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Issue #132 — Volume 12 Number 2 — Saturday, February 4, 2012

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Upcoming Local Events

See pages 27-31 for details
of these and many other
local events.

**Palmer Lake Art Group Valentine Art
Exhibit and Sale, Fri.-Sat., Feb. 3-4,**
10 a.m.-6 p.m.

**Tri-Lakes Business Incubator Free
Workshop: Branding your Business,**
Tue., Feb. 7, 10-11 a.m.

**D-38 School Bus Fees Informational
Meeting, Tue., Feb. 7, 7 p.m.**

**Free AARP Stroke and Heart Attack
Recognition Class, Wed., Feb. 8, 9-**
11 a.m.

**D-38 School Bus Fees Informational
Meeting, Wed., Feb. 8, 4:15 p.m.**

**County Commissioner Darryl Glenn
speaks at Tri-Lakes Chamber of
Commerce 5th Annual State of the
Chamber Breakfast, Fri., Feb. 10, 7:**
30-9 a.m.

**D-38 School Bus Fees Informational
Meeting, Fri., Feb. 10, 9 a.m.**

Cops for Kids Fundraiser, Sat., Feb.
11, 1 p.m.-1 a.m.

**Palmer Lake Historical Society
Meeting: Frank Lewis-Dale Jones
Gang, Thu., Feb. 16, 7 p.m.**

**West End Center Open House, Sat.,
Feb. 18, 1-5 p.m.**

**Rocky Mountain Music Association
(RMMA) Free Concert, Sat., Feb.**
11, 7 p.m.

**Western Museum of Mining &
Industry (WMMI): Heritage
Lecture-Hydraulic Fracturing
Panel Discussion, Thu., Feb. 23, 7-8:**
30 p.m.

Palmer Lake After Dark, Fri., Feb. 24,
8-11 p.m. ■

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Above: A group of Palmer Lake Elementary students won a Rubik's Cube contest recently. They demonstrated their skills at the D-38 board meeting Jan. 19. They are, Zelkin, Alex Laverde, Shane Oatman, Minna Mooberry, Lily Matalus, Jai Liester, Macallyster Wruck, Aaron Mather, Nick Miller, Brynn Robenstein, Austin Marshall, and Zachary Shepherd. *Photo by Harriet Halbig*

Lewis-Palmer D-38 Board of Education, Jan. 19

Superintendent Borman reviews district's achievements and challenges

By Harriet Halbig

At the Jan. 19 meeting of the District 38 Board of Education, Superintendent John Borman reported that the district continues to earn many awards for its achievement, among them:

- Placement on the Advanced Placement Honor Roll, one of two districts in Colorado this year and the only Colorado district to be honored two years in a row. The Honor Roll recognizes districts that increase offerings of AP classes and the number of students participating in them.
- Four district schools were awarded the John Irwin School of Excellence award—Kilmer Elementary, Lewis-Palmer Elementary, Prairie Winds Elementary, and Lewis-Palmer Middle School. He said it was especially satisfying that Lewis-Palmer Middle School earned this designation during the year it became the single middle school in the district.
- The district has the top remediation rate for a public school district in the state. This designation reflects the fact that Lewis-Palmer's graduation standards are high and students need to take few or no remedial courses to qualify for college level classes.
- The district's sports, music, and drama programs often place high in state and national competitions.
- One student scored a perfect score on the ACT exam.

Borman said that, while he is proud of the district's achievement, it concerns him that public perception may be that the district has suffered no setbacks as a result of severe cuts in funding over the past four years.

Some of the major cuts have included:

- Instituting a pay freeze for all district employees
- Severe cuts in the training budget for

teachers

- Class sizes have increased by two or three students as a result of cutting teacher positions
- High school teachers teach an additional class daily
- Math and reading coaches have been eliminated
- Instructional coaches for teachers have been eliminated
- Administrative staff is less than half that of 2008
- No new buses have been purchased for several years
- Maintenance of capital assets has been severely curtailed
- Two school bus routes have been eliminated

The district was notified the previous week by the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) that cuts for the 2012-13 year will be \$48.4 million statewide.

In addition, although the district has benefited this year from greater enrollment than anticipated, the state will not fund growth, so each student will receive less funding than previously.

The district has benefited from two grants in the past year, one to provide GPS systems for school buses and the other to fund repairs to the roof of Lewis-Palmer Middle School.

Some potential sources of revenue are being pursued:

- Creation of a homeschool enrichment academy to offer instruction one day a week at Grace Best. Meetings of parents are being held and the district hopes to initiate classes in the fall.
- The district's marketing plan is being expanded. For details on this, please see the District Accountability Advisory Committee article in the January issue of OCN on page 20.
- Efforts continue to save on utility costs.

Board President Jeff Ferguson commented that he is concerned about the erosion of the district's capital assets, and the erosion of its human assets at the high school level. He said that the present course cannot be maintained without damage to future graduates in the district.

Borman agreed, urging especially that funding for technology must somehow be restored.

Other financial matters

Assistant Superintendent Cheryl Wageman presented a plan to retain sufficient reserves for the district to fund its payroll during the first few months of the year.

State funding is received in 12 equal installments throughout the calendar year, but real estate tax revenues are received in February, March, and April only. As a result, there is often a shortfall of funding in January and early February. In the past, districts were allowed to borrow money interest free from the state to cover this shortfall. That is no longer the case.

Wageman explained a process by which the district could maintain a reserve of about \$2 million to cover this shortfall each year and be replenished as real estate tax funds are received.

In a separate report, Wageman said that there has been a recent rally in bond sales and that the district's financial counsel, David Bell, had suggested the possibility of refinancing a portion of the district's 2006 general obligation bonds to save taxpayers money on the interest to be paid. Anticipated net savings would be \$759,000.

She assured the board that any such action would be reviewed by CDE to ensure that the taxpayers benefited from the action.

