

# Our Community News

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



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Issue #138 — Volume 12 Number 8 — Saturday, August 4, 2012

Free

## Local Events

See pages 39-43 for details of these and many other local events.

**Return of the Rocky Mountain Chautauqua, Fri.-Sun, Aug. 3-5**

**Town Hall Meeting with District 1 El Paso County Commissioner Darryl Glenn, Sat., Aug. 4, 10 a.m. to noon**

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

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

**Tri-Lakes Cares "See Beyond the Food Drive" Open House, Wed., Aug. 15, 5:30 p.m.**

**Art Hop, Thu., Aug. 16, 5-8 p.m.**

**Palmer Lake Historical Society: "Recreating A Fully Operational Forge At Prairie Canyon Ranch," Thu., Aug. 16, 7 p.m.**

**Western Museum of Mining & Industry (WMMI): Outdoor Machinery Day, Sat., Aug. 18, 10 a.m. & 1 p.m.**

**Monument Library: AARP Mature Safe Driving Program, Sat., Aug. 18, 1-5 p.m.**

**Monument Celebration Festival, Mon., Sep. 3, 7 a.m.-5 p.m.**

**Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District 1 Open House, Mon., Sep. 3, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.**

## In this issue

Fire District News 1-14

Water & San District News 15-25

D-38 News 25

Monument News 26-27

Palmer Lake News 27-29

County Planning 30

WIA News 30

Weather 30

Letters 31

Books, Birds, and Arts 31-33

Snapshots of Our Community 33-38

Library Events 38-39

Special Events and Notices 39-40

Our Community Calendar 40-43

OCN information 36, 40, 42, 43



**Above:** At the July 21 Powwow sponsored by the Palmer Lake Historical Society, Native American female active-duty Army veterans formed an honor guard to give tribute to those who serve and who have served. They are, from left, Denver National Guard Cpl. Shawna Dahl and daughter Cecelia Dahl, both Ojibwe, North Cheyenne Army Sgt. 1st Class Toni Eaglefeathers, stationed at Fort Carson, Navajo Army Staff Sgt. and Iraq veteran Cindy Littlefeather, also stationed at Fort Carson. This Sister Nation Color Guard is believed to be the first of its kind in the country. *Photo by Bernard Minetti.* See page 35 for additional photos of the Powwow.

## Could your home be saved during a forest fire?

By Bernard L. Minetti

On July 7, Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District Battalion Chief Bryan Jack invited OCN to participate in an exercise of evaluating the potential of selected homes to be considered for saving during a forest fire. The formula used to derive the eventual matrix rating is called the Structure Triage Matrix. Fire personnel used this rating during the Waldo Canyon Fire to instantly determine whether a house could be saved.

Houses with the "Easy" triage rating were most likely to be worked on by firefighter personnel for saving. Those rated, "Okay, With Work," would be determined at the time of the incident according to the personnel available and the work needed to save the home. Those rated "Hard" would more than likely be bypassed, allowing personnel resources to be utilized for the homes with a more workable matrix rating.

(Continued on page 2)



**Above:** From left are firefighter Steve Buckner, Battalion Chief Bryan Jack, Ann Marsico, and EMT Rudi Gillette. Jack presented Marsico with the completed matrix rating. Marsico was pleased to learn that all the effort that her family is putting into fire mitigation was paying off. *Photo by Bernard Minetti.*

**Tri-Lakes Monument FPD meeting, July 5**

## Pocock says "Recall everybody"

By Bernard L. Minetti

An effort is apparently under way to recall five of the seven Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District board members, board President Charlie Pocock said at the July 5 meeting, held on this date because the regular June meeting had been postponed. The recall is in response to last month's firing of Chief Robert Denboske.

Pocock said he had sent an email to the board members regarding the pending recall and read out loud the response he received from Director Bruce Fritzsche: "I have given much consideration to your email. First, I encourage the recall. If Rob (Denboske) and the Sibells (Si and Dorothy) think I am unfit to serve on the board, then it is their right to recall. I voted my conscience, and I have no regrets. Second, to initiate an investigation after the fact gives the appearance that we are piling on. Rob is gone and will not return.... What will the community garner from the investigation? In my opinion, the recall will be unsuccessful. An investigation will just give the whole fire district a black eye."

After reading it, Pocock stated, "I agree with that.... I think what we really ought to do is drain the swamp and recall everybody," meaning the entire board, "so with your concurrence, I will file a recall petition on Bill (Ingram) and Rod (Wilson)," the two directors who are not included in the pending recall. "And we'll just find some good candidates and see if

(Continued on page 3)

**Tri-Lakes Monument FPD meeting, July 25**

## Union questions motives of two board members

By Bernard L. Minetti

Local 4319 of the International Association of Firefighters has accused two members of the Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District board of creating "animosity and disharmony within the district" in a letter it sent to the board that was read aloud at the July 25 meeting.

Director Bill Ingram read the letter, addressed to the district board members, which began by praising the efforts of the district and the firefighters that the union represents. Then the tone changed: "Although we are very pleased with the

(Continued on page 6)