

# Our Community News

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



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Free

## Local Events

See pages 31-35 for details of these and many other local events.

- Hooked on Monument Lake Kids' Fishing Derby, Sat., Jun. 1, 8 a.m.-noon
- Wescott Fire Department Safety, Health, Wellness and Preparation Day, Sat., Jun. 1, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.
- Senior Dental Clinic, Wed., Jun. 5
- Western Museum of Mining & Industry (WMMI), The 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Pikes Peak Gem & Mineral Show—Out of the Heavens, Fri.-Sun., Jun. 7-9, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Fri.-Sat.; 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Sun.
- Fabulous and Fun Friday Art Nights in Tri Lakes, Fri., Jun. 7, 14, 21, 28, 5-8 p.m.
- Ice Cave Creek Volunteer Trail Project, Sat., Jun. 8, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.
- El Paso County Hazardous Materials & Recycling Collection Facility, Sat., Jun. 8, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
- Tri-Lakes Cruisers Car Show, Sun., Jun. 9, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Free Father's Day Ice Cream Social, Sun., Jun. 16, 2-4 p.m.
- Concerts in the Park return!, Wed, Jun. 19, 26, 7-9 p.m.
- Art Hop, Thu., Jun. 20, 5-8 p.m.
- Western Museum of Mining & Industry (WMMI): Stratton Legacy: The Myron Stratton Home Exhibit Opening & Lecture, Thu., Jun. 20, 5:30 p.m., lecture 7 p.m.
- Palmer Lake Historical Society Meeting: Chief Manitou and His Contributions to the Pikes Peak Region, Thu., Jun. 20, 7 p.m.
- Networking4CF Golf Tournament, Sat., Jun. 22, 1 p.m.
- Griffith Golf Tournament, Mon., Jun. 24, 8 a.m.
- Woodmoor Garage Sale, Fri.-Sat., Jun. 28-29, 8 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Kill the critic! Comedy at Tri-Lakes Center for the Arts, Fri.-Sat, Jun. 28-29
- Annual FireWise Community Day, Sat., Jun. 29, 9:30 a.m.- 2:30 p.m.
- Senior Dental Clinic, Wed., Jul. 3
- Independence Day Celebrations, Wed-Thu, Jul 3-4. See details on page 35. ■

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Above: Retired Air Force Col. Al Forbes presented the American flag at the Town of Monument Memorial Day Ceremony on May 27. Hundreds of people attended the special program honoring all military veterans. The ceremony featured an honor guard, Boy and Girl Scout troops raising the flag, a 21-gun salute by the Monument Police Department, the reading of the names of veterans buried in Monument cemetery, music by Lewis-Palmer Middle School symphonic and jazz bands, and prayers offered by four local clergy. Photo by Herb Wetzel. See more Monument Memorial Day Ceremony photos on page 29.

## Hotshots' fire safety advice

Working 16 hours or more a day for 14 days in a row during a wildfire emergency, the 20-person Pike Interagency Hotshot Crew works shoulder to shoulder, using chainsaws, pickaxes, and modified shovels to cut fire lines to contain wildfires. "It's that teamwork that keeps you going, keeps you positive," said Kevin Neiman, superintendent, Pike Interagency Hotshots.

"We're still in a drought. We're still behind on moisture. The potential (for wildfire) is always there," Neiman warned residents. "The best thing they can do is prep their property well ahead of time so it's fire safe, to let the firefighters get in there and be able to defend it properly." He asked homeowners to do the work now to clear away "the heavy fuel load right up to the structure. It really makes it easier for us to get in there and makes their homes defensible."

Pikes Peak Hotshots is a national firefighting resource based in Monument. The nation has over 90 federally funded hotshot crews who travel to wildfires as needed. When there are no fires to fight, the crew does fuel mitigation work and studies fire scenarios and the effects of terrain, weather, and fuel on wildfire behavior. Article and photo by Lisa Hatfield.



## Lewis-Palmer D-38 Board of Education, May 16

# Need cited for more teachers and student support

By Harriet Halbig

In his annual report to the District 38 Board of Education, District Accountability Advisory Committee (DAAC) Chair Chris Amenson said at the May 16 board meeting that he is concerned about the downward trend in student test scores, especially at the middle school level, and how the trend might affect the district's standing in the future.

Amenson said that DAAC's responsibilities include the examination and approval of each school's improvement plan and extensive analysis of test scores and other data involved in the district's accreditation. The committee met at several schools where principals explained their priorities and solutions to challenges.

Through access to this information, Amenson reached several conclusions.

Although the district continues to perform very well compared to others in the state, Amenson expressed concern about data involving academic growth gaps, the difference between the growth rate of the general education population and the free/reduced-cost lunch eligible, English Language Learners, and those on IEPs (individual education plans). He said

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## Preparing for a wildfire in Woodmoor

By Emma Gaydos

What would happen if a wildfire struck Woodmoor?

The Woodmoor Improvement Association Firewise Committee held a community meeting titled "Preparing a Personal Wildfire Action Plan" April 30 in the Palmer Ridge High School auditorium to address the possibility of a wildfire in Woodmoor.

The speakers, Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District interim Fire Chief Bryan Jack, Kathy Russell, emergency preparedness planner for El Paso County, and Assistant State Forest District Forester Dave Root spoke to the crowd of about 60 people. Their message: If more people would fire mitigate, make plans for evacuation, and prepare for a wildfire, more homes and lives would be saved.

Chief Jack said that in the event of a wildfire, especially when it comes into contact with homes and neighborhoods, firefighters perform a decision "triage"

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