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Local Events

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

- July 4th Events, Article to right.
- Concert in the Park, Wed., Jul. 5, 7-9 p.m.
- Moe Bandy Concert at TLCA, Thu., Jul. 6, 7 p.m.
- Concert in the Park, Wed., Jul. 12, 7-9 p.m.
- Lakeside Free Summer Concert at Waterfront Park: Collective Groove, Fri., Jul. 14, 6-8 p.m.
- NEPCO Meeting, Sat., Jul. 15, 10 a.m.-noon. Water.
- WMMI Anniversary Weekend, Sat.-Sun., Jul. 15-16, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Concert in the Park, Wed., Jul. 19, 7-9 p.m.
- Art Hop, Thu., Jul. 20, 5-8 p.m.
- Palmer Lake Historical Society: Pete Seeger: A Musical Portrait, Thu., Jul. 20, 7 p.m.
- Foot Care Clinic, Fri., Jul. 21
- Bruce Carroll & Friends at TLCA, Fri., Jul. 21, 7 p.m.
- Monument's Free Movie Night: Finding Dory, Fri., Jul. 21, 7 p.m.
- Community Service: Wood Chip-ping, Sat., Jul. 22, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Concert in the Park, Wed., Jul. 26, 7-9 p.m.
- Foot Care Clinic, Fri., Jul. 28
- 34th Annual National Night Out, Tue., Aug. 1
- Concert in the Park, Wed., Aug. 2, 7-9 p.m.
- Branford Marsalis Quartet at TLCA, Thu., Aug. 3, 7 p.m.
- Lorrie Morgan Concert at TLCA, Sat., Aug. 5, 7 p.m. ■

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Above: Ascent Church with local volunteers hosted the 5K Color run fundraiser Saturday, June 17. All proceeds will go to local schools for suicide prevention programs. Runners were doused with powdered paint (that's not smoke!) at various color stations along the route, and at the Ascent Church grounds, live music, food vendors, and a kids' obstacle course were all included in the day's events. *Photo by Janet Sellers.*

Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District, June 8

Board rejects water request from outside the district

By James Howald

The Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District (WWSD) board met on June 8 to debate a request from a developer for the district to supply water to a development outside the area WWSD serves, to update the operating agreement with the Chilcott Ditch Co., and to hear operational reports.

King's Deer developer seeks additional water

A request from Dan Potter, the developer of King's Deer, a covenant-con-

trolled community to the northeast of WWSD and outside of the district's service area, led to a lengthy discussion between District Manager Jessie Shaffer and the board. Potter asked the district to agree to sell him water that he could then re-sell to homeowners in King's Deer. The homes in King's Deer have wells, and have an annual appropriation of water that they cannot exceed. Potter sought water to augment what King's Deer currently owns.

(Continued on page 3)

July 4th events

7 a.m., Palmer Lake Fun Run, Palmer Lake Santa Fe Trailhead. Register at www.july4funrun.com.

Monument Events

7-10 a.m., Pancake Breakfast, tickets at the door, St Peter Catholic Church, 55 Jefferson St.

8 a.m.-3 p.m., Monument Street Fair, 2nd Street and Washington Street

9:30 a.m., Monument Hill Kiwanis Children's Parade, Starts at Grace Best School



Above: Brian and Heather Hawkins at the 2016 Children's Parade. *Photo by David Futey*

10 a.m.-noon, Monument Hill Kiwanis 4th of July Parade. Register to participate: www.monumenthillkiwanis.org.

10 a.m.-7 p.m., Tri-Lakes Chamber Beer Garden, family friendly, Limbach Park, 2nd and Front St.

Noon, Monument Community Presbyterian Church Open House, 3rd & Jefferson St. - cool air, treats, and rest rooms available.

Noon-7 p.m. Live music in Limbach Park, 2nd and Front St.

Noon-7:45 p.m., Live Music at Bliss Studios, 143 Washington St.

Palmer Lake Events

8 a.m.-9 p.m. Fourth of July at The Speedtrap, 84 Hwy 105

7 p.m., Music and fun at Palmer Lake, fireworks at dark.

Parade spectators are encouraged to come early, park at Palmer Ridge High School, 19255 Monument Hill Rd., or Lewis-Palmer High School, 1300 Higby Rd., and ride the free bus to and from downtown Monument. ■

**Palmer Lake Town Council,
June 8**

Town plans for Fourth of July fun

By James Howald

Preparing for the town's annual Fourth of July celebration was the big job at the Palmer Lake Town Council meeting on June 8. The council heard presentations and worked on the details of two main holiday events: the fireworks display and the July Fun Run, which raises funds for Palmer Lake Elementary School. Also, the council addressed a request to vacate a portion of Largo Street, a request for an easement, and the purchasing policies governing the town's administrative staff.

Council signs off on fireworks, with contingencies

Jennifer Coopman, speaking on behalf of the group organizing the annual fireworks display, told the council that proof of insurance for the event had been provided to town staff, that the official application had been filed, that insurance specific to the fireworks display would be in place within seven days, and that DD Group LLC had been hired to provide security. The security company also had insurance for the event in place, Coopman said.

Adam Coleman, representing the Palmer Lake Volunteer Fire Department, said recent precipitation had reduced the risk of fire, but he would continue to assess the situation up to the event.

The council voted unanimously to approve the event, contingent with receiving the final proof of insurance and approval from the Fire Department.

July Fun Run at the starting line

Megan Smallman, the current Palmer Lake Elementary School PTO president, told the council about the plans for the July 4 race. The July 4 race will be the 35th, and up to a thousand runners participate, Smallman said. Previous races brought in as much as \$31,000 for the school, according to Smallman, and paid for water fountains, Chromebook computers, classroom furniture, and field trips. Money raised in the upcoming race will likely go to playground equipment, Smallman said.

The council voted unanimously to approve the permit for the race, and to waive the fee for the permit.

Largo Street vacated

Claudia Dimidik, on behalf of Joseph Beltran, asked the council to vacate a portion of Largo Street, between Rosita Avenue and Verano Avenue, effectively giving ownership of the land to Beltran.

The vacation had already been approved by the Palmer Lake Planning Commission, who determined it was too steep to be used as a road, as originally planned.

Council member Paul Banta said he would like to have time to visit the property in question before voting.

(Continued on page 2)

PALMER LAKE (Cont. from page 1)

The council voted unanimously to approve the vacation.

Council grants easement

Town Administrator Cathy Green-Sinnard filled the council in on the discussion that had preceded the request for a revocable easement affecting 1.7 acres of land just north of Grand Avenue, between Canon City Crest and Wheat-

ridge Street, in Block Six of the Glen Park neighborhood of Palmer Lake. Once again, the underlying issue is that the land was originally to be used as a road, but the road was built elsewhere, Green-Sinnard said, and that decision created a small triangle of land that belongs to the town. The town does not want to maintain the property, Green-Sinnard said.

The property to the south of the land in question is owned by Ken Dickinson, and he has agreed to take over stewardship of the land through a revocable easement, Green-Sinnard said. The revocable easement would allow the town to take back ownership of the land at a future time, if the town chooses to do so, and it also prohibits Dickinson from building on the land, according to Green-Sinnard.

The council voted unanimously to approve the revocable easement.

Town purchasing policy updated

Green-Sinnard asked the council members for their thoughts on some changes to the town's purchasing policy. The town's auditors asked that this policy be improved in the town's last audit, she said.

Green-Sinnard said the updated policy states that all employees will seek to purchase in the best inter-

est of the town, and purchases must align with the town's budget and its line-items. Green-Sinnard asked the council to provide guidance on some additional issues to be included in the policy: what items any town employee can purchase, under what circumstances a purchase must go out to bid, what items the council would need to approve, and what spending limits would be put in place.

Green-Sinnard said she would return to this discussion with the council at future meetings.

The two meetings for June will be at 6:30 p.m. on July 13 and July 27 at Town Hall, 42 Valley Crescent. Meetings are normally held on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month. Information: 481-2953.

James Howald can be reached at jameshowald@ocn.me.

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WWSD (Cont. from page 1)

According to Shaffer, the proposed agreement would put in place a 100-year commitment for the district to supply water. The accounting and usage tracking would be difficult, Shaffer said, adding that he saw little benefit for the district in the proposal beyond the payments it would generate. Shaffer mentioned that WWSD already has one augmentation agreement with King's Deer.

The district currently has two such agreements, Shaffer said, one with Prairie Winds Elementary

School and the other with a customer he did not name. Shaffer added that, in his opinion, some customers in the district would object to the agreement.

In response to a question

from Director at Large Brian Bush, Shaffer explained that the agreement would commit the district to discharge water into streams to replace water that is currently discharged by King's Deer. This would allow

King's Deer to retain more of the water from their wells, and use it for landscaping and other outdoors uses. Other water that Potter already owns is in the wrong watershed to be delivered to King's Deer, accord-

ing to Shaffer.

Bush questioned whether the district should facilitate pumping more water from the aquifers that the wider community relies on, especially for uses such as landscaping. He



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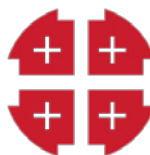
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also pointed out the agreement could conflict with the district's plans to implement water re-use in the future.

Shaffer said in the case of non-payment, the water delivery would be difficult to shut off. He advised

the board to reject the request.

The consensus of the board was to refuse the request.

Agreement with Chilcott Ditch Co. updated
The board voted unanimously to approve an operating agreement with the Chilcott Ditch Co. that will cover 2018. The company maintains the canals that transport water between the JV Ranch and storage facilities. The terms of the updated agreement were identical to the previous agreement.

Drivers asked to keep repair teams safe
In his operational report, Assistant District Manager Randy Gillette asked for the cooperation of local drivers in keeping repair teams safe as they do their

work. Gillette mentioned that whenever repairs must be done to infrastructure under streets, the work is planned very carefully to minimize the impact on traffic, but added that some drivers were not obeying speed limits and the signals of the flaggers and were endangering work crews. Gillette hoped the community would slow down to keep district employees safe.

Other operational reports mentioned:

- Ozone purifying equipment has been rented for a project to improve the taste and odor of district water.
- Three new housing developments are coming to the area.

The next meeting is scheduled for July 13 at 1 p.m. Meetings are usually held at the district office at 1845 Woodmoor Drive on the second Thursday of each month at 1 p.m. See www.woodmoorwater.com or call 488-2525 to verify meeting times.

James Howald can be reached at jameshowald@ocn.me.

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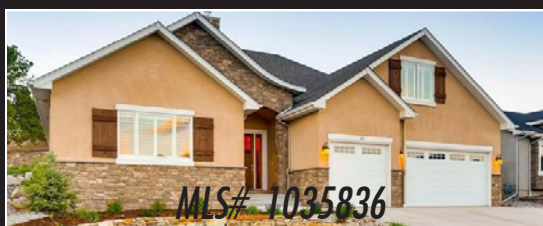


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Donala Water and Sanitation District, June 22

Renewable surface water purchase completed

By Jim Kendrick

On June 22, Donala Water and Sanitation District General Manager Kip Petersen reported successful completion of the Laughlin Ditch renewable surface water rights purchase. The board also unanimously approved the contract award for the Doral Way pipeline construction project and unanimously accepted the district's successful 2016 audit.

Additional renewable water rights purchase completed

Petersen reported that Donala had formally closed on its purchase of the Laughlin water right on May 23 for 324 acre-feet per year of Fountain Creek renewable surface water. This purchase increases Donala's surface water right portfolio up to roughly 70 percent of Donala's potable water demand at build-out. For more information, see www.ocn.me/v17n5.htm#dwsd

Petersen said that all the ground and surface water and wastewater treatment facilities are operating very well. He praised the staff for taking all their diverse responsibilities very seriously to protect Donala customers in every way, noting the leadership of Chief Water Operator Mark Parker and Superintendent Robert Hull. An inspector stated during a May 31 state triannual sanitary facility inspection that Donala's are some of the cleanest facilities he's ever seen.

Petersen introduced newly-hired water operator Kevin Bolinsky to the board. He just moved here from Pennsylvania with an A license and extensive expertise and experience in surface water treatment operations, "which will be invaluable." Bolinsky said,

"Every day reassures me that I made the right choice applying here. I truly believe that the way Kip operates and the rest of the staff operates, in a family at-

mosphere, trickles down from the board. I expect to be here for a long time."



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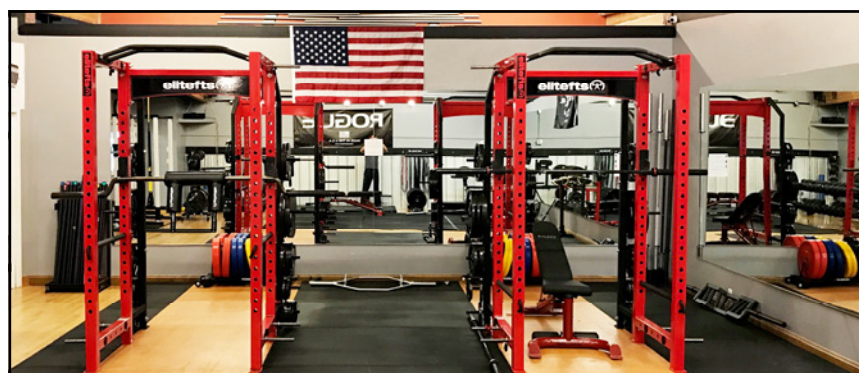


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tion of its engineering consultant firm GMS Inc. to award the construction contract for the new Phase 4 Doral Way water transmission line (3,230 lineal feet) and associated distribution system improvements to the lowest bidder, KR Swerdfeger. This winning bid was \$754,988. Surface restoration will include seeding of native grass, placement of sod material, and street surface restoration. Swerdfeger previously completed its successful construction of Donala's phase 3 Latrobe tank transmission line in 2016. www.ocn.me/v17n4.htm#dwsd

Petersen also reported that a half-hour question-and-answer open house meeting was held on June 13 for Doral Way residents, who were advised by Petersen and Directors Ken Judd and Ed Houle that their driveway access is expected to be restricted for only one day each.

2016 audit accepted

Auditor Tom Sistare of Hoelting and Co. Inc. presented his "unmodified" or "clean" 2016 Donala audit, which contained no findings. He praised the district board and staff for Donala's tight internal control policies as it invests heavily in renewable surface water rights and infrastructure to replace finite groundwater reserves, the staff's thorough accurate work throughout 2016, and their assistance to his on-site auditing team. Petersen congratulated General Manager Betsy Bray and highlighted new Donala staff accountant Christina Sawyer for her successful support throughout her first audit cycle. The board unanimously approved a statement of recognition to the entire Donala staff for their continued success. Sistare will forward the 2016 Donala audit to the state.

Manager's report

Petersen noted that sales of new district residential taps (\$31,800 each) have been slower than expected this year. On May 23, the El Paso County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) finally approved only the original 44 homes in the amended proposal for 56 new homes to be built on now-vacant former Gleneagle golf course land. The BOCC also finally approved the commercial development proposed for the vacant land between I-25 and the intersection of Struthers Road and Gleneagle Drive on May 23.

Petersen briefed the BOCC on how Donala's renewable water and resource management policies will guarantee water service to both projects as total Donala dependence on groundwater evaporates. Petersen also pointed out at the May 23 BOCC hearings the negative tap fee revenue impact to Donala caused by the BOCC stormwater drainage decision to deny approval of the additional 12 houses for now.

For more information on this controversial golf course proposal, see www.ocn.me/v17n6.htm#epbocc, www.ocn.me/v17n6.htm#dwsd, www.ocn.me/v16n11.htm#epcpc1018, and



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www.ocn.me/v17n5.htm#epcpc Petersen stated that on May 24, district employees conducted their first Baptist Road cleanup of the year. "Disturbingly, we found a large number of alcohol containers. This leads me to believe that a number of individuals are consuming 'shooters' as they drive on Baptist Road. That could be one of the reasons we see so many car parts in the ditch and at intersections."

Water service to the former Gleneagle golf course building that was used for live structure fire training by several districts was shut off on June 12 for final site demolition and cleanup.

Peterson reported that the Pikes Peak Regional Water Authority (PPRWA) held its final meeting on June 7 before taking a break until Nov. 1. PPRWA sponsored 10 of the 30 water-related bills presented to the state Legislature this year. State Water Engineer Dick Wolff has retired, and Kevin Rein is the acting replacement for now. The next Legislature will probably focus on the November 2018 election. The county is expected to hire a consultant by the end of July for creation of its own county water master plan in order to have it completed by the end of 2018.

Petersen, Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District Manager Jessie Shaffer, and Triview Metro District Manager Valerie Remington will participate in a Northern El Paso County Coalition of Community Organizations (NEPCO) panel discussion on future plans, water acquisition, reuse, and joint infrastructure plans at the July 15 NEPCO meeting.

Financial report

Petersen said water sales will go up now that the weather has become "warm and dry" even though irrigation is limited to three days per week. The district will begin monitoring irrigation and sending warning notices if residents are not complying with the odd/even address restrictions on Monday through Saturday. Sunday irrigation is not allowed.

The normal surge in demand will be met with as much renewable surface water as possible from the district's Willow Creek Ranch. The rest of the summer demand will be supplemented by non-renewable groundwater from the district's wells, which have now been turned on for the onset of the irrigation season.

The rest of his financial report showed that the district is on track in terms of water revenues and normal expenditures through May, which Sistare concurred with. Capital expenditures will be high again this year, starting in July. Most of this construction will be paid for with existing one-time low-interest state loans.

Willow Creek Ranch update

Petersen noted that there is still a "respectable amount of snow" on Mount Massive, adjacent to the district's Willow Creek Ranch, which has led to substantial spring runoff from the ranch again this year. He has received two separate notices this year already from the federal Bureau of Reclamation that Donala's "if and when" (or "space available") storage for up to 499 acre-feet of renewable surface water in the Pueblo Reservoir might have to be released to the Arkansas River to prevent a reservoir overflow. However, neither involuntary "spill" came to pass after a few nervous days each time.

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July 13(Thu): Keith Rea
July 14 (Fri): Andrew Wynne
July 15 (Sat): Shawn Eckels
July 20 (Thu): Chautauqua Mountain Band
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July 29 (Sat): Mark's Midnight Carnival

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one-acre surface to a depth of one foot. Donala currently delivers about 800 acre-feet of water per year.

Preliminary Engineering Infrastructure Report presented
Engineer Will Koger of the Forsgren Associates engineering firm presented the PPRWA Area 3 Infrastructure re-

port. Area 3 is the northern El Paso County portion of PPRWA. Petersen, who is president of PPRWA for 2017, and Koger will also present this PPRWA study to the Colorado Special District Association annual conference meet- ing Sept. 13-15 in Keystone.
For details on the study's findings,

see the Triview article on page 8.
The meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

The next board meeting will be held at 1:30 p.m. on July 20 in the district conference room at 15850 Holbein Drive. Information: 488-3603 or www.donala-water.org. Regular meetings are nor-

mally held on the third Thursday of the month, except in June and November. <http://donalawater.org/images/stories/pdfs/Board%20Meeting%20Annual%20Schedule.pdf>
Jim Kendrick can be reached at jimkendrick@ocn.me.

Forest Lakes Metropolitan District and Pinon Pines Metro Districts 1, 2, and 3, June 5

Development fees for commercial property set

By Lisa Hatfield
The board members of the Forest Lakes Metropolitan District (FLMD) and Pinon Pines Metropolitan Districts 1, 2, and 3 (PPMD 1, 2, and 3) met jointly, and briefly, on June 5. Tom Blunk of CP Real Estate Capital, representing Forest Lakes LLC and Forest Lakes Residential Development, attended the June 5 meeting by phone. District Counsel Russell Dykstra was absent.
The board unanimously approved a resolution to adopt development fees for commercial and multi-family facilities located within Pinon Pines Metropolitan District 3, the commercial section inside the Monument town limits, southwest of I-25 and West Baptist Road. Builders will be required to pay the development fees necessary to assist with the financing of public infrastructure within the district. The system development fees assessed will be 75 cents per square foot of the gross square footage for commercial, industrial, or retail space. No specific fee was set yet for multi-family units.

Also, District Manager Ann Nichols said that the email she had recently circulated to the board members indicated that all the 2016 financial audits by Hoelting & Co. were complete and had already been filed with the State of Colorado. She said, "They are done. And I may just put it onto the agenda next time for ratification, just for the heck of it." Note: No board member commented on the fact that these ratifications should have occurred before the audits were filed, or questioned this violation of Colorado Statutes.
As at the May meeting, no monthly financial reports were presented. See www.ocn.me/v17n6.htm#flmd.
Note: FLMD, west of I-25 at the end of West Baptist Road, is a Title 32 service district in El Paso County established in 1985. FLMD is the half-acre operating district responsible for the public infrastructure and utility and general governmental services for the residents of PPMD 1, 2, and 3, which actually collect the

property taxes. PPMD 1 and 2 are not part of the town of Monument, but the commercial section PPMD 3 is within the town limits. FLMD holds joint board meetings with PPMD 1, 2 and 3, which were established in 2004.
The meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

The next joint meeting of FLMD and PPMD 1, 2, and 3 may be scheduled for 10 a.m. Monday, July 3, or Monday, Aug. 7 in the Classic Homes office at 6385 Corporate Drive, Suite 200, Colorado Springs. Meetings are usually held the first Monday of each month. Meeting notices are posted on the district website <http://forestlakesmetrodistrict.com> and at 3625 Mesa Top Drive, Monument, which is an open-space tract owned by all four districts. For general questions, contact Ann Nichols at 719-327-5810 or at anichols-duffy@aol.com.
Lisa Hatfield can be contacted at lisahatfield@ocn.me.

