

Snapshots of Our Community

Home ignition zone

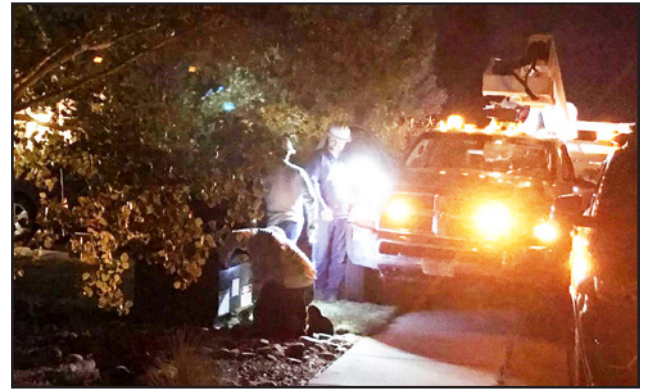


Left: If your home doesn't catch on fire, it won't burn down. You can take simple steps today to help your home resist burning embers blown by the wind. Woodmoor Forestry Volunteer Lisa Hatfield and Woodmoor Covenants and Forestry

Administrator Matthew Nelson spoke at the Woodmoor Barn on July 30. Their *Reduce Your Home's Ignition Potential in Wildfire* 33-minute presentation is posted on YouTube. Watch the video or ask your HOA or fire protection district for a free property assessment. *Diagram courtesy of National Fire Protection Association.*

Power outage, July 31

Right: Mountain View Electric Association (MVEA) crews replace a damaged transformer on July 31 in The Heights at Jackson Creek. MVEA crews worked during the evening hours to restore power to thousands of customers after a transformer suffered an unusual catastrophic disintegration of the lightning inductor/arrestor. The disintegration caused a relay effect resulting in the failure of multiple transformers in the immediate neighborhoods. Technicians had not seen this kind of failure happen in the past without a lightning strike. If you experience a power failure, check the Outage Center at www.mvea.coop for instructions, but never assume your neighbor already provided MVEA with crucial outage information. *Photo by Natalie Barszcz.*



Bookstore celebrates Colorado Day



Left: Covered Treasures Bookstore celebrated Colorado Day on Aug. 1 with local photographer Todd Caudle. Caudle has various photography books including his newest, *Natural Wonders of Colorado*. His annual Colorado calendars are a hit. Hosting Caudle was the store's first in-house event since COVID-19. A fun and safe time was had by all. The masked customer asked that her name not be used. *Photo courtesy of Covered Treasures Bookstore.*

Ham operators prepare



Left: Amateur radio operators: Are you a neighborhood resource for El Paso County? Join us for Neighborhood Net at 10 a.m. each Saturday on the PPHN repeater network 146.910 (negative offset, 151.4 tone). Also, the county Special Communications Unit (SCU), a volunteer team, provides auxiliary communications during fires, blizzards, severe weather, and any other time communications help is needed. Amateur radio operators are also important in the event of an extreme emergency or catastrophic communications failure in the community. SCU meets once a month and welcomes new volunteers interested in participating. Volunteers are not required to have previous experience or radio license to join. See video at <https://admin.elpasoco.com/ham-radio-field-day/>. Shown here is amateur radio operator Jason Martin. Info: Robert Nuttelman, SCU director, at pproemscu@gmail.com. *Photo courtesy of Pikes Peak Regional Office of Emergency Management.*

King's Deer Garage Sale, Aug. 7-9



Left: The annual King's Deer Community Garage Sale was held on Aug. 7-9. Those who wished to participate exhibited their wares on their driveways. As drivers passed by, they could choose to pull in to treasure hunt or bargain shop. Pictured from left are Dillon Harder, Becky Harder, Sherry Feeney, and Stacey Snyder at the Harders' sale. *Photo by John Howe.*

LPHS Class of '75 makes donation

Right: In lieu of the 45th high school class reunion that was cancelled due to COVID-19 travel and other restrictions, the Lewis-Palmer High School



Class of 1975 collected and made a donation of over \$2,400 to Friends of Monument Preserve (FOMP) Aug. 11 in the name of Tim Watkins, Randy Jones, and other class members who have passed away. FOMP was near and dear to Watkins' heart; he worked and was instrumental on several trail building projects on Mt. Herman. Pictured is the presentation of the check. From left are Russel Renk, class member, Brian Mullin, FOMP president, Bill Normile, FOMP vice president, and Randy Royal, '75 class president. *Photo by Marlene Brown.*

Gold panning championships



The Western Museum of Mining & Industry (WMMI) hosted the 47th Gold Panning State Championships on Aug. 7-9 in collaboration with the Gold Prospectors of Colorado (GPoC). The event had nine competitions including speed, where the panner is timed for how long it takes them to pan out eight nuggets in a pan filled with sand and place them in a vial, skill, where the panner has 15 minutes to pan out five to 10 gold flakes from a half-gallon bucket of sand, and dry-panning. Attendees not participating in the competition received instructions on how to pan from GPoC members and perhaps found a gold flake of their own. Marty Allen, GPoC president, said events as this demonstrate the "big

family feel" of the GPoC where all are welcomed, from those wanting to learn how to pan to experts. Information on upcoming events at the museum is at www.wmmi.org. **Left:** After eight gold nuggets are placed in a pan filled with sand, Angelika Meissan competes in the speed competition where she is timed panning out the nuggets then placing them in a vial to end the timing. *Photo by David Futey.*

Black Forest Reverse Parade



Left: This year's Black Forest Festival was replaced by three days of Black Forest Days. Events included a staggered-start Biergarten Stroll, a Backyard Market, and a Pancake Picnic Breakfast in partnership with the Boy Scouts at the Black Forest Community Center. On Aug. 15, A Reverse Parade took place along Shoup Road

between La Foret and Black Forest Road. In a Reverse Parade, the Parade Exhibits are stationary and the spectators remain in their personal vehicles and slowly drive past the exhibits. Community Emergency Response Team volunteer Robert Toy made sure the drive-by spectators knew they could learn basics about how to respond to a disaster or emergency in their community through training provided free by the Pikes Peak Office of Emergency Management. See epccert.org. *Photo by Lisa Hatfield.*

Silver Center Book Club. Aug. 14



Above: The Silver Center Book Club met Aug. 14 at the Senior Center to discuss its chosen book *The Supremes @ Earl's All-You-Can-Eat* by Kelsey Moore. The group chooses a selection each month from the public library's recommended list and then picks up copies at the library to read and share their thoughts about at the next meeting. **Left:** front to back, are Mary Ann Milke, Steph Irsay, Robert Gibbons, and Sue Walker. **Right:** front to back, are Judy Martin, Kathy Jones, and Rita Thieme. The group is socially distanced. *Photo by John Howe.*