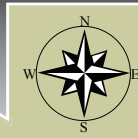


# Our Community News

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



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## Local Events

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

- **Beacon Estate Sale**, Thu.-Sat., Oct. 4-6, 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. See ad on page 4.
- **Palmer Lake Art Group's 45th Annual Arts & Crafts Fair**, Fri.-Sat., Oct. 5-6, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
- **D-38 Hall of Fame Induction**, Sat., Oct. 6, 2 p.m.
- **Miners' Harvest Festival at WMMI**, Sat.-Sun., Oct. 6-7, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. See ad on page 16.
- **Art Show & Fair**, Sun., Oct. 7, 2-6 p.m. See ad on page 4.
- **Monument Trustee Candidate Forum**, Mon., Oct. 8, 6-8 p.m.
- **Empty Bowls Dinner & Silent Auction**, Wed., Oct. 10, 5-7:30 p.m. See ad on page 6.
- **Public Forum on D38 Ballot Measures**, Thu., Oct. 11, 6:30 p.m.
- **Spirit Tree Tour & Cultural Event**, Fri.-Sat., Oct. 12-13.
- **Wescott Fire Safety Open House**, Sat., Oct. 13, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
- **Tri-Lakes Free Business Expo**, Thu., Oct. 18, 4-7 p.m. See ad on page 6.
- **Palmer Lake Historical Society: Above & Beyond, A Hero's Story**, Thu., Oct. 18, 7 p.m.
- **Bruce Carroll at TLCA**, Thu., Oct. 18, 7 p.m.
- **Sisters of Benet Hill Monastery: Rocky Mountain Women's Film Institute**, Fri., Oct. 26, 6:30 p.m.
- **Trunk or Treat at St. Peter Catholic School**, Fri., Oct. 26, 5-7 p.m. See ad on page 2.
- **Creepy Crawl 5 K & Free 1-mile Kids' Monster Dash**, Sat., Oct. 27, 5K begins 9:30 a.m.
- **Sisters of Benet Hill Monastery: Parish House Baroque Concert**, Sun., Oct. 28, 2:30 p.m. See ad on page 12.
- **Downtown Monument Safe Trick or Treat**, Wed., Oct. 31, 4-6 p.m.
- **Fuel Church Family Fall Festival**, Wed., Oct. 31, 4:30-6:30 p.m. See ad on page 6.
- **Downtown Monument Holiday Open House**, Fri.-Sat., Nov. 2-3 ■

## Digging into safer, more efficient travel



**Above:** Gov. John Hickenlooper and a cadre of speakers symbolically excavate one end of the I-25 South Gap Project at the Aug. 30 groundbreaking ceremony. Many I-25 drivers showed their support for the South Gap Project ceremony by beeping their horns as they crested Monument Hill. Hickenlooper commended many leaders from various governmental entities for their collaboration to make the Gap Project possible. Among an array of speakers, Colorado Springs Mayor John Suthers praised the expertise and professionalism of the Colorado Department of Transportation in securing funding and orchestrating complex elements. Colorado State Patrol Chief Col. Matthew Packard remembered troopers and residents who lost their lives along the corridor and expressed gratitude for efforts to address vital safety concerns. *Photo by Jennifer Kaylor.*

Monument Academy School Board, Sept. 13

## Board supports D38 bond and MLO ballot measures

By Jackie Burhans

The Monument Academy (MA) School Board met on Sept. 13 to pass resolutions supporting the D38 bond and mill levy override (MLO) measures, discuss progress on the new school, and discuss collaboration with the Office of Civil Rights.

### D38 bond and MLO support

Executive Director Don Griffin noted that on Sept. 10, the Lewis-Palmer Board of Education passed two resolutions. The first one covered expenditure of \$36.5 million in bond funds that will be on the November ballot (issue 4B). The bond includes \$3.5 million for MA to construct a gym or auditorium at its new school site. It also includes a number of high-priority security items for all schools, including \$125,000 for MA. The second resolution concerned the MLO that would generate \$1 million of revenue for seven years (issue 4A). The MLO would pay for security and safety enhancements and represents about \$170,000 annually to MA for those same needs.

