

Our Community News

Volunteers reporting on community issues in Monument, Palmer Lake, and the surrounding Tri-Lakes area



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Local Events

See pages 28-31 for event locations and other details of these and many other local events.

- **Kids Fishing Derby**, Sat., **Jun. 1**, 8-11 a.m.
- **Concerts in the Park**, every **Wed.**, Jun. 5-Aug. 21, 7-9 p.m.,
- **WMMI Blacksmithing Pass**, Wed. & Sat., **Jun. 5 & 8**, 9-11 a.m.,
- **Woodmoor Community Wildfire Preparedness**, Wed., **Jun. 5**, 2-6 p.m.
- **Color Splash, Annual Fine Art Exhibit Opening**, Fri., **Jun. 7**, 6-8 p.m.
- **El Paso County Hazardous Materials & Recycling Collection Facility**, Sat., **Jun. 8**, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
- **Walk for Freedom: The Colorado Springs Barefoot Mile**, Sat., **Jun. 8**, 9:30 a.m.
- **Friends of Monument Preserve Trail Work Night**, Tue., **Jun. 11**, 6-9 p.m.
- **MVEA Annual Meeting of Members**, Thu., **Jun. 13**, 4:30 p.m.
- **WMMI Pikes Peak Celtic Festival**, Fri.-Sun., **Jun. 14-16**
- **Black Rose Acoustic Society: Roma Ransom**, Fri., **Jun. 14**, 7-10 p.m.
- **Monument's 140th Birthday Party**, Sat., **Jun. 15**, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.
- **PLHS Annual Fathers' Day Ice Cream Social**, Sun., **Jun. 16**, 2-4 p.m.
- **STEAM Science Camp at WMMI**, Mon.-Fri., **Jun. 17-21**, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
- **Art Hop**, Thu., **Jun. 20**, 5-8 p.m.
- **PLHS: The U.S. in Mediterranean North Africa**, Thu., **Jun. 20**, 6:30 p.m.
- **Soul Sacrifice Santana Tribute Band at TLCA**, Fri., **Jun. 21**, 7 p.m.
- **Friends of Fox Run Park**, Thu., **Jun. 27**, 5-6 p.m.
- **Black Rose Acoustic Society: Shaky Hand String Band**, Fri., **Jun. 28**, 7-10 p.m.
- **Kim Richey Concert at TLCA**, Fri., **Jun. 28**, 7 p.m.
- **July 4th events see pages 6, 13 & 31**

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Circulation

Print Run: 21,350
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**Our free circulation area
now includes over 1,600
mailboxes in Black Forest!**

Memorial Day Tribute



Above: About 400 people attended the May 27 Memorial Day Celebration held at Monument Cemetery. As people recited the Pledge of Allegiance, the flag was raised and, per protocol, lowered to half-staff. Guest speaker Robert Bishop, U.S. Army, gave an inspiring and heart-warming tribute. *Photo by John Howe.*

Monument Academy School Board, May 9

Board speaks on rumors, modifies open records policy

By Jackie Burhans

The Monument Academy (MA) School Board met on May 9 and heard a statement from board President Patrick Hall about rumors, heard a citizen's comment, and provided an update on the new school. The audience of about 25 people was larger than normal.

Rumors

Hall started the May 9 meeting with the following statement: "Before we get started, I do want to say a few comments on behalf of the Monument Academy Board. Your board is aware of rumors and allegations that have been circulating around in the public sphere in regards to our executive director. I'd like to just take a moment; I want to specifically address these for everyone here and for the board. Your board, along with legal counsel, we've investigated the validity of all of these claims. We have found that within our entire administration, a demonstration of character traits that define our school as we have looked throughout these allegations. We found these rumors and these allegations not to be based on fact and that they have no

merit whatsoever. There is nothing based on the actual situation that has impacted or is currently impacting our school's operations."

Hall went on to say, "If you have a specific grievance, we have a process to file this within our school and within our administration. This is not the forum, neither procedurally or ethically, to levy rumors or accusations of any kind. This will not be allowed. If you have anything that you would like to submit, you can do that through Sherry Buzzell, our director of Human Resources. Sherry is of the highest character quality and will handle anything that you bring to her with the utmost professionalism and confidence."

He concluded, "I'd also like to say as the board president—I've been a part of the board for three years—that over the last six months there has been a concerted and coordinated effort to assault our charter school and the values that we as parents, the values that this administration and this board hold so dear. And I want everyone to know that we will continue to work to protect

MA (Cont. on 6)



Above and right: Monument Academy plans to build a combined middle and high school at the southeast corner of the Highway 83 and Walker Road intersection with the goal of opening in the fall of 2020 with about 600 students, growing enrolment to 1,000 students at full build-out. The Planning Commission approved the site location request at its May 7 meeting and is the final decision-making body for this type of request, so there will be no BOCC hearing. *Maps courtesy of the El Paso County Planning and Community Development Department.*

*El Paso County Planning
Commission, May 7*

Location approved for MA school

By Helen Walklett

The El Paso County Planning Commission approved a location approval request for the new Monument Academy school site at the southeast corner of the Highway 83 and Walker Road intersection at its May 7 meeting. It also recommended for approval two special use applications—one to legalize a contractor's yard in Black Forest and the other to allow a guesthouse, which exceeds the square footage limit, to proceed in the Outlook Estates subdivision.

Monument Academy school site approved

At its May 7 meeting, the Planning Commission approved 3-2 a request by landowner 83 Walker LLC and Monument Academy for a location application approval for a combined middle and high school at the southeast corner of the Highway 83 and Walker Road intersection in Black Forest. Commissioners Kevin Curry and Sharon Friedman voted no. The Planning Commission is the final decision-making body for site location applications. Therefore, there will be no El Paso Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) hearing.

The parcel of land totals 69.8 acres and is zoned RR-5 (residential rural). The proposed school would be constructed on about 21 acres of the site. The land was originally owned by the Lewis-Palmer D38 School District and had been earmarked as a possible school site for more than 25 years. As the school district's expansion plans changed, it sold the site to the developers of the adjoining Walden development who agreed to donate a portion to Monument Academy for construction of a new charter school.

Nina Ruiz, project manager/planner II, Planning and Community Development, explained that the Planning Commission's task was to decide if the school was an appropriate use on the site after review against the county master plan. She stressed that it was not to consider any of the potential future uses for the rest of the land that had been spoken about ahead of the hearing.

Access to the site is proposed from Highway 83 and from Walker Road via an extension of Pinehurst Circle from the Walden development to the east. The Highway 83 access would be right-in/right-out only and would require a

COUNTY (Cont. on 2)