Tri-Lakes Wastewater Treatment Facility Joint Use Committee, June 13

2016 audit report accepted

By Lisa Hatfield
The Joint Use Committee (JUC) of the Tri-Lakes Wastewater Treatment Facility (TLWWTF) accepted the 2016 financial audit at its June 13 meeting with the modifications that the JUC directors requested.
TLWWTF operates as a separate joint venture public utility and is owned in equal one-third shares by Monument Sanitation District (MSD), Palmer Lake Sanitation District (PLSD), and Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District (WWSD).
The three-member JUC acts as the board of the facility and consists of one director from each of the three owner districts' boards: WWSD board Director at Large Rich Strom, president; MSD board Chairman Ed Delaney, vice president; and PLSD board Director Pat Smith. Other board and staff members of the three owner districts also attended, including MSD District Manager Mike Wicklund, PLSD District Manager Becky Orcutt, and WWSD Assistant District Manager Randy Gillette.

2016 audit accepted
Tiffaney Kolander of John Cutler and Associates LLC presented the facility's 2016 audit with an "unmodified" or "clean" opinion, and it was accepted unanimously after Kolander answered several questions and made comments including:
• \$2.5 million was added to non-current assets since the new total phosphorus (TP) chemical clarifier expansion plant was completed in December.
• The Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB) requires that state-incurred pension liabilities of \$432,863 for TLWWTF staff members' currently unfunded PERA guaranteed pension benefits have to be recorded in the TLWWTF annual financial statements and audits even though it is not a liability TLWWTF would have to pay.
Managers' reports
Orcutt said PLSD line cleaning was still in progress and going slowly. Gillette

and Wicklund had nothing to report.
Facility Manager Bill Burks presented the monthly discharge monitoring report. The high note was that the facility's influent total phosphorus (TP) concentration was 7.9 mg/l, but the TP concentration was reduced to 0.5 mg/l in the treated effluent discharged to



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Monument Creek. This TP reduction more than meets the state's Control Regulation 85 TP discharge effluent limit of 1.0 mg/l that TLWWTF needs to meet every month starting in November 2020, when its required rolling average median calculation begins. He also said he is studying the steady

increase in sulfate in the effluent that has occurred since they began using aluminum sulfate to remove phosphorus as part of the new chemical clarifier removal process. Burks was glad to report that, with the help of two manufacturer representatives who got the two systems to

communicate with each other, the TP plate settlers can now be controlled from the main building using the new TP Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) instead of only from the control panels in the new TP chemical clarifier building. He is still waiting for a final Fire Department sprinkler inspection for the chemical clarifier building.

Burks' other comments included:

- New plant operator Kevin Love passed his D wastewater certification.
- Weather delayed the biosolids press work for biennial sludge removal, but it would still be completed in June.
- The Colorado Department of Health and Environment (CDPHE) is considering removing treated wastewater sulfate limits, although the EPA still thinks these limits are warranted.
- He submitted a permit modification request to CDPHE to change the start date of meeting the 1 mg/l total phosphorus level from Nov. 1, 2019 to Nov. 1, 2020 to allow the TLWWTF staff one full year to collect 12 monthly effluent TP concentration

samples in order to be able to correctly calculate the first rolling annual effluent TP median concentration.

Burks said TLWWTF's environmental attorney, Gabe Racz, will be at the JUC's July 11 meeting to talk about the Colorado Water Quality Control Commission's (WQCC) triennial San Juan/Gunnison Water Quality Standards Regulations 34 and 35 rulemaking hearing, held in Durango on June 12-13, and other regulatory issues.

MSD Environmental Compliance Coordinator Jim Kendrick said that, from the point of view of discharge permit holders, the continuing concern regarding the Gunnison and San Juan Basin hearings held in Durango hearing on June 12 and 13 was that the WQCC would be changing rules on allowable stream temperatures for that particular river basin as an experiment and then the commission might try to shortcut the normal regulation change process and apply those same rules to each of the eight Colorado river basins statewide before holding a hearing to first implement statewide standards in the basic statewide Regulation 31 document as has been

required for all other regulatory standards until now.

Racz has formally submitted objections for all his numerous waste water clients stating that a statewide Reg. 31 standard should be approved first that would address the requirement that the commission formally acknowledge all the substantial differences in geography and ambient temperature regimes in each of the disparate basins across the state, Kendrick said. Racz was concurrently attending this Durango hearing and presenting these various rebuttal statements on behalf of stakeholder wastewater treatment facilities throughout Colorado, including the unique TLWWTF geographic and temperature situation at the top of the Palmer Divide.

The meeting adjourned at 10:59 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for 10 a.m. July 11 at the Tri-Lakes Wastewater Treatment Facility, 16510 Mitchell Ave. Meetings are normally held on the second Tuesday of the month and are open to the public. For information, call Bill Burks at 719-481-4053. Lisa Hatfield can be reached at lisahatfield@ocn.me.

Triview Metropolitan District, June 13

Water supplies, roads, and landscaping get attention

By Lisa Hatfield
At the June 13 Triview Metropolitan District meeting, the directors heard about the

choices they need to make in the foreseeable future about water supplies and possible regional efforts, upcoming roads projects, and more questions about district landscape maintenance.

Triview is a Colorado Title 32 special district, completely within Monument's town boundaries, on the east side of I-25. Title 32 special districts are local governments authorized by the Colorado Revised Statutes

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for specific functions, and their activities are subject to strict statutory guidelines. This land was a developer special district called Regency Park when it was annexed by the town in 1987.

Triview provides roads, parks, and drainage maintenance, and water and sanitation utility services, to the residents and businesses in the district roughly bordered by Old Denver Road, Higby Road, and Baptist Road. Triview's water system is wholly independent of Monument's Public Works water system located on the west side of I-25. Residents of Triview should call the district directly when they have questions about these items. For a map, see www.townofmonument.org/230/Triview-Metropolitan-District-Map.

The Town of Monument (organized under Colorado Revised Statutes Title 30) provides land use planning, police, and general governance for property owners in the whole town, which includes Triview. Residents of Triview should call the town with questions on those topics.

It is time to make decisions about regional water supplies

Denver Basin aquifers in our region are not replenished by rainwater and snowmelts. Because these aquifers will eventually dry up, the Tri-Lakes region is heading into a "water supply gap" that the remaining available finite supply of well water literally will not be able to fill. The goal of the Pikes Peak Regional Water Authority (PPRWA) is to get smaller water providers from Fountain to Monument to work together to save money on water projects and develop a regional renewable water

supply system to replace the diminishing supply of groundwater from area wells. See www.pprwa.org/.

Jonathan Moore and Will Koger of Forsgren Associates presented a one-hour overview of PPRWA's Preliminary Engineering Report for Area 3, which includes Monument and surrounding northern El Paso County. Forsgren has done two regional water studies for PPRWA over the last three years, he said.

Moore said, "We assume that by 2035 only 35 percent of your wells (drilled into aquifers) will be economical to pump. By 2050 zero percent of your wells will be economical."

Note: The standard unit for bulk utility and water rights discussions is an acre-foot of water. One acre-foot is equal to a football field covered one foot deep with water, Moore said. By 2050, the Colorado Water Plan projects a 500,000 acre-foot gap all along the Front Range, a 22,600 acre-foot gap in El Paso County, and a projected gap of 10,000 acre-feet every year just among the members of PPRWA (including Triview, Woodmoor Water and Sanitation, Town of Palmer Lake, City of Fountain, Town of Monument, and Cherokee Metro District).

Moore said at least 8,600 acre-feet of renewable water would be needed annually to relieve PPRWA members in the Tri-Lakes area from dependency on diminishing well water. The members need to start making the transition from non-renewable well water to renewable surface water.

Moore said that each water district needs to purchase renewable surface

water rights (such as Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District (WWSD), Triview, and Donala Water and Sanitation District have already begun doing). Then each needs to figure out its own way of financing its share of PPRWA's

proposed \$280 million regional project, which would help districts share costs of building pipelines and other infrastructure to bring renewable water up to this area from the Arkansas River as well as costs of building water

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Hear the Sammies Coming

by Jonathan Silva, Palmer Ridge High School junior

On the evening of May 10 during their "The Pops" concert, Palmer Ridge High School's band honored a musician who lived in Colorado approximately one hundred years ago. "We performed a piece that had been written in 1918 by Pietro Satriano – Maestro Satriano, who was an Italian immigrant," commented Butch Eversole, the Palmer Ridge band director. "[Satriano's] family ended up in Denver. While in Denver, around 1906, he became the first musician to perform at Red Rocks. The piece had been discovered by a member of his family in recent years."



Pietro Satriano wrote the piece, called "Hear the Sammies Coming", towards the end of the First World War in 1918. The term "Sammies" referred to American soldiers. "He used lots of fragments of very American themes, such as the national anthem. He mashed them all up at once. He also used a lot of military calls," said Eversole. "It was very interesting that as an Italian immigrant at that time, and our country was going into World War I, that he

created this piece with all of these fragments that clearly his audience would have recognized – quicker than we would have today. And that it was written with a patriotic idea behind it. It was a typical march – typical of bands at the time." According to Dr. DeAngelo, "Hear the Sammies Coming" is Maestro Satriano's only copyrighted song.

Yet, "Hear the Sammies Coming" had to receive some modernization before the concert. "The piece was handwritten in manuscript. So we copied that and we had it put into a computer notation program to make it easier to read. And also, some of instruments used a hundred years ago - the keys had changed in modern instruments," explained Eversole. "We tried to perform it as close as possible to the original instrumentation. When we had it written out for modern instruments, we added some instruments that weren't included. Saxophones weren't included. Bass clarinet, bassoons, and some others weren't included. We took some existing parts for clarinets, flutes, and tubas, and doubled them on similar instruments, so that they could be played by a full band."

In addition, Palmer Ridge band's performance created a new milestone for Maestro Satriano's legacy. Their concert provided the first recorded performance of "Hear the Sammies Coming." "The senior curator [of the Colorado History Museum] requested [the recording]. She was happy to have [the recording] in the archives," Dr. DeAngelo asserted. "My family and I were very happy with the recording."

Staff Spotlight: Chris Gallion



Chris Gallion joined Lewis-Palmer School District two and a half years ago. For a little over a year, he has filled the role of system analyst. He inherited the Google and School Wires (website) transitions. He believes that both transitions went well and that the new programs offer better products for LPSD. He is presently working on a management system for district iPads.

Chris began his LPSD career supporting tech issues at three elementary schools (Bear Creek, Lewis-Palmer, and Palmer Lake). Once a tech ticket was logged, he made sure that teachers, staff, and students could do the work of education without technology frustrations. He credits last year's wireless internet upgrade and the use of Chromebooks with the smooth delivery of the state mandated tests this past spring.

He followed his parents and five siblings to Colorado from St. Louis. Four of his siblings were born after he was nine years old, so having siblings underfoot prepared him for his own three children, currently all under the age of five. Chris was thus able to help his wife with the first-time parent concerns. Chris met his wife at work where he stocked shelves at night while he was attending Colorado Technical University during the day. After three and a half years working at a Time Warner call center as a technical support specialist, he came to LPSD.

Now that his kids are getting older, he's looking forward to fishing at 11-Mile, getting rid of the training wheels (for his kids), reading with them, and soccer practices. Chris and his family also enjoy visiting relatives in Utah and California.



LPSD Upcoming Events

July 4	District Closed
July 4	35th Annual Palmer Lake July 4th Fun Run, 7:00 a.m., Palmer Lake
July 18	Public Hearing-Charter School Application Process, 5:00 p.m., District Administration Building
August 16	First Day of Classes

storage for the water once it is here. Lake Woodmoor and Monument Lake do not hold a big enough volume of water to do the job. His comments included:

- Cherokee Metro District has built the Sundance pipeline to transport wa-

ter south from their well fields in Black Forest (between Hodgen and Shoup Roads).

- This flow in that pipeline could also be reversed to pump water uphill from Fountain for PPRWA.
- If you have a mile of pipe that is perfectly aligned that everyone wants to

use, others will pay you to use it. If you must use someone else's line, you will have to pay them.

Treasurer Marco Fiorito summarized Moore's points, saying districts have 13 years to get the PPRWA project approved and financed so it can be built by 2050 when the water will be needed. "Time is running out," Moore said.

Moore then discussed several options districts could plan for to store that renewable water when it is available (in the off-season for junior water rights, for example) until it is needed in the heat of summer:

- Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) – if water is treated to "drinking water standards," it can be pumped back down into an aquifer and stored there until it is needed. This could include renewable water or reuse water such as the town of Mon-

ument and WWSD are planning. Costs \$150,000 to retrofit an existing well to pump water into an aquifer. No worries about evaporation.

- Build a new reservoir in the Tri-Lakes area.
- Alluvial storage.

Moore explained how a possible new reservoir in Homeplace Ranch, right in the middle of Triview, north of Promontory Pointe, could be the key facility to manage all these aspects. It is under consideration by PPRWA to build an 86-acre water storage reservoir that could store 2,750 acre-feet of water. He said a reservoir and dam such as the one Forsgren Associates has sketched out would help Triview, WWSD, and Monument store either renewable or reuse water. His points included:

- \$20 million cost to build the reservoir and dam.
- That cost does not including buying the land or

buying the water to put in it.

- Permits would be needed to build a dam in the protected Preble's meadow jumping mouse wetlands habitat.
- If a reservoir is built, a separate authority would run it, divided up by ownership shares.

Dan Potter and Brian Bahr of Challenger Homes attended the meeting because of Challenger's ownership and immediate development plans for Homeplace Ranch. Their comments included:

- We are here to observe and see if you want to buy some land!
- We want to work with you, but we also don't want to wait three to five years for a decision. We want to move ahead in the next six months.
- We have been approached by another party to keep this as an open space and not develop it.
- We would like to know in next few months which way it is going and work together collaboratively.

President Reid Bolander said the district had a lot of thinking to do and that it would be a cooperative agreement with other entities to purchase the land for the reservoir, which would help with water storage as well as property values and recreation. He said the development of Homeplace Ranch would help Triview with its debt payments, too.

Triview roads maintenance going out to bid

District Manager Valerie Remington said that the street improvements already authorized by the board will be going out to bid soon, and that while the project was a little delayed, she hoped to have a contract for the directors to approve at the July 11 meeting. "We have it in the budget. We are getting roads done," she said.

Note: The directors had said at the Dec. 13 meeting that capital expenditures planned for 2017 included \$830,000 in street improvements and at least \$570,000 in water system improvements. They discussed the progress of the roads project again at the April 11 and May 9 meetings. See www.ocn.me/v17n1.htm#tvmd, www.ocn.me/v17n5.htm#tvmd.

Landscaping maintenance deficiencies questioned

Resident Anthony Sexton spoke on behalf of Promontory Pointe, "the district's newest landscaping," during public comments about whether or not there was a plan to maintain the parks and other common areas. "This is the fifth year in a row I am asking the same questions at this meeting. What is happening with maintenance of the areas you have accepted responsibility for from the developer?" His

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concerns included:

- I have not seen any evidence of watering. The grass in the park is about as dead as it gets.
- I have called the office several times, as recently as yesterday, and have not heard anything back.
- I have repeatedly offered my assistance. I am at a loss.
- I am not looking for perfection. I am not looking for Flying Horse landscaping. But I am looking for something that doesn't look like the median of the interstate.
- Landscaping is part of the property taxes we pay directly to you. At some point, it amounts to theft; you take the money but we don't get anything in return.

Bolander thanked Sexton, saying Triview had done a lousy job with landscaping management in general and when the district landscaping plan is approved, better accountability would come with it.

Water Superintendent Josh Cichocki said he knew about one leak in the irrigation system, but that all the water in the common areas should be working. Remington said this was the first she was hearing about the current complaints. Director Jim Otis said the board needed to follow up on the communications issues.

Later in the meeting, the directors discussed the newly proposed landscaping policy. The purpose of the policy is to outline an orderly, consistent, and fiscally responsible process to be used by the Parks Department staff in determining which open areas, parks, and trails are to be maintained by the district and the standards under which they will be maintained.

The consensus of the directors was that they liked the policy but wanted to know how much money it would cost to meet the standards as outlined and if it would be committing to too much. They planned to discuss it again at the workshop on June 21, and they directed Remington and Cichocki to fill in the financial piece, too. Secretary Mark Melville said that the document was detailed enough that it could even be used by an outside landscaping firm to bid the work, if the district decided to contract it out.

Also during public comments, Mike and Karen Halenkamp asked questions about who was in charge of maintaining the fence bordering their property, and they also had questions about installing a gate. They had contacted the office and been told to come to the board meeting to get their questions answered.

Western Monument interceptor project

At the May 9 meeting, engineer John McGinn of JDS-Hydro had presented the directors with an outline for the construction of a sewer line serving the new developments in the north-central and northwest areas of the district, most immediately the new senior living facility under construction on Jackson Creek Parkway at Harness Road. The new line sections would connect to the existing sewer line at the corner of Old Denver Road and Baptist Road that leads to the Upper Monument Creek Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility.

On June 13, Triview's water attorney, Chris Cummins of Monson, Cummins & Shohet LLC, presented

the directors with a resolution adopting a policy regarding the funding strategy for construction of the \$2 million western Monument interceptor project. He explained that property owners benefiting from the project would pay for it, and then as several other anticipated land owners came in, they would do cost recovery from each other.

The directors approved the resolution unanimously.

Financial report

Remington presented the financial report as of April 30 (33 percent through the year) for the district general fund; water, wastewater and reuse enterprise fund; and capital projects fund. Her comments included:

- Drainage and erosion control had not yet started for this season.
- Only 21 percent of the parks landscape and open

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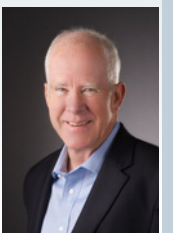
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- space budget has been expended so far.
- Outsourced billing by AmCoBi is more expensive than anticipated.
 - Water and tap fees revenue was ahead of 2017's conservative budget, making up for last year's over-estimation.
 - Landscape and irrigation improvements are coming up.
- Checks over \$5,000:
- Golder Associates Inc. Supervisory Control and

- Data Acquisition (SCADA) system upgrades, \$63,056
 - Terracon, engineering services, pavement management field inspections, \$16,290
- Operations report**
- Cichocki's comments included:
- The Water Department just hired two more certified water operators, for a total of five professionals holding 16 certifications.
 - Public Works Foreman

- Gerry Shisler started work for Triview on June 12. He will manage all public works operations, including streets and parks, and brings with him a broad range of skills that the district did not have before.
- We are documenting residents' requests and action taken to resolve issues.
 - Well A4 is in service again, and water quality is good.
 - Final punch list items are being completed for installation of the new Sanctuary Pointe booster pump.
 - SCADA upgrade is ahead of schedule in some respects, and Golder Associates is going above and beyond.
 - Hydrants and valves are being cleaned and exercised prior to a flushing project.
 - A few parks need attention; irrigation repair work and grass rehabilitation in Ox Bow Park, Misty Creek Park, and

- Creekside Park.
 - Many irrigation timers don't work, and the district system is in disarray. We are still finding things we had no idea about. Bear with me and the staff; we are struggling ... but we are finally getting answers.
 - Drainage area landscaping is in progress.
 - Stormwater collection system cleaning is coming up.
- The directors asked residents to call Triview directly if they had problems with water pressure instead of just posting complaints on social media. Cichocki said he could offer specific advice to homeowners who contacted the district, and that often a failed pressure reducing valve inside the home is the source of pressure issues.
- Bolander will not run for re-election**
- President Bolander announced that he would not run for re-election next year, so there would be three board seats open for the election.

The deadline for interested candidates is in early 2018. "A lot of people care, but we need someone who would be willing to attend all the meetings!" He said he would be willing to step down from the president role sooner than that so he could help the new president with the transition.

At 7:56 p.m., the meeting went into executive session to confer with the district's attorney regarding legal advice on specific legal questions. Remington told OCN that no votes or announcements were made after the executive session.

