

Happy Holidays! from the all-volunteer staff at

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.

- 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.
- D-38 LPHS Connection & Conversation: *Social & Emotional Wellness of our Youth*, Tue., Dec. 4, 6-7:30 p.m.
- D-38 Deliberates: *Community Engagement Opportunity*, Wed., Dec. 5, 6-8 p.m.
- Phil Keaggy Concert at TLCA, Fri.-Sat., Dec. 7-8, 7 p.m.
- Annual Tri-Lakes Community Handbell Christmas Concert, Sat., Dec. 8, 7 p.m.
- A Time To Dance presents *An American Nutcracker*, Sun., Dec. 9, 2 p.m.
- Palmer Lake Yule Log Pot Luck Dinner, Tue., Dec. 11, 6 p.m.
- Dakota Blonde Concert at TLCA, Fri., Dec. 14, 7 p.m.
- St. Peter Catholic Church: *The Love of Christmas Concert*, Fri., Dec. 14, 7 p.m.
- Tri-Lakes Music Association Annual Christmas Concert, Fri.-Sat., Dec. 14-15, 7 p.m.; Sun., Dec. 16, 2 p.m.
- Annual Palmer Lake Yule Log Hunt, Sun., Dec. 16, 1 p.m.
- County's Annual TreeCycle, Sat.-Sun., Dec. 29-30; Jan. 5-6, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
- Rocky Mountain Music Alliance Concert: *Music of Light & Darkness*, Sat., Jan. 19, 7 p.m. ■

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Star's twinkle competes with bitter temps



Above:The 83rd annual Palmer Lake Chili Supper on Nov. 24 started with cold weather and sleet, which quickly cleared out to leave a beautiful nearly full moon for the lighting of the star. This event benefits the Palmer Lake Firefighters Association, and is used to maintain the Palmer Lake star, and make improvements to living quarters. It is a popular local event attracting visitors from as far away as Greenwood Village. Firefighters and Palmer Ridge High School Key Club members served chili, potato soup, macaroni and cheese, potato soup, and cinnamon rolls. Lemonade and hot chocolate were served as the Palmer Ridge High School Choir sang holiday songs, and kids got to meet Santa in the gazebo on the Village Green. The crowd gathered to sing *Silent Night*, listen to the history of the star, and count down until the star was lit. *Photo by Jackie Burhans.*

Monument Sanitation District, Nov. 21

District endorses CSU wastewater connection option

By Lisa Hatfield

At its regular meeting on Nov. 21, the Monument Sanitation District (MSD) board heard a presentation from two representatives of Colorado Springs Utilities (CSU) about the imminent potential of saving money by connecting smaller wastewater districts with bigger ones in northwestern El Paso County. The board unanimously approved a resolution in favor of pursuing this idea with CSU with the hope that up to six other local sanitation districts will do the same.

MSD maintains a sewer system to collect wastewater from residents and businesses of the Town of Monument west of Interstate 25 as well as some areas outside the town limits. Its collection lines run to the Tri-Lakes Wastewater Treatment Facility (TLWWTF), which MSD co-owns with Palmer Lake Sanitation District (PLSD) and Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District (WWSA). MSD has been in existence since 1963 and is a separate Title 32 government entity from the Town of Monument.

Chairman Ed Delaney was excused, and board member John Howe ran the meeting.

Earl Wilkinson, CSU Chief Water

Services Officer, said that CSU has been looking at a sanitary sewer corridor to the northwestern part of the county for 30 years, but overcoming environmental issues and obtaining easements through the U.S. Air Force Academy made it impractical. However, the academy now has plans to build the Gateway at Falcon Stadium Visitors Center complex at Northgate Road, and they would now like to partner with CSU on wastewater collection and treatment. This has given the North Monument Creek Interceptor project new life in the last few months. The academy wants the visitors center in operation by August 2020. See www.cityforchampions.com/project/gateway-at-falcon-stadium-visitors-center/.

"Everyone is very excited about this project," Wilkinson said. CSU is committed to the first phase of building a sanitary sewer line from the academy's north gate downhill to the J.D. Phillips Water Resource Recovery Facility on Mark Dabling Boulevard, which, he said, has "significant capacity available." This would allow the academy to tie into this collection

CSU CONNECTION (cont. on 7)

Lewis-Palmer D-38 Board of Education, Nov. 13

Board considers actions after voters reject ballot measures

By Harriet Halbig

The Board of Education of Lewis-Palmer D-38 had a lengthy discussion of potential actions following the defeat of its two revenue-producing ballot initiatives. These initiatives, 4A and 4B, would have provided funding for a new elementary school in order to convert Bear Creek Elementary School back to a middle school, construction of an auditorium or gymnasium for Monument Academy, physical security upgrades for all facilities, and personnel for security at all facilities.

An additional ballot initiative at the state level, Amendment 73, which would have altered the state's tax code and added \$9 million to the district annually, also failed.

During board comments early in the meeting, all members thanked those who worked toward passage of the initiatives and thanked citizens for voting.

Vice President Tiffiney Upchurch said that in the interest of transparency and communication, she will schedule monthly coffees where board members and the public could communicate openly.

D38 (cont. on 3)

Nov. 6 Election Local Results

By Jennifer Kaylor

Winning outcomes shown in **bold italics**.

El Paso County Commissioner – District 1

Frank J. DeLalla, 19,478 (29.77%)
Holly Williams, 45,944 (70.23%)

Town of Monument Trustee

Ann Howe, 1,419 (36.35%)
Jim Romanello, 1,622 (41.55%)
Kenneth W. Kimple, 863 (22.11%)

Town of Palmer Lake Ballot Issue 2A: Retail Marijuana/Marijuana Products Taxation

Yes/For, 950 (62.25%)
No/Against, 576 (37.75%)

Town of Palmer Lake Ballot Issue 2B: Marijuana Sale/License/Regulation Amendment to Municipal Code

Yes/For, 683 (44.18%)
No/Against, 863 (55.82%)

ELECTION (cont. on 2)