



WOODMEN • EDITION

Life, Business, News in Rockrimmon, Peregrine, Pinecliff, Woodmen Valley, Yorkshire, Brookwood, Briargate, Pine Creek and Wolf Ranch

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Remembering the Waldo Canyon Fire



About 500 people celebrated Flying W Ranch as they reflected on the firestorm that destroyed the landmark three years ago.

See Page 2

A Long Walk with Purpose



Relay for Life supporters commit to round-the-clock walking.

See Page 3

New Trail Open in Ute Valley



Volunteers have made a new route possible in Ute Valley Park to replace the heavily eroded Scrub Oak Path in the southwest part of the park.

See Page 5

Wounded Warriors Tackled More than Roads

Three-Day Cycling Event is an Encouragement



Wounded warriors gathered at Wilson Ranch Park to prepare for the first of two rehabilitative cycling journeys that are part of the Soldier Ride, a 40-mile cycling event through Colorado Springs. Riders were fitted with special equipment on loan for the event, such as hand-cycles, trikes and bikes.

By MELISSA ROLLI

“No other organization does anything like this....It was absolutely amazing,” said wounded warrior and retired U.S. Army Capt. Jason Jones of the Soldier Ride, a cycling event for injured veterans organized by the Wounded Warrior Project.

Retired from Fort Carson, Jones participated in the event last weekend along with nearly 50 other injured service members. Colorado Springs is one of 32 cities across the country where this third annual event is taking place this year.

“It is more challenging here than anywhere because of the elevation,” said Jones, noting it is also extraordinary here because of the vast military presence in the community.

The three-day cycling event was inspired by civilian Chris Carney who cycled more than 5,000 miles coast-to-coast in 2004 to raise money for and awareness about the Wounded Warrior Project. The next year, Carney made the journey again, accompanied by several combat-wounded Iraq and Afghanistan war veterans.

The Soldier Ride was created to commemorate Carney’s trek and to serve as a rehabilitative event for veterans. The Wounded Warrior Project hosts Soldier Ride events at no charge to participants as a way to bring together servicemen and women for a long weekend focused on physical health, wellness, cam-



Woodmen Edition area resident Aaron Kiewicz participated in the 15-mile Wounded Warrior cycling journey through the Garden of the Gods last Friday.

raderie, and healing while also introducing the veterans to the support the Project offers.

Activities kicked off Thursday, June 25 when participants were fitted with adaptive equipment to meet their specific needs such as hand-cycles, trikes and bikes, which were

theirs to borrow for the event. On Friday, the veterans took a 15-mile ride through the Garden of the Gods starting and finishing at Wilson Ranch Park off Allegheny Drive.

Saturday, the event concluded with a 25-mile ride starting at Peyton High

Continued on page 8



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Remembering While Looking Ahead

Supporters Gathered to Celebrate Flying W Ranch

By **WILLIAM J. DAGENDESH**

"This is an emotional night and I can't thank you enough for being here," said Flying W Ranch owner LeeAnn Wolfe during the ranch's 63rd annual Chuck Wagon Dinner and Western Show held Friday, June 26.

Nearly 500 people attended the four-hour event to show their support for the iconic landmark which was destroyed in the Waldo Canyon fire three years ago. Wolfe fought back tears as she talked about the sacrifices her parents made to build the ranch only to have their dream go up in smoke.

Created in 1953 by Russ and Marian Wolfe, and located in the Colorado Springs foothills, the Flying W Ranch captured the spirit of the old west. The ranch boasted 13 stores, an adobe jail, blacksmith shop, drugstore, school house and train. After touring the town, folks would sit down to an authentic western-style chuck wagon supper.

"My parents did a great job keeping the old west alive," said LeeAnn Wolfe, her voice cracking.

However, that changed on Tuesday, June 26, 2012 when the Waldo Canyon fire claimed the ranch, more than 300 Mountain Shadows community homes and two lives. The non-profit Flying W Ranch Foundation was formed to restore the ranch and mitigate the Waldo Canyon burn area.

"People want to see the ranch return which will take about 25 years to re-build," said Flying W Ranch Foundation volunteer coordinator Heather Vozzola.

Following a western-style barbecue, Flying W Ranch executive director Aaron Winter said it's a shame how a wildfire destroyed in minutes what took decades to build.

"Volunteers have spent more than 25,000 hours rebuilding the ranch and are doing a great job," Winter said.