The next Triview meeting will be held July 11 at 5 p.m. at the Fairfield Inn, Mt. Herman Conference Room, 15275 Struthers Road, Colorado Springs. Meetings are normally held on the second Tuesday of the month. Information: 488-6868 or see www.colorado.gov/triview-metro, Triview Metropolitan District on Facebook, or [Twitter.com/@TriviewMetro](https://twitter.com/TriviewMetro). Lisa Hatfield can be reached at lisahatfield@ocn.me.



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Donald Wescott Fire Protection District, June 20

Auditors test district's internal financial controls

By Jennifer Kaylor

The Donald Wescott Fire Protection District (DWFPD) board met June 20 to receive the auditor's report from Hoelting and Company Inc., which was presented by CPA Tom Sistare, to hear public comments, and to conduct regular administrative business. Board members provided their individual perspectives regarding the challenges of DWFPD's current financial situation and the proposed mill levy.

All board members were present. Assistant Chief Scott Ridings, was excused. Attorney Dino Ross of Ireland Stapleton Pryor and Pascoe PC also attended.

Auditor's report highlights material weaknesses and deficiencies

Sistare explained that the audit first tested internal controls and then designed the remaining procedures based on the results of those tests. The audit found that the financial statements are fairly presented in all material respects. Sistare reviewed the audit report that identified two deficiencies in internal control as material weaknesses. A material weakness is defined in the report as a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected or corrected, on a timely basis. The material



Above: The Donald Wescott Fire Protection District Board of Directors meeting was held in the equipment bay on June 20 to ensure there would be enough room for all members of the public who wished to attend. All five directors offered their comments on the district's present financial circumstances, the board's commitment to the firefighters, and examples of superlative service by the firefighters to the residents of Wescott. From left, Chairman Greg Gent, Treasurer Joyce Hartung, and Director Bo McAllister. Photo by Jennifer Kaylor.

weaknesses included:

- Year-end closing procedure—This procedure includes posting approved audit adjustments in the general ledger to the financial statements. Holt-ing, the auditing agency, recommends that management develop year-end closing procedures that provide for posting audit adjustments and agreeing the resultant balance to the prior year financial statements.
- Segregation of duties—The limitations of the district's size and staff availability precluded segregation of duties for certain procedures in-

volving the initiating, authorizing, recording, and reconciling of transactions. This requires management and those charged with governance to remain involved in the review of financial information to mitigate the risks involved with this condition.

The audit also defined a significant deficiency as a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance. Two significant deficiencies were identified:

- Backdating checks—

Holting recommended that management establish a cut-off date and use the special functions in QuickBooks to record accounts payable and pre-paid transactions.

- Preparation of financial statements—The auditors’ assistance to the district in preparing the financial statements and year-end balances cannot satisfy the control function that would enable management to prevent or detect mis-statements in the financial statements. Management and the board should consider the cost/benefit of implementing additional controls over preparation of the financial statements.

Board members offer their perspectives

The five board members voiced their perspectives regarding the district’s present circumstances. Due to an annexation of the southern half of DWFPD initiated by the City of Colorado Springs in 2004, the district will realize a 33 percent tax revenue loss in 2018 and a 66 percent tax revenue loss in 2019. See www.ocn.me/v17n2.htm?zoom_highlight=wescott+annexation#dwfpd for more information. The board intends to propose a mill levy increase of 14.9 mills from the current 7 mills for a total of 21.9 mills.

Board member Joyce Hartung affirmed the board’s commitment to the firefighters and its desire to represent them well. She spoke of Chief Vinny Burns’ and Ridings’ experience and expertise with managing the district and maintaining strict control over the budget. Hartung praised the exemplary training and physical conditioning standards set by the district, adding that Ridings has mentored other districts in these areas.

Hartung and fellow board member Bo McAllister re-

minded meeting attendees that the impending financial limitations were set in motion 17 years ago McAllister emphasized the board’s open communication throughout the mill levy discussions; his responsibility as a representative of taxpayers in the district;

the much higher mills paid by customers of surrounding districts, which tend to preclude any interest by those districts to merge or consolidate; and the selflessness demonstrated regularly by DWFPD crews.

Board member Rachel Dunn expressed grave con-

cern “that a lesser levy will put our community at risk.... There is no guarantee that another district will be able to provide aid. I cannot in good conscience let my children, neighbors, and friends be part of a second-class district. We deserve better.”

Not having received prior communication regarding the board presentations, board member Harland Baker spoke spontaneously of his appreciation as the father of five children for the district’s involvement in the community. Baker reinforced previous



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statements regarding the stewardship of the 7 mills levied in the district over the past several years.

Board Chairman Greg Gent concluded by praising the deep and caring commitment exhibited by Wescott firefighters and stated that their connection to the community is essentially irreplaceable. He compared the difficulty of increasing the mill levy to the resistance one feels when having to pay full price once a discount ends.

Mill levy proposal initiated

Gent called for a motion to direct Chief Burns and the district’s consultants to prepare a proposed resolution and related documents, which includes the special sub-district that was formed last year, for a tax increase election to increase the mill levy from the current 7.0 mills to 14.9 mills to be held in November 2017. This proposed resolution should be ready for board consideration and possible action at the July board meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

Public comments

The meeting agenda limited comments to a total of 12 minutes (three minutes

per person) at the beginning of the meeting and another 12 minutes (also three minutes per person) at the end of the meeting.

Resident Gary Rusnak noted that he requested that the taxpayers’ forum be placed on the June 20 meeting agenda, but his request was denied. Rusnak objected that DWFPD’s April meeting minutes inaccurately reflected the anonymous steering committee vote as 2 to 1 in favor of fully funding the 14.9 mill levy increase. Using information obtained under the Colorado Open Records Act, Rusnak calculated that of the 30 votes, there were 14 “no” and 16 “yes,” but three “yes” votes were qualified. He requested that the May meeting minutes correct the vote to read 50 percent in favor and 50 percent against the increase.

Addressing the April vote for a new board member, Rusnak requested that the minutes confirm that four individuals submitted letters of interest and that when the vote was taken, only board Gent made a recommendation. The two other board members voted based on Gent’s recommendation and without comment.

Directing his attention to the Pinnacle Consulting Group Inc. financial information posted on DWFPD’s website (<http://wescottfire.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Wescott-Fire-Financial-.pdf>), Rusnak referred to paragraphs three and four under “Findings” that discuss his analysis. Paragraph four begins, “Finally, this solution is dependent upon the sale of Station 2.” Rusnak stated that he never recommended selling Station 2 and requested that the statement and related commentary be removed. Rusnak concluded by expressing concern over the district’s communications regarding ISO ratings which, according to his research, are considered proprietary information. See related story at http://www.ocn.me/v17n4.htm?zoom_highlight=vol+17+no+3#nepco.

Gent read a letter submitted by Kenneth Judd who was unable to provide his comments in person. Judd, a board member of the Gleneagle Civic

Association (GCA), denounced the efforts of a homeowners’ association (HOA) member to represent the GCA. Judd stated, “Nobody within GCA—no individual member, nor any member of the GCA board, including myself—has been empowered to speak for our property owners on the subject of the proposed mill levy increase that is under consideration by Wescott. It is not a legitimate function of an HOA board to become activist or to represent its constituents on any matter on which they have individual voting rights, as is the case with the mill levy.” He added, “Therefore, the GCA Board of Directors does not take a position on the mill levy but will instead depend on our individual residents to speak for themselves through their ballot. We have informed and will continue to inform objectively but will not attempt to influence votes.”

Tom Nettles, who’s not a district resident, cautioned that the mill levy must be supported by a cost-reduction plan or it is likely to fail.

Resident, and former Wescott board treasurer and volunteer firefighter, Dennis Feltz expressed admiration for DWFPD firefighters and especially the volunteers, but added his disappointment in the board’s communication. He declared a lack of support for the proposed increase of 14.9 mills, stating that it was simply too high.

Regular board business

DWFPD Administrative Assistant Stacey Popovich reported on bank balances and financials. Total cash held as of May 31 equaled \$1.661 million, an increase of \$203,369 from April. The board voted to accept the May financials and, after a brief review, voted to approve the May meeting minutes.

Chiefs’ reports

Burns said that at the Gleneagle Clubhouse training conducted on June 8, DWFPD firefighters gained experience with a rapid fire spreading in a large building, as well as building compo-

nent failure. The clubhouse suffered structural collapse within 20 minutes of ignition and total collapse about 30 minutes later. Burns thanked Capt. Sean Pearson and Assistant Chief Ridings for coordinating the event and ensuring the safety of all involved. Burns also recognized the appreciation by Colorado Springs School District 11 (D-11) for Pearson’s fire safety presentation to a D-11 class and for DWFPD’s participation in and support of Antelope Trail Elementary School’s Bike Safety Rodeo.

Recognizing additional good deeds, Burns noted that Lt. Curt Leonhardt, Driver Roger Lance, Firefighter Eric Bogenrief, and Paramedics Dennis Wesselink and Doug MacIntyre built a handicap-access ramp onto the home of an elderly couple in the district. The men were featured in a story in The Gazette on June 18. DWFPD volunteers showcased the fire station and sold hot dogs during the recent Gleneagle HOA garage sale.

Burns reported that he, Dunn, Ridings, and Popovich attended a Special District Association presentation on legal and legislative updates and items concerning special district boards. All attendees found the class informative and helpful.

In Ridings’ absence, Burns reported on the May call volume comparison. There were 207 total calls in May 2016 and 251 in May 2017, an increase of 21 percent. DWFPD responded to two fires in May. Both were mutual aid.

The board adjourned at 8:25.

The next Donald Wescott Fire Protection District Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. on July 18 at Station 1, 15415 Gleneagle Drive. Please call (719) 488-8680, a nonemergency number, for more information, or visit www.wescottfire.org. The district is also on Facebook and Twitter.

Jennifer Kaylor can be reached at jenniferkaylor@ocn.me.

Firefighters battle structure fire

By Lisa Hatfield

Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District (TLMFPD) sent out a press release on June 14 saying that on June 13, it had responded to “a report of an outside fire” in the area of Lockridge and Roaming Drives in the Wissler Ranch subdivision off of Palmer Divide Avenue/County Line Road.

“Originally dispatched as a small outside fire, firefighters arrived on scene to find a three-car attached garage completely engulfed in flames with fire already extending into the living spaces. Firefighters quickly attacked the fire but were limited in their progress due to available water. The fire was declared under control at 1:43 a.m.

“Damage to the home was extensive with the home not safe for occupancy. Residents had evacuated prior to the Fire Department’s arrival, however one family dog perished. Damage to the home is estimated at \$400,000. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

“TLMFPD firefighters were assisted at the scene by the


Wescott, Black Forest, Larkspur, Falcon, and Peyton Fire Districts, along with Air Force Academy Fire Department and Colorado Springs Fire Department providing district coverage. The Red Cross was available at the scene to assist the residents.”

See <http://tlmfire.org/> to read the June 14 press release and the June 22 “Lockridge Fire Follow-up” memo with more details about the battle, or call TLMFPD Battalion Chief Jamey Bumgarner at 719-484-0911 with questions.

Fire Chief Chris Truty told OCN that TLMFPD had scheduled a Wissler Ranch community meeting for June 30 at the site of the structure fire on Lockridge Drive and that the district would be sending out notifications of that meeting using NextDoor.com to three neighborhoods in the vicinity. The goal of that meeting was to answer residents’ questions.

Note: Because of timing to get the newspaper to the printer, the June 28 TLMFPD board meeting article will be included in the Aug. 5 issue of OCN.

Lisa Hatfield can be reached at lishatfield@ocn.me



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Monument Board of Trustees, June 5

Staff advises against rushing into water solutions

By Lisa Hatfield
On June 5, the Monument Board of Trustees discussed the proposed town emergency water interconnection and the proposed town potable water reuse plant. The board appointed two regular and two alternate Planning Commission members.

Emergency water interconnection, reuse, and the bigger risk picture

Public Works Director Tom Tharnish and engineers Will Koger and Jonathan Moore of Forsgren Associates addressed the "Town of Monument Water System – Risk Analysis" technical memo and answered trustees' questions regarding risks to the town's water system, and Town Manager Chris Lowe discussed his "Review and Analysis of Emergency Interconnection" memo.

The memos emphasized that while the authors understand that people want to guarantee that the town's water system west of I-25 does not suffer a catastrophic leak like the one experienced by Triview Metropolitan District's separate water system east of I-25 last summer, the town staff believes that the chance of a major supply loss is extremely low. That is because the town's infrastructure technology (including sensors), management, maintenance, redundancy in the system, and staff training, are superior to Triview's, according to the memos.

Because of that, instead of hurrying to get an emergency-only water connection with another district done in a year or two, staff recommended some other options:

1. Emergency raw water interconnection in conjunction with the proposed indirect water reuse plant interconnection: The town could create such an emergency interconnection with Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District (WWSD) to take WWSD's raw water from Monument Creek in case of emergency, if WWSD had water available to share. Three to five years to complete. Estimated cost very minimal since no additional infrastructure would be needed beyond the unspecified construction cost of the proposed potable water reuse plant.
2. Emergency potable water interconnection with WWSD: The town could build a pipeline that could take treated drinking water from Woodmoor under I-25 to the town. Estimated cost is \$737,000 to \$1 million, and the timeframe is 1 to

- 1-1/2 years.
3. Donala Water and Sanitation District emergency treated water interconnection: This would include building a longer pipeline, but Donala already has access to renewable (but expensive) "gold-plated" (this is the town staff's adjective) water. Estimated cost is \$3.3 million with a timetable of 1 to 1-1/2 years after an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) is signed.
4. Colorado Springs Utilities (CSU) treated water interconnection: This would include building an even longer pipeline all the way to Gleneagle, but the advantage is that CSU has access to renewable "gold-plated" water. It would be harder to get

an intergovernmental agreement with CSU. Estimated cost is \$5.1 million with a timetable of 2 to 2-1/2 years after an IGA is signed.

The staff's overall recommendation to the board was that it would be better to spend money on a second water storage tank and then create an emergency water interconnection as part of the proposed potable water reuse plant project instead of wasting money on rushing to a solution in the next year to build an interconnection that could only be used for emergency water. See www.ocn.me/v17n1.htm#mbot and www.ocn.me/v17n5.htm#mbot0417.

The June 5 board packet included a memo from WWSD District Manager Jessie Shaffer dated Feb. 7, 2017 to Tharnish,

Koger, and WWSD Assistant District Manager Randy Gillette that summarized some of the assumptions and discussions Tharnish and Shaffer had up to that point about options for both potable and raw water interconnections. It also reiterated that WWSD could not guarantee water to the town even in a declared state of water emergency. Lowe said Shaffer had a fairly comprehensive discussion with the WWSD board, and it supports partnering with the town.

Trustee Jeff Bornstein said regional solutions were a good idea, but he wondered if WWSD would be absorbing a larger percentage of the cost of construction and operations of a reuse plant since the town has 1,800 water customers and WWSD has over 10,000. Lowe said the details were yet

to be worked out on operating costs but that they would come to an agreement where each side paid its proportion, and that there would also be fixed costs. Lowe did not discuss construction cost-sharing ratios. Overall, "It would be cheaper than doing it on our own," Lowe said.

Koger said that a water reuse system would essentially double the use of the water that goes through the system.

Separate from the emergency interconnection question, Trustee Dennis Murphy asked again about the town's access to new connections with renewable water that the town could use for its water supplies as the aquifer water is being depleted. Trustee Greg Coopman emphasized the importance of a regional system too, asking, "Who are we con-

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necting to when we don't have any more (ground) water?"

Lowe agreed that purchasing firm portfolio water rights for long-term renewable water supplies was critical and was on the longer-term horizon to come before the board. He said having more partners than Woodmoor would mean even more time to organize financing and agreements on construction design. "We all know the Denver Basin is going out. Will it

last 10 years? We don't know.... Nothing on this interconnect is preventing us from a larger connection to a larger system." For more on regionalization of small water districts, see related Triview article on page 8.

Lowe said the only reason he has not spoken yet to the Tri-Lakes Wastewater Treatment Facility (TLW-WTF) folks is that the town and WWSD don't know what type of reuse technology will be used yet, but as soon as they knew, they would share information with the TLWWTF Joint Use of Facilities Committee (JUC). WWSD is one of the JUC's three voting owners. See related TLWWTF JUC article on page 7.

Four new members of Planning Commission appointed

On May 15, Principal Planner Larry Manning introduced the trustees to four candidates for the Monument Planning Commission, whom they interviewed that night. That same night, he said he would also ask for feedback from the seated planning commissioners and show them the four resumes. Sometime after that, Vice Chair Kathy Spence had decided to resign, Manning said. See related Monument Planning Commission article on page 17.

Because Spence is leaving, and there was already one long-open regular position and two long-open alternate positions, all four new candidates who applied were appointed to the commission by a unanimous vote of the trustees on June 5.

Lowe suggested, and there was consensus among the trustees, to pursue some kind of ordinance setting term limits for the planning commissioners.

The two new regular members will be Kevin Geisbert and Ken Kimple, and the two alternates will be Melanie Strop and Daniel Ours. They will join current Monument Planning Commissioners Ed Delaney, Jim Fitzpatrick, John Dick, David Gwisdalla, and Michelle Glover. See www.ocn.me/v17n6.htm#mbot0515.

Village Center Metro District communication resumes

As he and members of the Village Center Metropolitan District (VCMD) board have been doing since Nov. 7, Forrest Hindley asked during public comments for

the town's help with the revenue gap VCMD has. All of the current VCMD mill levy revenues are restricted to construction bond repayment, and 300,000 square feet of Village Center's vacant land in Filing 4A that was originally zoned for commercial development was changed by the Planning Commission on Oct. 8, 2014 and BOT on Nov. 3, 2014 to residential zoning, reducing property tax revenue from 330,000 square feet of planned commercial space from the rezoned lots by a factor of four (29 percent to 7 percent). These revenue reduction implications were not discussed. See www.ocn.me/v14n11.htm#mpc1008, www.ocn.me/v14n12.htm#mbot1103, and <https://monument-townco.documents-on-demand.com/>

Hindley said none of the now-reduced total VCMD property tax revenue is left over for street maintenance and other maintenance that the district is required to perform per its previously approved service plan. VCMD has sent representatives to previous BOT meetings to ask for help, but were never allowed to speak for more than three minutes during public comment. VCMD's service agreement is with the town of Monument. "We are running out of money fast," Hindley said. Then his three minutes were over again. See www.ocn.me/v16n12.htm#mbot1107, www.ocn.me/v17n2.htm#mbot, and www.ocn.me/v17n6.htm#mbot

Note: During public comments, this reporter asked why VCMD was not allowed to do a 20-minute presentation, as it had been requesting, when other groups such as the Pikes Peak or Bust Rodeo, that had not even been approved during "board authorization items," were given a scheduled 20-minute board presentation agenda item every year.

Later, during trustees' comments, Trustee Murphy asked if Hindley could be given one more minute to finish reading his statement. Mayor Jeff Kaiser asked why VCMD "fell off" the presentation list after the board had approved it.

Town Manager Chris Lowe's comments included:

- One of the reasons a VCMD presentation "fell off" the BOT presentation schedule was that representatives of the VCMD board mentioned taking legal action against the town. When that happens, it has a chilling effect on the level of information I am willing to exchange with a group.
- I have seen what they are suggesting. I would not characterize a lot of that content as factual. My response would be diametrically opposed to a majority of what VCMD is saying.
- I always like to meet with folks...I can sit down with them anytime, as quickly as tomorrow. We are open to cooperative solutions.

Hindley said he did not remember any time when VCMD suggested it might sue the town. But Kaiser confirmed that a lawsuit was threatened during a public meeting. Hindley then said he would meet with staff at any time, because the district was in "a real time crunch."

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The consensus was that Lowe and the town attorney, and anyone from town staff who needed to attend, would have a meeting with representatives from VCMD to re-engage the discussion. Hindley and Kaiser both stated that they thought they “could work this out.” Lowe said he would contact Hindley the next morning and set up a time to meet very soon.

New town attorney will be “staff” position

Trustee Coopman thanked Lowe for working with the trustees on creating the job description for the new town attorney.

Note: It was a revelation to this reporter when Coopman said, “This will be a town attorney as before but this is the first time to have a staff attorney.” OCN missed this point when the resolution presented by Human Resources Director Robert Bishop on May 1 referred consistently to “the town attorney” but did not spell out the fact that this person would also be a staff member. Knowing this, the trustees’ May 1 questions about job description, salary, cost savings, and the Colorado Intergovernmental Risk Sharing Agency (CIRSA) now make more sense.

Town Attorney Gary Shupp submitted his resignation as of Aug. 1, just before the new town attorney Alicia Corley was appointed on May 1. See www.ocn.me/v17n6.htm#mbot.

Triview Metropolitan District notes

Trustee Kelly Elliott said she and Mayor Pro-Tem Don Wilson had attended the May 9 Triview board meeting and learned that Triview is working on hiring a new public works manager. She wondered if that new employee might

be one who could present information to the BOT.

