

vide additional information regarding behavioral and personality traits of their children, which could aid in defusing problems

in the classroom. Some parents also want to meet with teachers a few weeks after the beginning of school to learn how things are

going.

Superintendent Borman listened to the conversation and agreed that some changes were necessary. After posing some questions, he learned that not all parents need each of these actions, but for those who do, it is important to know that they may request them.

Borman said that in the past, teachers often did not receive IEPs until a few weeks into the school year, by which time the situation could be problematical. It is now emphasized that teachers read the documents before school starts to familiarize themselves with the students.

Borman commented that as a result of budget cuts a few years ago, paras are available five fewer days a year and may therefore not be available to participate in orientation or other activities prior to the start of school. But it may be possible with

planning, he said.

After further discussion, it was agreed that the Special Education Department should develop a checklist of things that parents are entitled to request. The list will be provided to parents and teachers. In this way, parents will not feel powerless, students needing special help will receive it, and both the parents and the school will be aware

of the same possibilities.

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The Special Education Advisory Council meets at 6:30 on the second Wednesday of each month during the school year. The next meeting will be on Sept. 11 in the district's Learning Center, 146 Jefferson St., Monument.

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WILDFIRE (Cont. from page 1)

to determine whether or not saving the home or neighborhood is practical and survivable. Homes that are fire mitigated are much more likely to be saved, whereas homes that are surrounded by fuel are more likely to be "written off" and left to burn because firefighters have to use their resources efficiently to save as many houses as possible.

Homes that don't have defensible space may create a "domino effect"—if one home

goes up in flames, the nearby homes may follow, making the firefighters' job much more difficult and possibly resulting in the loss of the entire neighborhood.

But disaster preparedness goes beyond fire mitigation, as Russell explained. She said that although the Mountain Shadows evacuation during the Waldo Canyon Fire last summer was primarily successful, some victims were nevertheless caught without transportation, children and pets were in some cases left home alone when the evacuation became mandatory, many people were underinsured, and there was far too much emphasis placed on automatic notification.

Pointing out that reverse-911 call systems are overly strained in the event of a disaster, Russell advised residents to use social media such as Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram to keep informed. She stressed that people should get out as soon as they are ready and not wait for the evacuation order. She encouraged residents to prepare a "go kit" for everyone in their family, prior to evacuation. These kits should include medications, documents, and photographs. Residents should have a container for every pet, she said.

Root provided advice on home preparedness. He said that if residents look upward and see more trees than sky, the trees need to be thinned. He emphasized the importance of defensible space and encouraged homeowners to contact a forestry volunteer or the local fire department for a free consultation and to make fire mitigation plans.

Emma Gaydos is a seventh-grade student reporter. She can be reached at emmagaydos@ocn.me.

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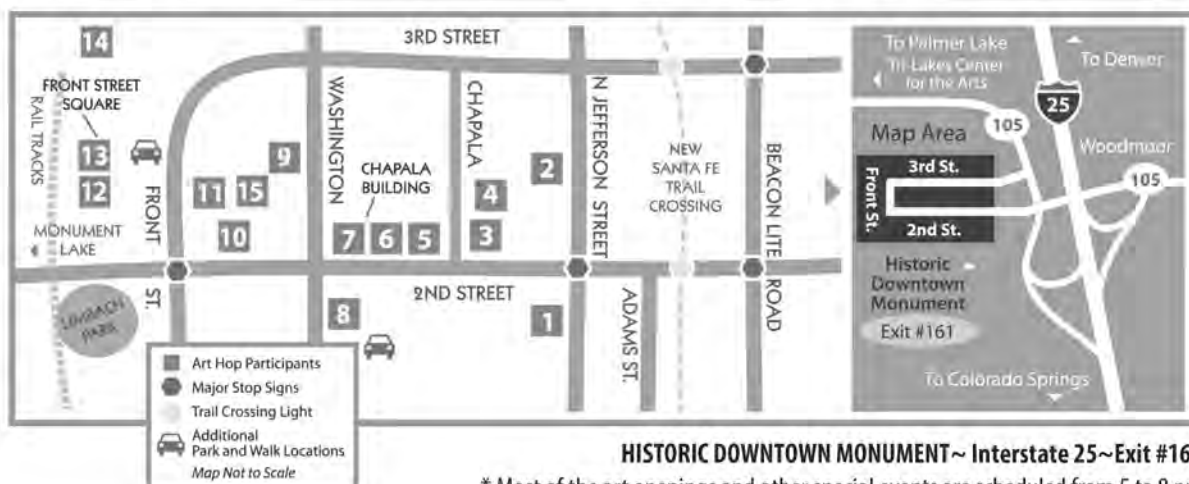
**HISTORIC DOWNTOWN MONUMENT**

# ART HOP

2013

## Thursday, June 20

The **third Thursday** of each month, May through September, the galleries, restaurants and boutiques of historic downtown Monument stay open until 8:00PM\* for a celebration featuring art openings, great food, live music and other special events.



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\* Most of the art openings and other special events are scheduled from 5 to 8 pm

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