Wolfe concluded her remarks



Colorado Mayor John Suthers, right, and members of the Flying Wranglers welcomed guests to an event in support of the Flying W Ranch last weekend.

by thanking her parents for creating and sharing the ranch with the world.

"My dad has been my hero my whole life," said Wolfe as she invited Russ Wolfe, 90, to the stage.

"Always do things better, and keep it going forever and ever," said Russ Wolfe to a standing ovation.

Colorado Springs Mayor John Suthers said he has many fond memories of the ranch. "We were saddened by the destruction of this iconic setting, but we have come a long way and it truly has been a collaborative effort," Suthers said.

Following the mayor's comments, the world-famous Flying W Wranglers performed their American cowboy song repertoire and showcased their trademark three-part harmonies. The Colorado Springs-based Sweetwater Plains Indian Dancers also performed for the public.

"I cried and cried after the wildlife destroyed this place," said Ken Sweetwater.

Gary Tarpley also remembered the landmark with fondness, describing the motif that drew visitors to the ranch. "It looked like the old west with stores and a train, and was something beautiful to see," said Tarpley, shaking his head.

Woodmen Edition area resident Carol Beans added, "Colorado Springs hasn't been the same since the ranch was



Flying W Ranch creator and former owner, Russ Wolfe

destroyed." Folks showed their support of the event by sporting white cowboy hats, neckerchiefs and snakeskin boots. One gentleman wore a toy holster and six-shooter.

Business owner Marilyn Burlage brought several miniature donkeys to the event, and demonstrated why Chloe, a mild-mannered, 8-year-old, 350-pound, miniature donkey won children's hearts. "Chloe has a great personality and everyone loves her," Burlage said.

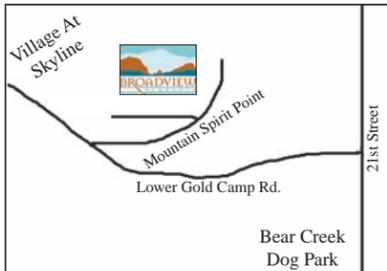
Woodmen area resident Chris French said, "I thought coming to the event would be a great way to support the ranch and spend quality time with family."

The Flying W Ranch Foundation accepts donations that will go toward rebuilding the ranch. More information is available at www.flyingwranchfoundation.org.

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Relay for Life: A Celebration of Hope

BY GAIL HARRISON

“Relay for Life is a chance, one day a year, to come together and think about those members of our family who passed on from cancer,” said Tammy Rose, one of 12 family members comprising the team Sharon’s Sassy Sprinters.

“This is our sixth year of fundraising at the event,” said Rose. Four members of the family have died from cancer and one is a survivor. Team leader Sharon Goetz, said she started the team in memory of her sister-in-law, Bernice Davis, who succumbed to cancer in 2009.

The Sprinters also set up a golf ball toss and a “Doctor Who” time travel booth where people could have their pictures taken for a donation.

2010 Liberty High School graduate Zach Rose, who has participated with his family’s team for six years, said he enjoys being part of Sharon’s Sassy Sprinters, “There’s good food and lots of fun people - and it’s for a good cause.”

Zach Rose’s girlfriend, 2012 Rampart grad Kelly Sparks, joined the family this year for her first Relay. Sparks said, “Everyone has been touched in some way by cancer. My grandmother passed away from ovarian cancer and my uncle passed away from pancreatic cancer. My other grandmother has colon cancer.”

Among the many team tents set up on the D20 field for the all-day-and-night relay, were friendly rivals, the Band Parents Against Cancer led by Lisa W Duke and Chunkette’s Hogs led by Patricia Sewell.

Chunkette’s member and Rockrimmon resident Joe Sapereira explained the rivalry, “The Chunkette’s team was formed by Patricia Sewell (an ovarian cancer survivor) in honor of her friend Annette Chunko, who passed away in 2012 from breast cancer.” In their name, “hogs” was a derivation of “hugs” (which is how Sewell pronounces hugs with her accent.) Duke is an area lead who helps with training for Relay for Life events. Sapereira said they all started with St. Baldricks (the head shaving event) and later formed the team for Relay. Duke was a Chunkette’s member, but since she had a daughter attending Doherty High School, she decided to form Band Parents - thus, the friendly rivalry.

Sapereira’s daughters, Air Academy rising senior, Kianna, and 2012 graduate, Kayla, are Chunkette’s



More than 30 family members of The Galicia Team, decked out in tie-dyed purple tee shirts walked together on Saturday in the stadium at Liberty High School. Purple is the official color of American Cancer Society’s Relay for Life.



