

Independence Day Festivities - *Photos by David Futey*



**Above:** Tri-Lakes area July fourth festivities began with the annual Palmer Lake Fun Run. This 40th anniversary of the race brought over 700 runners to the shores of the lake for the start of the race. The runners loop the lake, then proceed down the Santa Fe Trail to Monument to complete the 4-mile race. Palmer Lake Elementary School (PLES) is the beneficiary of the race as proceeds go toward teacher grants, field trips, and classroom technology. Volunteers from the PLES PTO, school staff, parents, and others assisted in the race. The top in-person finishers were (M) Ethan Powell (19:30) of Colorado Springs and (F) Aubrey Surage (23:50) of Monument.

**Above:** St. Peter's Knights of Columbus (KoC) Council 11514 hosted its annual Fourth of July pancake breakfast. KoC Grand Knight Alan Feldkamp said they prepared for 1,500 attendees with offerings of pancakes, sausages, scrambled eggs, orange juice, and coffee for the price of admission. Feldkamp said this is the Knights' "biggest fundraiser of the year that contributes to our overall annual donation to St. Peter Church, District 38 disabled students, Tri-Lakes Cares and other nonprofits." He continued, "We really appreciate the support from the community as they make it a wonderful community gathering each year."

Parade

On Independence Day, The Monument Hill Kiwanis Club Fourth of July children's and main parades weaved their way through the streets of downtown Monument to the delight of thousands of spectators. Children decorated their bikes, wagons, scooters,

and themselves in festive red, white, and blue ornaments. With a theme of Honoring our Heroes: Our Educators, the main parade included over 80 entrants from a variety of organizations.



**Above:** From left, Breckyn Belsher, Mia Williams, and Natalie Williams have their bikes decorated for the Fourth of July Children's Parade.

**Above:** (Left) Lila Sky Maddox is adorned for a festive Fourth of July (Right) Participants make their way on the parade route.



**Above:** Honoring our Heroes: "Our Educators" was the theme of the Fourth of July Main Parade.