

“Virtual” July 4th Fun Run



Above: A group of friends who met through various running clubs got into the Fun Run and Fourth of July spirit as they gathered at the traditional starting line in Palmer Lake. The traditional Fourth of July Fun Run from Palmer Lake to Monument went virtual due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Over 580 runners registered for the run themed “Any time, any place, any where.” Thus runners could select their own course and start time, though a few runners showed up to run the race at its usual time in Palmer Lake on the morning of the Fourth of July. Palmer Lake Elementary School (PLES) Principal Peggy Griebenow was “grateful runners got into the spirit of the race” and that “race organizers got creative to continue this great tradition.” The Fun Run acts as the primary fundraiser for PLES with proceeds going to technology, outdoor activities, and other education activities. Registering runners received a race T-shirt and other amenities. *Photo by David Futey.*

Backyard Farmers Market, July 11



Above: Local children leave freshly painted flowers on the backyard picket fence at the children’s activity area at the “Backyard” Farmers Market on July 11 at the Black Forest Community Center (BFCC). Up to 82 vendors are available and anywhere from 700 to 1,000 browse the market’s colorful booths. The market is restricted to vendors who live within a 50-mile radius with a focus on fresh farm produce, handmade crafts, live music, and children’s activities. Sustainability classes in farming, gardening and waste recycling will be offered once COVID-19 restrictions are lifted. The market is open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Saturday, in the backyard of the BFCC from May through October with the exception of Aug. 15. For information visit www.bfbackyardfarmersmarket.com. The market operates in full compliance with the current local and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines, and masks are required for entrance. *Photo by Natalie Barszcz.*

Oregon firefighters help stand watch



During the past several weeks, outside firefighting crews have been stationed around Monument to boost the services of local fire departments in this very dry fire season. Pictured on July 6 is a crew from Bly, Ore., in the Fremont Winoma National Forest. From left are Michelle Henry, captain, Brandon McBride, David Sutch, and Rodney Allen. *Photo by John Howe.*

WMMI machinery demos, July 18



Above: On July 18, the Western Museum of Mining & Industry (WMMI) hosted its Outdoor Machinery Demonstration Day. This free event (to be repeated Aug. 22) offered operational demonstrations of the Yellow Jacket Stamp Mill, 1920 Osgood Steam Shovel (operated above by Museum Executive Director Grant Dewey) and H.K. Porter trammer along with blacksmith demonstrations and a hayride to get visitors around to the various activities. Visitors could also attend an indoor museum tour at regular museum admission rates. Museum Executive Director Grant Dewey said the day “provided visitors with the opportunity to witness the scale of the operated machines along with the sights and sounds.” Information on tours and upcoming museum events is at www.wmmi.org. *Photo by David Futey.*

Bears have people problems



Above: Every year, bears attracted to human food sources damage property, vehicles, and even homes. Bears don’t know they’re doing anything wrong. They’re just following their super-sensitive noses to the most calories they can find. Bears that find food around homes, campgrounds, and communities often lose their natural wariness of people. Even though black bears are not naturally aggressive and seldom attack or injure people, they are still strong, powerful animals. A bear intent on getting a meal could injure someone who gets in its way. Every year bears that have become too comfortable around people have to be destroyed. You can help save bears by keeping trash cans, recycling cans, and bird feeders inside until the morning of pickup. See <https://cpw.state.co.us/Documents/Education/LivingWithWildlife/LivingWithBears.pdf>. *Photo posted on Pixabay by ArtTower.*

“Big Bertha” installed at Lolley’s



Above and left: The grease interceptor nicknamed “Big Bertha” has arrived at what will be Monument’s ice cream shop on Second Street. The massive 1,500-gallon interceptor was lowered by crane into a huge hole in the back of the future Lolley’s Ice Cream shop on July 20. Renovations continue inside and outside the 130-year-old house that used to be an inn where people would wait for a stagecoach. Owners Shelley and Dustin Sapp hope to open Lolley’s in the fall. *Photos by Michael Weinfeld.*