

Our Community News

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



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Issue #263 — Volume 23 Number 2 — Saturday, February 4, 2023

Free

**OCN needs
your help!
See page 28**

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.

- **Winter Fun at Fox Run**, Sat., Feb. 4, 10 am-2 pm
- **Palmer Lake business workshop series**, Thu., Feb. 9
- **D38 Talent Show application due date**, Sat., Feb. 11, auditions Feb. 25.
- **Free D38 chess tournament**, Sat., Feb. 11, 8:15 am.
- **Tri-Lakes Chamber of Commerce, Networking**, Tue., Feb. 14, 5-7 pm
- **Palmer Lake Historical Society**, Thu., Feb. 16, 6-8 pm
- **2023 Wildfire Neighborhood Ambassador Program Kick-off**, Tue., Feb. 21, 7-8:30 pm.
- **Black Forest Saddle Club: awards ceremony for top equestrians for 2022 show season**, Sat., Feb. 25, 3 pm
- **McCord's Garden center opens**, Wed., Mar. 1. See ad on page 4.
- **Our Community News mailing day**, Thu., Mar. 2, approx. 9 am-2 pm. Information on page 28.

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Susan Miner book signing, Jan. 21



Above: Susan Miner of Palmer Lake signed copies of her first novel, *Jewels of Kidron* on Jan. 21 at Covered Treasures Bookstore in Monument. More than two dozen people showed up, including Vivian Cobb seen in photo, to have their copies signed. It took Miner five years to write the novel. She's now working on a sequel. Miner has been active in the community for many years and is currently a member of the Palmer Lake Planning Commission and a former member of the Palmer Lake Board of Trustees. *Photos by Michael Weinfeld.*

Monument Town Council, Jan. 3 and 17

New Monument board sets aside investigation until new law firm hired

By Chris Jeub

New leadership, police, and lawyers were sworn in, promoted, and hired to set into motion what some call a "new town" that changed in structure as well as personnel in Monument. The election results in November brought two significant changes. First, the Home Rule Charter was voted into law by 70 percent of the vote, transferring the form of government from a state-governed Board of Trustees to self-governed Board Members. Second, three new

members and a new mayor were elected, changing the character of the previous governing body.

However, the interim government followed the election by launching an independent investigation in December that called the validity of the Charter into question, accusing incoming members of illegal electioneering and misappropriation of funds, and presenting evidence of a hostile work environment by town management. January's meetings of the new gov-

ernment were spent setting aside the investigation for a later day while taking care of town business.

Investigation set aside as interim law firm hired

On Jan. 3, at the first meeting of the new government, newly-elected Councilmember Steve King put forth the motion to rescind all meeting notes of the previous month, a motion that passed 4-1 with Councilmember Jim Romanello dissenting. Though several members of the

MONUMENT (Cont. on 2)

Palmer Lake Board of Trustees, Jan. 12 and 26

Board awards adult-use cannabis licenses, discusses stalled Elephant Rock project

By James Howald and Jackie Burhans

The Palmer Lake Board of Trustees (PLBOT) met twice in January; the first meeting was preceded by the board meeting in its role of Local Licensing Authority to consider

two requests to operate adult-use cannabis retail stores. Resident Gary Atkins was honored by the board, and Mayor Glant Havenar read a proclamation recognizing Martin Luther King Day. The board passed resolutions appointing

town officers and representatives to boards and commissions. Water tap fees and water usage rates were increased, and the Master Fee Schedule was amended. The town's regulations for signs were updated.

PALMER LAKE (Cont. on 6)