

Happy New Year! from the all-volunteer staff at



# Our Community News

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

PRSR STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
MONUMENT, CO  
PERMIT NO. 32

\*\*ECRWSS\*\*  
Postal  
Customer

Issue #215 — Volume 19 Number 1 — Saturday, January 5, 2019

Free

Read, download, and search all the OCN back issues at [www.ocn.me](http://www.ocn.me).

## Local Events

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

- **WMMI Family Day: Geology**, Sat., Jan. 5, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
- **County's Annual TreeCycle**, Sat.-Sun., Jan. 5-6, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
- **El Paso County Hazardous Materials & Recycling Collection Facility**, Sat., Jan. 12, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.,
- **NEPCO Meeting**, Sat., Jan. 12, 10 a.m.-noon, County planning.
- **Tri-Lakes Community/Centura Blood Drive**, Tue., Jan. 15, 3-7 p.m.
- **D-38 Preschool Registration Night**, Tue., Jan. 15, 5-6 p.m.
- **D-38 Kindergarten Information Night**, Tue., Jan. 15, 5-6 p.m.
- **New Parent Night at Monument Academy**, Tue., Jan. 15, 6-7 p.m.
- **Tri-Lakes Chamber Education Series: Basics of Bookkeeping**, Wed., Jan. 16, 9 a.m.-noon
- **Crime and Safety Briefing**, Wed., Jan. 16, 6-7:30 p.m.
- **Strong D38 Community: Continuing the Conversation**, Thu. Jan. 17, 6-8 p.m.
- **Palmer Lake Historical Society: Annual Potluck Dinner and Membership Meeting**, Thu., Jan. 17, 6:30 p.m.
- **Rocky Mountain Music Alliance Concert: Music of Light & Darkness**, Sat., Jan. 19, 7 p.m.
- **Monument Academy Kindergarten Round Up**, Fri., Jan. 25, 1:30 p.m.
- **St. Peter School Open House**, Sun., Jan. 27, 12:30-2:30 p.m.
- **Palmer Lake Art Group Winter Art Show & Sale Opening Reception**, Fri., Feb. 1, 6-8 p.m. ■

## In this issue

County News 1-6  
 D38 School District News 1, 6-12  
 Fire District News 12-14  
 Monument News 14-18  
 Palmer Lake News 18  
 Water & San District News 18-23  
 WIA News 23  
 Weather 23-24  
 Columns and Snapshots 24-28  
 Notices and Calendar 28-31  
 OCN Information 31

## Circulation

Print Run: 19,200  
 Mail Delivery: 18,438  
 Stacks: 762

## Kids come first for first responders



**Above:** On a snowy Dec. 22 in Monument, first responders from the Monument Police Department, Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District, Palmer Lake Police Department, Shield 616, and the Manitou, Elizabeth, and Woodland Park Police Departments, rallied in a convoy of 27 emergency vehicles, lights flashing and sirens blaring, alerting children to the arrival of Santa and Mrs. Claus. With the help of first responder elves, they made their rounds delivering gifts to children in Monument and Palmer Lake. Hot cocoa and candy canes were the order of the day, generously provided by the "Emergency Incident Support Team." Each year, the need is greater and this much-appreciated tradition founded by Monument Police Chief Jake Shirk shows the generosity of the communities that donated over a thousand toys, books and games to make the season brighter for local children. Shaylynn Bell receives gifts from Santa and Mrs. Claus and the first responder elves. *Photo and caption by Natalie Barszcz.*

## Lewis-Palmer D-38 Board of Education Special Meeting and Work Session, Dec. 3

# Board discusses short-term solutions to growth; Superintendent to retire

By Harriet Halbig

The Lewis-Palmer D-38 Board of Education met on Dec. 3 to approve the mill levy certification for the coming year and to discuss solutions to address growth in the wake of the November election.

A bond issue to fund construction of an elementary school, conversion of a current elementary into a middle school, and security improvements at all locations was defeated. A mill levy override to fund security personnel also was defeated.

Assistant Superintendent Cheryl Wangeman requested that the board approve a levy of 44.068 mills for the coming year, compared to 44.651 the previous year. The decrease was made possible by rising property values. The board approved the measure.

The board went into executive session to discuss personnel matters. It was learned the following day that Superintendent Karen Brofft informed them that she plans to retire at the end of the school year.

The board passed a motion to allocate a health benefit dividend to allow district employees to have a one-month holiday from payments, and the remainder would go into general fund unassigned reserves. Both the district and employees pay into the Colorado Employees Benefit Trust.

### Work session: Short-term solutions to address growth

Brofft introduced the subject of growth by saying that Lewis-Palmer Middle School is now at capacity and several elementary schools are near capacity. Law requires that the district offer open enrollment, but applications can be declined if schools are at capacity.

D38 SPECIAL (cont. on 6)



**Above:** It was announced Dec. 4 that Superintendent Karen Brofft plans to retire at the end of the 2018-2019 school year. *Photo taken at the October 2018 board meeting by Harriet Halbig.*

El Paso Board of County Commissioners,  
 Nov. 29, Dec. 4, 11, 18, and 20

## Neighbors' appeal against rehabilitation facility denied

By Helen Walklett

The El Paso Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) has denied an appeal relating to the proposed drug and rehabilitation facility in Woodmoor. The commissioners have also adopted the 2019 county budget and made decisions on the Gleneagle golf course infill development.

### Mountain Springs Recovery appeal denied

At the Dec. 20 BOCC meeting, the last of the year, the commissioners denied by 3 votes to 1 an appeal relating to the planned Mountain Springs Recovery (MSR) drug and alcohol rehabilitation facility on Woodmoor Drive. Commissioner Mark Waller voted against the motion to deny the appeal. Commissioner Longinos Gonzalez was excused.

The appeal was brought by Sharon "Sam" Schafer, chair of Take Action El Paso County LLC, which opposes the facility. It specifically appealed the determination by Craig Dossey, executive director, Planning and Community Development Department, that the proposed facility at the former Ramada Inn property on Woodmoor Drive meets the definition of a "rehabilitation facility" as defined in the county's land development code. This determination was made at the same time as the site development plan was approved in November 2018 (see [www.ocn.me/v18n12.htm?zoom\\_highlight=rehabilitation](http://www.ocn.me/v18n12.htm?zoom_highlight=rehabilitation)). Under county land development appeals procedures, the granting of a site development plan cannot itself be appealed.

Lori Seago, senior assistant county attorney, opened the hearing by setting out the grounds for the appeal and stating that the burden was on the appellant to establish that the executive director's decision was erroneous.

Cole Emmons, senior assistant county attorney, began by saying, "The information I am going to give you today is hard. This is a difficult, potentially emotional topic." He outlined the federal anti-discriminatory laws that underlined the hearing and which, he said, would result in a more restrictive hearing than normal. He said, "The patients that will use the rehabilitation facility are a protected class in that the law classifies them as handicapped." He stated that this classification applied to drug addicts and alcoholics as well as those recovering from addiction and that federal laws prohibit discrimination against them.

Emmons told the commissioners, "I am very concerned about what I perceive to be discriminatory statements made by the appellant in the materials

BOCC (cont. on 2)