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## COLORADO WILDFIRES

# New fires temper optimism with anxiety

Residents 'on edge' after small fire near Cheyenne Mountain State Park

BY NICK SMITH  
The Gazette

A small wildfire that prompted a pre-evacuation notice in and around Cheyenne Mountain State Park overnight Wednesday was a reality check for nearby residents. Nestled along the base of Chey-

enne Mountain, a community near the southwest edge of the park with more than 100 houses and mobile homes got a notice from El Paso County authorities about 12:30 a.m. alerting them that they

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### INSIDE

- Humane Society houses hundreds of pets displaced by Aspen Acres fire. **A3**
- Cause of Lower Trout fire in Woodland Park identified; property owner faces charges. **A5**
- Aspen Acres fire damaged drinking water systems in Beulah area. **A5**
- A roundup of wildfires around Colorado. **A5**

Evacuations for Aspen Acres fire rescinded in part of Fremont County

BY SAVANNAH ELLER, MARY SHINN AND NICK SMITH  
The Gazette

Officials pulled back evacuation orders for several Fremont County communities Wednesday afternoon, as the Aspen Acres fire continued to burn west of Pueblo.

The communities of Rockvale, Coal Creek and Williamsburg were downgraded to pre-evacuation status. The area was evacuated late Sunday evening as the fire made a run to the northwest.

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## 'A license to make Patriots'



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

President Donald Trump meets with Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on the sidelines of the NATO summit Wednesday in Ankara, Turkey. In a huge boost for Ukraine in its war with Russia, Trump said that the United States would grant the country a license to manufacture Patriot missile interceptors. **Story, A6**

## Confusion, some anger come with military's proposed faith-code changes

BY DEBBIE KELLEY  
The Gazette

The Pentagon's proposed changes to the faith codes for the U.S. military created backlash last month when a memo stating the number of religious affiliations would decrease from 211 to 31 categories became public through a military-centric news website.

Some viewed the reductions as insulting and further indication that the Trump administration seeks to move the nation from religious pluralism to monotheistic Christianity.

Chief Pentagon spokesman Sean Parnell said on social media the draft document has been misinterpreted, which has led to misunderstandings.

Under the preliminary plan, such spiritual groups as pagans, Wiccans, humanists, shamanists, atheists and others, including Unitarian Universalists who believe God is one being rather

than a Trinity, hold universal salvation as a truth and follow no specific doctrine or creed, therefore members can identify as atheist, Christian, pagan or other descriptors of faith — would be dropped from being specifically named.

Along with criticism, the issue caused confusion, which Parnell sought to clarify on a post on X.

Rather than signifying the military giving approval for or recognition of certain religions and faith systems over others — as some have said the plan indicates — Parnell said consolidating the categories is a "long-overdue move" to simplify what had become an unwieldy list.

Removing about 180 classifications "is not designed to make any claims on the legitimacy of any faith or religious belief, nor is it intended to provide a list of 'officially approved' reli-

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## U.S. resumes strikes on Iran after Trump says accord is 'over'

News services

**DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES** • The U.S. military said Wednesday that it launched fresh strikes on Iran to keep

the Strait of Hormuz open to shipping, triggering Iranian attacks on Kuwait and Bahrain in the latest escalation to derail efforts to end the war. The latest round of attacks,

which the U.S. said was carried out in response to Tuesday's assault on three cargo ships transiting the strait, came hours after President Donald Trump said he be-

lieved an interim ceasefire with Iran to be "over." "U.S. Central Command forces have started conducting additional strikes against Iran to further degrade their

ability to threaten freedom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz," CENTCOM, the U.S. military's Middle East command, wrote on X. "The United States is hold-

ing Iran accountable for recent unjustified aggression against commercial shipping and civilian crews freely navi-

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**WEATHER B6**  
HIGH 87, LOW 57



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