

Happy Independence Day! 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/>

Update on county fireworks ban

Details on page 21

Local Events

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.

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

- July 3 & 4 events - see page 30
- Community CPR Class Fundraiser to benefit Tri-Lakes Cares, Tue., July 6, 5 p.m.
- Heartsaver CPR/AED & First Aid Training, Sat., July 10, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Woodmoor Chipping Day, Sat., July 10, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Family Day: Science at WMMI, Sat., July 10, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Downtown Monument Art Hop, Thu., July 15, 5-8 p.m.
- Color Splash Art Show, Opening Reception, Fri., July 16, 6-8 p.m.
- Palmer Lake Historical Society, Sat., July 17, 10 a.m.-noon
- County Concerts in the Park series, Thu., July 22, July 29 & Aug. 5, 6-8 p.m.
- PPLD Ice Cream Social, Sat., July 24, noon-4:30 p.m.
- Woodmoor Chipping Day, Sat., Aug. 7, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Backpack Bash, Sat., Aug. 7, 9 a.m., YMCA
- Black Forest Festival, Sat., Aug. 7, 6:30 - 9:30 a.m.
- Kiwanis Palisade Peach Pickup Day, Sat., Aug. 7, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
- Silver Key 50th Anniversary Gala, Sat., Aug. 7, 6-10 p.m.

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They Kept Their Promise



Above: Six years ago, four Boy Scouts promised each other they would achieve the rank of Eagle Scout together. They have now kept their promise. Garrett Polunci, Christopher Hutton Smith, and Christopher McKee Smith were conferred the rank of Eagle on May 22 at a Troop 17 Eagle Court of Honor at the Woodmoor Community Center. The fourth boy, Garret Vliet, became an Eagle in 2019 and served as Master of Ceremony at the event. From left are Palmer Lake High School seniors Garret Vliet, Christopher H Smith, Garrett Polunci, and Christopher M Smith. Photo by Thomas Smith.

Monument Academy School Board, June 14

Board discusses new COVID testing program, welcomes new board members

By Jackie Burhans

The Monument Academy (MA) school board met on June 14 to learn about a new COVID-19 testing program for the 2021-22 school year and receive an update on the Highway 105 project and its impact to the school.

MA also held a special board meeting on June 2 to "pass the torch" to new board members. At the regular meeting, MA swore in new board members, voted on board roles, and discussed committee memberships.

Pooled COVID testing available for K-12

Outgoing Chief Operating Officer Christianna Herrera reported that the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) sent a letter to superintendents and school leaders to prepare for COVID-19 testing that will occur this summer and during the 2021-22 school year. The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) will be offering a new opt-in testing program free to all K-12 schools. The program will implement a weekly pooled Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) testing mechanism. CDPHE will offer districts end-to-end services or direct-ship services for PCR testing. If this program is made available, parents will need to provide consent.

Recognizing the challenges schools have faced with contact tracing and quarantining, CDE is working on revising quarantine requirement for schools, students, and staff who participate in the testing program. CDPHE is piloting an exemption from quar-

antine requirements for unvaccinated individuals if 70% of the school's population is either vaccinated or participating in testing. This pilot will inform formal policy decisions for the coming school year. CDPHE is discontinuing its distribution of Binax at-school and at-home tests.

Herrera said this program may depend on an executive order from the governor and that the board should keep an eye on this program. The board confirmed the details and noted this would affect any elementary student under the age of 12, because they are not eligible for the vaccine. Herrera and the board discussed the involvement of the county Public Health Department and noted that individuals could advocate with the governor's office, CDE, CDPHE and county Public Health departments.

Highway 105 project

Board member Megghan St. Aubyn reported that the county only received three feedback emails on the Highway 105 project. The project will not affect the 2021-22 school year, and MA hopes the work will occur in the summer of 2022. The county will try to minimize the impact on or consider relocating part of the nature trail. MA will request funding from the federal government regarding the nature trail.

The proposal for traffic flow is to come in on Knollwood, turn east by Vision Clinic and queue around the school building to avoid lining up on

MA (Cont. on 2)

Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District, June 23

Wescott unification progress; residential assessment rates dropping

By Natalie Barszcz

At the Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District board meeting on June 23, the board received an update on the unification process and the coming reduction in the Residential Assessment Rate (RAR) and heard about the district's new Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA).

Directors Terri Hayes and Tom Tharnish arrived late after forgetting the temporary meeting location. The meeting began at 6:34 p.m.; Hayes was excused for a prior meeting and arrived at 6:48 p.m.

Wescott unification update

Chief Andy Kovacs said he and Interim Fire Chief Warren Jones of Donald Wescott Fire Protection District (DWFPD), as directed by both boards, met with Project Manager Dan Qualman of Emergency Services Consulting International (ESCI) of Wilsonville Ore. to discuss the proposed feasibility study that both the DWFPD and TLMFPD boards had approved at the May 13 special meeting. See www.ocn.me/v21n6.htm#tlmfspd.

Kovacs said he also attended the DWFPD board meeting on June 15 where the cost share for the feasibility study was approved unanimously.

TLMFPD (Cont. on 7)