Lowe said he had talked with Triview Board President Reid Bolander, and they were working on a format for communication.

Elliott also said there was no comparison between the customer service in Triview and the town’s. Lowe said the town gets most of Triview’s customer service phone calls (since residents do not understand which services their metro district provides) and that the town was keeping a tally sheet on types of problems being reported, as well as sharing the calls with Triview.

Note: Triview, on the east side of I-25, includes two-thirds of the population of the town of Monument. Triview, which was created as one of the first Colorado Title 32 “special districts,” provides roads, parks, and drainage maintenance, and water and sanitation utility services to the residents of Jackson Creek, Promontory Pointe, and Sanctuary Pointe. Triview’s water system east of I-25 is wholly independent of Monument’s Public Works water system located on the west side of I-25. The Town of Monument provides land use planning, police, and general governance for the Triview’s property owners. No information clearly directing Triview residents to the separate Triview website is obvious on the new town website.

Lyons Tail traffic study observes “no traffic issues”

Coopman asked Manning about the results of a traffic study the board had requested in January for the intersection of Jackson Creek Parkway and Lyons Tail Road. Manning said the observation study included West Baptist Road, Jackson Creek Parkway, and Lyons

Tail Road, and no traffic issues were observed, except that the placement of telephone boxes and landscaping interfered with the line of sight. “No changes for that intersection were demanded,” Manning said. Lowe said he would get a copy of the traffic study results to the trustees. See www.ocn.me/v17n1.htm#mpc, and www.ocn.me/v17n2.htm#mbot.

IGA with CDOT about bulk water fill station

Public Works Director Tharnish presented an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) with the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) regarding the recent move of the town’s automated bulk fill water station to the cul-de-sac at 538 W. Highway 105, between the Safeway shopping center and the filling station on Highway 105. In exchange for allowing the town to relocate the bulk water station, the town agreed to do trash pick-up and weed control at the Bustang park-n-ride on the east side of I-25. The trustees voted unanimously to approve the IGA.

Background: In 2014, Trails End residents spoke to the trustees with concerns about truck traffic using the bulk fill water station then located at the northwest corner of Wagon Gap Trail and Old Denver Road, in the Trails End subdivision. Because of residents’ advocacy, the town eventually found a way to move the site to the Highway 105 location. The move cost \$66,000 plus engineering fees. See www.ocn.me/v14n8.htm?#mbot0721, www.ocn.me/v16n2.htm#mbot0119.

Town manager’s report

Lowe’s report included in the board packet summarized 2016-17 activities and accomplishments of the town staff, including:

- \$527,218 in sidewalk, park and street improvements
- \$536,413 in water department repairs and capital investments in infrastructure done using revenue from the new water rates structure
- \$1 million in 2A Water ASD Funds to buy land for a second water storage tank, new reuse treatment facility, and possible new public works facility
- The 2017 budget includes funding for a water splash park and other improvements at Limbach Park, an emergency generator for the booster station, and engineering for radium removal at Well 9.
- Other capital improvements in the works include street repairs, trail-head parking repairs, skate park improvements, Dirty Woman Park basketball court and baseball field improvements, Lavelett Park improvements after removing a section of Fourth Street, water system SCADA upgrade, Well 9 radium removal improvements, and other water capital improvements.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m. Lisa Hatfield can be reached at lisahatfield@ocn.me.

Monument Planning Commission, June 14
**Kentucky Fried Chicken
Final PD Site Plan, Major PD
Amendment for Anderson
Substation Approved**

By Kate Pangelinan
June 14 was Commissioner Kathy Spence’s last Monument Planning Commission meeting. She has resigned, following almost 16 years of serving the town as a commissioner. New planning commissioner candidates have been interviewed and selected, so that there is now a full commission as well as two alternates. The new regular commissioners are Kenneth Kimple and Kevin Geisbert, and the two alternate commissioners are Melanie Strop and Daniel Ours. The Board of Trustees approved these appointments unanimously on June 5.

A troop of Boy Scouts was also present at the meeting, with some of the members participating in public hearings.

The main subjects covered during the June 14 meeting were a Final PD Site Plan for a coming Kentucky Fried Chicken restaurant and a Major PD Amendment for the Anderson Substation.

Restaurant’s Final PD Site Plan approved

A Kentucky Fried Chicken restaurant is proposed for a site along Jackson Creek Parkway, right next to Freddy’s Frozen Custard and Steakburgers and the Wells Fargo bank. It will fill the shopping center’s last remaining vacant lot. It will be on a .90-acre parcel of land and feature a drive-through. Steven Brown, senior project manager of Near Design and Planning Inc., representing Kentucky Fried Chicken, provided and discussed designs for the planned res-

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The Final PD Site Plan for the Anderson Substation, Jackson Creek Parkway and Harness Road, was approved on Jan. 6, 2014. The project is now complete, except for previously agreed-upon perimeter landscaping. At the June 14 meeting, Mountain View Electric Association Inc. Manager of Engineering David Waldner represented the substation in requesting that the PD Site Plan be amended to delete all landscaping required in a portion of the area adjacent to a Triview well site and a self-storage building. The landscaping could jeopardize the quality of the Triview well, Waldner said. It is advisable to have 100-foot

(Continued on page 20)

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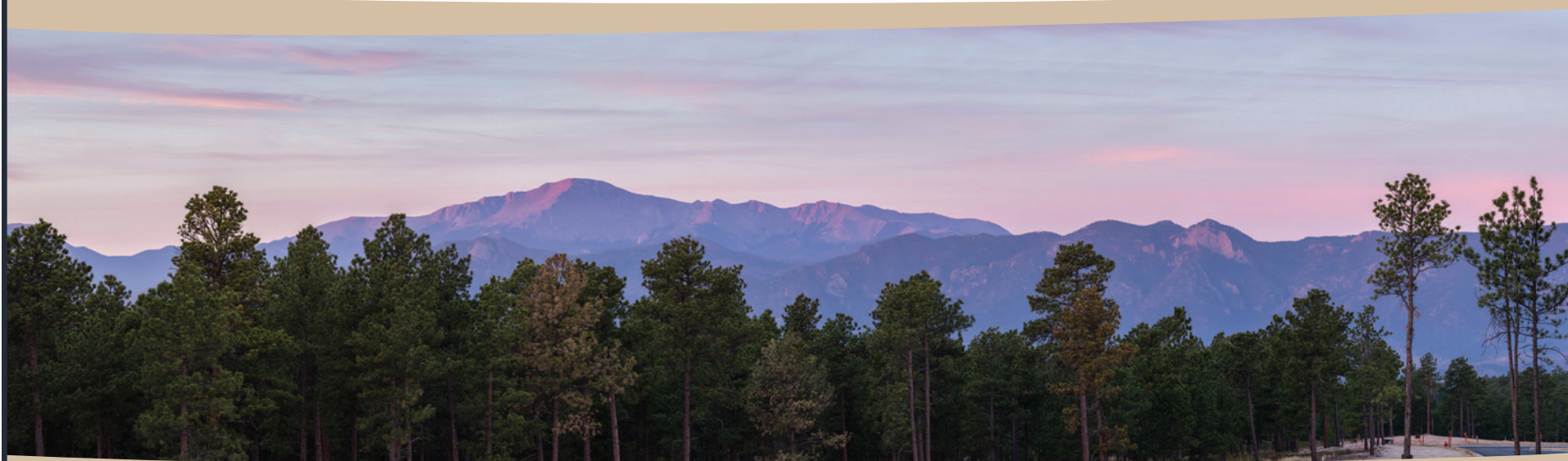
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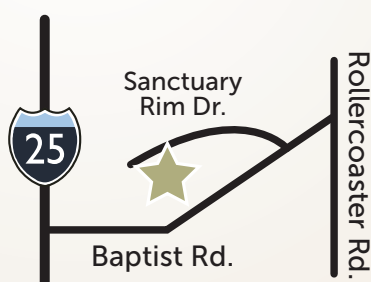
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vision of the 2017-18 school calendar that changed the last day of school to Thursday, May 17, as a full day with regular dismissal. Friday, May 18 will not be a teacher work day and checkout day. The board also noted that the calendar has built in extended weekends and Thanksgiving, giving kids and teachers a much-needed break.

Board member changes

Board member Scott Saunders recognized outgoing board President Camarco, noting that she worked on refinancing the bonds in 2014, was involved in contract negotiations with the Lewis-Palmer School District (LPSD) in 2015, and went to Capitol Hill to testify on behalf of charter schools. Camarco noted that having a great administration made her job on the board easier. Board member Gifford, who was absent, also reached the end of his term. Camarco then administered the oath of office for new board members, Mark McWilliams and Mike Molsen, who will begin their three-year term on July 1.

Other highlights

- Executive Director Don Griffin highlighted that MA's high school application has been sent to Lewis-Palmer School District Superintendent Karen Brofft, Assistant Superintendent Cheryl Wangeman, and Dr. Lori Benton for review and recommendations. The formal review window will be in the fall.
- Treasurer Patrick Hall noted a net income loss for May of \$19,970 but said that they would be able to add six figures to the bottom line of the budget despite giving teachers raises thanks to Director of Finance Nancy Tive.
- Principal and Chief Academic Officer Dr. Elizabeth Davis reported that this time of year is used



Above: From left are MA board members Scott Saunders, Sonya Camarco, Julie Galusky, Matt Dunston, and Patrick Hall. Camarco, outgoing MA School Board president, displays her certificate of appreciation along with members of the board. *Photo by Jackie Burhans.*

for planning and reflection. She said she would look at training teachers in the appropriate use of technology in the classroom based on the indicators from the School Accountability Advisory Committee (SAAC) report about iPads.

The next meeting will be on Thursday, July 20 at the Monument Academy library at 1150 Village Ridge

Point. The Monument Academy usually meets at 6 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month. Information on the MA School Board, including schedule, minutes, committee and finances can be found at www.monumentacademy.net/school-board. Jackie Burhans can be reached at jackieburhans@ocn.me.

Lewis-Palmer D-38 Board of Education, June 20

Board approves district budget and new or revised policies

By Harriet Halbig

The D-38 Board of Education approved a district budget, which includes an unanticipated boost of nearly \$1 million, and a list of new or revised school policies at its June 20 meeting.

Budget presentation

Assistant Superintendent Cheryl Wangeman said the proposed district budget for the 2017-18 school year is balanced and meets all TABOR and other legal requirements.

Due to an unexpected infusion of nearly \$1 million from the state, the board was asked to consider applying the funds to teacher compensation, maintenance projects that had been deferred due to lack of funding, or additional classroom space, or to be saved for construction of new schools in the future.

Wangeman cautioned that such revenue was unlikely to recur.

Goals for the coming year include site-based budgeting, allowing principals and staff to determine use of funds, maintenance of class size and teacher workloads, completion of the long-term planning process, and incorporation of increased alternative learning opportunities at the secondary level.

The per-pupil funding for the coming year is expected to increase by \$231, and 219 new students are anticipated. Wangeman suggested that expenditure of these additional funds should be deferred until after the October student count.

Wangeman explained that state funding includes money for special-needs students, English Language Learners, vocational programs, and such fees as pre-school and extended-day kindergarten tuition, rental of facilities, and other fees.

Asked about the step system of salary increases, Wangeman said that the district tries to keep salaries in line with those of nearby districts. Salary increases are not equal across the board as employees at the entry level often receive a higher percentage to remain competitive. Health insurance is considered to be part of an employee's compensation.

Superintendent Karen Brofft commented that the administration is considering the same percentage of increase for all employees and to compensate those employees whose salaries had been frozen. These options are under discussion.

Vice President Matthew Clawson asked if there were particular concerns about the use of the budget, Wangeman responded that the many maintenance projects that had been deferred should receive prior-

ity.

The board voted to approve the budget. Treasurer John Magerko reminded the board that the budget is constantly under review and may be amended during the year.

Policies get OK

Director of Personnel and Student Services Bob Foster presented a list of policies recommended for adoption by the Colorado Association of School Boards (CASB). These included policies involving safe schools, sexual abuse and assault, accident reporting, security access to facilities, and video surveillance. Foster reminded the board that many of these policies are part of a manual presented to staff and students at the start of the school year and therefore should be passed immediately.

The board approved the policies with the understanding that they may be later amended.

Foster then introduced policies that CASB recommended be amended immediately. These included policies regarding staff conduct and staff/student interaction.

Policy GBEB involves staff conduct. Board Secretary Mark Pfoff expressed concern that this policy is not being followed, especially regarding profanity at sports events. He said that he is familiar with the policy but disappointed that it is not being enforced. He requested that this subject be put on the agenda for a future meeting.

Policy ADD regarding safe schools requires that the district develop training to prevent sexual abuse and assault. Community member Melinda Zark requested early in the meeting that such training be videotaped so that parents may view it. She requested that only the presenter be recorded and that parents be given two weeks' notice of such training and be allowed to attend. Vice President Matthew Clawson agreed that this was a good suggestion but suggested that the viewing of the video should take place in a school environment rather than online.

Director Sarah Sampayo requested that policy IC/ICA be amended to include passing periods and PE time in staff contact time. Foster agreed, and the amendment was approved.

The board approved these policies. Policy JICJ addresses the use of cell phones and other personal electronic devices by students. It states that such devices may be used for learning in class if approved by the teacher. They should otherwise be in silent mode and put away. The policy also prohibits

the use of any device with camera or video capability in locker rooms, bathrooms, or anywhere where privacy is expected. Devices may be confiscated and not returned until the parent of the owner attends a conference with the teacher. The policy was temporarily approved and will be discussed at the August meeting.

Foster explained a revision in Policy GBGH that involves the use of the district's sick-leave bank and allows its use for up to two days of bereavement leave. This revision was approved.

Community recognitions

Founder Susan Pappas and student leaders of the group RAD (Real Alternatives to Drugs and Drinking) spoke of their program, co-sponsored by the YMCA, which offers a gathering place for teens on Fridays between 8:30 and 11:30 p.m. The program was founded after an automobile accident killed several Palmer Ridge students, some of whom had been drinking.

The students accompanying Pappas said that many of the activities, including a graduation party and several competitions, have been popular, and the attendance at the weekly events has been steady and encouraging.

Students from Palmer, Discovery Canyon, and Air Academy High Schools have also attended the evenings, and there are plans to expand to other YMCA locations.

The program will continue throughout the summer.

Brofft introduced Elizabeth Davis, the new school administrator at Monument Academy. Davis has diverse experience, including founding a charter school in District 20, serving on a legislative task force for online education, and as a consultant to the Colorado Charter School Institute where she reviewed charter school applications. Her education includes degrees in political science, licensure as a principal, and a doctorate in education in leadership for education

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Above: Representatives of RAD (Real Alternatives to Drugs and Drinking) include, from left, Jeffrey Dunston, Liz Phillips (behind Susan Pappas), Susan Pappas, Jonathan Neptune, Brandon Pappas, and Eve Phillips. *Photo by Harriet Halbig.*



Above: New Monument Academy School Administrator Elizabeth Davis, left, was introduced by Superintendent Karen Brofft. *Photo by Harriet Halbig.*

equality.

Other actions

The board approved a resolution to notify the county of its intention to participate in the November 2017 election. Two board seats are up for election. The board approved a resolution to advertise for nominations for two positions on the board. Treasurer John Magerko reported on goals for the

board in the coming year. These included educating themselves and others in the school financing process, supporting the long-range planning process, improving the on-boarding process for new board members, and offering board coffees in a variety of environments, including coffee shops and homes. The board met in executive session to discuss potential lease or sale of real property. No action was

taken.

The Lewis-Palmer D-38 Board of Education meets at 6 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month except July at the district's Learning Center at 146 Jefferson St., Monument. The next meeting will be on Aug. 17. Harriet Halbig may be reached at harriethalbig@ocn.me.

El Paso County Sheriff's Office report

May crimes in Sheriff's District 1

The following sampling was compiled from the monthly El Paso County Sheriff's Office (EPSO) Neighborhood News. This report covers only EPSO District 1, does not list every crime reported to EPSO, and does not include criminal activity from Monument, Palmer Lake, or Colorado Springs addresses: Animal Complaint: 22700 block Jones Rd., 18800 block Cloven Hoof Dr., 15400 block Paddington Cir. Bomb Threat: 1800 block Woodmoor Dr. Burglary: 1600 block Kings Cross Ln., 15600 block Falcon Ridge Ct., 800 block Caspian Ct., 1700 block Deer Creek Rd., 3300 block Mesa Top Dr. Criminal Trespass Auto: 15200 block Jessie Dr., 2100 block Stella Dr. Indecent Exposure: Lakefront Dr./Forest Lakes Dr. Menacing: 18700 block I-25.

Motor Vehicle Theft: 18200 block Knollwood Blvd., 7400 block Tudor Rd. Reckless Endangerment: Rampart Range Rd. Theft: 14600 block Club Villa Dr., 19600 block Still River Ct.

Coffee with a Cop—July 15 from 10 a.m. to noon at Wesley Owens Coffee, 1773 Lake Woodmoor Dr. Monument. This is an opportunity for informal and friendly conversations with local law enforcement. The Drug Enforcement Administration's (DEA) raid on a marijuana grow operation in Kings Deer on May 12 is not included in the EPSO report since it was conducted by the DEA, but for more information, see: <http://coloradosprings.com/drug-agents-raid-monument-home-seize-marijuana-plants/article/1602985>

FOR EMERGENCIES: DIAL 9-1-1 El Paso County Sheriff's Office Dispatch (non-emergency crime reporting): 390-5555 EPSO Telephone Reporting System (for minor crimes without suspect information: 520-7111 EPSO Traffic Hotline (for reporting problem areas or traffic violations): 390-5555 option 5 EPSO Tip Line (for reporting suspicious activity or the location of wanted persons): 520-7777 Always remember to report criminal activity or suspicious behavior promptly. For more information, contact Crime Prevention Coordinator Merody Broom at 719-520-7151 or MerodyBroom@elpasoco.com.

El Paso Board of County Commissioners, June 27

Proposal for emergency services impact fee policy withdrawn

By Helen Walklett

Following discussion at its June 27 meeting, the El Paso Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) agreed to withdraw the resolution to adopt the El Paso County Fire and Emergency Services Impact Fee Policy. The item had been continued from the BOCC's June 13 meeting to allow Lori Seago, senior assistant county attorney, time to review last-minute comments from all parties. The proposed resolution, intended to meet the statutory requirements of the 2016 state impact fee statute, would have provided a process through which fire and emergency services providers could request the imposition of an impact fee within their districts to mitigate the impact of new development on existing capital facilities. Introducing the proposed resolution at the June 27 meeting, Seago said that county staff, fire departments, and the building industry had been working on the issue for a year. Seago said that there was still disagreement between parties, particularly regarding the point at which the fee should be levied. Kevin Walker, policy advisor at the Housing and Building Association of Colorado Springs (CSHBA), said that the industry felt the best point at which to apply the fee was at the platted lot stage when building permits are applied

for. He said a precedent existed as this is the point at which transportation impact fees are applied. Walker further stated that the fee should apply only to future platted lots. However, fire district chiefs expressed concern at the number of already-platted lots that exist but are not yet being developed within districts. Fire Chief Chris Truty of the Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District said that growth was impacting the district and there should be some way of mitigating this. Walker said that there were 400 existing platted lots in the Tri-Lakes district, of which about 100 were being actively developed, but that each was subject to a commercial tax that benefited the fire district. Commissioner Longinos Gonzalez Jr. said that imposing the fee at the time of permitting seemed the most broad and fair approach. Commissioner Mark Waller expressed his concerns, noting that platted, undeveloped lots already pay commercial tax rates until the permitting process takes place. He feared that all fees would ultimately be passed on to homebuyers, making homes more expensive. He said, "Our responsibility is to the citizens that live in El Paso County ... housing needs to be affordable for the people." He stated that he was at best disappointed with the effort being brought forward and thought it barely

met the statutory requirements. Commissioner Stan VanderWerf said, "If we are going to be the first in the state [on this issue], we have to continue to take the time to make sure this is right." He noted that there was some concurrence and some agreement but that the vagueness of the state statute and the complexity of different neighborhoods made it a difficult task. VanderWerf finished by saying, "I am not necessarily opposed to the idea. I just want to make sure we do this right." Commissioner Peggy Littleton suggested a way forward might be to talk with other counties to see what they are doing on the issue. Commissioner Gonzalez said talks with the fire chiefs and the CSHBA could move the matter forward. Seago said that some of the commissioners' concerns might be better addressed at the individual district level once a policy was in place. After a short break, President Darryl Glenn said that, considering commissioners' concerns, there could be no affirmative motion to approve the resolution at this time. It was agreed that the item would be withdrawn and not continued to a later date. Helen Walklett can be reached at helenwalklett@ocn.me.