The board agreed to have Wageman and Bell monitor the market and return to the next meeting with recommendations.

(Continued on page 2)



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Superintendent evaluation process
Ferguson reported that he and board Secretary Robb Pike had finalized the document describing the new evaluation process for the district's superintendent. He said that the document had been sent to all members of the board since the December meeting. The process includes three

- steps:
- Each member of the board will prepare an assessment.
 - The board will hold quarterly meetings with the superintendent to discuss his activities and suggested improvements.
 - A portion of the final evaluation document will be available to the

public.
Transportation fee study
Wangeman and Transportation Manager Robin Mossman spoke to the board about studying the feasibility of instituting fees for bus transportation.

For background on the proposal, please see the District Accountability Advisory Committee (DAAC) article on page 4 of this issue. Interested parties may also access the presentation on the district's website, www.lewispalmer.org. Look under "Parents and Students" in the left column of the home page, then click on "Transportation" and view the presentation and survey using the links under "Transportation Announcements." Information about upcoming public hearings is also found at that site.

Wangeman said that she and members of a committee formed to administer the study have

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Above: From left, teacher Carrie Locke looks on with Liz Phillips (finalist) as Elise Renwick (middle school champion) speaks about her essay. At right is Prairie Winds Elementary School Principal Aileen Finnegan. *Photo by Harriet Halbig.*

spoken at all schools. They have also been in contact with newspapers, television stations, local organizations such as the Kiwanis, and district communication groups.

Georgina Gittins, DAAC member and a Bear Creek Elementary parent, reported that 250 surveys have been completed so far. Volunteers will compile a report on the results.

The committee has contacted other school districts to learn of their experiences with transportation fees. All districts adjacent to Lewis-Palmer charge a fee or plan to institute one in the fall.

Gittins reported that people do not seem surprised to hear that a fee is being considered. She said that the committee hopes to make future meetings of the committee available online and offer the possibility for viewers to comment.

Wangeman said that she will return to the board with a list of pros and cons on the subject at a future

meeting.

Student recognition

Prairie Winds Elementary Principal Aileen Finnegan introduced students from her school who were the champion and finalist in the second annual Alpine Achievement Systems Essay Contest. The champion, Elise Renwick, and the finalist, Liz Phillips, are both sixth-grad-

ers and competed in the middle school category. Their teacher is Carrie Locke. *See photo at left.*

Elise won \$500 for herself and an additional \$500 for the school.

Last year, two of Locke's students also were champion and finalist in the contest.

Lewis-Palmer Elementary Principal Lois Skaggs introduced a group of students who recently won a competition in solving Rubik's Cubes at the city auditorium. The students, who are in grades 3 through 6, competed in the middle school category. They won a \$500 prize for the school. The students demonstrated their talents for the board. *See photo on page 1.*

Board members' comments

Board member John Mann commented that he was very concerned about deterioration of capital assets of the district

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and decline in availability of such services as reading and math coaching and other interventions. He is also concerned that staff cuts are eliminating many new and promising teachers from the district.

Mann said that the district must strive to find a way to go beyond stopgap solutions to its budgetary challenges and that the best solution is to give the community an opportunity to support the district through a mill levy over-

ride (MLO).

Board Vice President Mark Pfoff agreed, saying that the board has proven that it spends wisely and needs to determine whether it is feasible to seek an MLO. He said that board actions in the past year and the suggested refinancing of bonds have benefited taxpayers and in a sense taxpayers are being disenfranchised by not being offered an opportunity to support the schools.

Consent agenda

The board approved a list of routine items such as minutes

of meetings, ratification of closures due to weather, resignations, terminations and retirement of staff, lists of substitute teachers, and contracts requiring board signature.

The Board of Education meets at 6 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month at the district's learning center, 146 Jefferson St. in Monument. The next meeting will be held on Feb. 15.

Harriet Halbig can be reached at harriethalbig@ocn.me.

District Accountability Advisory Committee, Jan. 17

Bus fee considered to offset budget cuts

By Harriet Halbig

At its Jan. 17 meeting, Lewis-Palmer School District 38's District Accountability Advisory Committee considered a bus fee of 50 cents per ride for most students.

Assistant Superintendent Cheryl Wangeman and Transportation Manager Robin Mossman explained the district's approach to considering transportation fees beginning in the 2012-13 school year.

A committee has been formed to implement the study of fees in surrounding areas and to present information at all schools regarding the study. The committee includes Board of Education Treasurer Gail Wilson, Wangeman, Mossman, a community member, the district's school resource officer (on matters of traffic), parents of children who ride the bus and attend all three school levels, and teachers.

Public hearings will be held in February to allow community members to ask questions and express their opinions.

Wangeman said that district officials do not like the idea of adding transportation fees, especially during a

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weak economy, but said that parents have indicated during past budget discussions that they would prefer additional fees instead of a loss of programs or services. Per pupil funding has been cut by \$576 over the past two years and is anticipated to be cut by an additional \$125 next year.

The district currently spends \$2.1 million on transportation annually. The state reimburses about \$600,000 of this amount. If a fee of 50 cents per ride were implemented, \$200,000 annually could be generated, the equivalent of salary and benefits for four teachers. This figure is based on the assumption that some current riders will choose to find other means of transportation.

Parents would prepay on a card that would be swiped each time students boarded a bus, with the fee deducted from the balance on the card. Parents would register in the spring for the following fall and bus routes would be designed based upon this information.

All districts adjacent to District 38 currently charge a bus fee or plan to implement one next fall. The most common cost per ride is 50 cents. A student who takes the bus to and from school each day would pay about \$169 per school year.

An alternate plan would be for parents to pay a monthly fee regardless of the number of rides a student took.

Students eligible for free or reduced-price lunches would not be charged a fee. Special-needs students who

require special-needs busing as indicated in their individualized education plan (IEP) would not be charged a fee.

