

not learned. Those issues were not in North Group, but with others: a lack of transferring of information.

- We didn't lose a house in Wescott.
- The corridor going into Monument, from Highway 83 to I-25 is the next concern. People need to do more fuels mitigation.

Some of the points Captain Sean Pearson made were:

- Colorado Springs Fire Department sent good people and really helped (even though) CSFD has a lot less wildland knowledge. There were zero issues.
- We made our stand. We had a flare up at Hidden Rock Road—a hundred yards' worth of crown fire coming toward us. It sounded like a freight train.
- When it got in the trees (at High Forest Ranch), I thought for sure ... we weren't going to catch it again until Hodgen Road where there's a break in the trees. I don't know what stopped it.
- We're grateful for training to go to wildfire academies and do deployments to get experience. The biggest benefit is experience.

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After the meeting, Fire Marshal Margo Humes told OCN, "Mitigation does work. I saw it work many times. That's why so many

homes were saved. There were thousands of homes that didn't burn. Along Highway 83 where we had done mitigation, that's why the fire didn't jump. But it takes a whole community to save a community." Humes gives firewise defensible space evaluations to homeowners and will also advise homeowners associations on fuel mitigation strategies. See [www.wescottfire.org](http://www.wescottfire.org) for more information.

**Financial report**

Marshall said the district's financial balances as of May 31 totaled \$1.6 million: People's National Bank \$216,000, Colorado Peak fund \$179,000, ColoTrust Fund \$439,000, and Wells Fargo Public Trust \$844,000.

The board unanimously approved credit limits on new Wells Fargo credit cards that will replace Bank of America cards previously used by district staff. Chief Burns' credit limit will be raised to \$15,000 from \$10,000, and the limits for the rest of the card limits for staff will stay the same.

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The next meeting will be held at 7 p.m. July 16 at Station 1, 15415 Gleneagle Drive. Meet-

ings are normally held on the third Tuesday of the month.

Residents are always welcome to attend. Information: 488-8680.

Lisa Hatfield can be reached at [lisahatfield@ocn.me](mailto:lisahatfield@ocn.me).

**Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District, June 26**  
**Grant used to buy vehicle**

By Bernard L. Minetti

Through the generosity of the El Pomar Foundation, the Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District added a Polaris Crew Utility Terrain Vehicle (UTV) to its fleet of fire and emergency vehicles. The district announced at the June 26 board meeting that it received a \$10,000 grant from El Pomar for

the vehicle, which allows firefighters or emergency personnel to rapidly reach their destination in rough terrain. It has a crew capacity of four.

Fire Chief Chris Truty praised the versatility of the vehicle and expressed thanks to El Pomar.

Truty said the board was not required to undergo an update

briefing on the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), as had been discussed at the May board meeting. He stated that this type of briefing was required for personnel who had direct access to personal records.

Truty said the district will work with the present bookkeeper to adjust requirements

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