

# 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.

- Future of PLVFD Community Meeting, Sat., Jul. 6, 10 a.m.
- Friends of Monument Preserve Trail Work Night, Tue., Jul. 9, 6-9 p.m.
- WMMI: *Finding Gold in Colorado*, Tue., Jul. 9, 7-8:30 p.m.
- Concerts in the Park, Wed. Jul. 10 and every Wed., thru Aug. 21, 7-9 p.m.
- Summer Concert Series at Forest Lakes, Fri., Jul. 12, 6-8 p.m.
- Black Rose Acoustic Society: *Dawn & Hawkes*, Fri., Jul. 12, 7-10 p.m.
- Butterfly/Plant Tours, Palmer Lake Reservoir, Sat., Jul. 13, 9 a.m.-noon
- NEPCO Meeting, Sat., Jul. 13, 10 a.m.-noon. HOA insurance.
- Friends of Fox Run Park Workday, Sat., Jul. 13, 2-4 pm.
- Police Chief Jake Shirk's Retirement Party, Sat., Jul. 13, 4-6 p.m.
- Tri-Lakes Community / Centura Blood Drive, Tue., Jul. 16, 3-7 p.m.
- Tri-Lakes Chamber Education Series, Wed., Jul. 17, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.
- Suzy Bogguss Concert at TLCA, Wed., Jul. 17, 7 p.m.
- MVEA Member Appreciation Day, Thu., Jul. 18, 4:30-6:30 p.m.
- Art Hop, Thu., Jul. 18, 5-8 p.m.
- PLHS: *Oxen at Three Eagles Ranch*, Thu., Jul. 18, meet at 6 p.m.
- Free Movie Night: *How to Train Your Dragon-The Hidden World*, Fri., Jul. 19, about 7 p.m.
- Friends of Fox Run Park, Thu., Jul. 25, 5-6 p.m.
- Black Rose Acoustic Society: *Rachel Laven*, Fri., Jul. 26, 7-10 p.m.
- Free Movie Night: *Spider-Man*, Fri., Jul. 26, about 7 p.m.
- Palmer Lake Try-athlon, Sat., Aug. 3, 10:30 a.m.,
- Tri-Lakes Cruisers 17th Annual Benefit Car Show, Sun., Aug. 4, 7 a.m.-3 p.m.

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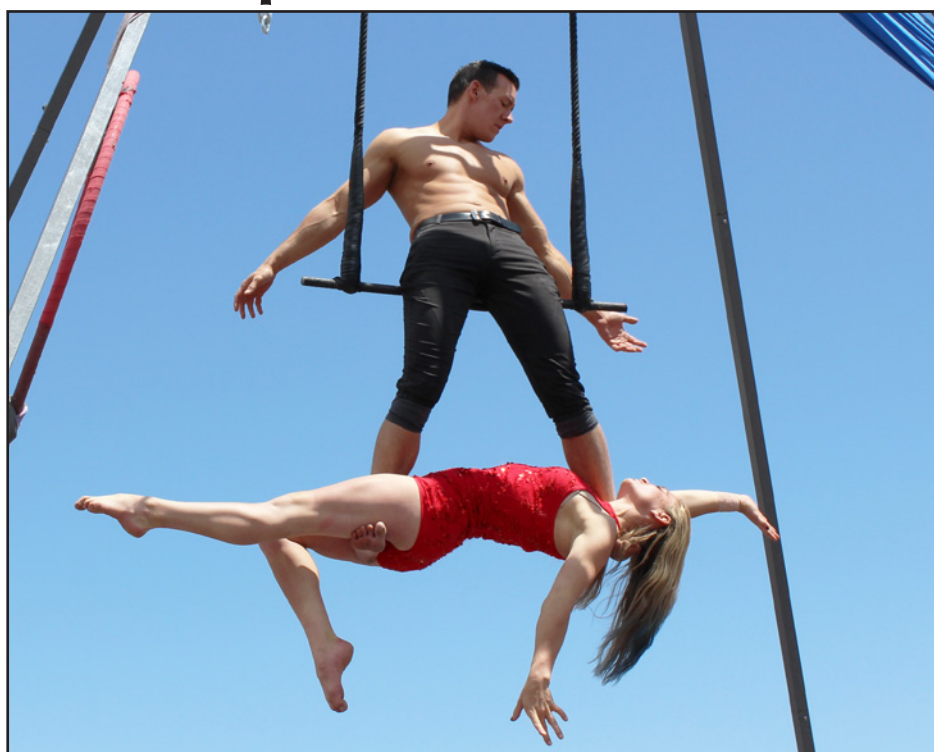
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## Circulation

Print Run: 21,525  
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Our free circulation area now includes over 1,600 mailboxes in Black Forest!