Wangeman distributed a survey for committee members to fill out and offer their opinions. The survey is also available online.

Wangeman also distributed a brief budget update to the committee. It stated that funding cuts are unlikely

during this school year and that higher than expected enrollment has benefited the district.

The Colorado Department of Education (CDE) had notified the district to expect cuts of about \$125 per pupil next year in addition to increases in Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA) costs and utility costs. Further increases in enrollment may offset this reduc-

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tion somewhat, as could further energy saving measures. Wangeman pointed out that the cost of water is being increased.

School improvement plans

Prairie Winds Elementary School Principal Aileen



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Finnegan said that the school exceeds requirements in all core academic areas and meets targets in terms of annual yearly progress (AYP). The school's focus on writing resulted in great progress, bringing scores up to 86.5 percent.

The area of challenge in the upcoming year is annual growth in reading (the school was rated as approaching adequate scores). About half of those students making inadequate growth in reading were sixth-graders.

The school's target is a 50 percent decrease in those with low growth in reading. This will be achieved by monitoring the individuals involved and providing intervention when necessary.

Ray E. Kilmer Elementary School Principal Chuck Stovall reported that his school's scores also exceed requirements in academic achievement. The school meets requirements in academic growth and displays a significant improvement in scores in reading over the past three years. The school continues a focus on improvement in writing, having scored 85.8 percent compared to its 90 percent goal.

Stovall said the school needs to improve in math, particularly among those on free or reduced-price lunches.

Stovall said that his staff will endeavor to restructure its schedule and curriculum to provide more time in math class, particularly to give students more time to practice concepts before moving on.

In addition, the school will develop a Summer Math Team including up to five teachers, to help students struggling with the subject.

Mill levy override discussion

Board of Education member Robb Pike spoke to the committee about the possibility of requesting a mill levy override (MLO) on the November ballot.

He said that the high performance and quality education in the district cannot be supported through continued cuts that are anticipated over the next several years.

Pike said that it is critical to reach out to those who do not have children in school, about 75 percent of the district's population. The district needs to find representatives of this group who are willing to speak to their friends, neighbors, and organizations in support of the school system, he said.

Pike said a comprehensive survey should be conducted and funds should be raised to pay for publication of informational brochures and to seek basic background information:

- How many votes are needed to win
- How to respond to opposition
- Learn about budgets of comparable districts to support D-38 plans
- Conduct surveys to gauge support before submitting a proposal to the board
- Justify the need for additional funds in the context of rising costs in other areas

Pike commented that ideally an MLO should not appear on the ballot unless it is certain to pass. This will require a lot of volunteers knocking on doors and telephoning citizens, he said.

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The District Accountability Advisory Committee meets at 7 p.m. on the second Tuesday

of each month. Locations vary. The next meeting will be held on Feb. 7 to avoid conflict with

Valentine's Day. The meeting will be at Palmer Lake Element-

tary School, 115 Upper Glenway, Palmer Lake.

Harriet Halbig can be reached at harriethalbig@ocn.me.

Special Education Advisory Committee, Jan. 18 Committee discusses transportation fee

By Harriet Halbig

At the Jan. 18 meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee, School District 38 Assistant Superintendent Cheryl Wangeman and Transportation Manager Robin Mossman offered a presentation on the transportation fee study underway in the district. For background information, please see the article on the District Accountability Advisory Committee on page 4 of this issue.

There were a number of questions from those present. The following points were clarified:

- If a student's Individual

Education Plan (IEP) specifies that the student ride specially equipped buses, there would be no fee to ride the bus.

- The district received a grant last year that would cover the cost of GPS and card readers on all buses. Previously used radios are not useful in all locations.
- If the program is implemented, there will be annual costs, including hiring an individual to handle billing and purchase of software.
- Monument Academy could participate in the program but would have to pay a

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share of the cost. Monument Academy has chosen to administer its own special education program.

Field trip and athletic trip transportation would be handled separately. Athletic trip charges are included in the fees for athletic participation.

The district has considered ways to compensate for increased traffic around schools at the beginning and the end of the school day. This includes offering off-site parking for teachers, installing new signs to direct traffic, and shifting arrival times.

Some individuals suggested increasing sports fees to help with budget shortfalls. Wangeman said that the caliber of the sports teams attracts students to the district. Board of Education member John Mann commented that sports fees have been increased considerably over the last few years.

Special education students would be provided with an identification card that would be swiped when they board a bus, although they would not be charged. This would help with reporting to the state on which ser-

vices are being provided to special-needs students.

To view the presentation and complete a survey on the subject of transportation fees, go to lewispalmer.org, click on "Parents and Students" on the left, then on "Transportation." Information on public hearings is also available at this location.

Special education update

Director of Exceptional Student Services Mary Anne Fleury reported briefly about a new state initiative to reinvent special education.

Some considerations of the group are:

- Reexamine qualifications of teachers.
- Tie funding to student needs.
- Create accountability measures separate from the current Adequate Yearly Progress.
- Instill the idea that every kid is everyone's kid.
- Develop standards to ensure that special-education students are ready for life after high school.
- If a district's curriculum and programs are successful, cut back on reporting requirements.
- Eliminate the IEP and replace it with an Individual

Growth Plan for all students.

Fleury said that general education teachers are now being trained regarding response to intervention and differentiation in curriculum to respond to students' individual needs. Co-teaching would be the ideal method of ensuring that special-needs students are integrated into the classroom, but there is insufficient staff to practice that at this time.

Use of technology applications

Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Chair Suzanne Faber explained some of the applications available for the iPad that could greatly assist special-needs students.

She said that Apple Computer consultants are very active in developing applications to help with such issues as dyslexia and an inability to speak before a class. A student can type a presentation into an iPad and the tablet will speak the presentation while the student shows the class the project to which it refers.

