

Independence Day Festivities, July 3 - Photos by David Futey



Above: The 39th annual Palmer Lake Fun Run took place on a sunny July 3 morning. This year's 4-mile race was both in-person, for those running the traditional route from Palmer Lake to Monument, and virtual, where runners could submit a 4-mile time. A combined 550 runners were expected. Kelsey Belsher, race coordinator and Palmer Lake Elementary School (PLES) PTO member, said the race was a 100% volunteer effort to organize. She was thankful for the community and sponsor support and "extremely proud of the race being part of the small-town tradition for the Fourth of July." The race proceeds will be used for PLES classroom technology and field trips. The top in-person finishers were (M) Awet Beraki (19:07) of Monument and (F) Marissa Kuik (25:02) of Colorado Springs.



Above: On the morning of July 3, the Knights of Columbus (Council 11514) hosted its Fourth of July Pancake Breakfast on the St. Peter Church walkway in Monument. Pancake Breakfast Coordinator Richard Peters said they prepared for 1,000 attendees to consume scrambled eggs, pancakes, sausages, orange juice, and coffee. Peters said, "We were not sure how many would attend this year, but we are thrilled with the turnout and support from the community." He stated that proceeds from the breakfast go to local nonprofits such as Tri-Lakes Cares and various church ministries.



Above: Cade and Reagan Christian are set to ride in the Monument Hill Kiwanis Children's Parade.



Above: A couple of festive Monument Hill Kiwanis Children's Parade attendees used their hoverboards to make their way on the parade route.



Above: Children from the Reser, Petricich, and Spaulding families have various modes of transportation ready to ride in the Monument Hill Kiwanis Children's Parade.



Above: The start of the main Monument Hill Kiwanis Fourth of July Parade.



Above: Kiwanians of the Year Kathy Strom (2019) and Rich Strom (2020) participate in the main parade.



Above: The Tri-Lakes Women's Club float in the main parade honored first responders.



Above (L to R): Madyson Buhring of Calhan, 2021 El Paso County Fair queen. OCN volunteer Audrey Burkart jumps rope while on a unicycle. Beverley Moore, Ms. Colorado 2020 Black America Pageant from Monument. Donald Wescott Fire Department's ladder truck.