Ballet students portrayed the metamorphosis of butterflies, a meaningful interpretation honoring cancer survivors as well as those fighting the disease. Dance instructor Kathryn Utke narrated, “Dance is like life and life is like dance - through the weeks, months, and minute by minute - just going with the flow, just being who we are.”

members. Kianna’s “best bud” Cayla Millar, another Air Academy rising senior, is on the team as well. Cayla’s father, Bill Millar, has been involved in planning and as entertainment chair with Relay.

“One big happy family” is a great picture of what Relay for Life is all about. Whether a person participates on a team, or with planning, or as an entertainer, or as a volunteer doing the myriad tasks necessary for a successful Relay event, people come together in the effort. From the Survivor’s Lap at the beginning, to the Luminaria Ceremony after dark, and on through the night until sunrise, participants stand up to stamp out cancer.

The American Cancer Society Relay for Life is the world’s largest and most influential fundraising event to fight cancer. From youngsters to the elderly, Saturday’s participants conveyed a sense of dedication. Isabel Harrison, a 13-year-old Mountain Ridge Middle School student, who performed with The Dance Center, radiated the Relay for Life spirit and said, “Dancers are always looking for opportunities to perform. It’s nice to do extra stuff and help people.”

Also embodying the Relay spirit, Linda Hugney, an elderly survivor of breast cancer said, “I’m just glad to be alive. I’m a 15-year breast cancer survivor.” Also a breast cancer survivor, her daughter Tina Hugney said, “We participate every year. We come as survivors, to celebrate life.”

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OBSERVATIONS

BY HENRY WALTER

Confidence in Government Austerity Misplaced

Reading about Greece's economic woes seems a bit like an "Alice in Wonderland" voyage. Austerity means severe simplicity while confidence in government seems an image of the Cheshire cat's thinking: "Only a few find the way, some don't recognize it when they do, some... don't ever want to." Getting' closer to home, aren't we?

I find myself wondering how anyone can believe in having confidence in government to follow the route to austerity. I suspect Rudyard Kipling knew his stuff when he wrote "...never the twain shall meet." Or to be a bit redundant here, some folks will never learn to walk and chew gum at the same time.

Austerity is about as familiar to governments as statesmanship these days. Most politicians —and I would rate Greek politicians as about average—never met a penny they couldn't spend. But that austerity thing just doesn't seem to apply to them as most of the rest of the EU is insisting.

Oh, I admit it is the peoples' wish that every penny should be utilized to increase life's comfort, so I may be a bit remiss in picking on politicians. Politicians must get a vote of the people before they can gain office so if even a hint of austerity is mentioned in the campaign, the pol may be deemed unworthy. Just imagine how much support one might gain by threatening to cut the budget; rule with austerity. Government exists, even strives mightily, to spend the people's money.

Greece closed its banking system for a few days while trying to keep enough lucre in the vaults to keep the trains running or the Grecian gods of welfare shoveling more to keep its citizens from having to live with limitations on their leisure. One might wonder if the Greek bankers might be a bit miffed at their "shepherds of the realm" for letting the government debt rise to frantic overloads. Bankers can do that here; we have legislators who must be wiser than those in Greece. We invented bailouts starting about WWI.

But sure as shootin' fish in a barrel (never use one old saw when two are available) everywhere you look or read, countries are in trouble and the aggressors are its own citizens way too often. China is drooping financially because socialism doesn't mix well with freedom. Russia is spending the peasants' hard-earned cash to "protect" everyone in the Eastern Hemisphere.

Ergo, the Greek government is going to let its citizens decide whether to fish or cut bait (there's that danged old-fashioned thinking again). They will hold an ELECTION! Here's a problem, though: Do the citizens have a clue as to how their government got so incontinent?

If the vote goes for the rules set by the rest of Europe, that Greece reel-in the handouts, the people will have bailed the government out—although unwillingly. If the vote recommends a course of "steady as she goes to the bottom," taxes will have to be raised—dramatically.

The government is so messed up (you can register astonishment here, if you like) but asking the voters to either raise their taxes, cut spending or go broke is like asking Barbra Streisand to head the EPA.

Most probably the voters won't raise their taxes again. Europe will have to bail them out, right? Greece is too big to fail even if irresponsible borrowing is consecrated by its voters? There comes a time when maxed-out credit cards can't be resuscitated. Maybe yesterday.

