

## Snapshots of Our Community

### That's a lot of plants!



**Above:** Gro-Pro nursery staff and employees of Monument's Walmart Garden Center are pleased to announce it reached a huge milestone of over \$1 million in plant sales this season. The local store ranks sixth among U.S. Walmart stores in plant sales. From left, first row, Jennifer Jones, Charlotte Fraser. Middle row, Derek Rhodes, Matt Bailey, Zacchea Underwood, Nina Minke, Olivia Shuh, Jack Jones, Savannah Howard, Coleen Abeyta, Michelle Jorgensen, Charles Walker III, Lane Carlton, Dillon Wilkisin. Back row, Hayden McCay, Afton King, Carl Valenta. *Photo courtesy of OCN volunteer Coleen Abeyta.*

### Black Forest Festival, Aug. 7



**Above:** Beneath smoky skies from western wildfires on a toasty day, the crowds turned out in droves for the Black Forest Festival on Aug. 7. They came bright and early for the annual event and the ever-popular pancake breakfast provided by R&R Café and served up by Boy Scout Troop 70. Throughout the day, live music, hay and pony rides, multiple demonstrations, a booth fair with vendors and volunteer organizations, food truck fare, and a family beer garden were all available to enjoy in and around the backyard of the Black Forest Community Club. The parade began a little later than scheduled after spectators had lined the route to hear Stars and Stripes in the distance, and the parade was led by an El Paso County Sheriff's Office Honor Guard followed by an array of participants making their way north along Black Forest Road. The parade included Fountain High School Air Force JROTC, Pine Creek High School Marching Band, Keepers of the Keys, Kit Carson Riding Club, old and new car clubs, and many more. Heritage families (those residing in Black Forest for over 25 years) and local businesses scattered candy to excited children from their varied modes of transport. The Black Forest Fire/Rescue Protection District and the El Paso County Sheriff's Office were also well-represented throughout the festival. The 2020 festival was scaled back to a drive-by-only parade for spectators to observe from their vehicles while observing COVID-19 distancing protocols. Due to a lack of entries this year, the historic Outhouse Race did not take place after the parade—maybe it will next year! *Photo by Natalie Barszcz.*

### Dion Pride at TLCA, Aug. 7



**Left:** Dion Pride brought the essence of his late father, legendary country-western singer Charlie Pride, to the Tri-Lakes Center for the Arts (TLCA) stage with a tribute concert on Aug. 7. Opening with A Whole Lotta Things to Sing About, the younger Pride performed many of his father's hits including Louisiana Man, Crystal Chandeliers, and Kiss an Angel Good Morning during the two-hour performance. Pride interspersed

stories about his father and the humbleness he instilled in him, summing it up by saying, "I never had to go past my front door for a role model." He added, "I like these intimate settings as they allow me to connect with the audience." One axiom from his father was "Take care of the fans," which Pride did throughout the evening with his engaging personality and encouraging audience participation. Information on upcoming TLCA events is at [www.trilakesarts.org](http://www.trilakesarts.org). *Photo by David Futey.*

### National Nightout, Aug. 3



**Above:** On Aug. 3, the Woodmoor neighborhood participated in the National Night Out event that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie. The event, sponsored by Woodmoor Neighborhood Watch place at The Barn community center and featured games, a dessert truck from Lorilynn's Cookies & Cream., and vehicles from Woodmoor Public Safety, El Paso County Sheriff's Office, and TriLakes Monument Fire Department. Inside, there was barbeque, a ham radio display, and a thank you card for first responders. Neighbors enjoyed the games, the food, and the interaction with each other and with officers and firefighters. For more information see [natw.org](http://natw.org). *Photo by Jackie Burhans*

### Students present band show, Aug. 6



**Above:** On Aug. 6, local D38 students put together Summer Band 2021 and put on a show at the Ascent Church. The event showcased the talented musicians of D38 and helped raise money for Tri-Lakes Cares, a community-based, volunteer-supported resource center. Students gathered, practiced, wrote original pieces, conducted, and performed for an audience of about 100. The students even produced the event program. The lead organizers were Bella D'Ambra, Anita Gichuki, Jack Shimon, and Niko Skorick, who also composed the original music and arranged some of the pieces. Caroline D'Ambra conducted the band performance, which featured a trumpet ensemble, woodwind duet, and summer winds. Lewis-Palmer High School band director Thomas Chapman performed in the trumpet ensemble. *Photo by Jackie Burhans.*

### Palmer Lake Try-athlon, Aug. 7



**Above:** About 120 people showed up to "compete" in this year's Palmer Lake Try-athlon on Aug. 7. The "competition" consisted of "swimming" (with the help of an inflated donut or life jacket) across Palmer Lake, then "running" around the west side of the lake to retrieve a bike, trike, or other wheeled, human-powered device and "race" to the finish line. This annual fundraiser helps maintain and improve Palmer Lake parks and recreational areas. *Photo by Steve Pate.*

### WMMI Family Day, Aug. 7



**Above:** On Aug. 7, the Western Museum of Mining & Industry (WMMI) hosted a Family Day focused on history. The day included performances by the Legendary Ladies, portraying unconventional women of the West, a "gunfight" by the Gold Canyon Gunfighters, along with an encampment by World War II re-enactors from the 10th Mountain Division Foundation. The museum also operated its Yellow Jacket Stamp Mill, Osgood Steam Shovel, and H.K. Porter Trammer, and presented blacksmith demonstrations. Visitors could also tour the newly renovated Reynolds Ranch House, now containing period furnishings. Information on upcoming events at the museum is at [www.wmmi.org](http://www.wmmi.org). *Photo by David Futey.*