June Weather Wrap

By Bill Kappel

After a wet and cool past couple of months, dry and warm weather returned for June. Most of us received less than a half-inch of rainfall compared to an average of nearly 2 inches a month. Temperatures also

reached the upper 80s to low 90s on several afternoons. This resulted in a month that was significantly warmer than average and one of the drier Junes on record. The first part of June saw temperatures that were

close to average during the first week of the month, with highs reaching into the 70s each afternoon, peaking right around 80 on the 4th. There were a few thunderstorms around on several afternoons and early evenings, typical for June. However, most of the heavy

rainfall from these events missed the region, staying just to our north and east. The exceptions were the 6th and 7th, when some areas along and west of I-25 were hit with locally heavy rainfall. This resulted in some brief flash flooding and a little hail in some spots.

Warm and dry air then moved in behind this active pattern over the next few days, bringing temperatures to just shy of record high levels on the 9th and 10th. Temperatures soared well into the 80s both afternoons under mainly clear skies. Bouts of high and midlevel clouds then held temperatures back to the upper 70s on the 11th, but also limited any chance of thunderstorms development, leading to dry and warm conditions.

Hot and dry conditions continued as we officially transitioned from spring to summer during the third week of June. High temperatures reached into the 80s on Monday the 19th. Temperatures continued to warm over the next few days with high temperatures closing in on record high territory on the 20th and 21st as highs reached the low 90s. Temperatures reached the upper 80s on the 22nd; still about 10 degrees warmer than normal, but big changes were about to move in.

A cold front (strong by late June standards) moved through during the mid-afternoon hours on the 22nd.

This was accompanied by gusty winds, and increasing low-level moisture as the flow turned upslope. This helped low clouds and fog develop quickly that evening. Drizzle and areas of rain showers developed by the next morning as well.

Also, the clouds and cooler temperatures held temperatures in the 50s on the afternoon of the 23rd, about 40 degrees colder than the previous few days! Temperatures then remained a little cooler than average through the weekend, with highs only reaching the low to mid-70s each day with areas of low clouds sticking around. Unfortunately, no significant rainfall occurred during the week. We did see areas of brief thunderstorms on the afternoon of the 20th and rain showers with the cold air on the 23rd, but neither of these events produced enough moisture to bring us out of the dry period we've seen most of this month.

The month ended with more of the same, mainly dry conditions and temperatures at or above normal. Some relief from the heat did return on the 30th, as a cooler northerly flow kept temperatures in the 70s and helped produce a few thunderstorms.

A look ahead

July can be an active weather month around the region, as the Southwest Monsoon season gets going. Afternoon and evening thunderstorms are a common

occurrence, and when they are able to tap into higher levels of moisture, flash flooding can result. Hot, stagnant weather can also take hold for a few days at time, with highs hitting well into the 90's.

June 2017 Weather Statistics

Average High	80.1° (+2.7°)
100-year return frequency value max	82.5° min 66.3°
Average Low	47.4° (+3.0°)
100-year return frequency value max	50.7° min 40.2°
Highest Temperature	91°F on the 20th
Lowest Temperature	38°F on the 3rd
Monthly Precipitation	0.24"
	(-1.71" 78% below normal)
100-year return frequency value max	6.94" min 0.15"
Monthly Snowfall	0.0"
	(-0.1" 100% below normal)
Season to Date Snow	97.8"
	(-24.5" 20% below normal)
	(the snow season is from July 1 to June 30)
Season to Date Precip	17.09"
	(-4.57" 22% below normal)
	(the precip season is from July 1 to June 30)
Heating Degree Days	86 (+12)
Cooling Degree Days	49 (+21)

Bill Kappel is a meteorologist and Tri-Lakes resident. He can be reached at billkappel@ocn.me.

Letters to Our Community

Guidelines for letters to the editor are on page 31. Disclaimer: The opinions expressed in Letters to Our Community should not be interpreted as the views of OCN even if the letter writer is an OCN volunteer.

Tri-Lakes residents urged to join PPACG panel

It is just about impossible today to travel anywhere in El Paso or Teller Counties and not encounter orange cones. The cones are a clear sign that leaders across the region have placed new emphasis on repairing and improving area roads and bridges.

Just about every project has been reviewed and approved by regional leaders as part of the Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments (PPACG). In recent years, those projects have included the I-25 and Fillmore Street intersection; the I-25/Cimarron Street (U.S. 24) intersection, and I-25 widening from Academy Boulevard North to Monument. Current projects pending final funding include widening I-25 from Monument to Castle Rock

These projects, initially identified by local, county and state agencies, are reviewed and approved for funding by the PPACG staff and the PPACG board. In the process, technical experts and community representatives review each project to identify issues affecting their respective areas.

Today, northern El Paso County is underrepresented in the PPACG process. While Monument's mayor sits on the board itself, the Community Advisory Committee (CAC), which is charged with providing a more citizen-centric perspective, is missing the insights of a representative from the towns of Monument or Palmer Lake. (There are also three seats for El Paso County residents, but they are currently filled). The CAC meets monthly for about two hours and preparation (reviewing meeting materials) can take

another two to four hours, depending on the details of the agenda.

I strongly encourage any Tri-Lakes residents interested in being a community voice on this important committee to contact Monument Town Manager Chris Lowe, clowe@tomgov.org, or Palmer Lake Town Administrator Catherine Green-Sinnard, cathy@palmer-lake.org, and express your interest in either of the two positions. For more information on the CAC, see the PPACG website (www.ppacg.org) or contact Bethany Schoemer, bschoemer@ppacg.org.

James Moore
Chair, Community Advisory Council
Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments

Observe rules for trail vehicles

Hey everybody! Just a reminder that if you or your kids have non-registered and no Colorado plates on your UTVs, ATVs, and dirt bikes, you cannot drive on blacktop roads in Red Rock Ranch or on Mt. Herman Road. You can't ride until you get to the Y at the bottom of Mt. Herman. It is illegal and dangerous for them and the people walking down the road.

Please be responsible and stop. Trailer them to the bottom of Mt. Herman, and the speed limit up there is 20 mph, not 50 mph. Be careful everyone and wear helmets, which could save your life or mobility.

Thank you all very much.

Travis Jones

Proposed development alarms resident

I am writing to bring awareness to a situation that I never imagined could happen in Woodmoor---a covenant-protected community that has the reputation of being a place where one aspires to live precisely because it is off the beaten path and away from the relentless over-building that has taken place in other nearby neighborhoods---until I attended last Tues-

day's meeting at the Barn and discovered that a proposed new subdivision of 35 homes, similar to The Dunes being built on Woodmoor Drive, is about to be plopped on the scenic corner of Lake Woodmoor Drive and Lower Lake Road.

Two new roads will be built on both sides of Lake Woodmoor Drive in the short distance between Lower Lake Road and the spillway to accommodate these 35 homes to the detriment of dozens of existing residents in the immediate vicinity as well as hundreds of residents who use Lake Woodmoor Drive for egress.

Several years of construction activity on that corner will not only disturb the tranquility for residents anywhere near the area, but will also likely cause traffic (especially during LPES start and end times), pedestrian, and bike riding hazards. There is a good possibility that Lake Woodmoor Drive will also need to be widened, adding more construction inconveniences to the mix.

There are numerous important considerations that need to be taken into account before this project goes forward and it should not be rubber-stamped before all residents of Woodmoor who will be affected have their say. This is not a situation that WIA alone can prevent from happening because of a legal issue the developer won years ago. It is vital that residents express their concerns to the El Paso County Planning Commission and to county commissioners.

Sandra Yates

Editor's note: The proposed development is called The Beach at Woodmoor, and the meeting where Sandra Yates heard this was the Woodmoor Improvement Association (WIA) Architectural Control Committee meeting. OCN will report on this when and if it is discussed at WIA or at the El Paso County Planning Commission.

Between the Covers at Covered Treasures Bookstore

Great summer reads

By the staff at Covered Treasures

Summer is finally here. No matter whether you are in the mountains of our glorious state, or on a sunny beach, or traveling by plane, car, or boat, enjoy these great summer reads!

"If you are going to get anywhere in life you have to read a lot of books."—Roald Dahl

"Wherever I am, if I've got a book with me, I have a place I can go and be happy."—J.K. Rowling

The Whip: A Novel
By Karen Kondazian Collier (Hansen Publishing Group) \$15

The Whip is inspired by the true story of a woman, Charlotte "Charley" Parkhurst (1812-79) who lived most of her extraordinary life as a man in the Old West. As a young woman in Rhode Island, she fell in love with a runaway slave and had his child. The de-

struction of her family drove her west to California, dressed as a man, to track the killer. Charley became a renowned stagecoach driver for Wells Fargo. She killed a famous outlaw, had a secret love affair, and lived with a housekeeper who, unaware of her true sex, fell in love with her. Charley was the first woman to vote in America in 1868 (as a man).



Stalking the Wild Dragonfly
By Nancy Rivest Green (Vishnu Temple Press) \$15.95

Nancy Rivest Green describes her personal encounters with wildlife in nature and presents scientific research on each creature for greater understanding.

She shares a unique perspective drawn from a lifetime of living in national parks with her ranger husband as well as her travels to wilderness areas all over the planet.

New Mexico: A Novel of the Old West
By Bert Entwistle (Black Mule Press) \$16

The late 19th century in the New Mexico Territory was a haven for outlaws who were being pushed out of their territory as civilization continued to move west. Jose Taylor was one of the last of the old-time man hunters tracking down the murderers, robbers, and rustlers working in the territory. His last warrant was for his longtime nemesis and cold-blooded murderer. Their final showdown will cost the life of one and scar the other for life. New Mexico is Entwistle's fifth novel based in the West.

Dinner with Edward: A Story of an Unexpected Friendship
By Isabel Vincent (Algonquin Books) \$14.95
When Isabel, a hard-working journalist going through a divorce, meets Edward, an indomitable 93-year-old widower who has just lost his wife, she has no idea that the man in the kitchen baking the sublime roast chicken and light-as-air apricot soufflé will end up changing her life. As these two unlikely dinner companions meet weekly for the glorious meals that Edward prepares, he shares so much more than his recipes.

As Good as Gone
By Larry Watson (Algonquin Books) \$15.95
It's 1963, and Calvin Sidey has long ago left his family to live a life of self-reliance out on the prairie. He's been a mostly absentee father and grandfather until

his estranged son asks him to stay with his grandchildren for a week while he and his wife are away. Calvin agrees to return to the small town where he once was a mythic figure, and soon enough, problems arise. Calvin knows only one way to solve a problem: the Old West way, in which scores are settled, ultimatums are issued, and your gun is always loaded.

Like Water for Chocolate
By Laura Esquivel (Anchor Books) \$15
Like Water for Chocolate is the All Pikes Peak Reads 2017 adult selection. Earthy, magical, and utterly charming, this tale of family life in turn-of-the-century Mexico became a best-selling phenomenon with its winning blend of poignant romance and bitter-sweet wit.

Under a Painted Sky
By Stacey Lee (Speak) \$10.99
The All Pikes Peak Reads 2017 teen/young adult selection. All Samantha wanted was to move back to New York and pursue her music, which was difficult enough, being a Chinese girl in Missouri in 1849. Then her fate takes a turn for the worse after a tragic accident leaves her with nothing, and she breaks the law in self-defense. With help from Annamae, a runaway slave, the two flee town, disguising themselves as boys, traveling the Oregon Trail to California from Missouri.

"Books are a uniquely portable magic."—Stephen King
Spend some time with a good book this summer and, until next month, happy reading.
The staff at Covered Treasures can be reached at books@ocn.me.

July Library Events

Summer reading continues with many special events

By Harriet Halbig
Summer Adventure, this year's summer reading program, will continue through the end of July, with many more special programs throughout the month. The Summer Adventure Party, celebrating the program, will be held on Friday, July 14 on the Village Green in Palmer Lake. There will be games and activities for all ages, plus many guest presenters such as the Zoomobile and the zoology program from Pikes Peak Community College. Also, face painting and snacks for all. Bring the whole family!

The library thanks all the teen volunteers who have been such a help in explaining and administering the Summer Adventure and who will also be assisting at the party.

Children's and family programs
There will be two art-related programs on Mondays during July. On July 10 from 2:30 to 3:30, children ages 7 and up are invited to use your Minecrafter skills to construct towers, bridges, and more. On July 17 from 6:30 to 8:30, attend a watercolor demonstration by Jean Pierre DeBernay, whose works are on display during the month.

Tuesday mornings feature a variety of programs from 10:30 to 11:30. Subjects include alpacas, an original show on the theme of building a better world, and a puppet show.

The Lego Build club will meet from 10 to 11:30 on Saturday, July 15.

Teen and tween programs
Ages 9 to 18 are welcome to make Paracord survival

bracelets on Tuesday, July 11 from 3:30 to 4:30.

On Friday, July 14 there will be a teen program, Cooking 101, where you learn about making tasty snacks and meal planning.

Tuesday, July 18 from 4 to 5:30 there will be a teen program on journal making and zentangles. We will be sewing simple journals and drawing zentangles on the finished product. There will be tea, snacks, and tips for de-stressing. Registration required.

Intergenerational knitting is offered on July 5 and 19 from 3 to 4:30. Practice materials are provided, but participants are encouraged to bring their own projects. Some instruction provided.

The Teen Arts and Crafts Open Studio will be on Wednesday, July 26 from 4 to 5:30. Use our meeting space as a space to create. Supplies will be provided as available, but feel free to bring your own as well.

The final Summer Adventure program will be on Friday, July 28. An engineering competition will challenge teens to make toothpick towers, spoon catapults, and weight-bearing bridges. There will be prizes for the winners! Ages 12 to 18 are welcome.

Adult programs
The Monumental Readers will meet from 10 to noon on Friday, July 21 to discuss Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neale Hurston.

On Saturday, July 22 from 1:30 to 3, local historian John Anderson will present a program on "Discovering the Anza legacy: Juan Bautista de Anza 1779 Comanche Campaign." The program tells the story of Gov. Juan Bautista and Cuerno Verde (green horn),

the Comanche war chief, both determined to protect their people and preserve their cultures. Books by the author will be available for purchase.

On the walls during July will be watercolors by Jean Pierre DeBernay. In the display case will be a collection of paper currency from around the world from Jim Nelson.

Palmer Lake Library programs
Summer Adventure programs at Palmer Lake are on Wednesdays at 10:30.

On July 5, there will be a program for ages 5 to 11 with animal ambassadors from Pikes Peak Community College, July 12 will be a Musical Story Time for kids up to 7 years old, July 19 will be a puppet show for ages 3 to 8, and July 26 will be a Community Drum Circle with Helen, the Percussion Lady, for ages 5 to 11.

The Palmer Lake Book Group will meet at 9 a.m. on Friday, July 7 to discuss Circling the Sun by Paula McLain. All patrons are welcome to attend this monthly book group.

The 7-Up program for July is a Construction Challenge using Minecraft methods to build towers, bridges, and more. Call 481-2587 to register for this program.

We hope to see you at the party on July 14 from 10 to noon on the Village Green!

Please note that all Pikes Peak Library District facilities will be closed on July 4.

Harriet Halbig may be reached at harriethalbig@ocn.me.

Palmer Lake Historical Society

Presentations, Ice Cream Social made for a busy June



Above: Laurel Campbell, left, and Linda Crawford presented "Charles Goodnight in Colorado." They are pictured with Historical Society President Tom Baker. Photo by Mike Walker.

By Sigi Walker
The snowstorm on May 18 caused the cancellation of the Palmer Lake Historical Society's May monthly history series program. It was rescheduled for June, which made for a very busy month.

On June 15, the Historical Society's history series featured "Hummingbirds—Up Close and Personal" presented by Jerry DalFerro. Illustrated by photographs taken by the presenter, the audience learned about his experiences in adapting hummingbird feeders, preparing simple cane sugar syrup, and providing fresh water baths for the birds. He showed how he set up perches using fallen tree branches. This variety helped to attract the birds so that he could pho-



Above: Many attended the PLHS's June History Series/Father's Day Ice Cream Social. Photo by Mike Walker.

tograph them in a natural setting. DalFerro's photographs also included hummingbirds being banded by professional handlers during the annual census.

On June 18, the Palmer Lake Town Hall was filled to capacity to hear Laurel Campbell and Linda Crawford tell the story of Charles Goodnight (1836-1929), legendary cattle rancher and longhorn enthusiast, partner of Oliver Loving in blazing cattle drive trails, chuck wagon inventor, and Colorado pioneer rancher. In 1868, he settled the Rock Canyon Ranch near Pueblo and constructed a magnificent stone barn on the property in 1870. The historic barn still stands and is under preservation, with plans for a full restoration. Campbell and Crawford used both vintage and pres-



ent-day slides to illustrate their presentation. These included pictures of work already accomplished and underlined the urgency of what needs to be done to preserve the unique stone barn by the Goodnight Barn Preservation Committee.

Also on June 18, following the "Goodnight" program, the Historical Society continued its tradition of treating the community to free pie, ice cream, and entertainment in honor of all fathers with the annual Father's Day Ice Cream Social. Singer/guitarist Nick Davey entertained for almost two hours, strolling among the attendees after performing in the gazebo. The event drew almost 200 people, and the weather couldn't have been more pleasant.

Mark your calendars for Thursday, July 20, for a unique experience as Dan Blegen presents “Pete Seeger: A Musical Portrait.” The presentation will

be in “docu-concert” format, created by Blegen. A retired teacher, author, poet, and playwright, he interweaves the music and historical highlights of the musician in his presentation. Plan on singing

along! This program is free and open to all. Venue is the Palmer Lake Town Hall. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the program begins at 7. Light refreshments are served after the presentation.

Bird Watch on the Palmer Divide
Wren: *Troglodytes*



By Elizabeth Hacker
I’ve always considered the wren to be the Napoleon of the bird world. It’s a small energetic bird with a big attitude. Short and pudgy in stature, it holds its head high and points its tail upward as if it is ready to conquer the world.

Range and characteristics

Many wren species and subspecies are found across the country. There are four wren species found on the Palmer Divide: house, rock, Bewick’s, and canyon. Most wrens are less than 5 inches in length but at 6 inches, the canyon wren is bigger. Male and female look similar and are generally grayish brown on top and buff underneath. Wrens have a subtle stripe at the end of their short covert wings, an eye ring, an eyebrow, a thin, slightly down-turned beak, and pink legs. For me, the features that distinguish a wren from other little brown birds is a tail that tilts up and a perky song, which is only heard during mating season.

In comparison to the dull brown wrens in North America, the wrens in Australia are very colorful! Depending on the region, their coloring varies. Some are red but most are blue. However, the feature that distinguishes all wrens is their perky song. When I hear it, no matter where in the world I am, I know it’s a wren before I even lay my eyes on it.

Nesting

Wrens will nest almost anywhere, including nest boxes, old woodpecker holes, flower pots, and other unsuspected places such as in the pocket of a scarecrow. Often, wrens return to the same territory each season. I often see them in old bluebird nesting boxes along the Santa Fe trail and wonder if the ones I see are descendants of the ones that nested there last year.

Mating

Males arrive a week or two earlier than the females and in their few days as bachelors, they build several nests to show to the females when they arrive, gen-



Above: Hear that loud bird song? It’s probably a wren! *Photo by Steve Davis.*

erally a week or two later. Females inspect the nests of several males before choosing a mate. Once a pair bond is secure, the pair remains monogamous for at least for one breeding season. I often wonder why males spend so much time building nests to show to the female because once they pair up, the female chooses a new location where she then builds a new nest for her eggs.

Friend or fiend?

Many birders discourage wrens from nesting in their yards because of the tactics these little tyrants use to defend their territory. A single wren can wreak havoc on other birds by poking holes in eggs, destroying nests, and filling bird boxes with debris. One day I stopped by a friend’s ranch and found this otherwise sweet diminutive lady to be distressed. A wren had gone down her line of bluebird boxes and poked a single hole in every egg. She was beside herself. Given that she had at least 20 boxes, it is a safe say that more than 60 eggs were destroyed.

Decline in nesting birds

Often, I received emails from readers who are con-

cerned that they were not seeing the number of birds nesting that they usually see on the Divide. I am not an expert, so when I’m asked questions like this I consult one. I was told that many migratory birds can arrive two weeks late due to the cold, wet or dry, spring weather. Birds are already stressed from their long migrations and conditions they encounter along the way, especially when they encounter unusually harsh conditions. Once they arrive and establish a territory, courting, breeding and nest building consume huge amounts of energy for these little birds. Many birds’ diet shifts from carbs to protein from insects. Often weather inversions will delay or reduce the insect population, which puts even more stress on an already stressed-out bird and seasonal numbers may go into a decline.

Recovery

Birds are resilient, and even though the numbers may be in decline one year, as conditions improve most birds will recover. For many years, our state bird, the lark bunting, was in decline. The long drought we experienced at the turn of the century put stress on many animal species. The resilient lark bunting moved north to nest in Wyoming and Montana. When conditions improved in Colorado, it returned.