But an indicator of how government thinks will most likely prevail in this hour of trial. The head of the Irish left-wing, Sinn Fein, is quoted as supporting business **Thank You for saying "I saw it in The Woodmen Edition"**

Nuggets of Faith

45 Pairs of Brothers

BY TONY BARNES



Tony "T-Bar" Barnes is a 28-year veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps and Air Force. He works with the Army Wounded Warrior program and can be reached at tbar-nugget@yahoo.com.

I was stunned when I heard presidential candidate Rick Perry state that there are 45 pairs of American brothers buried at Normandy, France. Of those, 33 pairs of the brothers are buried beside each other. There is also a father and son buried by each other in the Normandy American Cemetery. The dad was a full bird colonel and the son a first lieutenant. Also in France, the World War I Lorraine American Cemetery hosts 30 sets of brothers that died in that war.

In my work with the wounded of our recent wars, I often hear accounts of death in combat. Many are the soldiers who speak of squad mates who didn't come back from the foreign sands of battle. I often think of how this impacted families. I try to imagine for a moment the sight of two uniformed military members standing on a front porch awaiting entry into the house in front of them. That alarming scene that no family wants to witness is how the military notifies families of a loved one that has died while serving in uniform.

I can almost hear muffled sobs that grow into mournful, wailing cries from the depths of the soul. What moments earlier had been a household going about everyday activities, has become a family that will never be the

same again. Yet those many decades earlier, there were 45 WWII families that not only withstood the crushing news of one son's blood soaking into the soil of a foreign country...but, they had to receive news that two of their sons had paid the ultimate sacrifice for freedom. Surely, a double dose of grief is almost more than a human can stand.

I have a feeling that this statistic will stick with me for the rest of my life. Seventy-eight pairs of brothers lay at rest in cemeteries in France because of two world wars. Seventy-eight families paid far more than they should have. As I try to absorb this fact, I now remember the Civil War when I am sure tens of thousands of families lost more than one family member as our nation tried to rip itself apart. I am fortunate in that I have never lost a close family member to war. But, I pray I never forget that many people have and I hope I never lose that twinge of grief I feel for them as I ponder the tragedy of it all.

My focus upon fallen brothers certainly isn't meant to diminish the sacrifice of each and every fallen warrior and their families. But, something in my gut tells me that those families need an extra hug or thanks for the multiplied burdens they bear from the ravages of war. It's been 2,000 years since Jesus preached the gospel from Judean hillsides. It was a message of peace, love and salvation. How he must grieve at the sights of blood still being shed in the cities, towns and fields of combat.

During our holidays that celebrate freedom, veterans and fallen warriors, let us never forget that the price of freedom has cost families their loved ones. And, let us also remember that in a land far, far away on the other side of the Atlantic lay the graves of over 20,000 heroes that fought in two world wars. They didn't get to come home. But, their memories are in the hearts of those of us who are stateside from sea to shining sea.

as usual: he's calling the termination of more funding from Greece's neighbors as "wrong, economically counterproductive and undemocratic."

Read that last sentence again. To save government from bankruptcy does not call forth strict regularity in stewardship; it's undemocratic. It's just not right

to expect the people to think candidly, y'know, like government does. (lol)

It comes once again to the ABCs of life, both in and out of government: A- Don't spend your assets on untested whims. B- Believe government should have limits. C- Control your self-indulgences. **Hc2walter@comcast.net**

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Scout Helps Create New Trail in Ute Valley Park



This group of volunteers gathered before working on a new trail in Ute Valley Park on June 20. The work was the Eagle Scout project of Nick Valentine. Helpers that day included, left to right, back row: Chad Polkinghorne, Patrick Taylor, Johnny Green, Keith Givens, Bruce Taylor, Richard Chatham, Scott Liester, Alex Valentine; front row: Bray Polkinghorne, Karen Polkinghorne, Ryan Chatham, Nick Valentine, Rodger Givens, Mark Wojcik, Ty Krakec, Melissa McCormick.

By **PATY VOLZ**

A new trail is open in Ute Valley Park thanks to the efforts of longtime Woodmen area resident Nick Valentine and the crew he organized for his Eagle Scout project.

Working with City of Colorado Springs natural resources specialist Melissa McCormick, Valentine planned and cut a new route, realigning the previously eroded Scrub Oak Path in the

southwest part of the park. Then, on Saturday, June 20, Valentine and 18 other volunteers spent four hours clearing trees, reinforcing turns, and placing rocks on the more than 500 feet of new trail. Other volunteers have been doing some finishing work this week and McCormick said it would be set to open for users on Friday, July 3. More work is needed to close and restore the old trail area.