## Cirque du Monument



Above: The second annual Cirque du Monument at Gallery 132 held June 1 in historic downtown Monument offered many activities, including watching acrobats, an alpaca petting zoo, pony rides, food, and a music DJ. Kids could get inside a fire truck and a police car and turn on the lights and visit with first responders. Donation buckets at each booth went toward buying special equipment for Monument first responders. Photo by Helen Bagherian. Caption by Janet Sellers.

Monument Academy School Board, June 13

## Public pushes back on new school; board provides project update

By Jackie Burhans

The Monument Academy (MA) School Board met June 13 to get feedback and provide updates on the planned school, hear results of the parent survey, and hear plans to review the substitute-teacher system. The board held a lengthy executive session and returned to pass four motions. Board members Mike Molsen and J.W. Boyles were absent.

### Public pushback and project update

During the citizens' comments portion of the meeting, a resident of the Walden development expressed concerns about the new school location at Highways 83 and 105. She indicated concerns about the traffic and safety for the children, noting there was a bad accident in December and the road

MA (Cont. on 2)

Lewis-Palmer D-38 Board of Education, June 10

## Board hears comments on new Monument Academy location, passes budget

By Harriet Halbig

### Public hearing on proposed 2019-20 district budget

Assistant Superintendent Cheryl Wangeman gave a brief presentation on the next year's budget. Per pupil revenue is estimated at \$8,037. The onetime cost to install modulars is included in this year's budget, while rental of the units will be in the general fund. The cost of insurance is estimated to increase by 5.5%. District contributions to the Public Employees Retirement Association will increase by 0.25%. There will be a 3% increase in compensation for teachers and 2.5% for administration. There will be an in-

creased revenue of \$113,000 from the state for services for Tier B exceptional students. These funds will be added to the individual school budgets. Enrollment is estimated to increase by 175 students, 83 of whom will be new to the district and 92 of whom will result from kindergarten students now being funded as full time.

Wangeman cautioned that transportation is not fully funded by bus fees. See the BOE June 3 article on page 6 regarding an increase in bus fees.

She said that although District 38 is the chartering authority for Monument Academy, the district is not its

BOE (Cont. on 4)

Black Forest Fire Rescue Protection District, June 19

## Interim chief extended; neglected priorities and staff increases addressed

By Natalie Barszcz

At the June 19 Black Forest Fire Rescue Protection District (BFFRPD) board meeting, interim Chief PJ Langmaid's position was extended through September. Board members and Langmaid discussed prioritizing long-overdue repairs and the staff increases needed at Stations 1 and 2.

### Interim chief extended

Board President Rick McMorran made the motion for PJ Langmaid to continue as interim chief through September to assist during the budget process. The board approved the extension 5-0.

### Time to catch up on neglected priorities

Langmaid said that although there are many building maintenance issues, equipment replacement needs, and vehicle repairs pending, they will all require prioritization going forward with safety issues addressed first over cosmetic repairs. "It is a good thing we are finally identifying these issues that existed before and it is not a Chicken Little ... sky is falling ... scenario," said Langmaid.

### Exhaust system

Langmaid requested the board consider an immediate repair of the exhaust vent systems at both stations with an outright purchase or with financing.

Langmaid said that while the safety and health of staff who spend upwards of 40 hours a week in the buildings is paramount, residents rent the community room four times a week and are also exposed to diesel exhaust fumes. We need to make this the highest priority, said Langmaid. Treasurer Jack Hinton said, "It is absolutely amazing to me that the building passed the regional inspection—it is time to pull the trigger and get the exhaust system fixed." The board unanimously agreed to approve \$120,000 for a new exhaust system from Plymovent for Stations 1 and 2.

### Cancer concerns

Langmaid asked the board to approve the district's annual participation in the Colorado Special Districts Property and Liability Pool repayment agreement. "Firefighters have a much higher rate of cancer and heart disease than the average general population, and the state asks fire districts to assist with costs incurred from the treatment of disease," said Langmaid. The board approved 5-0 the annual review to participate in the repayment agreement.

### Financial report

Hinton said BFFRPD currently has \$1.475 million in the bank, and "We are going to address a lot of issues that

BFFRPD (Cont. on 7)