Record-keeping

Keeping track of the number of birds is an ongoing challenge. The Cornell Lab of Ornithology developed a cell phone app to help birders keep track of the birds they see. It’s called ebird. It’s free to download. When I lead birders on a walk, I list all the birds we see and then submit the list to ebird, so they will have a record of the birds in an area.

Elizabeth Hacker is a writer and artist. Email her at elizabethhacker@ocn.me to share bird pictures and stories.

High Altitude Nature and Gardens (HANG)

With a raised bed or container, crops thrive

By Janet Sellers

Current hot weather means it’s time for summer crops and flowers, even though we’ve had some wild weather temperature changes. We must protect our ponderosa habitat and not deplete its need for its own food cycle of growth and decay in place if we wish to have trees, so for non-forest or “foreign” flowers and food plants, raised beds are optimal in our area, and keep the nutrients from our kitchen compost available on the spot for our food plants. Food soil from kitchen food scraps, how simple! Forest soil from forest habitat, even simpler.

In containers or raised beds, we can still seed baby lettuces, scallions, chives, etc., and staying on top of harvesting keeps plants producing, especially in the shade of the three sisters garden of corn, squash and beans, the symbiotic sisters. I’ve even seeded the

three sisters garden in July and had a harvest September/October. Use 50-day corn!

Propagate tomato plants and other leafy crop plants like basil easily by taking large stemmed leaves—leaf top clusters of four for basil—gently stripping the bottom 4 inches of leafy part for a stem of sorts, leaving at least 3-5 inches of leaf. For basil, just pop the stem in water and in 2 weeks you have a rooted plant. With tomatoes, sweet potatoes, and Russian sage, cover the stripped stem with good, composted soil in the raised bed where the parent plants are. Put a rock on top to keep the stem down and moist in the soil, water well but gently, and don’t let it dry out! Same process for many ornamentals, too.

In about two to three weeks, gently check for root hairs, and after that, put the new plantlet where you like. It may flower if the temps stay warm, but can also

over-winter indoors and be a great plant for next year. Tomatoes can live for years indoors/outdoors if cared for and no frost. Believe it or not, we can start some fall seeds the end of July, mid-August tends to have the cool nights that are good for fall crops

New columbine tip: pinch off the immature seed heads from the spent flower of the columbine, and the plant will continue to bloom. Unlike dead-heading petunias and marigolds for optimal long blooming, the columbine needs the actual seed head off and it will do its continued blooming.

Janet Sellers is an avid nature and garden enthusiast.

For local high-altitude nature and garden information collected just for you, visit [facebook.com/MonumentCommunityGarden](https://www.facebook.com/MonumentCommunityGarden). Janet can be reached at JanetSellers@ocn.me.

Art Matters

Older Women Artists now blue-chip favorites



By Janet Sellers

The newest blue-chip artists are actually older women, now called “OWA” for Older Women Artists. The term “blue chip” comes from a trader on Wall Street in the 1800s who coined the term for stocks that consistently held their value at the top, and the blue poker chip that holds the highest value in poker.

It wasn’t long before the art world took that moniker and applied it to art with consistent value as a commodity, to give some substance or consensus to the high priced and highly volatile albeit one of the few unregulated commodity markets, which

is fine art. The Wall Street Journal reports that older women artists are now the historically undervalued niche, and that women artists are now sought after by collectors and dealers as they attempt to identify the undervalued female artists. Age aside, the quality and power of the work still have to have teeth, value, and meaning not only to the artist but also to the collectors, for whom the dealers scramble to please, and of course sell, the works.

It appears the women artists were vastly overlooked by 20th-century scholars and museums, but the art world has taken notice now, and the OWA are

in demand, fetching the highest millions of dollars in the history of female artists in sales, and just plain popular as the next big blue-chip artists.

Legitimate demand exists when there is a large interest with buyers. If not, applied influential factors of interest, such as with institutions, critics, and those with the wherewithal to artificially buy out art shows, may come into play. Art is not fungible, so influence and interest play a huge part in the art world, but it is certainly not the only source of demand, sales, or collecting.

Like many artists in history, particularly the avant

garde, women artists are a mix of being in and out of favor, some never succeeding financially or famously, working as unknowns and in isolation with a few rare women artists holding their place in the art world. The difference for women now, especially OWAs, is that they are sought after, and there is a growing momentum among collectors and dealers to value them, which translates into collections and sales dollars of course, and spurred by a huge public interest that finds relevance in the works of women artists, especially as old institutional hierarchies break down.

And it helps that institutions are speaking out in the last few years. Frances Morris, head of Collections for International Art and curator at the Tate, stated, "Recognized male artists can become dull and repetitive later in the careers," she explains. "They no longer have to strive. But these women continue to struggle and understand the fragility of their success. It makes them more innovative in their later careers and keeps their work young."

I agree to disagree with Morris somewhat. Artists who begin to do their work in their later years, male

or female, bring a lot to the art table. Likely they are bringing a rare combination of stability and drive that is lost to art school whiz kids, but appreciated and sought after by collectors and the art world at all levels, from novice collectors and beyond.

Janet Sellers is a local artist, writer and teacher. Her artworks have been exhibited in the United States and abroad. Her paintings, monumental murals, environmental art installations, and sculptures have been exhibited at museums in Japan, Korea, Los Angeles, and Colorado. Contact her at janetsellers@ocn.me.

Snapshots of Our Community

Silver Alliance's Spring Fling



Above: On Friday, June 2, the Tri-Lakes Silver Alliance hosted its first annual Spring Fling fundraiser to benefit its senior citizen center at the Tri-Lakes Center for the Arts. Silver Alliance received over 50 generous donations from local businesses and private donors for the silent auction. Attendees had a chance to bid on items such as a Lowe's spring basket, Vera Bradley handbags, PetSmart grooming services, jewelry, gift cards to local restaurants, various tools from Home Depot and many, many more. While engaging in great conversation, there was also a chance to participate in a drawing for a magnum of wine and enjoy some tasty food and drink. The event was a huge success! From left are Dorothy Silvanic, Sue Walker, Melissa Bagnall, and Marianne Black. *Photo courtesy of Tri-Lakes Silver Alliance.*

Birders sighted, June 3



Above: An informal group of Tri-Lakes residents with an interest in bird watching met on June 3 in Glen Park in Palmer Lake. With a range of experience from novice to expert, the birders saw flickers, blue jays, and even a lazuli bunting along with other birds native to the area. Anyone interested in birding should post on Nextdoor.com to locate others with similar interests. *Photo by Jackie Burhans.*

Tri-Lakes Views installation



Above: From left, Angela Seals, deputy director, Cultural Office of the Pikes Peak Region, Andy Vick, executive director, Copp'r, artist Jodie Bliss, Barbara Westwood, Dr. Betty Konarski, and Sky Hall of Tri-Lakes Views celebrate the installation day on June 7 for the new outdoor artworks sponsored by Tri-Lakes Views, a local arts organization that supports and showcases the region's fine arts and preserves the region's unique history. *Photo by Janet Sellers.*

Palmer Lake Fishing Derby



Above: Jeb Johnson and his son, Braden, head to the lake with hope of reeling in the big one and taking home the grand prize on June 3 at the Fishing Derby at Palmer Lake sponsored by the Lions Club. *Photo by John Howe.*

Park bench dedicated, June 7



Above: From left: Tri-Lakes Chamber representative Merrilee Orcutt, Barb Allen, Tom Allen, Jaime Fenley, Jeremy Fenley, Town of Monument Trustees Greg Coopman, Shea Medlicott, and Dennis Murphy, and Tri-Lakes Chamber representative Frances McLavrin attended the ribbon cutting for a park bench dedication June 7, in the Limbach Park tot lot playground. The Town of Monument and the grassroots No Methadone in Monument group dedicated this park bench in honor of Jamie Fenley, in recognition of her efforts fighting an attempt to bring a methadone clinic to Monument. For background example see www.ocn.me/v15n9.htm#mbot0803. *Photo by Janet Sellers.*

ACT II gives back

ACT II has started its disbursements into the community. Yeah! So far, we have given to Mountain Community Senior Services and the Little Glimmer Lyme Foundation. In July, we are donating to Pike Peak Library District (locally). We have a few others that we are looking at for August and September (our fiscal year ends Sept. 30). ACT II is a unique community thrift shop that will benefit Tri-Lakes area nonprofits. The shop is located at 245 Jefferson St., next to Tri-Lakes Cares and across the street from Northland Community Church. Volunteers and donations of gently used articles and money are needed. Hours are Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., and Saturday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. For more information, visit the website, www.mynorthlandchurch.org/act-ii, or contact Executive Director Cara Vanderkolk, cara@mynorthlandchurch.org or 487-3268. *Photo courtesy of ACT II: A new community thrift store.*



MVEA Annual Meeting



Above: Mountain View Electric Association's (MVEA) 76th Annual Meeting of Members took place June 8 in Limon. Activities included bucket truck rides (shown above), high voltage demo, a barbecue dinner preceded by musical entertainment, and many information booths. For example, always remember to "Call 8-1-1 Before You Dig!" to avoid injury. A few of the dozens of prize winners included local residents Dean and Robin Snow, Daniel Rivers, and Marv Young. Prizes included two MVEA \$500 Whole Home LED Lighting systems, several large-screen televisions, cash prizes, and gift cards. Rick L. Gordon of District 2 and Donna Andersen-Van Ness of District 7 were re-elected for a new term. Board President Joe Martin and Chief Executive Officer Jim Herron gave their reports on the state of the cooperative and legislative issues that impact MVEA's services, rates, and members. MVEA, incorporated in 1941, is a not-for-profit member-owned electric cooperative providing member-first electric service to over 43,000 members in a 5,000-square-mile territory with over 52,000 meters and 6,000 miles of energized lines. For additional information about MVEA and the electric cooperative difference, visit www.mvea.coop. *Photo courtesy of Mountain View Electric Association.*

PLAG Summer Show



Above: Margarete Seagraves poses on June 9 next to her award-winning abstract painting at the Palmer Lake Art Group Summer Show at the Tri-Lakes Center for the Arts. High school art students were also honored with college scholarships. *Photo by Janet Sellers.*

Tri-Lakes Cares graduation



Above: This is the proud and powerful June 2017 graduating class of Tri-Lakes Care's "Getting Ahead" program designed to help people living in generational or situational poverty to identify needed resources to help them improve their economic class and set goals to become self-sufficient or get back to self-sufficiency. TLC Executive Director Haley Chapin said the "bridges out of poverty" concepts teach that moving to a new economic class means learning the hidden rules and identifying and utilizing a list of specific resources that are not obvious to the person in poverty. It costs about \$1,000 per person to run the class, but it is an investment in each individual's future self-sufficiency. *Photo by Monument Trustee Jeff Bornstein.*

100 attend movie nights



Above: Before the movie screening of *Moana*, children enjoy the bouncy house sponsored by U.S. Taekwondo Center. *Photo by Chrystie Hopkins.*

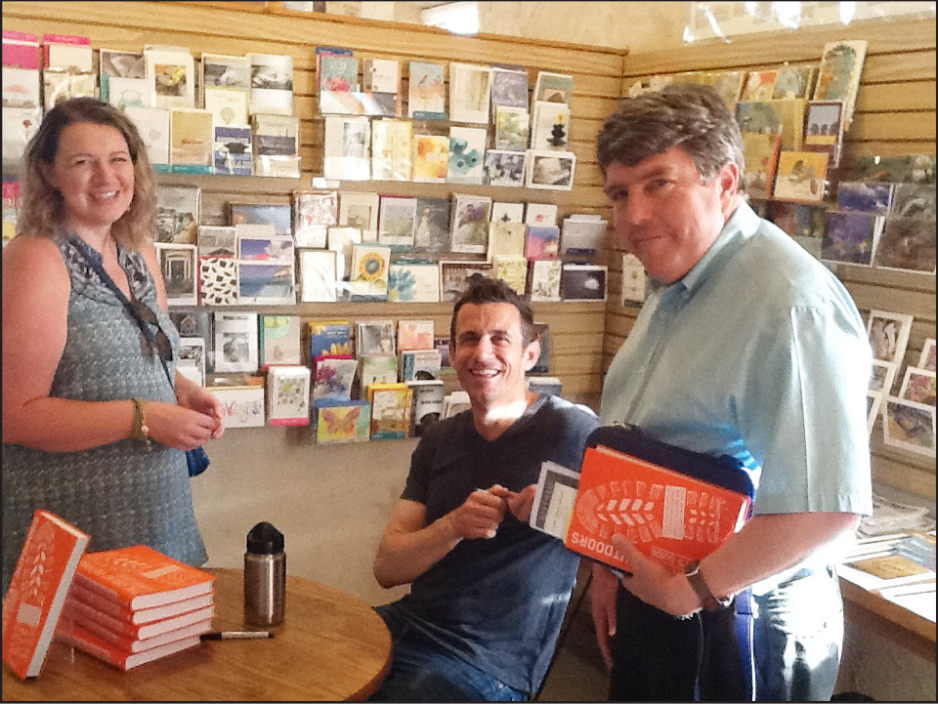
By Chrystie Hopkins
On Friday, June 9 at the Monument Marketplace Clock Tower, the town of Monument presented the Disney film *Moana*. About 100 people, mostly families with young children, enjoyed the free movie screening. The event, which was sponsored by Mountain View Electric, Christian Brothers Automotive, Challenger Homes, and Goodwill, was the first of the free summer movie series.

Prior to the movie screening, children romped on a giant bouncy house

provided by the U.S. Taekwondo Center, the entertainment sponsor. Also, students from the Taekwondo Center entertained the crowd by performing choreographed skills demonstrations.

The evening was clear with very high winds, which made inflating and securing the large inflatable screen quite a challenge for organizers and delayed the start of the movie. There will be four more movie screenings: *Pete's Dragon* on June 30, *Finding Dory* on July 21, *The Secret Life of Pets* on Aug. 11, and *Sing* on Aug. 18.

Art Hop and entertainment



Above: Covered Treasures Bookstore showcased author Brendan Leonard at Art Hop on June 15 as interested buyers have their purchases signed.

Right: "Cinnamon Tea Flutes," guests of Black Forest Foods Café and Delicatessen, entertained diners and passersby.

Photos by John Howe.



Monument Outdoor Quilt Show



Above: The first annual Monument Outdoor Quilt Show happened June 17 at Limbach Park. Here, members of the Front Range Modern Quilt Guild stood in front of the guild's charity quilt, composed of blocks made by members, and laid out and completed by Anna Ortiz. The quilts to the right were made by Christine Doiron (Preppy Whales) and Abby Leonard (Huckleberry). The Front Range Modern Quilt Guild was founded in 2010 to build a community of modern quilters along the Front Range. Modern quilting has become a popular form of quilting in the last decade, with guilds and members all over the world. Modern quilting, while difficult to define, is often recognized as having bold, saturated colors and solid fabrics, more negative space than traditional or contemporary quilts, and strong contrast among the fabrics. For information about the guild or participating in next year's show, see <http://frontrangemodernquiltguild.webs.com/> or info.frmqg@gmail.com for information. *Photo courtesy of Front Range Modern Quilt Guild.*

Senior Living groundbreaking



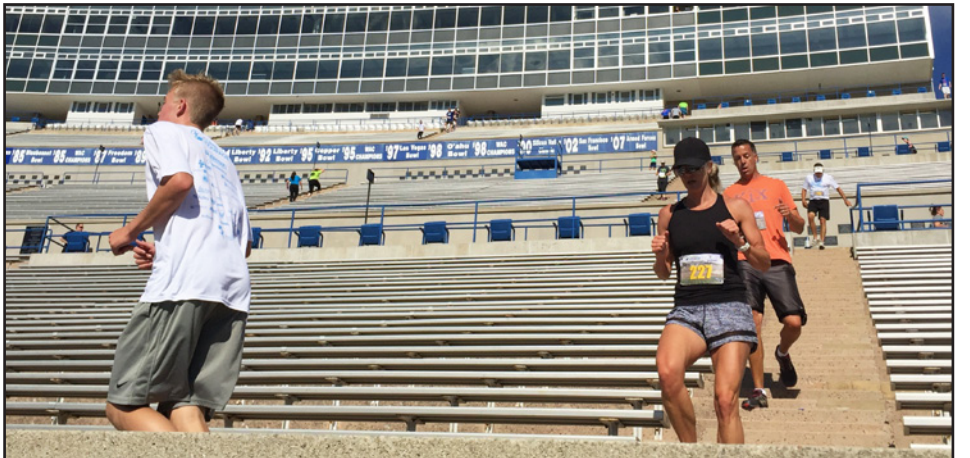
Above: On June 20, over 50 people attended Jackson Creek Senior Living's groundbreaking ceremony on Jackson Creek Parkway at Harness Road. This facility plans to offer independent living, assisted living, and memory care units starting in fall 2018. The community will be built by CSI Construction based in Colorado Springs and managed by WellAge Senior Living. *Photo by Lisa Hatfield.*

Monument drum circle



Above: The Monument drum circle made music at Limbach Park on Monday, June 19. This group meets on the third Monday of every month to collaborate and express creativity in an open environment as well as to create rhythm by improvisation. In the summer months, they meet in Limbach Park next to the bandshell. Beginners are welcome to join. Contact Nan Graber at nananddon@hotmail.com for more information. *Photo by Lauren Jones.*

Climb for Courage, June 24



Above: Participants rapidly descend stairs at Falcon Stadium during the 2017 Climb for Courage event benefiting Children's Hospital Colorado Foundation. Two-thousand seven hundred. That's the number of stairs that participants in the annual Climb for Courage ascended at the U.S. Air Force Academy Falcon Stadium. In fairness, there was some descending too, but most will likely remember the burning lungs, the aching calves, and the sweaty joy of participating in this event. When some of the more than 500 participants were asked about their motivation to put their bodies through the abuse of scrambling up (and down) 2,700 stairs, their response was simple—it's for the kids! Climb for Courage benefits Children's Hospital Colorado Foundation and the funds raised will be used to expand their programs and services through the building of a new hospital in northeast Colorado Springs, scheduled to open in 2019. The event, in its third year, brought out many individuals and families whose lives have been touched by Children's Hospital Colorado. The competitive, timed waves of participants were followed by a Fun Wave, where families and people of all ages could give those stairs a try at their own pace. Adding to the fun morning was a free Family Festival where families could get free food samples, learn biking skills, make giant bubbles or grab coupons for local stores. Participants were asked to raise money through sponsorships and top fundraisers raised over \$2,000 each. The event raised over \$150,000 in 2016 and hopes to top that amount in 2017. To find out more about the nonprofit Children's Hospital Colorado Foundation, go to www.childrenscoloradofoundation.org. *Photo by Erin Poole*

Our Community Notices

By Judy Barnes, Events Editor

Although we strive for accuracy in these listings, dates or times are often changed after publication. Please double-check the time and place of any event you wish to attend by calling the information number for that event.

Free wildfire risk home assessments for Palmer Lake residents, ends this month

The Coalition for the Upper South Platte (CUSP) is partnering with the Town of Palmer Lake and the Palmer Lake Volunteer Fire Department to offer free home assessments to make site-specific recommendations to reduce wildfire risk. To schedule a home assessment in July, phone 719-748-0033.

Slash-Mulch season continues

The El Paso County Black Forest Slash and Mulch program will accept slash (tree and brush debris only) through Sept. 10. Mulch will be available until Sept. 23 or when mulch runs out. Hours of operation are: Saturdays, 7 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sundays, noon-4 p.m.; Tuesday and Thursday evenings, 5-7:30 p.m. The mulch loader schedule is Saturdays only, 7 a.m.-4 p.m. The cost for slash is \$2 per load. The mulch loader fee is \$5 per bucket, about 2 cubic yards. The slash and mulch site is located at the southeast corner of Shoup and

Herring Roads in the Black Forest area. For more information, visit bflash.org or phone Carolyn, 495-3127; Chuck, 495-8675; Jeff, 495-8024; or the County Environmental Division, 520-7878.

National Night Out Aug. 1, register your neighborhood event by July 7

National Night Out (NNO) is an annual event promoting crime prevention and drug prevention in communities across the country. The concept is to turn on porch lights and join neighbors outside to make a show of solidarity and strength, and send the message to criminals that we won't tolerate crime in our neighborhoods. Residents can hold a block party, barbecue, neighborhood walk, or other activity to show their participation and let the Sheriff's Office know about it. Sheriff's Office employees will travel around the county to attend the neighborhood celebrations. Tips on planning your NNO event and the registration form can be found at www.natw.org. Registration forms must be returned by July 7. For more information, contact Merody Broom, crime prevention coordinator, 520-7151, MerodyBroom@elpasoco.com, or visit www.natw.org.

Woodmoor Waves Summer Swim Clinics, enroll now

Two three-week swim sessions will be held at the Country

Club at Woodmoor, 18945 Pebble Beach Way, Monument. Classes are Mon., Wed., & Thu., 10-10:45 a.m., July 10-27. Registration forms are available at the pool or online at www.woodmoorwaves.org. For more information, contact Chris Bains, 303-506-0089, cbains@aol.com.