Valentine is a 17-year-old senior at the New Mexico Military Institute in Roswell, N.M. who used to go to Air Academy High School where his two sisters still attend. He did this project through Boy Scout Troop 2 of Roswell but he used to be a member of Troop 366 of St. Francis Catholic Church in the Peregrine area. His parents, Alex and Mary Valentine live in the Rockrimmon area.

New Race Series Started in Local Parks



Runners took off through Pinon and Ute Valley last weekend in the first of a new trail race series.

The Blue Moon Trail Run started in 2012 as a single race has become a series of events this summer with the option of doing a 5k for each of three races or progressively increasing that length to 8k and then 10k.

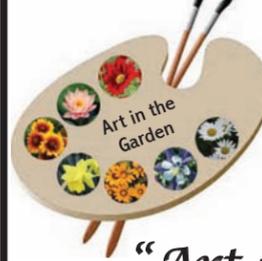
The series kicked off Friday evening, June 26 and the next two events are planned for Fridays, July 31 and Aug. 28 with the July race taking place under a true "blue moon."

All races start and end in Pinon Valley Park with the routes going through Ute Valley Park. Kid runs of one-half and one mile begin at 5:30 p.m. while the full-length events start at 6 p.m. Race proceeds support Colorado Springs Community Centers youth programs while beer garden donations go to the Friends of Ute Valley Park and the Friends of Cheyenne Canon. Registration is available at coloradosprings.gov/bluemoon. For volunteer details, email Brian Kates at bkates@springsgov.com.

Happy Fourth of July from the Editions!

Most government offices, including those of El Paso County and the City of Colorado Springs are closed on Friday, July 3 for the holiday. Also, the one county motor vehicle office that is typically open on Saturdays will be closed on July 4 – this is the North Motor Vehicle Branch Office at 8830 N. Union Boulevard.

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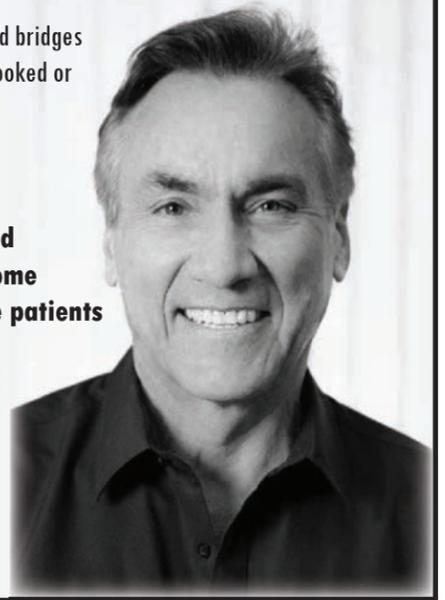
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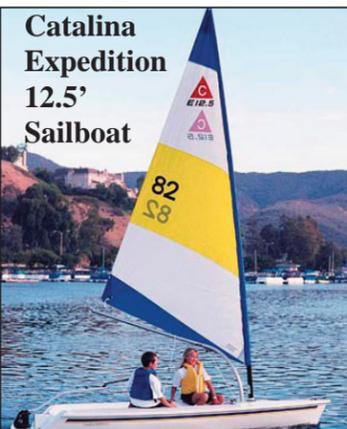
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Doors Open 9AM.
Preview: Thursday 3PM - 5PM or Estate of Anne Calvert Cross & Elissa Dawson, Beverly Lou Robbins and others will continue in our July Auctions.
Due to so many nice estates we are NOW having an auction Friday, July 3rd 10AM. Art. Estate Jewelry. Clothes. Shoes. Office Supplies. Kitchenware. Exercise & Sports. Household. Books. Outdoors. Collectibles. Steins. Toys. Holiday Village. Whirlpool. Front load washer & Dryer. Furniture. Tools & Box Lots. We'll be unpacking thru Thursday...You can view some items at **www.GormanAuctions.com** but to see everything come in for preview.
Saturday, July 11th • 10AM
Continuing on Estate plus other consignors.
Furniture. Sterling Flatware. Sculptures. China. Art. Gemstones. Coins. Postcards & Stamps.
Friday, July 17th • 10AM
Tools to Box Lots.
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Auditions Friday, July 17

Men and women actors who can play 20-40-year-olds, needed for upcoming production of Craft Production Resource theatre company's "Our Shorts Are Showing." Cold readings from the scripts. Studio K, 3307 N. Institute (go north off Fillmore at the Omelette Parlor) from 6 - 9 p.m. Call Kathy at 440-7989 for more information. Production dates: September 17 - 20.