Whether a student is allowed to use his or her personal iPad in class is determined by that student's IEP.

Faber recommended a website, SNApps4Kids, which reviews various applications. The name of the site refers to Special Needs Apps. She suggested that interested parents visit a store to try out software before purchasing it. Some apps address organizational skills, social skills, writing, and reading. There is a large variety available, with prices as low as a few dollars.

(Continued on page 10)

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TOWN OF Monument News

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FEBRUARY 2012

SMALL TOWN SERVANTS

Meet Your Trustee



Stan Gingrich was appointed to the Board of Trustees in October 2009. Trustee Gingrich holds a BA in Business, a BS in Materials and Welding Engineering, and an MBA in Operations Management. He is also a Licensed Professional Engineer in the US and Canada.

Gingrich has consulted with multiple companies in the areas of Manufacturing Operations, Engineering, and Management. He specialized in helping underperforming companies achieve higher levels of performance and profitability and is currently Manager of the Materials and Welding Engineering Department at URS Corporation.

Stan is also president of a local non-profit organization, GreatCom Ministries International, that provides aid to underprivileged children around the world.

Stan enjoys ATVing, motorcycling, hiking, and cycling in the mountains throughout Colorado and has summited all of Colorado's 14ers along with Mount Whitney, Mount Rainer, and Pico de Orizaba (the highest peak in Mexico at 18,600 ft). Little known fact: In his senior year of college Stan won the U.S. Midwest Regional Wrestling Championship and placed 5th in the National Wrestling Tournament.

Stan is interested in using his experience to make a positive difference in the community and help provide vision, direction, and leadership.



SMALL TOWN SPIRIT

Three Trustee Positions on Ballot this Year



The Town of Monument will hold its annual municipal elections on Tuesday, April 3. There are three Trustee positions on the ballot this year. Two of those are the positions held by Tommie Plank and Gail Drumm who are unable to run again due to term limits. The third position on the ballot is held currently by Rafael Dominguez who is up for reelection.

Those interested in running may obtain Nomination petitions for the office of Trustee from Scott Meszaros, Town Clerk, on Monday, February 13, 2012. Nomination petitions must be filed with the Town Clerk no later than Friday, March 2, 2012 at 4:00pm. Candidates must be at least eighteen (18) years of age on Election Day, must be a registered voter and must have resided within the incorporated limits of the Town of Monument for twelve (12) consecutive months immediately preceding the date of the election. The last day to register with the El Paso County Clerk to vote in the municipal election is March 2, 2012.

Prior knowledge of town government is not as important in determining appropriate candidates for the Board of Trustees

as would be a genuine interest in the town and a desire to promote the general good.

Tommie Plank, who has held a seat on the Board of Trustees for the past eight years states, "Being a Town Trustee does not take up a great deal of time; we meet twice a month, in the evening. The most important thing a trustee can bring is the ability to think critically about Town issues and the willingness to keep the well-being of the community at the forefront of their decision-making.

"I am extremely interested in seeing other women consider being on the board. I believe women add another perspective and a certain balance to Town discussions. I have greatly enjoyed my time on the board and would encourage other women who are interested in contributing to the Town to consider running for a Trustee position," Plank said.

For more information regarding the upcoming election and running for a Trustee position, please contact Scott Meszaros, Town Clerk by calling Town Hall at 719-481-2954.

Monument Lake Ice Fishing Tournament



On Saturday, January 28 of this year, Wounded Warrior USA held their second annual Ice Fishing Tournament. More than tripling in registered anglers this year, over 130 people participated, including nine active duty, rehabilitating soldiers from Fort Carson.

Monument Lake was stocked by the Division of Wildlife two weeks prior to the event with 200 varieties of fish. Contestants took the live fish to the weigh-in igloo and then were able to release them back into the lake through a hole in the ice provided for that purpose.

The proceeds from this benefit fishing tournament went to Wounded Warrior USA, a non-profit organization based out of Monument, Colorado, whose mission is to "Provide our military with outstanding support to rehabilitate soldiers recovering from injuries." Their primary service is to provide an outreach program to help rehabilitate wounded soldiers. They provide guided fishing trips in the Rocky Mountain Region to soldiers and their families—to date, over 200 wounded soldiers and their immediate families have taken advantage of this outreach fishing program.

Look for details about the 2013 Monument Lake Ice Fishing Tournament, which promises to be even bigger and better, by visiting their website, woundedwarriorusa.com or lakeiceusa.com. For more information about how to support this very worthy cause, you can also contact them at 719-291-3500.

Town Calendar

FEBRUARY 2012

- Note the Date
- | | | |
|------|--|--|
| 2.1 | HMMA Meeting, 8:00am at Fire Dept. Admin Building | |
| 2.6 | Board of Trustees, 6:30pm at Town Hall | Senior lunches are served at the Fire Department |
| 2.8 | Planning Commission, 6:30pm at Town Hall | Administration Building on Second Street at 12 noon on Mondays and Thursdays (except the first Thursday of the month). Senior lunches are served at "Big Red," at 12 noon on Wednesdays. |
| 2.14 | Triview Metro District Board Meeting 5:00pm at Town Hall | |
| 2.15 | Court, 5:30-8:00pm at Town Hall | |
| 2.20 | Town Hall closed in observance of President's Day | |
| 2.21 | Board of Trustees, 6:30pm at Town Hall | |

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Wangeman suggested that parents who have questions about technology should submit them to Dr. Lori Benton, director of Gifted Education, Assessment and Technology, and perhaps invite her to a future meeting of the committee. Members of the committee discussed ways to provide funding for additional technology, including grant applications and a potential mill levy override bid in

the fall.

The Special Education Advisory Committee meets at 6:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month in the district's

learning center, 146 Jefferson St. in Monument. The next meeting will be on Feb.8.

