

# Summer

- 06 Summer Training
- 08 First Day of School
- 10 Summer Activities
- 12 Foreign Exchange
- 14 Golf
- 16 Interrupter

## Facing The Fire

by Abigail Woods

**The High Chateau** stands over the Florissant Fossil Beds outside of Woodland Park, Colorado. "When you're up on the top you can see all the way out to Sangre De Cristo Mountain Range" Sheriff Deputy Renee Bunting describes "The view is just breathtaking" The trees sway lightly in the calm morning as people start the wake up.

It's **June 29th**- the Friday before the Fourth of July. Teller County is bustling normally, preparing for the upcoming holiday. It's 12:00, another typical noon on an ordinary day. Until Fire Chief Jack Lowe notices something different.

**Smoke** is racing towards the sky in the High Chateau of Florissant, Colorado.

**The community** acts fast; firefighters are on the scene in less than ten minutes. Evacuations are immediate. There's not a second to lose- the fire is already burning hot and burning fast and civilians are rushing from the scene. People working in the springs aren't even allowed to come back to get things from their homes.

**As the fire rages** everyone in the community fights back. Firefighters work long hours in harsh conditions to save houses, police officers push to get people to safety, organizations from all over Colorado and even surrounding states send forces to help evacuees. Animal shelters help take care of evacuated pets, and citizens from all walks of life donate everything they need.

**There are no differences** in us. There are no political parties, no debates, no anger, no spite. Now there is only a community coming together to fight back against the flames. There is only love and compassion, hard work and commitment. **There is only one thing, a fire we are determined to beat.**

The Chateau Fire blazes over Florissant in mid-July. (p.c. a. huyser)

Job # 16447 School WOODLAND PARK HIGH SCHOOL

Special Instructions

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