

Our Community News

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



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Issue #264 — Volume 23 Number 3 — Saturday, March 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.

- **St. Peter Church Lenten Fish Frys** - benefits local charities. every **Fri.** in March, 5-7 pm
- **NEPCO meeting**, Sat., **Mar. 11**, 10 am-12 pm, Fire department merger and emergency planning.
- **Meet and Greet with Monument Mayor Mitch LaKind**, Sat., **Mar. 11**, 10 am-12 pm.
- **Help Benet Hill nuns "Stuff the Truck" with food**, Sun., **Mar. 12**.
- **Palmer Lake Historical Society**, Thu., **Mar. 16**, meeting, 7 pm *KKK in Denver in the 1920s*.
- **Pikes Peak Brewing Co. St. Patrick's Weekend**, Fri.-Sat., **Mar. 17-18**. See ad on page 2.
- **Kiwanis/D38 talent show**, Sun., **Mar. 19**, 2 p.m
- **WMMI STEaM Camp**, Mon.-Fri., **Mar. 27-31**, 9 am - 3 pm, grades 3-5. See ad on page 8.
- **Our Community News mailing day**, Thu., **Mar. 30**, approx. 9 am-2 pm. Information on page 28.

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Celebrating Marie West's 100th



Above: Longtime Monument resident Marie West celebrated her 100th birthday on Feb.18 with a party at Trinity Lutheran Church, where she's known as Grandma because of all the kids she's taken care of. About 300 friends and relatives attended the party including her three daughters, all eight of her grandchildren and four of her 14 great-grandchildren. Her two great-great grandchildren were unable to attend. West told *Our Community News* she's "flabbergasted" that she's now a centenarian. Her advice to those who want to reach that age? "Just keep busy." Since retiring and moving to Monument in 1991, she kept busy by helping with home daycare until she was 95. Though not a smoker, West admits to enjoying the occasional margarita. She grew up on a farm in Iowa, and after high school she worked at a munitions factory. When she was old enough to enlist, she joined the WAVES branch of the Navy where she was part of the blimp ground crew handling ropes during takeoffs and landings. Among her jobs after the war was working with the first computers, including UNIVAC. *Photos by Michael Weinfeld.*

Monument Town Council, Feb. 6 and 21

Beacon Lite business withdraws annexation request after concerns from new board

By Chris Jeub

Monument Town Council business in February included filling its last council seats and gifting the town staff with additional paid vacation. Resolutions and ordinances surrounding the development of property on Beacon Lite Road were voted upon, reconsidered, and ultimately tabled to alleviate concerns expressed by new councilmembers and neighbors over traffic, safety, and tree removal. The month ended

with one of the applicants withdrawing its application, but another very similar application was granted. The council also discussed a controversial bill making its way through the Colorado State Legislature and convened to executive sessions to discuss how to legally proceed with the Dec. 28 investigation report. Refer to the February (www.ocn.me/v23n2.htm#mtc) and January (www.ocn.me/v23n1.htm#mbot) issues of *OCN* for back-

ground information on the investigation.

New board members

Seven seats exist in the Town Council, two of which are the mayor and mayor pro tem. Mitch LaKind, formerly a councilmember, was elected mayor in November and newly elected Steve King was appointed mayor pro tem. Of the remaining five seats, Jim Romanello continues to serve out his term and Kenneth

MONUMENT (Cont. on 2)

Lewis-Palmer D38 Board of Education, Feb. 21

Board president resigns; budget and draft calendar discussed

By Harriet Halbig

The Lewis-Palmer D38 Board of Education accepted the resignation of board President Chris Taylor and discussed the process for seeking and appointing a replacement at its Feb. 21 meeting. There also was

a detailed discussion of the current state of the district budget, plans for the 2023-24 school year, and potential changes in the school calendar. Declaration of vacancy on the board The board passed a resolution accepting the resignation of Taylor of

D38 District 1 effective Feb 21.

Following state statute, the board must select and appoint a replacement within 60 days of the vacancy. Superintendent KC Somers said the 60 days would be up on

D38 (Cont. on 7)