Harriet Halbig can be reached at harriethalbig@ocn.me.

Donald Wescott Fire Protection District, Jan. 25

2011 budget figures updated

By Jim Kendrick

At the Jan. 25 Donald Wescott Fire Protection District board meeting, Administrative Assistant Cheryl Marshall reported on what the final figures for the 2011 budget should be based on the November and December financial statements. The actual surplus rolled over in the district's general fund will be about \$220,000, compared to the \$226,690 surplus projected in the 2011 general operations budget. Marshall and Chief Vinny Burns reviewed which spe-

cific budget line items were significantly above or below the amounts listed in the 2011 budget.

Director Bo McAllister noted that the situation will change significantly in 2012. No surplus is projected in the 2012 general operations budget at the end of December. Total district cash reserves are expected to drop from \$3.03 million at the end of 2011 to \$958,000 at the end of 2012.

Two board positions with four-year terms will come open on the district board in May. If you are interested in serving on the Wescott Board of Directors, you must submit a self-nomination and acceptance form for consideration. Applications will be accepted Wednesday, Feb. 8 through Thursday, Feb. 23. Forms may be obtained through Marshall, the designated election official. You may contact her at cmarshall@wescottfire.org or at (719) 488-8680.

Wescott Fire is now accepting ap-

plications for its next class of volunteer firefighters. Applications must be received by close of business Feb. 20 for consideration. See <http://www.wescottfire.org> for details.

Chief's report

Assistant Chief Scott Ridings reported that run reports now would be presented only on a quarterly basis. The total number of runs in 2011 was 1,559, up from 1,328 in 2010. Ridings gave a lengthy technical review of all of Wescott's 2011 statistics in the annual run report.

Some of the December district activities Burns reported on were Santa Patrol Day, a residential garage structure fire in which Wescott assisted Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District, and hiring three new firefighters. An annual report for 2011 will be posted on the district website.

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Some of the other district achievements in 2011 noted were:

- The appointment of a new chief, assistant chief, and two lieutenants to the command staff
- Creation of a fire marshal position to develop a fire inspection program to help maintain fire safety
- Initiating a closest-force response program in cooperation with Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District
- Acquisition of a new urban wild land interface engine
- Deployment of Wescott personnel and equipment to fires in Arizona, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Wyoming, and South Dakota, realizing a net profit of \$58,700
- Completion of the district's Community Wildfire Protection Plan and approval by the El Paso County Commissioners to help homeowners secure potential grants for mitigation of potential fuel hazards on their property
- Vigorous public relations and fire prevention programs to present an overall attitude of safety in the Colorado outdoors, safety in homes, businesses, and the community
- The district's deep commitment to assistance of the family of the late former Wescott Chief Jeff Edwards throughout his illness and in organizing his memorial service
- The start of construction on the new fire station on Highway 83 and Stagecoach Road

- Improved budgeting policies and procedures to meet modernization goals during a period of reduced property tax revenues
- Successful training leading to promotions to driver/engineer, firefighter 1, and fire instructor 1

The board unanimously approved Ridings' request to purchase a new four-wheel-drive crew cab diesel pickup truck for \$37,815 through the state vehicle purchase system. The additional cost for paint to match the rest of the department apparatus, and installation of lights, radios,

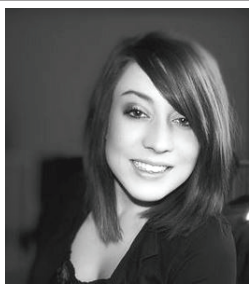
sirens, and decals brings the total expense to \$47,585. The pickup truck will be used for a variety of district activities that require the ability to tow very heavy trailers for activities such as wild-land fire deployments and neighborhood wild-fire mitigation chipping events.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

The next meeting will be held at 7 p.m. on Feb. 22 in Station 1, 15415 Gleneagle Drive. Meetings

are normally held on the fourth Wednesday of the month. Information: 488-8680.

Jim Kendrick can be reached at jimkendrick@ocn.me.



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Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District, Jan. 25

Expenses under budget for 2011

By Bernard L. Minetti

At the Jan. 25 meeting of the Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District, Treasurer John Hildebrandt said that through Dec. 31, the district had received \$3.217 million in property tax revenue, which was 99.78 percent of the budgeted amount for 2011. It had received \$238,584 of the specific ownership taxes due, which was 103.45 percent of the budgeted amount for 2011. Ambulance revenues were \$609,135, or 124.31 percent.

Impact fees totaled \$158,038, which was 263.51 percent of the 2011 budget. The district collected \$128,260 in September from the 179-unit Blevins apartment complex.

In summarizing expenses for 2011, Hildebrandt reported that insurance spending had exceeded budget allowances by 3.41 percent, medical spending had exceeded budget by 20.99 percent, uniform expenditures had exceeded budget by 5.94 percent and vehicle expenses had exceeded budget by 6.63 percent. All other expenses were under budget. The overall expenditure rate for 2011 was 2.97 percent under budget.

Resolutions assigning Fire Chief Robert Denboske as the designated election official and election resolution 12-001 were approved.

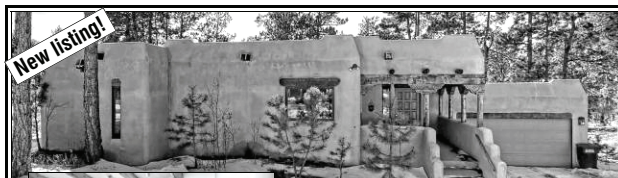
The district office manager, Jennifer Martin, advised the board that the district was registering Tri-Lakes residents who had a medical condition or physical disability for emergency assistance should a potential evacuation of the area be necessary. Any resident desiring to register should call Jennifer Martin at 719-484-0911. Relatives or friends who know a person who might require assistance should ask them to register or, if the individual is not able to make the call, contact Jennifer for more specific instructions.

