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It was a 'BACKYARD BLAST'

Cornelius San Asians shares a fun laugh with the Rev. Jeff Hall during the Backyard Blast at the Center's annual Backyard Blast. For more photos of the event, see PAGE 16. | Jill Jones/Staff Photo

Crews battling Colo. wildfire hold flames in check

By DAN ELLIOTT
Associated Press

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — Authorities lifted evacuation in a wide swath of forests outside Colorado Springs on Sunday as crews battling a wildfire that has helped Prince expand containment of a wildfire that has destroyed more than 400 homes.

The fire has burned 15 square miles. Flying firms sought bulletin in northern Colorado Springs. All tasks allowed people back into at least 1,000 homes. But also no. 4,000 people remained outside the nearby Pike National area in El Paso County.

Incident Commander Rich Harvey said the Black Forest fire was 65 percent contained. It was only 5 percent contained Thursday.

The fire killed two people died while apparently trying to escape their home, Sheriff Terry Maketa said authorities kept and vehicle-by conditions. Officials said the fire destroyed 379 homes and damaged 16 other. In the 493 homes have been destroyed.

Crews say they were better prepared to take on the fire than they were when the Waldo Canyon Fire, a similarly devastating blaze that devoured hundreds of homes and killed two people only a year ago.

Officials in Pike's Forest, a thickly wooded area region north of Colorado Springs, began to burn, authorities swiftly evacuated tens of thousands of people from an area larger than the Denver metropolitan area.

See WILDFIRE/Page A3

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Equity Exchange makes clean sweep of fire damage

We go through a lot of brooms, manager says

By RACHEL COLEMAN
Leader & Times

Work crews sort rubble Thursday at the site of the Big Red Barn. Memorial Day weekend, the old Equity Exchange Grain Prince Mill burned to the ground just last Saturday. | Grain Elevators, Firefighters

Running for Haiti's children

See SPORTS/Page A5