Tri-Lakes Y Summer Swim Camps, register now

For children 6-12 years old, Mon.-Thu. sessions through July 31, 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Cost: \$95 members/\$120 non-members. Financial assistance is available. For more information, call 481-8728 or stop by the YMCA, 17250 Jackson Creek Pkwy., Monument.

Monument Hill Kiwanis annual peach sale, order by July 21

Fresh Colorado Palisades freestone large peaches, hand-picked and specially delivered in two days, are still just \$35 per 18-pound box. Get your prepaid order in by July 21. Pick up your peaches July 29, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., at Lewis-Palmer High School, 1300 Higby Rd., Monument. All net proceeds go back to the community through projects supported by the Monument Hill Kiwanis Club. See the ad on page 10. Order online at www.monumenthillkiwanis.org or phone Mark Zeiger, 488-5934.

Tri-Lakes Y fall sports, register now

Registration is now open for soccer, ages 3-14; flag football, grades 1-6; volleyball, grades 1-8. Register until Aug. 8, practices begin the week of Aug. 28, and games are Sept. 9-Oct. 14. Financial assistance is available. See the ad on page 6 for a free one-day pass during July. Register at www.pnymca.org or at the Y, 17250 Jackson Creek Parkway, Monument.

Monument Academy now enrolling for 2017-18 school year

Monument Academy, a free public school of choice, features academic excellence, award-winning programs, and more. For more information or to schedule a tour, call 481-1950 or visit www.monumentacademy.net.

St. Peter Catholic School now enrolling for the 2017-18 school year

The school offers full and half-day preschool, Core Knowledge Curriculum with small class sizes, Christ-centered education, athletics, and more for preschool-eighth grade. See the ad on page 2. Call or visit: 124 First St., Monument; 481-1855; www.petertherock.org.

Forest Lakes/Pinon Pines residents needed for Citizens Advisory Council

Forest Lakes Metropolitan District (FLMD) seeks five Pinon Pines residents to serve on a Citizens Advisory Council. The council will serve as a forum for Pinon Pines residents to learn about district issues and to advise FLMD on resident issues. If you are interested in serving on this advisory council to FLMD, please contact your HOA administrator, Steve Emery of Hammersmith Management, at 719-389-0700.

Plant a row for Tri-Lakes Cares

Local gardeners from the Monument Community Garden encourage all gardeners in the area to plant a row in their vegetable garden for the Tri-Lakes Cares food pantry. Find out more at facebook.com/Monumentcommunitygarden. To arrange a time to drop off your harvest when it's ready, call 481-4864.

Become a CASA volunteer

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) offers a volunteer opportunity like no other. As appointed representatives of the court, CASA volunteers are empowered to make a lifelong difference in the lives of abused and neglected chil-

dren. To learn more visit www.casappr.org or contact Kelly, 447-9898, ext. 1033; kellyp@casappr.org; www.casappr.org.

Free transportation and handyman services for seniors

Mountain Community Senior Services offers free transportation and handyman services to Tri-Lakes seniors. If you need a ride to a medical appointment, grocery shopping, or the local senior lunches, a volunteer driver will be happy to help you. Call 488-0076 to leave a message for the dispatcher. If you need grab bars in the bathroom, a ramp to your door, or repair of stairs or railings, please call Cindy Rush, 488-0076, and leave a message or visit www.coloradoseniorhelp.com.

Volunteer drivers needed for seniors' transportation service

Mountain Community Transportation for Seniors is a non-profit, grant-funded organization that provides free transportation to Tri-Lakes seniors 60 years old and over. The program needs additional volunteer drivers. For information, email MCSS at mcseniorservices@gmail.com or call the MCSS dispatch hotline at 488-0076.

Tri-Lakes Silver Alliance Senior Center, new expanded hours

The Tri-Lakes Silver Alliance Senior Citizens Center is next to the Lewis-Palmer High School Stadium (across from the YMCA). With the addition of 16 morning exercise classes, the new hours are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.; Saturday, 8:45-10 a.m.; and Sunday, 11:45 a.m.-1 p.m. The facility has a lounge, craft room, game room, and multipurpose room. Programs include bridge, pinocle, bingo, National Mah-jongg, Zumba, Line Dancing, Yoga, Chair Yoga, Tai Chi, Pilates, Total Body Strength, Better Balance and Strength, and many more! There's also ping-pong, Wii video games, puzzles and board games, refreshments, a lending library, computers with internet connections, and an information table. For information about programs for seniors, visit www.TriLakesSeniors.org or call Sue Walker, 719-330-0241.

Senior Beat newsletter—subscribe for free

Each monthly Senior Beat newsletter is full of information for local seniors, including the daily menu of the senior

lunches offered Mon.-Fri. at the Mountain Community Mennonite Church, 643 Hwy. 105, Palmer Lake. It also contains the schedule of the classes and events for the month at the Senior Citizens Center and senior-friendly library programs. To subscribe, send an email with your name and mailing address to SeniorBeat@TriLakesSeniors.org. Senior Beat can also be viewed online at www.TriLakesSeniors.org.

County launches new community website

Check out all the interesting county data available for you at <http://community.spatiallest.com/co/elpaso/>.

CSU Extension launches

"Your Energy" website and blog

The Colorado State University Extension now has a "Your Energy" website to help Coloradans make more informed energy decisions. The site includes decision tools, fact sheets, and a blog. The decision tools can help you figure out energy savings from using more efficient lighting, low-flow showerheads, heating and cooling systems, water heaters, and more. Other tools can help you understand how much you spend on heating, cooling, and baseload electricity and your bottom line if you install a wind turbine or solar array. Visit the site at <http://yourenergy.extension.colostate.edu/>.

Our Community Calendar

By Judy Barnes, Community Calendar Editor

Although we strive for accuracy in these listings, dates or times are often changed after publication. Please double-check the time and place of any event you wish to attend by calling the info number for that event.

GOVERNMENTAL BODIES

- Forest Lakes Metropolitan District Board Meeting, Mon., Jul. 3, 10 a.m., 6385 Corporate Dr., Suite 200, Colo. Springs. Meets 1st Mon. each month. Info: 327-5810
- Monument Board of Trustees Meeting, Mon., Jul. 3, 6:30 p.m., Town Hall Board Room, 645 Beacon Lite Rd., Monument. Meets 1st and 3rd Mon. each month. Info: 884-8017.
- El Paso County Planning Commission Meeting, July meetings CANCELED, 2880 International Circle (off Union Blvd & Printers Pkwy). Normally meets 1st & 3rd Tue. (if required) each month, 9 a.m. Next meeting is Aug. 1. Info: 520-6300, <http://adm.elpasoco.com/Development%20Services/Pages/Planning-Commission2017.aspx>.
- Tri-Lakes Wastewater Facility Joint Use Committee Meeting, Tue., Jul. 11, 10 a.m., 16510 Mitchell Ave. Meets 2nd Tue. each month. Info: Bill Burks, 481-4053.
- Triview Metropolitan District Board Meeting, Tue., Jul. 11, 5 p.m., 15275 Struthers Rd. Meets 2nd Tue. each month. Info: 488-6868.
- Palmer Lake Sanitation District Board Meeting, Wed., Jul. 12, 9 a.m., 120 Middle Glenway. Meets 2nd Wed. each month. Info: 481-2732.
- Palmer Lake Planning Commission Workshop, Wed., Jul. 12, 6 p.m., Palmer Lake Town Hall, 28 Valley Crescent. Meets 2nd Wed. each month. Info: 481-2953, www.townofpalmerlake.com.
- Monument Planning Commission Meeting, Wed., Jul. 12, 6:30 p.m., Town Hall Board Room, 645 Beacon Lite Rd., Monument. Meets 2nd Wed. each month. Info: 884-8017.
- Woodmoor Water & Sanitation District Board Meeting, Thu., Jul. 13, 1 p.m., 1845 Woodmoor Dr., Monument. Meets 2nd Thu. each month. Info: 488-2525.
- Palmer Lake Town Council Meeting, Thu., Jul. 13, 6:30 p.m., Palmer Lake Town Hall, 28 Valley Crescent. Meets 2nd & 4th Thu. each month. Info: 481-2953, www.townofpalmerlake.com.
- Monument Board of Trustees Meeting, Mon, Jul. 17, 6:30 p.m., Town Hall Board Room, 645 Beacon Lite Rd., Monument. Meets 1st and 3rd Mon. each month. Info: 884-8017.
- Lewis-Palmer School District 38 Public Hearing, Tue., Jul. 18, 5 p.m., Learning Center, 146 Jefferson

- St., Monument. A public hearing is scheduled on the district's Request for Waiver of Charter School Application Process. The LPSD administration wants more time to consider charter school applications and plans to submit a waiver to the State Board of Education requesting the submittal deadline be changed from Oct. 1 to Apr. 30. Info: 488-4700.
- Wescott Fire Protection District Board Meeting, Tue., Jul. 18, 7 p.m., Station 1, 15415 Gleneagle Dr. Meets 3rd Tue. each month. Info: 488-8680.
- Monument Sanitation District Board Meeting, Wed., Jul. 19, 9 a.m., 130 2nd St. Now meets 3rd Wed. each month. Info: 481-4886.
- Academy Water and Sanitation District Board Meeting, Wed., Jul. 19, 6 p.m., Wescott Fire Station 1, 15415 Gleneagle Dr. Meets 3rd Wed. each month. Info: 481-0711.
- Palmer Lake Planning Commission Meeting, Wed., Jul. 19, 6 p.m., Palmer Lake Town Hall, 28 Valley Crescent. Meets 3rd Wed. each month. Info: 481-2953, www.townofpalmerlake.com.
- Donala Water & Sanitation District Public Meeting, Thu., Jul. 20, 1:30 p.m., 15850 Holbein Dr., Colorado Springs. Normally meets 3rd Thu. each month. Info: 488-3603.
- Monument Academy School Board Meeting, Thu., Jul. 20, 6 p.m., school library, 1150 Village Ridge Point, Monument. Meets 3rd Thu. each month. Info: 481-1950, www.monumentacademy.net/school-board.
- Forest View Acres Water District Board Meeting, Wed., Jul. 26, 6 p.m., Monument Sanitation District board room, 130 Second St. Meets 4th Wed. each month, Info: 488-2110, www.fvawd.com.
- Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District Board Meeting, Wed., Jul. 26, 6:30 p.m., TLMFPD Station 1, 18650 Hwy 105. Meets 4th Wed. each month. Info: Jennifer Martin, 484-0911, www.tlmfire.org.
- Woodmoor Improvement Association Board Meeting, Wed., Jul. 26, 7 p.m., Woodmoor Barn, 1691 Woodmoor Dr. Meets 4th Wed. each month. Info: 488-2693, www.woodmoor.org.
- El Paso County Planning Commission Meeting, Tue., Aug. 1, 9 a.m., 2880 International Circle (off Union Blvd & Printers Pkwy). Meets 1st & 3rd Tue. (if required) each month. Info: 520-6300, <http://adm2.elpasoco.com/planning/agendas/pc/pc-agn.asp>.

LOCAL LIBRARY EVENTS

For library events, see the library events column on page 23 and visit www.ppld.org.

- The Palmer Lake Library hours are Tue.-Fri., 10 a.m.-6 p.m., and Sat., 10 a.m.-2 p.m. 66 Lower Glen-



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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

LEWIS-PALMER SCHOOL DISTRICT 38

WAIVER REQUEST

Pursuant to C.R.S. § 22-2-117, Lewis-Palmer School District 38 is requesting a waiver from the State Board of Education from C.R.S. § 22-30.5-107(1)(b) regarding the deadline for filing a charter school application. District 38 desires to change the charter school application filing deadline from October 1 to April 30 for a charter applicant to be eligible for consideration for opening in the fall of the following calendar year.

The District 38 Board of Education will consider the waiver request at a public hearing on July 18, 2017, at 5:00 p.m. at the District 38 administration building, located at 146 Jefferson Street in Monument.

Public comment will be welcome at this hearing.

For more information, please visit the District 38 announcements webpage at <http://www.lewispalmer.org/domain/33>.

Dated: May 15, 2017

/s/ Mark Pfoff, Secretary, Board of Education, Lewis-Palmer Consolidated Schools, El Paso County School District No. 38, Monument, Colorado 80132


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- way. Info: 481-2587, www.ppld.org.
- The Monument Branch Library hours are Mon.-Thu., 9 a.m.-9 p.m., Fri. & Sat, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Sun., 1-5 p.m. 1706 Lake Woodmoor Dr. Info: 488-2370, www.ppld.org.
- WEEKLY AND MONTHLY EVENTS**
- Wesley Owens Coffee & Cafe Waffle Saturdays, 7 a.m., 1744 Lake Woodmoor Dr., Monument. Check out the new summer menu, offering gluten-free options. Info: 719-238-0725.
 - Monument Hill Farmers Market, every Sat., 8 a.m.-2 p.m., In front of the D-38 Administration Building at 2nd and Jefferson St., Downtown Monument. Park behind the administration building or in the Catholic Church parking lot. Playground for the kids. Many new vendors plus all your old favorites! Info: 592-9420.
 - Monument Hill Kiwanis Club Breakfast Meeting, every Sat., 8 a.m., new meeting place, D-38 Administration Building, 146 Jefferson St., Monument. Guests are welcome to the weekly meetings that feature speakers on a variety of topics and a free buffet breakfast. Join the 140+ men and women of the Tri-Lakes area who work together on projects to support our community. Info: Bob Hayes, 481-9693, www.monumenthillkiwanis.org.
 - Monument Community Yoga, every Sat., 9 a.m., Woodmoor Community Center, 1691 Woodmoor Dr., Monument. All levels. Cost: cash donation. Info: BePresentYogaLLC@gmail.com.
 - Bingo by the American Legion, every Sat., game sales start at 6 p.m., games start at 7 p.m., the Depot Restaurant, in Palmer Lake. Proceeds go to scholarships and other community support activities. Info: 481-8668, www.americanlegiontrilakespost911.com/bingo.htm.
 - Watercolor Painting Demo, with art class afterward, every Sat.-Sun., 3-5 p.m. For watercolor art for fun and good health, join Janet Sellers and get free local scene coloring pages while she demos at local cultural, coffee, and food spots. RSVP & Info: janetsellers10@gmail.com, 357-7454.
 - Tri-Lakes United Methodist Church Worship Hours, every Sun., 8, 9:30, & 11 a.m., Sunday school, all ages, 9:30 a.m., 20256 Hunting Downs Way, Monument. Info: 488-1365, www.tlumc.org.
 - Tri-Lakes Reformed Church Sunday Worship, every Sun., 9:45 a.m., Woodmoor Community Center, 1691 Woodmoor Dr., Monument. Info: www.trilakesreformed.org.
 - Cathedral Rock Church Sunday Service, every Sun., 10 a.m., Tri-Lakes YMCA, 17250 Jackson Creek Pkwy, Monument. Info: www.cathedralrockchurch.org.
 - Tai-Chi Class, every Mon., 9-10:30 a.m., Palmer Lake Town Hall, 28 Valley Crescent. Cost: \$5. Drop-ins welcome. Info: 481-2953, www.townofpalmerlake.com.
 - Seniors: Tai Chi Classes, every Mon., 11-noon, Senior Center at Lewis-Palmer High School (across from the YMCA). This soft, slow, and gentle form of exercise has many benefits. Registration required. \$3 suggested donation. RSVP & Info: 464-6873.
 - Seniors Monday Movie Matinee, every Mon., 1-4 p.m., Tri-Lakes Senior Center located on Lewis-Palmer High School campus. Free movies and snacks. See the schedule of films in Tri-Lakes Silver Alliance Senior Beat.
 - Sew Motion Knitting & Crochet Social Group, every Mon., 3-5 p.m., 862 Hwy 105, Palmer Lake. Drop in, work on your yarn related projects, meet some new like-minded friends. No membership fee, no obligation. Info: 481-1565, www.sew-motion.com.
 - Artfully Speaking Toastmasters, every Mon., 5:45 p.m., DeVry University, 1175 Kelly Johnson Blvd., room 13. Info: Jon Walsh, 640-9428; www.artfully-speaking.toastmastersclubs.org.
 - Women's A.A. Step Study, every Mon., 6 p.m. Family of Christ Lutheran Church, 675 W. Baptist Rd. Info: 481-0431.
 - Yin Yoga Classes, every Mon., 6:30-7:45 p.m., Yoga Pathways Studio, 755 Hwy 105, West End Center, Suite A (3/4 mile west of Safeway). A slow yoga practice; all levels welcome. First class always free. Info: Deb Harano, 338-8467; DimensionsYoga@gmail.com.
 - Monument Hill Kiwanis Bingo, every Mon., 7:30 pm, Carefree Bingo, 3440 N. Carefree Circle, Colo. Springs. All proceeds benefit those in need in the Tri-Lakes Community. Info: mark.zeiger@gmail.com.
 - Senior Citizen Luncheons, every Mon.-Fri., 12-12:30 p.m., Mountain Community Mennonite Church, 643 Hwy 105, Palmer Lake. See the menu for the month in the Senior Beat newsletter. A \$2.25 donation is requested. Stay for bingo the 2nd Thu. each month. Reservations are requested, phone 884-2304.
 - Western Museum of Mining & Industry (WMMI), open Mon.-Sat., 9 a.m.-4 p.m., daily guided tours at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Cost: \$8 adults, \$7 military/AAA, \$6 seniors & students, \$4 children 3-12, free to children under 3 & museum members. WMMI is located at 225 North Gate Blvd. (I-25 Exit 156 A). Info: 488-0880, info@wmmi.org, www.wmmi.org.

- Tri-Lakes Silver Alliance Thrift Store, open Mon.-Sat., 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 755 Hwy 105, Suite N, in the West End Center. Seniors 62+ get a 20% discount on Wednesdays. All proceeds support Tri-Lakes Senior Programs. To donate furniture, call 488-3495 for a pickup. See ad on page 32. Info: www.TriLakes-Seniors.org.
- Tri-Lakes YMCA Senior Coffee, every Tue., 9:30-11:30 a.m., 17250 Jackson Creek Pkwy, Monument. Members and non-members are welcome. Socialize, have coffee and snacks in the front lobby. Free. Info: 630-2604, hbrandon@ppymca.org, www.ppymca.org.
- Al-anon Meeting: Monument Serenity, every Tue., 7:30-8:30 p.m., Ascent Church, (formerly the Tri-Lakes Chapel) 1750 Deer Creek Rd., Monument. Info: Kay, 481-9258.
- Act II Thrift Shop, open Tue.-Fri., 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sat, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Proceeds benefit Tri-Lakes area non-profits. Info: 487-3268, cara@mynorthlandchurch.org, www.mynorthlandchurch.org/act-ii.
- Palmer Divide Run Club Social Run, every Wed., 6 p.m., If you like to run or walk a 5K and enjoy local food and beverages, join us! Info: PalmerDivideRunClub@gmail.com, www.facebook.com/PalmerDivideRunClub/
- Tri-Lakes Church of Christ Wednesday Night Fellowship Meal (Free) & Classes, every Wed., 6-7:30 p.m., 20450 Beacon Lite Road, Monument (Corner of Beacon Lite & County Line Roads). Info: 488-9613, gregsmith@trilakeschurch.org, www.trilakeschurch.org.
- Concerts in the Park, every Wed., through Aug. 2, 7-9 p.m., Limbach Park, 151 Front St., Monument. Music, food, and fun for the family. Bring chairs, blankets. Info: www.trilakeschamber.com and click on 'Events.'
- Al-anon Meeting: Letting Go, every Thu., 9-10:10 a.m., Tri-Lakes Chapel, room 209, 1750 Deer Creek Rd., Monument. Info: Kay, 481-9258.
- A.A. Big Book Study, every Thu., 7 p.m., Family of Christ Lutheran Church, 675 W. Baptist Rd. Info: 481-0431.
- Summer Nights at The Speedtrap, every Thu.-Sat., Jul. 1-29, dinner served 5-9 p.m. , live music 8-11 p.m. (Thu. 7-10 p.m.), full service bar all evening; 84 Hwy 105, Palmer Lake. See the ad on page 6 for July music schedule. Info: 488-2007, www.speedtrapbistro.com.
- Tri-Lakes Land Use Committee Meeting, Mon., Jul. 3, 6:30-8:30 p.m., 166 2nd St., Monument. Get involved: give input on proposed developments in the Tri-Lakes area to influence the direction of growth. All are welcome. Meets 1st Mon. each month. Info: TriLakesluc@gmail.com.
- Monument Homemakers Club Monthly Potluck Lunch & Meeting, Thu., Jul. 6, 11:30 a.m., Tri-Lakes Chamber of Commerce, 166 Second St., Monument. Meets 1st Thu. each month except Jan. and unless D-38 is delayed or closed. Newcomers welcome. For a ride to the meeting, call Faye Brennehan, 488-0076. RSVP & info: Irene Walters, 481-1188, or Bev Wells, 488-3327.
- Palmer Divide Quiltmakers, Thu., Jul. 6, 6:30 p.m. social, 7 p.m. meeting, Trinity Lutheran Church 17750 Knollwood Dr., Monument. Meets 1st Thu. each month. Info: pdq504@gmail.com.
- Tri-Lakes Lions Club, Thu., Jul. 6, 6:30 p.m. social, 7-8 p.m. meeting, The Country Club at Woodmoor, 18945 Pebble Beach Way, Monument. Meets 1st Thu. each month. Info: David Prejean, 434-7031.
- American Legion Tri-Lakes Post 9-11, Tue., NO MEETING IN JULY, Depot Restaurant, Hwy 105 & Primrose St., Palmer Lake. New members welcome. Normally meets 1st Tue. each month, 6:30 p.m. Info: 481-8668, commander@americanlegiontrilakes-post911.com.
- Gleneagle Sertoma Luncheon Meeting, Wed., Jul. 5, 11:45 a.m.-1 p.m., Liberty Heights, 12105 Ambassador Dr., Colo. Interesting speakers and programs; all are welcome. Meets 1st & 3rd Wed. each month. Info: Garrett Barton, 433-5396; Duane Gritzmaker, 481-2424; www.gleneaglesertoma.org.
- Senior Bingo, Thu., Jul. 6, Mountain Community Mennonite Church, 643 Hwy 105, Palmer Lake, after the senior lunch. Come for lunch at noon, then stay and play. Free! Prizes! Meets 2nd Thu. each month. Info: Maggie Nealon, 488-3037.
- Bridge, Thu., Jul. 6, 1-4 p.m., Tri-Lakes Senior Center located on Lewis-Palmer High School campus. Walk-ins are welcome. Meets 2nd Thu. each month. Reservation suggested: call Judy, 626-399-2733.
- Legacy Sertoma Dinner Meeting, Thu., Jul. 6, 6:30 p.m., Monument Hill Country Club, 18945 Pebble Beach Way, Monument. New members and visitors welcome. Meets 2nd & 4th Thu. each month. Info: Ed Kinney, 481-2750.
- Ben Lomond Gun Club, Tri-Lakes Chapter, Thu., Jul. 6, 7 p.m., Tri-Lakes Fire Station 1, 18650 Hwy 105 west of Monument near the bowling alley. Meets 2nd Thu. each month. Info: 481-3364.
- La Leche League Meeting, Fri., Jul. 7, 10 a.m., Monument Branch Library, 1706 Lake Woodmoor Dr.