Denboske reported that all fire vehicles were up and running. He also noted that Training Officer Mike Keough would do the training reports on a quarterly basis from this point on.

The board then went into executive session, citing the reason as "Determining positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations; developing strategy for negotiations; and instructing negotiators."


The next meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 22, at the Administration Center at 166 Second St. in Monument. For further information regarding this meeting, contact Martin at 719-484-0911.

Bernard Minetti can be contacted at bernardminetti@ocn.me.

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Tri-Lakes Joint Use Committee, Jan. 10

Wastewater nutrient testing updated

By Jim Kendrick

On Jan. 10, Facility Manager Bill Burks updated the Tri-Lakes Wastewater Treatment Facility Joint Use Committee (JUC) on various aspects of in-stream testing for nutrients in Monument Creek and changes in metals testing for the state's new discharge permit for 2012 through 2016.

The JUC has directed Burks to continue performing monthly tests indefinitely for nutrients in Monument Creek above and below the plant, as well as in the mixing zone near the facility's discharge pipe. All these data will be needed to defend the facility's resistance to what are considered to be unreasonable effluent limits for all the various compounds that comprise the total phosphorus and total nitrogen discharge limits.

Burks' staff will also test for copper in all three districts' influent wastewater. The copper limits for treated effluent in the new discharge permit were changed to 9.7 parts per billion (ppb) on average and 15 ppb for a single test result, which Burks said will be very difficult to achieve during dry winter periods.

The new permit includes a three-year extension of the previous permit's temporary modification that allowed the copper limits to be 24.8 ppb on average and 36.4 ppb for a single test. The effects on copper removal after the proposed addition of chemical phosphorus treatment to the Tri-Lakes plant are unknown and will be analyzed under a temporary pilot plant approved by the state

Water Quality Control Division. The pilot plant is being designed by engineering consultant Tetra Tech.

The Tri-Lakes facility operates as a separate public utility and is jointly owned, in equal one-third shares, by Monument Sanitation District, Palmer Lake Sanitation District, and Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District. The three-member JUC acts as the board of the facility and consists of one director from each of the three owner districts' boards: Dale Smith from Palmer Lake, Lowell Morgan from Monument, and Jim Whitelaw from Woodmoor. Typically, several other district board members and the district managers also attend JUC meetings.

Financial report

Burks noted two large expenses for December:

- \$12,000 for a new ammonia analyzer purchased from Applied Spectrometry Associates
- \$15,594 for the annual liability insurance policy for

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2012 from the Colorado Special Districts Association
The JUC unanimously accepted the December financial report.

Facility manager’s report

Burks reported that the plant was operating very efficiently. Test results for total nitrogen will be of more interest due to the nutrients criteria rulemaking hearing that will be held by the Water Quality Control Commission on March 12. For December:

- Total ammonia averaged 0.7 parts per million (ppm), with a daily maximum reading of 1.3 ppm. The daily maximum total inorganic nitrogen concentration for December was 6.2 ppm; the limit is 23 ppm.
- The first quarter reading for cyanide

- was a non-detect.
- The semiannual total recoverable arsenic concentration was 3 ppb.
 - The monthly total recoverable iron concentration was 49 ppb.
 - The final test reading for dissolved hexavalent chromium under the expired discharge permit was a non-detect. Chromium was dropped from the new five-year discharge permit effective on Jan. 1.
 - The average reading for potentially dissolved (PD) zinc was 52 ppb, with a peak of 58 ppb.
 - The average reading for PD copper was 5.5 ppb, with a peak of 6.0 ppb. The limits are 24.8 and 36.4 ppb respectively.

- The average reading for PD manganese was 67 ppb.
- The average readings for PD silver, PD cadmium, PD trivalent chromium, PD lead, PD nickel, PD selenium, and total mercury were all non-detects.
- Testing for nickel was dropped in the new permit.
- The average reading for phenols was 44 ppb.
- The semiannual whole effluent toxicity test results were all “no toxicity.”

District managers’ reports

Monument District Manager Mike Wicklund reported that a nylon wristwatch strap was the cause of the previously reported jam of Pump 2 in the Wakonda Hills lift station. The automatic control

system prevented any damage to the pump or its motor. The auto-dialer system gave Wicklund immediate telephone notifications of the jam. The backup pump assumed the load for the automatically disconnected pump 2.

Palmer Lake and Woodmoor reported that no operational problems occurred in December.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

The next meeting will be held at 10 a.m. on Feb. 14 at the Tri-Lakes facility’s conference room, 16510 Mitchell Ave. Meetings are normally held on the second Tuesday of the month. Information: 481-4053.

Jim Kendrick can be reached at jimkendrick@ocn.me.

Triview Metropolitan District, Jan. 10

Numerous operational issues discussed

By Jim Kendrick

Triview Operations Supervisor Steve Sheffield, a member of the Monument Public Works staff, discussed a variety of operational issues with the Triview Metropolitan District board on Jan. 10.

Triview board President Bob Eskridge was absent from the meeting.

Sheffield noted that the town staff needed to have a more defined policy regarding when a water meter would be installed on a lot during construction of buildings and homes within Triview. Getting an accurate measurement of how much water is used during construction is

offset by the risk of water meters being stolen before a new house or building is fully secured by locked doors and windows.

There was a lengthy discussion of the wide variety of policies on how and when fees begin to be charged to developers and builders by the various water districts and municipalities along the Front Range. The board asked Sheffield to draft a policy for discussion at the Feb. 14 board meeting.

Some of the other water issues Sheffield discussed were:

- The filter media for the two B water treatment plant filters will be changed

out due to low water demand during the winter.

- Information on the age of transponders for older residential water meters will be listed to determine which will be changed out.
- A new two-inch magnetic meter, costing \$1,200, for the B plant’s sludge tank would help determine how much sediment-filled water is produced and stored during the backwash of the filter media. It would optimize the process and minimize the currently unaccountable wastewater that has to be treated for iron and manganese.
- The Triview board should have a representative attending the monthly Pikes Peak Regional Water Authority meeting.

