

## Schuh wins PLAG scholarship



**Left:** Palmer Lake Art Group awarded its 2020 Art Scholarship to Kennedy Schuh on June 12. She graduated from Palmer Ridge High School in June and plans to attend the Art Institute of Chicago. She said she is always exploring and experimenting with new media and techniques, including drawing, painting, photography, 3-D art such as sculptures, and “mark-making,” which means bold lines and purposeful use of color. Schuh’s goal is to make a difference in the world by using bold design to express emotions. *Photo courtesy of PLAG.*

## Wirewood Station, June 14



**Above:** Monument Lake attracted more than boaters and anglers on a hot Sunday afternoon last month. Dozens of people showed up June 14 to listen to the Colorado band WireWood Station. The acoustic group gave a free concert at one of the lake’s pavilions. The show was announced by the band two weeks earlier when they gave a surprise concert at the lake. WireWood Station won Best Acoustic Band in Colorado at the last Rocky Mountain Music Festival. From left are Sam Wachtler, Michelle Edwards, Casey Cherry and Bob Bowker. *Photo by Michael Weinfeld*

## WMMI resumes tours



**Above:** On June 22, museum volunteer tour guide Phil McDonald holds a piece of gold ore as he describes gold’s everyday uses to visitors. The Western Museum of Mining & Industry (WMMI) reopened in June after closing due to the pandemic. Tours are available Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m., with the museum being open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on those days. The museum has modified the tours to meet COVID-19 guidelines, recommending that visitors wear a mask when attending and to not visit the museum if experiencing associated symptoms. The museum tour consists of an overview of mining history, a discussion on minerals, gold panning, and the operation of steam engines. Information on admission price and upcoming events can be found at [www.wmmi.org](http://www.wmmi.org). *Photo by David Futey.*

## Monument Lake dock extended



**Above:** It might be easier to catch a fish now on Monument Lake. The dock was extended by 26 feet on June 2 and 3. The original dock was 30 feet long. The dock is being secured by two 600-pound weights. Town Landscape Supervisor Cassie Olgren says the cost of the project was \$20,865. The work was partly paid for by a \$9,000 Fishing is Fun grant from Colorado Parks and Wildlife. Olgren says extending the dock deeper into the lake will improve people’s chances of catching a fish. She says it also improves accessibility for the handicapped. Olgren says the town hopes to apply for the grant again to pay for other lake projects. *Photo by Michael Weinfeld.*

## Breakfast drive-through, June 13



**Above:** On Saturday morning, June 13, folks drove up to Jackson Creek Senior Living for a homemade cinnamon roll, coffee, and friendly greetings from staff and residents. Staff (L to R): Gary Liebowitz and Lisa Loeber. This was in appreciation for friends and families who stopped by during the pandemic to say “Hi” via window or doorway to family and friends who cannot visit in person. From left, rear of the car: Loeber, Sharon Seymour, Cathy Scheafer. Driver’s side: Liebowitz (driver unidentified). *Photo by John Howe.*

## BLM demonstrations, June 7, 14



**Above:** On June 7 (left) and June 14 (right), peaceful demonstrations were held in Monument in support of the Black Lives Matter movement and antiracism. On June 7, about 70 people lined up on the Highway 105 overpass holding signs and, for the most part, wearing masks. Many people drove by with most expressing support by honking and waving from within their cars. On June 14, about 200 people gathered at Limbach Park to hear speakers talk about their experiences with racism or their thoughts on how they could help. The peaceful event included a moment of silence, sharing of water, food, and personal protection equipment for any who wanted it, and a march around historic downtown Monument with signs supporting racial justice. *Photos by Jackie Burhans.*

## New county park opened June 27

**Right:** El Paso County opened its newest park, Pineries Open Space, without the usual hoopla June 27 as the county followed the governor’s guidelines for COVID-19 and didn’t allow crowds to congregate. Everyone was allowed to come to the park with their families, hiking, walking, bike riding, and by horseback while social distancing and wearing masks, if so desired. The site straddles the Palmer Divide in Black Forest and is characterized by gentle rolling terrain covered by ponderosa pine forests, grassland meadows, wetlands, and dotted with small ponds. It has a doughnut-shaped open space and abundant wildlife, including elk, white tail deer, raptors, and turkeys. The Palmer Land Trust holds a conservation easement on the site that ensures scenic, wildlife, aesthetic, recreational, and ecological conservation values will be preserved and maintained in perpetuity. The trail is a 9-mile loop with no bailout points (no way to exit the trail along the loop because it is surrounded by private property). The Pineries Open Space Master Plan, which guides the overall development of the site, was completed in 2010. In 2013, the site was extremely damaged by the Black Forest Fire, which significantly delayed the opening of the site for public use. Phase 1 improvements include 1,070 acres of scenic open space, a large trailhead, a restroom, and the single-track trail. The park will be open from dawn to dark. *Photos and caption by Lisa Hatfield and Marlene Brown.*