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Plague Found in West Colorado Springs

El Paso County Public Health is cautioning residents of Colorado Springs' west side to take precautions after recently confirming plague in a mule deer in the Pleasant Valley neighborhood. The deer was found June 19 and the diagnosis was confirmed on June 26, being the first such confirmed plague activity in El Paso County this year.

Plague is a bacterial disease transmitted to humans by the bite of an infected flea, or by the handling of an infected animal. Taking steps to avoid flea exposure helps prevent spread of the disease, so the department recommends flea powder for pets, staying away from wild rodent habitats, avoiding contact with all wild animals and treating areas near homes to eliminate

rodent populations.

In humans, the symptoms of plague infection are high fever, chills, headache, extreme fatigue and tender or swollen lymph glands. El Paso County's last reported human case occurred in 1991. For more information about plague, visit Public Health's website, www.elpasocounty-health.org.

Soldier Ride

from page 1

School and ending at Falcon High School, east of Colorado Springs.

"It's not a race, it's to the slowest person's ability. That is what it's set to be, and that is another thing that makes it so amazing," said Jones.

"It's about everyone completing the ride with other wounded warriors helping you along the way," said Aaron Kiewicz who was participating for the second time.

The retired Air Force veteran and Woodmen Edition area resident explained that he participated as a local trying "to talk to wounded warriors about local things" and as a Peer Navigator for the Mt. Carmel Center of Excellence, a non-profit organization helping veterans transition back into civilian life. "As Peer Navigators, our main goal is to help veterans find jobs and get training, but we are also out there to do other things too. We want to show support for our veterans and help in whatever way possible."

Both Jones and Kiewicz said the event left them with a sense of camaraderie. Jones said he participated "to challenge myself, to do something I've never done before," and afterward, he felt "like I just ran up a big mountain."

"The neat thing is that it takes so many people at varying ability levels and at varying phases of their recovery and everybody does it." Jones said.

Red Rock Canyon is Open!

Red Rock Canyon Open Space off of Highway 24 and 31st Street is back open as of Friday, July 3 – just in time for the holiday weekend. The city open space has been closed since May due to water damage from this spring's heavy rains.

Section 16 Trailhead Under Construction Beginning Monday

The Colorado Springs Parks Department is beginning repairs and paving of the Section 16 Trailhead off of Lower Gold Camp Road on Monday, July 6. The work means the parking lot and access to the trail from there will be closed for about four weeks. While the trail is open, park users will need to enter and leave the trail from other access points, like the Palmer Trail off of High Drive or via the Intemann Trail or the rest of Red Rock Canyon Open Space. Improvements planned include a new concrete pan along the roadway, new asphalt, striped parking, curbing and a gutter for proper drainage.

Remember – Fireworks are Illegal

It is illegal to purchase, possess or use fireworks within the city limits of Colorado Springs. According to the city's website, this regulation includes even sparklers and violators can be fined or jailed for using fireworks. In areas outside of Colorado Springs but within El Paso County, the rule is that all fireworks not classified as "permissible" are illegal to use, possess or sell. Permissible items in the county include fountains, ground spinners, smoke bombs and sparklers. The county website states that any firework is illegal if it "flies through the air, explodes or shoots flaming balls."

City Celebration for Independence Day

The City of Colorado Springs-sponsored July 4th event begins with activities and concessions at noon in Memorial Park on Saturday. The Fort Carson 4th Infantry Division Band is scheduled to play from noon to 3:45 p.m. and the U.S. Air Force Academy Band's Blue Steel performs at 5:30 p.m. The Colorado Springs Philharmonic begins a concert at 7:30 p.m. and fireworks are planned at dusk.

City Poll Shows Priority for Fixing Roads

In a formal public poll of Colorado Springs voters regarding possible solutions to address the city's deteriorating stormwater and streets infrastructure, participants overwhelmingly chose road projects (77 percent) as a higher priority than stormwater projects (14 percent). The poll indicates 58 percent of respondents would be willing to pay a higher sales or property tax for road repairs. The auto-dial telephone poll surveyed 769 registered city voters on June 22 and 23.

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