Some of the wastewater issues Sheffield discussed regarding the Upper Monument Creek Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility were:

- The water tank will be cleaned on Feb. 12.
- Parts from three failed blowers at the facility were used to make a single rebuilt blower at a cost of \$4,500; the two new replacement blowers cost \$20,000 each.
- The cause of the failure of these three large blowers is still undetermined.
- The belt press that dewateres sludge at the facility has been modified at a cost of \$16,500 to make it easier to distribute dried sludge cake over the full length of the large dumpsters used for cake disposal.
- An AC electrical power correction factor study costing about \$9,000 will

be conducted to optimize electrical efficiency of motors in the facility, with \$9,000 in savings expected within three years.

- The board authorized Sheffield to represent Triview at monthly facility operating committee meetings with approval authority of up to \$5,000 for budgeted expenditures.

Note: Triview shares the operations and maintenance cost of this facility with co-owner Donala Water and Sanitation District. Members of the Donala staff operate the facility under an intergovernmental agreement with Triview and Forest Lakes Metropolitan District. Forest Lakes has no homes at this time on its two vacant sites on the west side of I-25 adjacent to Baptist Road.

Other operations matters

Sheffield reported that stripes should be painted on the road at the busy intersection of Leather Chaps Drive and Jackson Creek Parkway to ensure that motorists safely make left turns from the dual left-turn lanes on Leather Chaps to go north and south on the parkway. The Town of Monument has already paid for the traffic study that identified this need for roadway striping.

Changes in the sensors that operate the left-turn lights in the existing traffic signals at this Leather Chaps Drive intersection are also required, because single cars waiting to turn left on the Parkway are often not sensed and drivers often choose to turn left during a red light.

Sheffield was asked to get bids for painting the stripes and making improve-

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ments to the traffic signal control systems.

The board approved a donation of \$1,000 to the Colorado Rural Communities Coalition for representation of Triview to the state Legislature and the governor regarding the Water Quality Control Commission hearing on nutrient criteria on March 12.

Financial reports

Monument Treasurer Pamela

Smith reported that the 2011 audit would be conducted in early March. The remaining principal balance on the loan to Triview from Donala for expansion of the Upper Monument facility is \$891,000.

The board approved an increase in the monthly fee for Triview attorney Gary Shupp from \$2,000 to \$4,000 per month. Shupp also serves as the Town of Monument's attorney

for a fixed monthly fee.

The board approved two payments over \$5,000:

- \$15,808 to the Colorado Special District Property and Liability Pool for general insurance for 2012
- \$385,000 to Donala Water and Sanitation District for operating costs of the Upper Monument Creek Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility

Monument Town Manager Cathy Green asked the board to meet with town representatives on extending Triview's three-month intergovernmental agreement for administrative services by town staff for office space rental and payroll management past March 31. There was consensus to have separate work sessions to discuss this issue.

The board went into executive session at 7 p.m. to discuss

contract negotiations regarding water rights with Center Development.

The next regular Triview meeting will be held at 5 p.m. on Feb. 14 at Town Hall, 645 Beacon Lite Road. Meetings are normally held on the second Tuesday of the month. Information: 884-8017.

Jim Kendrick can be reached at jimkendrick@ocn.me.

Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District, Jan. 12

Brookmoor requests rate variance

By Candice Hitt

At the January Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District (WWSD) board meeting, members considered a request for a water rate variance from the Brookmoor Estates Home Owners Association (BHOA).

Brookmoor Estates, just south of Lake Woodmoor, is a planned community with 37 single-family patio homes that could eventually grow to 59 patio homes. The BHOA provides irrigation water to homes and common areas within the community and is currently billed under the WWSD irrigation rate structure. BHOA member Dave Schmidt explained that Brookmoor residents pay a commercial water rate and would like a lower residential rate or a variance to decrease water costs. Possible solutions were discussed, but no final decisions were made.

Upcoming election

WWSD is calling for nominations for the May 8 election of four new board members. Application packets will be available on Feb. 15, with a March 2 deadline to file.

Operations report

Assistant Manager Randy Gillette gave the operations report, stating well 12 is being re-drilled to make it deeper. The well is scheduled to be back in operation by May at a cost of \$250,000. The district is considering the replacement of the roof and furnace of the office building sometime this summer.

The directors were scheduled to tour the JV Ranch on Jan. 24.

The board approved \$3,000 to go toward further research on the wastewater nutrient standards to be set by the Environmental Protection Agency. Monument and Palmer Lake have also contributed \$3,000 in support of more research into what the

nutrient standards should be in the Tri-Lakes area.

Auditor approved

District Manager Jessie Shaffer recommended John Cutler and Associates perform the 2011 audit. The board unanimously

agreed. Shaffer also recommended that Wells Fargo Bank manage the proceeds from the JV Ranch purchase of revenue bonds. The board approved, with one abstention.

The next regular board meet-

ing will be held at 1 p.m. Feb. 9 at the Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District Office, 1845 Woodmoor Dr., Monument. For information: 488-2525 or www.woodmoorwater.com.

Candice Hitt can be reached at candicehitt@ocn.me.

