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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 26-27 for event locations and other details of these and many other local events.

- OCN mailing days, Thu., Aug. 3 & 31, approx. 9 am-2 pm.
- Hummingbird Festival, Fri.-Sat., Aug. 4-5, 10 am-3 pm.
- WMMI Lecture, Tue., Aug. 8, 4-5 pm, Alexander Film Company of Colorado Springs;
- WMMI Family Day, Sat. Aug. 12, 10-3 pm.
- Trivia in the Park at Fox Run Regional Park. Wed. Aug. 9, 6 am-7:30 pm
- LAST 2023 Concert in the Park, Wed., Aug. 9, 6:30 to 8:30 pm. Limbach Park.
- Love shop, Restyle your furs event, Thu.-Fri., Aug. 10-11, 10 am-5 pm, 251 Front St. See ad on page 20.
- Kings Deer Community Garage Sale, Fri.-Sun., Aug. 11-13. See ad on page 5.
- 24th annual Free Community Pig Roast, Fri., Aug. 11, 5:30-7:30 pm. See ad on page 8.
- Customers must pick up peaches ordered through Kiwanis, Sat., Aug. 12, 10 am- 2 pm. Bear Creek Elementary, 1330 Creekside.
- Art Hop, Thu., Aug 17, 5-8 pm. See ad on page 2.
- Dance performance auditions, Sat., Aug. 19. See ad on page 5.
- Benet Hill Monastery, Earth Day in August. Sat., Aug. 26, 9 am-1:30 pm. See ad on page 3.
- Pikes Peak Brewing John Denver Tribute, Sun., Aug. 27, 1-4 p.m. See ad on page 2.
- Labor Day weekend art festival: Sat.-Mon., Sep. 2-4, 10-5 pm. See ad on page 9.

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Circulation
Print Run: 23,440
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Stacks: 748

WMMI Family Days, July 15 and Aug. 12



Above: The Western Museum of Mining & Industry (WMMI) held its Family Day with a focus on industry on July 15. Family Day attendees learned how to pan gold with assistance from members of the Gold Prospectors of Colorado, traveled around the museum property on a tractor-pulled hayride, and witnessed the operation of the museum's 1920 Osgood steam shovel, H.K. Porter Trammer, EIMCO 630 rocker mucker, and Yellow Jacket Stamp Mill. There were also blacksmith demonstrations, Monument Fire District engines on display, and a chance to pet and learn about alpacas. The last WMMI Family Day of the summer will be on Aug. 12 with a focus on history. Information on WMMI and its upcoming events is at www.wmmi.org. *Photo by David Futey.*

Monument Academy School Board, June 27 MA holds town hall on navigating gender issues

By Jackie Burhans

The Monument Academy (MA) board held a special meeting June 27, after the publication deadline for the July issue of Our Community News, on navigating gender issues. The Town Hall was attended by all seated board members except for outgoing board member Michael Geers. Also in attendance were the interim Chief Operating Officer Kim McClelland and MA's legal counsel Brad Miller.

The community Town Hall was attended by around 200 parents, teachers, administrators, and community members, many of whom spoke on the matter. State Rep. Don Wilson, R-Monument, was in attendance along with former Rep. Tim Geitner. The meeting ended with the unanimous adoption of a resolution regarding the privacy and protection of students.

GENDER ISSUES (Cont. on 6)



Above: At a special Town Hall meeting of the Monument Academy (MA) board, parents heard from the board and its legal counsel on how to navigate gender issues surrounding transgender students. Nearly 200 people attended, with many speaking in support during public comment. The board unanimously passed a resolution affirming its support for state and federal anti-discrimination laws as well as family and student privacy laws while saying that such laws harmed students who should report their discomfort with transgender students to authorities, that staff should alert the community to the presence of transgender students, and that parents should sue the parents of transgender students if they feel their child's right to privacy has been violated and should encourage their representatives to overturn such laws. Further, they resolved that transgender students must have the complete affirmation of their family units, must change their name and gender in all school records, and must dress as their chosen gender with "no vacillation." *Photo by Jackie Burhans.*

OCN switches to larger format

By John Heiser, Publisher, OCN

Starting with our November 2001 issue, Our Community News has been printed on pages that are about 11 inches wide by about 17 inches long. This month, our pages are 11 inches wide by 21 inches long. Why the change?

Since 2016, OCN has been printed at the Pueblo Chieftain's printing plant in Pueblo. On June 13, Gannett, the owner of the Chieftain, abruptly announced that the Chieftain's printing plant will be permanently closed Aug. 13.

Publications being printed at that plant include five daily newspapers (Pueblo Chieftain, USA Today, Fort Collins Coloradoan, Rocky Ford Gazette, and the Trinidad Chronicle News), 46

weeklies, and 10 monthlies including OCN. The plant was averaging 76 print jobs per week requiring three shifts a day, six days a week, and employed more than 50 people.

Local options for printing OCN on the size paper we used before are very limited, so we had to switch to this larger format. This issue of OCN was printed by the Denver Post.

Despite the challenges of producing OCN as a print publication, our all-volunteer staff is dedicated to delivering detailed, accurate local news to more than 22,000 homes and businesses throughout the Tri-Lakes area every month. If you would like to help us do that, please contact me at johnheiser@ocn.me or 719-488-3455.

Monument Town Council, July 17 Annexation of Monument Ridge fails

By Chris Jeub

One Monument Town Council meeting was held in July, but it was as long as two as heated exchanges among developers, councilmembers, and neighbors lasted late into the night. The debate surrounded two subdivisions known as Monument Ridge West and East, 161 acres at the southwest and southeast corners of I-25 and County Line Road. This was their final step in their application for annexation into the town of Monument. Though their application was previously approved by the Planning Commission (see article on page 4) and supported by town staff, the Town Council overruled both and voted against annexation with a 2-5 vote. The developer withdrew its plans, and the future of Monument Ridge West and East now goes to El Paso County.

Background

Planning Director Shelia Booth presented the first resolution for annexation from El Paso County into Monument, known as Monument Ridge No. 1 West. The proposed annexation concerns a 90-acre area on the west side of I-25 south of County Line Road. While the town's Comprehensive Plan designates the area as Mixed Use, the applicant seeks to rezone it to Residential. Town staff supports this change, as the current housing density alongside the dedicated open space in Douglas County north of County Line Road does not warrant multi-use zoning.

The annexation agreement includes provisions for residential attached units but prohibits higher densities and multi-family housing. Despite initially facing a close vote of 3-4 against the proposal in the Planning Commission, it passed with a 4-3 vote when certain conditions were set. The zoning proposal was later approved by the Planning Commission with a vote of 6-1, and town staff recommended approval, emphasizing that annexation would allow the town to oversee the development and ensure alignment with the community vision of Monument's Comprehensive Plan.

MONUMENT (Cont. on 2)