Later in the meeting, the MA board unanimously approved its own resolutions supporting the D38 bond and MLO.

### New school update

Griffin updated the board on progress toward the new middle/high school that MA plans to open in fall 2020. The building committee has chosen JHL Constructors to construct the new facility. All seven applicants had charter school experience, but the committee felt that JHL had the best presentation and liked

that they brought their "A" team to the presentation.

### Collaboration with Office of Civil Rights

Nurse Janice Latendresse and Karen Michael from MA's 504 team reached out last spring to the Office of Civil Rights (OCR) for guidance on effective 504 processes. Section 504 of the U.S. Rehabilitation Act of 1973 helps parents of students with physical or mental impairments work with public school educators to design customized educational plans to ensure students are treated fairly; it is related to the Americans with Disabilities Act. The OCR sent a staff attorney make a presentation to the MA 504 team, deans, and mental health professionals. They confirmed that MA's procedures are solid and align with OCR's expectations. They suggested that MA tighten up its accommodations language so parents do not have unmet expectations. OCR has a technical assistance line the school can use any time to consult with OCR attorneys before making decisions.

### Other highlights

The following items were highlighted at the board meeting:

- Benchmark testing is complete for all students. MA uses the data to ensure the needs of students are met.
- Dean Julie Seymour and Dr. Elizabeth Davis have been selected by

MA (cont. on page 2)

## Monument candidate statements

Below are statements by the three Monument Board of Trustees candidates for one open trustee seat

Ballots will be mailed Oct. 15 and need to be received by the El Paso County Clerk and Recorder by Nov. 6.

**Note:** Some "Monument" addresses are actually in unincorporated El Paso County and not in the town limits. If you are not sure, see [www.townofmonument.org/](http://www.townofmonument.org/) and the link at the bottom of page "Do I Live In Monument?"

The Tri-Lakes Chamber of Commerce will host a forum for the candidates for the vacant trustee position from 6 to 8 p.m. Oct. 8 at Big Red, the Lewis-Palmer District 38 administration building, 146 N. Jefferson St., Monument. Use the north entrance to the lower level.

*Our Community News* asked each candidate for the Monument town election to answer two questions, using no more than 250 words. The questions were:

- *What in your background would help you as a Town of Monument board member?*
- *What do you think are the two greatest issues facing the town, and what would you propose the Board of Trustees do to deal with them?*

MONUMENT CANDIDATE STATEMENTS (cont. on page 6)

District Accountability Advisory Committee's Committee for Political Action Forum, Sep. 13

## D38 officials provide ballot information

By Harriet Halbig

The Committee for Political Action, a subcommittee of the D38 District Accountability Advisory Committee, hosted a public Ballot Information Forum Sept. 13 on initiatives on the November ballot.

Panel members included Superintendent Karen Brofft, Assistant Superintendent Cheryl Wangeman, Monument Academy Executive Director Don Griffin, school board members Tiffney Upchurch and Mark Pfoff, Chief of Security Dennis Coates, and project Manager Mike Hester of G. H. Phipps Construction.

The panel discussed details of a proposed bond initiative and a mill levy override. Questions were submitted online and via notecard.

Although sparsely attended, much valuable information was shared.

To view a video of the event, go to <http://tiny.cc/lpsdcommunity>. Look for "Sept. 13."

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A second forum will be held on Thursday, Oct. 11 at 6:30 p.m. at the district's Learning Center, 146 Jefferson St.

If you cannot attend, you can watch a livestream on the district YouTube Channel, <http://tiny.cc/lpsdcommunity>.

Harriet Halbig may be reached at [harriethalbig@ocn.me](mailto:harriethalbig@ocn.me).

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