

Our Community News

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



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Local Events

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

- **Monu-Palooza**, Sun. Sep. 3, 2 p.m. onward. Free music event at Limbach Park.
- **Paper Shredding and Electronics Recycling**, Sat., Sep. 9, 9-11 a.m.
- **NEPCO Meeting**, Sat., Sep. 9, 10 a.m.-noon. County commissioners.
- **TLMFPD Community Open House**, Sat., Sep. 9, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
- **Front Range Open Studios**, Sat.-Sun., Sep. 9-10, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
- **Gleneagle Sertoma 16th Annual Patriot Golf Benefit**, Mon., Sep. 11
- **Larkspur Harvest & Craft Fest**, Sat.-Sun., Sep. 16-17, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
- **TLMFPD Community Open House**, Sat., Sep. 16, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
- **Tri-Lakes Lions Charity Golf Tournament**, Mon. Sep. 18
- **Tri-Lakes Community/Centura Blood Drive**, Tue., Sep. 19, 2:30-7 p.m.
- **The Last 2017 Art Hop**, Thu., Sep. 21, 5-8 p.m.
- **TLWC presents Harvesting Hope**, Thu., Sep. 21, 5:30-9 p.m.
- **Historic Homes of Colorado Springs & Vicinity**, Thu., Sep. 21, 7 p.m.
- **Community Service: Wood Chipping**, Sat. Sep. 23, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.
- **Bines & Brews Hopfest**, Sat., Sep. 23, 1-5 p.m.
- **Tom Paxton & Don Juans at TLCA**, Fri., Sep. 22, 7 p.m.
- **Bill Anderson Concert at TLCA**, Fri., Sep. 29, 7 p.m.
- **Creek Week Community Clean-Up**, Sat., Sep. 30, 9 a.m.
- **Rocky Mountain Music Alliance Concert**, Sat., Sep. 30, 7 p.m.
- **Empty Bowls Dinner & Silent Auction**, Wed., Oct 4, 5-7:30 p.m.
- **PLAG Christmas Arts & Crafts Fair**, Fri.-Sat., Oct. 6-7, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
- **WMMI Reynolds Ranch Harvest Festival**, Sat.,-Sun., Oct. 7-8, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. ■

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Above: Students at Antelope Trails Elementary School view the total solar eclipse through special solar eclipse glasses to protect the eyes. *Photo by Chrystie Hopkins.*

Students get an eyeful of the solar eclipse

By Chrystie Hopkins

Students at Antelope Trails Elementary School experienced a rare treat and learning opportunity on Aug. 21 as a total solar eclipse was visible at 90 percent totality at 11:47 a.m.

The school provided eclipse-viewing glasses for all students, teachers, faculty, and parents on campus. Many family members chose to join students to experience the eclipse viewing. A

few students opted to stay indoors during the event, while other parents pulled students out for the day to view the event closer to the 100 percent totality zones.

While the totality event only lasted a few minutes, many classes remained outside to continue to view the eclipse and work on classroom projects.

Teachers, faculty, and parent volunteers were on hand to make sure all

students were viewing the eclipse safely and kept their eclipse viewing glasses on at all times.

Student reactions varied from wonder and excitement to subdued curiosity. But for all it was a unique opportunity and fun distraction for the morning before returning to the classroom.

Chrystie Hopkins can be contacted at chrystiehopkins@ocn.me

Monument Board of Trustees, Aug. 7

I-25 traffic and water options discussed

By Lisa Hatfield

On Aug. 7, the Monument Board of Trustees heard about the Colorado Department of Transportation's (CDOT) I25 Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) study. And though it was not on the agenda, they discussed the possibility of an independent study evaluating all long-term water options for the town's water system west of I-25, even though town staff has not yet presented the trustees with its summary of this topic.

Trustee Kelly Elliott was absent.

I-25 PEL study

Chuck Attardo of CDOT's Denver office presented information about the I25 PEL study on the section of highway from Highway 105 in Monument to E-470 in Lone Tree. "It has some pretty big deficiencies," he said, especially because 18 miles of this 34-mile "vital stretch of I-25" are still two lanes in both directions. "We need to have a reliable trip between Colorado Springs and Denver."

Attardo said that the PEL study is a federal process that occurs before

construction, but it is trying to come up with alternatives to some of the congestion until construction could happen. Similar to what happened in the I-70 corridor into the mountains, this 18-mile gap is now seeing traffic problems multiplying, both on weekdays and weekends. He said the biggest emphasis in the study was the section from Monument to Plum Creek Parkway, due to the "bottleneck."

"If we can find the funds" of \$300,000 to \$600,000, CDOT would like to start construction on the 18-mile **MON. BOT (cont. on page 2)**

Monument Planning Commission, Aug. 9

Wolf Business Park, Tri-Lakes Collision, and Pilot Travel Center plans move forward

By Kate Pangelinan

The Aug. 9 Monument Planning Commission meeting involved about three hours of discussion concerning the proposed Wolf Business Park and the Tri-Lakes Collision body shop planned for lot 7 of the park, and a Pilot Travel Center with amenities for truckers and other travelers.

Commissioners John Dick and Jim Fitzpatrick were absent. Commissioner David Gwisdalla was unanimously

approved to become the new vice chair following Kathy Spence's recent departure from the Planning Commission.

Wolf Business Park

First, Hammers Construction Inc. submitted its development application for approval of a zone change, sketch plan, and preliminary/final plat for Wolf Business Park. This development would comprise around 14.18 acres on Wolf Court east of Beacon Lite Road.

It stands north of Highway 105 in the north end of town. There would be seven lots to the development, with the only access point coming off Wolf Court, which leads to Beacon Lite Road. The area was zoned for Planned Commercial Development, and the applicant requested to change this to Planned Development.

The Planning Commission voted unanimously to approve all three of these proposals.

MON. PC (cont. on page 7)