake Volunteer Fire Department, Wed., Jul. 11, 6:30 p.m.

Western Museum of Mining & Industry (WMMI): Outdoor Machinery Day, Fri., Jul. 13 & July 27, 10 a.m., 1 p.m.

Western Museum of Mining & Industry (WMMI): 30th Anniversary, Sat., Jul. 14, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

NEPCO Meeting: HOA Legal Issues, Sat., Jul. 14, 10 a.m.-noon

CarrieAnn Baade Artist Lecture, Thu., Jul. 19, 7-8 p.m.

HAP Blood Pressure Clinic, Tue., Jul. 19, 12:30-3:30 p.m.

CarrieAnn Baade Exhibit opening reception, Fri., Jul. 20, 5-8 p.m.

Direction 38! 2012 Public School Education Forum, "Teachers matter" Mon., Jul. 23, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Tri-Lakes Community Blood Drive, Tue., Jul. 24, 3-7 p.m.

Free Concert by Shaun Groves, Fri., Jul. 27, 7 p.m.

Palmer Lake After Dark, Fri., Jul. 27, 8-11 p.m.

Rodz' 5th Annual Car Show, Sat., July 28, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Gleneagle Blood Drive, Thu., Aug. 2, 1-6 p.m.

Pinz Bowling Community Day, Sat., Aug. 4, noon-midnight

King's Deer Annual Community Garage Sale, Sat.-Sun., Aug. 4-5

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Above: Smokey Bear poses with firefighters from the Wescott Fire Department during the department's Summer Safety Fair, June 2. *Photo by David Futey.* See page 30 for more photos from the Safety Fair. The theme of the Safety Fair could not have been more timely given the large number of wildfires in Colorado this year. See page 32 for photos of the smoke from the Waldo Canyon fire.

Wescott Safety Fair June 2 spreads awareness

By David Futey and Kate Wetterer

On June 2, the Wescott Fire Department hosted a Summer Safety Fair that provided visitors with information from the department and vendors on home safety, disaster preparedness, personal health, and wildland fire mitigation. Representatives from El Paso-Teller County E-911, Memorial Star Transport, the El Paso County Sheriff's Office, and the El Paso County K9 Unit provided demonstrations and information.

Interactive exhibits let children experience simulated tornados as well as act out steps to escape house fires. Visitors could check out fire engines and a

medical aid helicopter. The firefighters grilled hotdogs and offered soft drinks and chips.

Local representatives from various organizations were also present, including Partners in Hope and Housing, a "homeless self-sufficiency program" intending to help those in dire circumstances get back on their feet. The El Paso County Animal Response Team showed the proper way to handle pets during an emergency.

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Tribal Expo and Indian Market one of few July 4th events held

Although many July 4th events including the Palmer Lake fireworks and Monument Parade and Street Fair were canceled due to the wildfires, the annual Tribal Exposition and Indian Market sponsored by the Secret Window Fine Arts Gallery was held in Historic Downtown Monument. Here Nakotah LaRance ends the elaborate—and athletic—hoop dance with a symbol of the Earth offering the message of protecting and caring for the Earth as home for our healthy lives and for our descendants. The hoop dance begins with various moves with more and more hoops in motion, and along the way, Nakotah draws in the air with complex figures such as the Earth and its creatures, using



the Hopi symbolic 5 hoops. Nakotah is just off a tour as the Amerindian Dancer with Cirque de Soleil for the recent show *Totem*. *Photo by Bernard Minetti. Caption by Janet Sellers.* See page 32 for additional photos.

Tri-Lakes Monument FPD special meeting, June 12

Fire Chief Denboske fired; no reason given

By Bernard L. Minetti

At the Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District board's special meeting June 12, without noting specific reasons for the action, the board fired Chief Robert Denboske, who had been on administrative leave for the past month (see article on page 2). Director Roger Lance's motion was made "based upon the confidential assessment report by the Mountain States Employers Council," calling it "disciplinary termination" effective immediately.

Under the supervision of the battalion chiefs, Denboske "will turn in all district property and retrieve all his personal property" by noon June 13, and "final pay and allowances will be paid within 10 days."

Before the firing, during the reading of the minutes, Director Bill Ingram brought up the issue of two unauthorized "disclosures" that had occurred since the process began. He said that these disclosures may have affected Denboske's privacy since he was twice named during the public portion of the process, which should have been done in executive session. Board President Charlie Pocock admitted that he had made those disclosures, stating, "I was the one who made the disclosures, so please note it in the minutes."

Ingram recommended that the advice of counsel be sought before any further action but the board voted against this amendment to Lance's motion. About 20 people attended the meeting.

The original motion passed 5-2, with Directors Ingram and Rod Wilson voting against it. In favor were Pocock, John Hildebrandt, Barbara Kelly, Roger Lance, and Bruce Fritsche. Pocock then stated that he had a letter for Denboske and passed it to him.

Shortly thereafter, the board voted to adjourn.

Following the meeting, a few residents expressed concern about the action. In particular, resident Larry Slaymaker addressed Pocock, asking, "Where is a copy of the report of the allegations against Robbie Denboske. Do we get a copy of that?" Pocock replied, "No sir. It's a confidential report."

During the short discussion with Slaymaker that followed, Pocock concluded with, "Get your attorney, and Mountain States Employees Council is the people you should sue."

The next regular meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, July 25, in the Administration Center at 166 Second St. in Monument. For further information regarding this meeting, contact Jennifer Martin at 719-484-0911.

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