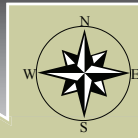


Our Community News

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.

- Black Forest Arts & Crafts Guild 54th Annual Fall Show & Sale, Thu.-Sun., Nov. 1-4, Thu.-Sat., 9 a.m.-8 p.m.; Sun., 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
- Downtown Monument Holiday Open House, Fri.-Sat., Nov. 2-3
- Human Trafficking Informational Night, Wed., Nov. 7, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- Monument Academy Veteran's Day Celebration: Honoring All Who Have Served, Fri., Nov. 9, 9:45 a.m.
- John Adams Band Concert at TLCA, Fri., Nov. 9, 7 p.m.
- The Wine Seller: In Vino Veritas, Fri., Nov. 9, 7-9 p.m.
- St. Peter Catholic School Holiday Boutique & Bake Sale, Sat., Nov. 10, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Tri-Lakes Community/Centura Blood Drive, Tue., Nov. 13, 2:30-7 p.m.
- Alasdair Fraser & Natalie Haas Concert at TLCA, Fri., Nov. 16, 7 p.m.
- Palmer Lake Historical Society: The World War I Flying Ace from Denver, Thu., Nov. 15, 7 p.m.
- NEPCO Meeting, Sat., Nov. 17, 10 a.m.-noon
- Palmer Lake Fall Lantern Festival, Sat., Nov. 24, 2-10 p.m.
- Palmer Lake's Annual Chili Supper & Star-lighting Festival, Sat., Nov. 24, 4:30-7:30 p.m.
- Hazel Miller Christmas Show Spectacular at Tri-Lakes Center for the Arts, Fri., Nov. 30, 7 p.m.
- Monument Hill Kiwanis Club's Annual North Pole at Tri-Lakes Arts and Crafts Fair, Sat., Dec. 1, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Downtown Monument's Small Town Christmas, Sat., Dec. 1, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
- Monument Tree Lighting, Sat., Dec. 1, 5 p.m.

In this issue

- Monument News 1-7
- Palmer Lake News 1, 7-9
- Fire District News 9-12
- Water & San District News 12-16
- D38 School District News 16-20
- County News 20-21
- NEPCO and WIA News 21-22
- Weather and Letters 22-24
- Columns and Snapshots 24-28
- Notices and Calendar 28-31
- OCN Information 31

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Community stands together



Above: Over a hundred people from the Tri-Lakes area attended a candlelight vigil Oct. 20 at Limbach Park in Monument to support each other after the deaths of two local students. School District 38 has offered resources for students who would like to reach out to counselors for help. One of those is the "Below the Surface Campaign" which offers a free, confidential text line to help teens. Teenagers who are struggling can text "TALK" to 38255 and get help 24/7 from trained counselors. More resources are available at www.lewispalmer.org/domain/131 Photo by Jackie Burhans.

Monument Board of Trustees, Oct. 1

Argument erupts over interim town manager negotiations; Willow Springs/Monument Creek Ranch annexation on hold

By Allison Robenstein

The Monument Board of Trustees (BOT) held a regular meeting on Oct. 1 that altered the direction of interim town manager negotiations. The board also discussed hiring a new town attorney and postponed a vote on the annexation of Willow Springs/Monument Creek Ranch after their questions were not answered. Human Resources Director Robert Bishop, who has done the bulk of the interim town manager negotiation work, did not attend the meeting, so Acting Town Manager Pamela Smith answered questions on his behalf. The town does not currently have an attorney on staff.

Interim town manager vote negated

A discussion item labeled "Interim Town Manager" turned into a heated discussion among the board members and Smith. "Last we left this, we were going to put together a contract. Where are we in that process?" asked Trustee Ron Stephens. Smith said Bishop had been negotiating a contract with Mike Foreman, the board's selection for the position.

Trustee Jeffrey Bornstein, who said his was the swing vote to bring in Foreman when the vote was 4-2, start-

ed the divisive argument, saying additional information the board could have received before the vote was not produced. "I don't support my vote anymore," Bornstein said. Mayor Don Wilson told the board there was no additional information, but Trustee Laurie Clark said she felt misled and that her vote was manipulated because this information wasn't shared. Trustee Greg Coopman said there was possibly an email from HR Green that Bishop didn't share with the board. Smith said she took offense to that for Bishop in his absence. Clark interrupted by saying, "I'm not talking to you (Smith), I'm talking to the board." The two continued in this manner until Wilson asked Smith to continue speaking.

Trustee Kelly Elliott eventually said Bishop was very thorough and provided all the information to everyone on the board. She said, "This is game playing!" Coopman objected and continued to speak over Wilson as he tried to explain there was no additional information.

This continued back and forth with Coopman demanding to know why Bishop didn't negotiate with all three finalists. At the Sept. 4 meeting, Ste-

Palmer Lake Town Council,
Oct. 10 and 25

No new sewer or water taps

By James Howald and Jackie Burhans
The Palmer Lake Town Council considered a number of topics—from drainage issues to questions concerning trail access—at its meeting on Oct. 10. At the 2019 budget work session held on Oct. 25, Town Treasurer Valerie Remington said since no new sewer taps can be issued by Palmer Lake Sanitation District (PLSD), the town would also have to stop selling new water taps.

2019 budget reviewed

At the work session on Oct. 25, Remington presented a draft of the town's budget for 2019. A public hearing on the budget, along with more information, will be included at the Nov. 8 council meeting, she said.

Remington said the PLSD's wastewater collection system had reached its volume capacity, so no more sewer taps can be sold until upgrades are

PALMER LAKE (cont. on 7)

A Fond Farewell



"See you around the campus," Jim and Paula! The Kendricks have volunteered with *Our Community News* since 2003, and dedicated people like them are a rare treasure. Paula has been a steadfast mailing day volunteer, helping count thousands of newspapers, stacking hundreds of mailing tubs, and keeping on the look-out for "tubbers" in need of a break or a new loading technique. And she has supported Jim as he attended and reported on many hundreds of local government meetings around the Tri-Lakes area, distilling the obtuse meeting language into digestible summaries for the benefit of residents who did not go to the meetings themselves. In addition, he has mentored all the new reporters and taught us how to record and accurately summarize "what was discussed and what was decided." He has encouraged us to read each other's articles and give feedback before publication with one of his favorite sayings, "Pride of authorship is an unacceptable vanity in an OCN reporter." We will "endeavor to persevere," "Do good and shun evil," and "Pay it forward," now that Jim and Paula are both officially retiring from OCN after 15 years. Photo by Ron Boenig.

MONUMENT (cont. on 2)