

Wildfire Leadership Summit



Above: Carley Lehman and Judy Rickman identified their neighborhoods on a map at the countywide Neighborhood Wildfire Leadership Summit on May 6 at Tri-Lakes United Methodist Church. The goal was to encourage individuals to get training and help their neighborhoods find ways to do wildfire risk reduction work in an ongoing and sustainable way and teach “Ready-Set-Go” emergency preparedness planning to the residents. Speakers included Robin Adair, El Paso County Office of Emergency Management; Jamey Bumgarner, fire marshal, Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District; André Mouton, leader, Emergency Preparedness Group of Tri-Lakes United Methodist Church and emergency manager for the Air Force Academy; and Steve VanderWerf, El Paso County District 3 commissioner. KRDO News 13 aired a story about the event, and they also had visits from the El Paso County Wildland Fire Team, our region’s Homeland Security representative, and Byron Spinney of Hope Restored. For more information to make your neighborhood safer, contact your fire district or robinadair@elpasoco.com. *Photo by Lisa Hatfield.*

Pack for the Platte



Above: The Arduous Pack Test: Can you go 3 miles in 45 minutes—carrying 45 pounds!? The May 7 “Pack for the Platte” pack test on the Santa Fe Trail included Mine Rescue Team members from the Newmont CC&V Mine in Cripple Creek who needed to be recertified in this test, the same one wildland firefighting crews must conquer to be ready for deployments during wildfire season. The event was a fundraiser for the Coalition for the Upper South Platte (CUSP), which strives to protect watersheds for wildlife, drinking water, and recreational use. Funds raised went to CUSP’s Wildland Fire Team. CUSP also sponsored fire risk-reduction chipping work in Palmer Lake the same weekend. For more information, contact Rachel@cusp.ws, 719-748-0033, www.cusp.ws/P4P. *Photo by Lisa Hatfield.*

Pikes Peak Antique Machinery Days at WMMI



Above: The Western Museum of Mining and Industry (WMMI) hosted the first annual Pikes Peak Antique Machinery Days on the weekend of May 12. Attractions included a silent auction, antique tractor pull, antique engines and tractors, and

operating steam engines. Folks big and small could enjoy a “barrel train” ride around the grounds and displays of the antique tractors and vintage cars at the WMMI. *Photo by John Howe.*

Palmer Lake Glow Run



Left: The clear sky, remains of a warm day, and lazy sunset of Saturday, May 13 made the perfect conditions for an evening at Palmer Lake. About 75 community members gathered for a brightly glowing jaunt around the lake during the second annual Palmer Lake Glow Run. As participants gathered and waited for the sun to set, they activated glowing gear while being entertained by a DJ who came equipped with his own light show to get things started. Cries of “On your mark, get set, glow!” sent babies in strollers, kids, adults, and even dogs walking, running, and skipping around the lake. Participants were encouraged by cheerleaders and a canopy of blinking lights around the lake. A food truck and candy store (with glowing candy, of course) were at the finish line. Prizes were awarded not to the fastest runner, but to the runner with the most glow-gear. Participants received glow-in-the-dark T-shirts with the slogan, “Everything is brighter in Palmer Lake.” Proceeds from the event support the Palmer Lake Fourth of July celebration and fireworks. Pictured at left: Glow-clad participants wait for the start of the second annual Palmer Laker Glow Run. *Photo by Erin Poole.*