

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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Read, download, and search all the OCN back issues at www.ocn.me.

WHERE TO FIND OFFICIAL COVID INFORMATION
<https://covid19.colorado.gov/>

Local Events

Many local events continue to be canceled, suspended, or are being conducted on-line or by conference call. See pages 28-31 for details.

The unpredictability of the COVID-19 situation presents scheduling challenges for area governance entities and other organizations. Because OCN is a monthly publication, readers should assume that event information published in this issue is subject to change and information should be confirmed a day or two before the event by calling the information number or checking the organization's website.

Dates are shown for events even though the event has been canceled or suspended. The date indicates when the event was planned to be held or when it would normally have been held.

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

- **Downtown Monument's Small Town Christmas**, Sat., Dec. 5, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
- **Chess Nuts**, Tue., Dec. 8 and 22, 5-9 p.m.
- **Foot Care Clinic**, Wed., Dec. 9 and 18
- **Tri-Lakes Chamber Monthly Education Series: Speed Networking**, Tue., Dec. 10, 3:30-7:30 p.m.
- **Monument Tour de Lights**, Sat., Dec. 12, 3:30-6:30 p.m.
- **Annual Palmer Lake Yule Log Hunt**, Sun., Dec. 13, 1 p.m.
- **National Wreaths Across America Day**, Sat., Dec. 19, 10 a.m.
- **County's Annual TreeCycle**, Sat.-Sun., Jan. 2-3, or 9-10, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
- **WMMI, regular daily operations resumed**, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

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Celebrate small businesses



Above: Small Business Saturday kicked off on Nov. 28, a day to celebrate and support small businesses and all they do for our community. In Historic Downtown Monument, businesses were open with flags proclaiming the day and encouraging visitors to "shop small." The Roost is one of the downtown stores, selling vintage collectibles and home décor. For more information on the small businesses in the Town of Monument see <http://downtownmonument.org>. Please join us in supporting our small businesses in the Tri-Lakes area by shopping at a small business for your holiday needs and getting takeout from one of the many local restaurants. *Our Community News* appreciates and depends on the support of local advertisers. Photo by Jackie Burhans.

Monument Academy School Board, Nov. 4, 12, and 19

Board dips deeper into reserves, resets virtual learning

By Jackie Burhans

The Monument Academy (MA) School Board held a board training session on Nov. 4 followed by its regular board meeting on Nov. 12 to review the amended budget and reset by adding a week of remote learning. The board held a special meeting on Nov. 19 to discuss and approve an updated budget.

Board finance training

On Nov. 4, Director of Finance Marc Brocklehurst led a session to educate board members on school financing and fund accounting. He explained that funding comes in descending order from a state share, local share, fed-

eral grants, fees, and donations.

- State share is a base per pupil revenue (PPR) times the October pupil count plus, for some districts, factors such as size, cost of living, personnel, etc. and minus a budget stabilization factor (formerly, the negative factor) to ensure the state's budget remains balanced. State share is about 70% of per pupil revenue and comes from state income and sales taxes.
- Local share comes from local property taxes, calculated by multiplying the home value times the assessment rate (7.15%) times the

MA (Cont. on 2)

Triview Metro District, Nov. 19

District contemplates decrease in mills and change in address

By Jennifer Kaylor

The Triview Metropolitan District Board of Directors received input about tax revenue for the next year and the results of a new office location search. The 2021 budget public hearing, originally scheduled for this Nov. 19 meeting, was postponed to the district's Dec. 10 board meeting.

All board directors, district accountant Cathy Fromm, water attorney Chris Cummins, and general counsel Gary Shupp attended the meeting remotely. Shupp experienced technical difficulties and was only able to participate for a portion of the meeting.

Triview is a Title 32 special district in Monument that provides road, landscaping, and parks and open space maintenance, and water and wastewater services to Jackson Creek, Promontory Pointe, Sanctuary Pointe, and several commercial areas. See <https://triviewmetro.com/districtMap> for a map of district boundaries.

TRIVIEW (Cont. on 7)

Drive-through COVID-19 test site



Above: Lines of cars hold people waiting to get tested for COVID-19 at the Monument testing site on Nov. 18. Cars stood for blocks ending at Limbaugh Park as they waited for the Public Health Department drive-through site, located at Lincoln and Jefferson, which has since been moved to a bigger parking lot on Interquest Parkway. One person in line said it took over an hour to be seen as cases rise for a third wave in El Paso County. The test is free. Check for current testing locations and hours at www.elpasocountyhealth.org/covid-19-testing-information. Photo by Allison Robenstein.