- Mothers, babies, and mothers-to-be are all invited. Meets 2nd Fri. each month. Info: Kelley, 440-2477, kdghorashi@gmail.com.
- El Paso County Hazardous Materials & Recycling Collection Facility, Sat., Jul. 8, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., 3255 Akers Dr., Colorado Springs. Open the 2nd Sat. each month as well as Mon.-Thu., 7 a.m.-5 p.m., accepts porcelain fixtures, common recyclable items, household hazardous waste, various electronics, and TVs up to 19-inch diagonal. Accepts documents from private households for shredding, up to two legal paper-sized boxes. Bring a nonperishable food item for Care and Share. Info: 520-7878, http://adm.elpasoco.com/Environmental_Services/Solid_Waste_Management.
 - Palmer Lake Art Group, Sat., Jul. 8, 9 a.m., Mountain Community Mennonite Church, 643 Hwy 105, Palmer Lake. A variety of art programs are offered after the social gathering and business meeting. Guests welcome. Meets 2nd Sat. each month. Info: 487-1329, www.palmerlakeartgroup.com.
 - Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Group, Sat., Jul. 8, 9:45-11:30 a.m., The First National Bank of Monument, 581 Hwy 105. Meets 2nd Sat. each month. Info: Gail, 481-3711.
 - Chess Nuts, Mon., Jul. 10, 5-9 p.m., Tri-Lakes Senior Center. Any age, any skill. Learners welcome. Drop in and leave when you want. Bring your own board and pieces if you have them. Meets 2nd & 4th Mon. each month. Info: www.TriLakesSeniors.org/chess.
 - Palmer Divide Photographers Group, Mon., Jul. 10, 7 p.m., Tri-Lakes Center for the Arts, 304 Hwy 105, Palmer Lake. All are welcome. Meets 2nd Mon. each month. Info: www.pdphotographers.com.
 - Tri-Lakes Chamber Monthly Education Series: Search Engine Optimization & Digital Marketing Tips, Tue., Jul. 11, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., 166 Second St., Monument. Register online, www.trilakeschamber.com/events-calendar.htm. Info: 481-3282.
 - Foot Care Clinic, Wed., Jul. 12, Senior Center located across the street from the Tri-Lakes YMCA, on the Lewis-Palmer High School campus. A registered nurse examines your feet and provides foot care advice, toenail trimming. Cost: \$30 for a 30-min. visit. Meets 2nd Wed. and last Fri. each month, by appointment only. Info & appointments: call the Visiting Nurse Association, 577-4448.
 - Black Forest AARP Potluck Lunch & Meeting, Wed., Jul. 12, noon, Black Forest Lutheran Church, 12455 Black Forest Rd. All ages welcome. Meets 2nd Wed. each month. Info: Chuck, 749-9227, or www.aarp-chapter1100blackforest.weebly.com.
 - NEPCO Meeting, Sat., Jul. 15, 10 a.m.-noon, New Monument Town Hall & Police Building, 645 Beacon Lite Rd., Monument. Water Board Managers Forum is scheduled. All are welcome to this meeting of local homeowners associations. Info: 481-2723 or visit www.nepco.org.
 - Tri-Lakes Parkinson's Disease Support Group, Sat., Jul. 15, 10 a.m.-noon, Tri-Lakes Senior Center on the Lewis-Palmer High School campus (across the street from the YMCA). Discuss doctor recommendations, new drugs and procedures, Parkinson's-related VA health services and disability benefits, and more. Patients, caregivers, friends, and relatives are all welcome. Venue is wheelchair-accessible. Coffee and snacks will be provided. Meets 3rd Sat. each month. Info: Kent Jarnig, 488-8351.
 - Drummers! Mon., Jul. 17, 6:30 p.m., summer location in Limbach Park, Monument, next to the band shell. Free and open to all ages. Bring any kind of drum or other hand percussion instrument. Beginners welcome! Meets 3rd Mon. each month. Info: Nan, 466-1257.
 - Amateur Radio WØTLM (Tri-Lakes Monument Radio Association), Mon., Jul. 17, 7 p.m. All amateur radio operators or those interested in becoming amateur radio operators are welcome. Meets 3rd Mon. Info: Joyce Witte, 661-9824, Joycewitte@gmail.com; www.WØTLM.com.
 - Senior Tea, Tue., Jul. 18, 1-3 p.m., Senior Center at Lewis-Palmer High School (across from the YMCA). Come early to socialize, bring a salad or dessert to share. Meat dishes and tea provided. Voluntary donations welcome. Meets 3rd Tue. each month. Info: Irene C., 484-0517.
 - Fibromyalgia Support Group, Tue., Jul. 18, 5 p.m., Police Station, 7850 Goddard (1 block off Academy on Kelly Johnson near Chapel Hills Mall), Community Room just inside main entrance. A DVD will play 5-6 p.m.; meeting starts at 6 p.m. Share concerns and success stories and talk to a D.O. Learn how you can become pain-free. No charge, no products sold. Meets 3rd Tue. each month. Info: 481-2230.
 - Outpouring: TLUMC Supporting our Community, Tue., Jul. 18, 7 p.m., back Barrel Room at Pikes Peak Brewing Company, 1756 Lake Woodmoor Dr., Monument. Everyone is welcome. Meets 3rd Tue. each month. Info: Mr. Lynn Weber 488-2832, LWeber1971@aol.com.
 - Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7829, Tue., Jul. 18, 7 p.m., Monument Hill Country Club 18945 Pebble

- Beach Way, Monument. New members welcome. Meets 3rd Tue. each month. Info: Post Commander Joe Carlson, jcarlson@vfw7829.org, 488-1902, www.vfw7829.org.
- Gleneagle Sertoma Luncheon Meeting, Wed., Jul. 19, 11:45 a.m.-1 p.m., Liberty Heights, 12105 Ambassador Dr., (off Voyager Blvd in Colorado Springs). Interesting speakers and programs; all are welcome. Meets 1st & 3rd Wed. each month. Info: Garrett Barton, 433-5396; Duane Gritzmaker, 481-2424; www.gleneaglesertoma.org.
 - Senior Bingo, Wed., Jul. 19, 1-2 p.m., Tri-Lakes Senior Center, Lewis-Palmer High School campus. Meets 3rd Wed. each month. Info: Sue Walker, 464-6873.
 - VFW Auxiliary to Post 7829, Wed., Jul. 19, 7 p.m., Monument Hill Country Club, 18945 Pebble Beach Way, Monument. New members welcome. If you are a male or female relative of a veteran who served on foreign soil during war or other military action, you may be eligible. Meets 3rd Wed. each month. Info: Kathy Carlson, 488-1902, carlsonmkc@aol.com.
 - Art Hop, Thu., Jul. 20, 5-8 p.m., Downtown Monument west of I-25. The 3rd Thu. each month, May-Sept., the galleries, restaurants, and boutiques of historic downtown Monument stay open until 8 p.m. for a celebration featuring art openings, book signings, great food, live music, and more. Info: 481-3282, www.monumentarthop.org.
 - Art Hop Book Signing at Covered Treasures Bookstore, Thu., Jul. 20, 5-8 p.m., 105 Second St., Monument. Nancy Green will sign *Stalking the Dragonfly: Stories of Experiences in Nature*. Bert Entwistle will sign *New Mexico*. Free, open to all. Info: 481-2665, www.coveredtreasures.com.
 - Palmer Lake Historical Society: Pete Seeger: A Musical Portrait, Thu., Jul. 20, 7 p.m., Palmer Lake Town Hall, 28 Valley Crescent. Sing along with Dan Begen. Light refreshments after the presentation. Meets 3rd Thu. each month. Info: 559-0837, www.palmerdivide-history.org.
 - Foot Care Clinic, Fri., Jul. 21, Senior Center located across the street from the Tri-Lakes YMCA, on the Lewis-Palmer High School campus. A registered nurse examines your feet and provides foot care advice, toenail trimming. Cost: \$35 for a 30-min. visit. Meets 2nd Wed., 3rd and last Fri. each month, by appointment only. Info & appointments: call the Visiting Nurse Association, 577-4448.
 - * Chess Nuts, Mon., Jul. 24, 5-9 p.m., Tri-Lakes Senior Center, across the street from the YMCA. Any age, any skill. Learners welcome. Drop in and leave when you want. Bring your own board and pieces if you have them. Meets 2nd & 4th Mon. each month. Info: www.TriLakesSeniors.org/chess.
 - * Senior Social, Wed., Jul. 26, 1-4 p.m., Fellowship Hall of the Black Forest Lutheran Church, 12455 Black Forest Rd. Meets 4th Wed. each month. Info: aarpchapter1100blackforest.weebly.com.
 - * Foot Care Clinic, Fri., Jul. 28, Senior Center located across the street from the Tri-Lakes YMCA, on the Lewis-Palmer High School campus. A registered nurse examines feet and provides foot care advice, toenail trimming. Cost: \$35 for a 30-min. visit. Meets 2nd Wed., 3rd and last Fri. each month, by appointment only. Info & appointments: call the Visiting Nurse Association, 577-4448.
 - * Lupus Support Group. If you suffer with an autoimmune disease and want to connect with others, you are welcome to join this group. Info: dmbandle@hotmail.com.
 - Myasthenia Gravis Association of Colorado Support Group. Location varies. Info: Carolyn, 488-3620, www.4-mga.org, 303-360-7080, 4mga@4-mga.org.

SPECIAL EVENTS

For July 4th events, see page 1.

- Concerts in the Park, every Wed., through Aug. 2, 7-9 p.m., Limbach Park, 151 Front St., Monument. Music, food, and fun for the family. Bring chairs, blankets. Info: www.trilakeschamber.com and click on 'Events.'
- Moe Bandy Concert at Tri-Lakes Center for the Arts, Thu., Jul. 6, 7 p.m., doors open 6:15 p.m., 304 Hwy 105, Palmer Lake. Tickets & Info: 481-0475, www.trilakesarts.org.
- Monument Community Presbyterian Church Vacation Bible School, Mon.-Fri., Jul. 10-14, 238 Third St., Monument. Free. RSVP & Info: 481-3902, www.mcp-cusa.org.
- Friends of Monument Preserve (FOMP) Trail Work Night, Wed., Jul. 12, 6-8:30 p.m. Volunteers should bring leather gloves, water, and bug repellent. Meets Aug. 9 also. For location & info: Chris Tirpak, 719-439-8865, info@fomp.org, www.fomp.org.
- Lakeside Free Summer Concert at Waterfront Park: Collective Groove, Fri., Jul. 14, 6-8 p.m., Forest Lakes Drive, Monument. R&B Classics, Soul, Pop. Free concerts 2nd and 4th Fri., June-July. Info: www.forest-lakescolorado.com/events.html.
- Black Rose Acoustic Society Open Stage headlined by Michael Hearne & Shake Russell, Fri., Jul. 14, opening act at 7 p.m., doors open at 6:15. Black Forest Community Center, 12530 Black Forest Rd. at Shoup

- Road. Cost: \$10 general, \$5 BRAS members, \$5 non-member students with ID. Info: Joe Maio, 528-6119, jrmtn@comcast.net, www.blackroseacoustic.org.
- Western Museum of Mining & Industry (WMMI) Anniversary Weekend, Sat.-Sun., Jul. 15-16, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 225 North Gate Blvd. (I-25 Exit 156 A). Celebrate the museum's 35th anniversary with a wild west show by the Gold Canyon Gunfighters. Experience the museum's steam engines, blacksmith shop, ten-stamp ore mill, vendors, food trucks, and fun for all ages. See ad on page 13. Info: 488-0880, www.wmmi.org.
 - Tri-Lakes Community/Centura Blood Drive, Tue., Jul. 18, 3-7 p.m., Bloodmobile at Tri-Lakes Cares, 235 Jefferson St # B, Monument. No appointment needed, just walk in. Please bring driver's license or ID. Info: 776-5822.
 - MVEA Member Appreciation Day, Fri., July 21, 10 a.m.-10 p.m., El Paso County Fairgrounds, 366 10th St., Calhan. Bring the ad on page 20 of the June issue and get \$2 off adult admission price (ages 13-54), and \$1 off seniors and youth prices. Info: 800-388-9881.
 - Bruce Carroll & Friends at Tri-Lakes Center for the Arts (TLCA), Fri., Jul. 21, 7 p.m., doors open 6:15 p.m., 304 Hwy 105, Palmer Lake. Tickets & Info: 481-0475, www.trilakesarts.org.
 - Monument's Free Movie Night: Finding Dory, Fri., Jul. 21, 7 p.m. activities begin, movie begins at dark, Monument Marketplace Clock Tower (between WalMart & Home Depot), Jackson Creek. Bring chairs & blankets, no pets please. See ad on page 8. Info: 884-8013, www.TownofMonument.org.
 - Community Service: Wood Chipping, Sat., Jul. 22, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. or as long as you can stay. Ages 14 and up, help with cleanup and recovery from the 2014 Black Forest fire. Safety equipment and training provided. Also meets Aug. 26. See TLUMC EPG on Facebook to see past projects. Registration & Info: Lisa, 719-339-7831; ep@tlumc.org.
 - Free Lunch and Learn: Suicide Awareness and Prevention, Wed., Jul. 26, 1:30-2:30 p.m., INNOVA Recovery Services, 1824 Woodmoor Dr., Ste. 101, Monument. Please RSVP so they know how much food to order, 719-445-9330. Info: www.innovarecovery.com.
 - Voices of Grief Workshop, Fri., Jul. 28, 10 a.m.-noon, Tri-Lakes Silver Alliance Senior Center. Pikes Peak Hospice presents this free movie and discussion on dealing with grief. RSVP & Info: Sue, 464-6873.
 - Black Rose Acoustic Society Open Stage headlined by Roy Book Binder, Fri., Jul. 28, opening act at 7 p.m., doors open at 6:15. Black Forest Community Center, 12530 Black Forest Rd. at Shoup Road. Cost: \$10 general, \$5 BRAS members, \$5 nonmember students with ID. Info: Joe Maio, 528-6119, jrmtn@comcast.net, www.blackroseacoustic.org.
 - 34th Annual National Night Out, Tue., Aug. 1. Turn on your porch light and go outside to join your neighbors to make a show of solidarity and strength. Better yet, plan a block party, barbecue, neighborhood walk or other activity and let the Sheriff's Office know about it. Find tips and the registration form at www.natw.org. Registration forms must be returned by July 7. Info: Merody Broom, 520-7151; www.natw.org.
 - Branford Marsalis Quartet at Tri-Lakes Center for the Arts, Thu., Aug. 3, 7 p.m., doors open 6:15 p.m., 304 Hwy 105, Palmer Lake. Tickets & Info: 481-0475, www.trilakesarts.org.
 - Lorrie Morgan Concert at Tri-Lakes Center for the Arts, Sat., Aug. 5, 7 p.m., doors open 6:15 p.m., 304 Hwy 105, Palmer Lake. Tickets & Info: 481-0475, www.trilakesarts.org.
 - Pickin' on the Divide, Sat., Aug. 19, Limbach Park, 151 Front St., Monument. Colorado bluegrass bands perform 1-7 p.m. Also, the Lions Club Chili Cook-off, beer garden, food trucks, and more! See ad on page 8. Info: www.pickinonthedivide.com.
 - Mountain View Electric Association, Inc. (MVEA) Brews, Brats, & Kilowatts, Wed., Aug. 23, 4-7 p.m., Pikes Peak Brewing Co., 1756 Lake Woodmoor Dr., Monument. First 150 MVEA members get a complimentary beer & brat. Ages 21+ only. See the ad on page 20. Register online by Aug. 11. Registration & Info: www.mvea.coop/bbkregistration.

Our community calendar carries listings on a space-available basis for Tri-Lakes events that are sponsored

Look for our next issue
Saturday, Aug. 5

Ad space reservations due: Fri., July 14
Finished ad artwork due: Fri., July 21
Calendar items due: Fri., July 28
Letters to the editor due: Fri., July 28

Visit our website to read, download, and search all the back issues at
WWW.OCN.ME

by local governmental entities and not-for-profit organizations. We include events that are open to the general public and are not religious or self-promotional in nature. If space is available, complimentary calendar listings are included, when requested, for events advertised in the current issue. To have your event listed at no charge in Our Community Calendar, please call (719) 339-7831 or send the information to calendar@ocn.me or P.O. Box 1742, Monument, Colorado 80132.

Content

Articles in Our Community News focus on the deliberations of Tri-Lakes area governmental bodies such as the Monument Board of Trustees, Palmer Lake Town Council, and many of the local water, sanitation, fire, and school district boards.

Unlike papers that try to figure out what the "story" is and then get quotes on each side to presumably lead the reader to conclude what the "truth" is, OCN's role is to report in detail on public meetings of local governmental entities. We report what was talked about and what was decided. By reading OCN, you can find out what you might have learned if you had attended those public meetings. In this context, "truth" is that the articles accurately represent what transpired at the meetings.

The content of ads in OCN is the responsibility of the advertisers who place those ads. While OCN does not knowingly run false ads, we do not research the accuracy of ad content. Readers are encouraged to do their own research prior to committing to use the products or services offered in OCN ads.

Contact Lisa Hatfield, Managing Editor, at editor@ocn.me or (719) 339-7831 with any questions.

Letters to Our Community

Our Community News welcomes letters to the editor on topics of general interest to readers in the Tri-Lakes area. We do not knowingly print letters that are substantially the same as letters that have been submitted to other publications. To ensure that OCN contains a variety of viewpoints, each letter writer is limited to a maximum of six letters within any twelve month period. To submit a letter, please:

- Identify your submission as a letter to the editor and confirm that it has not been submitted to any other publication.
- Include a suggested headline or title.
- Limit letters to no more than 300 words.
- Include your full name, home address, day and evening phone numbers, and email address, if you have one.
- Email your letter to editor@ocn.me or mail it to P.O. Box 1742, Monument, CO 80132-1742.
- Send your letter at least 10 days before the "first Saturday of the month" when the paper is published.
- If you are not at least 18 years old or an emancipated minor, provide a written statement from a parent or legal guardian that you have permission to submit the letter.

If, after two business days from the date of your submission, you have not received an acknowledgement of your letter, please contact Lisa Hatfield, Managing Editor, at (719) 339-7831 or editor@ocn.me. Letters may be edited for length, grammar, and accuracy.

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

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