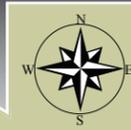


Our Community News

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



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Issue #223 — Volume 19 Number 9 — Saturday, September 7, 2019

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Local Events

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

- **Front Range Open Studios**, Sat.-Sun., Sep. 7-8, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
- **WMMI Family Day: History**, Sat., Sep. 7, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
- **MONOCHROME Photo Exhibition Reception at TLCA**, Sat., Sep. 7, 6-8 p.m.
- **Friends of Monument Preserve Trail Work Night**, Tue., Sep. 10, 6-9 p.m.
- **Town Hall on D38 2019 Bond**, Tue., Sep. 10, 6:30-7:45 p.m. Repeats Sep. 26.
- **WMMI: The Nordberg Steam Stamp**, Tue., Sep. 10, 6:30-8 p.m.
- **Community Tours of LPMS**, Thu., Sep. 12, 10:30 a.m. Repeats Sep. 26.
- **Steel Horse Swing Concert & Dance at TLCA**, Fri., Sep. 13, 7 p.m.
- **NEPCO Meeting**, Sat., Sep. 14, 10 a.m.-noon. County assessor.
- **VFW Family Freedom Festival**, Sat., Sep. 14, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
- **Palmer Lake Wine Festival**, Sat., Sep. 14, 1-5 p.m.
- **Friends of Fox Run Park Volunteer Day**, Sat., Sep. 14, 2-4 p.m.
- **RMMA Women Composer Concert**, Sat., Sep. 14, 7 p.m.
- **Gleneagle Sertoma 18th Annual Patriot Golf Benefit**, Mon., Sep. 16, 8:30 a.m.
- **Tri-Lakes Community Blood Drive**, Tue., Sep. 17, 3-7 p.m.
- **Art Hop**, Thu., Sep. 19, 5-8 p.m.
- **PLHS: Outlaws and Lawmen of the Wild West**, Thu., Sep. 19, 7 p.m.
- **The New Christie Minstrels Concert at TLCA**, Fri., Sep. 20, 7 p.m.
- **WMMI Smithsonian Day**, Sat., Sep. 21, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
- **Bines & Brews**, Sat., Sep. 21, 1-5 p.m.
- **Larkspur Autumn Arts & Craft Fest**, Sat.-Sun., Sep. 21-22, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
- **LPHS Concert**, Tue., Sep. 24, 7 p.m.
- **Combined High School Concert**, Wed., Sep. 25, 7 p.m.
- **Creek Week Clean-Up**, Sat., Sep. 28, 9 a.m.
- **TLMFPD Open House**, Sat., Sep. 28, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
- **Empty Bowls Dinner & Silent Auction**, Wed., Oct. 2, 5-7:30 p.m.
- **PLAG 46th Annual Art Fair**, Sat., Oct. 5, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

“TRY-athletes” enjoy a cool Palmer Lake splash



Above: Awake Palmer Lake held its first “TRY-athlon,” complete with an abundance of donuts and silliness, to raise support for the improvement of Palmer Lake and the surrounding park areas. The “race,” held on Aug. 3, consisted of an “overly assisted” 50-meter swim, a 250-meter anything-with-wheels ride, and a 250-meter run/walk/hobble. Inflatable donuts provided swim assistance as well as memorabilia. The next Awake Palmer Lake fundraising event is the Palmer Lake .5K, which is scheduled for Oct. 6 and boasts a donut “aid station” at the halfway point. Awake Palmer Lake is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to the restoration and preservation of Palmer Lake and its surrounding parkland. See awakepalmerlake.org for more information. Pictured, TRY-athlon participants compete in the “overly assisted” 50-meter swim. Photo courtesy of Chris Cummins, Awake Palmer Lake.

Lewis-Palmer D-38 Board of Education, Aug. 26

Board approves wording of bond issue, discusses local control in light of sex-ed law

By Harriet Halbig

The Lewis-Palmer D-38 Board of Education approved the wording of its bond issue for the November ballot, passed a resolution regarding local control of curriculum in response to a new state law regarding Human Sexuality Education, and approved the contracts of three new assistant principals at its Aug. 26 meeting.

November ballot issue

The board passed a resolution to sub-

mit to the county clerk final wording of a bond issue for the November ballot. Following wording that TABOR requires submission of increased indebtedness to the electors of the district, the issue will request “\$28.985 million solely for the purpose of construction and equipping a new elementary school in Jackson Creek.”

Board and staff are allowed to discuss the bond on their own time but

D38 (Cont. on 2)

Monument Academy School Board, Aug. 8

Board hears leadership, funding, and design concerns

By Jackie Burhans

The Monument Academy (MA) School Board met on Aug. 8 to hear concerns and questions from parents and staff on executive leadership and design and funding of the planned secondary school. A follow-up community meeting was held on Aug. 13 with the architect and builder’s representative where additional questions and concerns were raised.

Concerns about leadership, school design and funding

An audience of more than 30 met with the MA School Board for nearly 3 1/2 hours and commented on the following:

- Increased fifth-grade class sizes impacting personalized instruction.

MA (Cont. on 4)

Palmer Lake Town Council,
Aug. 8 and 22

Council defers ballot initiative to fund Fire Department

By James Howald and Jackie Burhans
At the second of its two August meetings, the Palmer Lake Town Council capped a months-long debate about the future of the Palmer Lake Volunteer Fire Department (PLVFD), and how to fund it, with a decision not to put an initiative on the ballot for the November election. The suggestion in July that Palmer Lake might sign an inter-governmental agreement with another fire district and disband PLVFD galvanized the community, prompted many expressions of support for keeping PLVFD, mobilized residents to organize efforts to address some of PLVFD’s most pressing problems, brought to the fore the issue of the lack of trust in the council felt by some in the community, and prompted Mayor John Cressman to propose changes to how the council interacts with residents.

The council also voted on two conditional use permits from Jeremy Ferranti to develop two lots at Illumination Point as a mini-warehouse and as storage area for commercial vehicles.

Finally, at the Aug. 8 meeting, in an update on the project to build a pedestrian bridge connecting the lake to the town, a complication involving the location of a water line was debated.

Distrust of council spotlighted

At the Aug. 8 meeting, Trustee Mark Schuler reported on his attendance at a citizens’ meeting. He told the council many at the meeting spoke of their lack of trust in the council, and he asked that this issue go on the council’s agenda for future meetings. Schuler said he wanted more oversight of town administrative staff at the department level.

Trustee Glant Havenar said she thought many in the town wanted to return to the use of council members as commissioners overseeing aspects of the town’s responsibilities.

During the public comments period, resident and former Trustee Trish Flake also spoke about the citizens’ meeting. Flake raised the issues concerning the current role of Cathy Green-Sinnard, who had been the town administrator previously, and of an audit of the town’s finances presently underway to determine if tax revenue intended for the Fire Department had been diverted to other uses. Flake said she wanted to see a criminal investigation of the town’s finances. Flake also asked for clarity on how the town’s portion of the proceeds from the sale of the Vaile House had been used.

At the meeting on Aug. 8, Cressman expressed his support for assigning trustees roles as liaisons with town functions such as roads, fire mitigation, parks, and so forth as a means of better communicating with residents and potentially increasing trust in the council. At the Aug. 22 meeting, Cressman and

PALMER LAKE (Cont. on 6)

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