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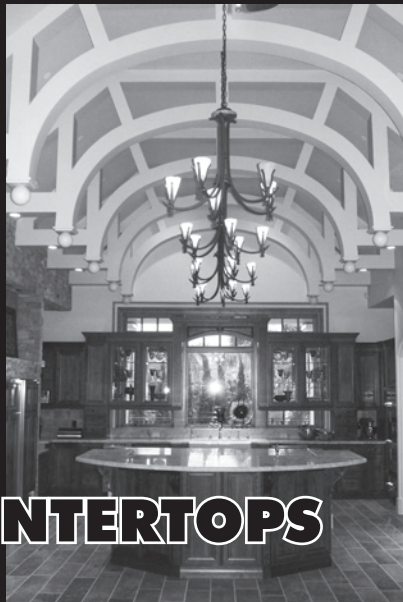
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Donala Water and Sanitation District, Jan. 26

Willow Creek Ranch water purchase cost district \$26,397 per acre-foot

By John Heiser

At the Jan. 26 monthly meeting of the Donala Water and Sanitation District Board of Directors, Dana Duthie, district general manager, reported that for the district to use 280 acre-feet per year of stream flows formerly used to irrigate the Willow Creek Ranch, the purchase cost per acre-foot totaled \$26,397 based on \$5.05 million to purchase the ranch, \$626,650 in legal and engineering fees, \$596,668 for the connection to Colorado Springs Utilities (CSU), \$248,411 for construction and maintenance work at the ranch, and \$75,000 for other related expenses. An acre-foot is 326,851 gallons.

The 280 acre-feet of water per year granted under Judge Dennis Maes' water court decree will cover about 20 percent of Donala's current demand.

The Willow Creek Ranch water flows to the Arkansas River and is then conveyed north through CSU's system and through the connection between the Donala district's water infrastructure and CSU's distribution pipe in the vicinity of Northgate Road.

Duthie estimated the annual operation and maintenance costs at \$10.48 per 1,000 gallons, or \$1.37 million per year, to transport the ranch water together with an additional 150 acre-feet per year of water leased from the Pueblo Board of Water Works. In 2010, the average rate paid by

customers in the Donala district was about \$5.60 per 1,000 gallons.

Final 2012 budget approved

The board unanimously approved the final 2012 budget and appropriated the funds. Some highlights:

- Total projected revenue for 2012 is \$15.657 million. Some of the larger amounts are \$6.3 million from bond sales for infrastructure improvements for handling renewable water, \$2.313 million from water sales, \$1.132 million from property taxes, and \$893,000 from sewer service. The budget projects a 25 percent increase in water sales revenue due to the increase in rates and fees adopted at the board's November meeting.
- 2012 expenses for operations and administration are projected at \$6.186 million. Some of the larger amounts are \$1.084 million for repayment of loans, \$750,000 for salaries, \$613,566 for wastewater plant operating expenses, \$400,000 for repairs and maintenance, and \$335,000 for utilities.
- 2012 capital project expenses are estimated at \$6.8 million, including \$6.3 million for infrastructure improvements to handle renewable water.
- The projected ending total fund balance for 2012 is \$6.024 million.

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Above: Donala board president William George congratulates Mark Parker on being named employee of the quarter. Photo by John Heiser.

Other matters

- Mark Parker was named the employee of the quarter. Parker has been the chief water operator since March 2003. Parker was recognized for his work in satisfying the state's reporting requirements.
- Susan McLean, the district's conservation/landscape manager, has provided conservation designs to 20 individual residential customers and has consulted with

several of the townhome complexes.

- During the three months from Oct. 1 through Dec. 31, the district's \$3.189 million in investments managed by Davidson Fixed Income Management showed a yield of 0.35 percent, achieving a goal of beating the Colotrust Plus fund, which yielded 0.05 percent during the same period. The weighted average maturity of the district's investments is 9.0 months. Davidson also separately manages \$6.3 million in proceeds from the bond sale to be used to fund the infrastructure improvements needed to handle renewable water and \$596,522 in a debt service reserve fund associated with the bond sale.
- The Big R store proposal for the parcel at Spanish Bit and Struthers Road, which is now part of the district, has submitted plans to the county. Duthie noted that the 10-acre parcel will be split into four lots with the Big R store on the northwest corner. Duthie said he was told work on the store could start in February or March.
- Duthie reported on the Dec. 7 and Jan. 4 meetings of the Pikes Peak Regional Water Authority. He noted that funding the transit loss model continues to be a focus of attention. Donala's share of the cost for the model is \$16,358 per year.

Duthie said there is currently no benefit to the district because it does not have a customer for its share of the effluent from the wastewater treatment plant.

- Duthie also reported that the Colorado-Wyoming Coalition's Flaming Gorge Feasibility Investigation is waiting for modeling results from the federal Bureau of Reclamation. The feasibility is scheduled for completion in July 2012.

Note: The transit loss model measures and records the amount of non-native Fountain Creek watershed stream flows owned by

several municipalities and water districts. The amount of this water added to native stream flows by external sources, such as effluent from wastewater treatment facilities, can be exchanged or reused. The model calculates how much of the added water is lost.

Following the public meeting, the board went into executive session to discuss personnel issues.

The Donala board will hold its next regular meeting Feb. 16 at 1:30 p.m. at the Donala office, 15850 Holbein Drive. Meetings are normally held on the third Thursday of each month; however, no meeting will be held in November 2012, and the December 2012 meeting will be held Dec. 6.

The district's website is at www.donalawater.org.

John Heiser can be reached at johnheiser@ocn.me.

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Academy Water and Sanitation District, Feb. 1

Septic system owners welcome information

By Susan Hindman

An informational meeting of homeowners with septic systems was held on Jan. 30, director Jim Weilbrenner reported at the Feb. 1 Academy Water and Sanitation District board meeting. Mike McCarthy, environmental health supervisor of El Paso County Public Health, gave a presen-

tation on maintaining septic systems and the role the county plays to help.

The reason for the meeting was that Academy's Source Water Protection Plan, which was put into place last year, had identified faulty septic systems as a potential hazard to the shallow wells that supply water to the

district's 300 residents.

While turnout was low, residents said they were glad for the meeting and had many questions. Most were unaware of how their septic systems worked and said they had not been given information about the systems when they bought or built their homes.

Election time: Three board

members' terms are up in May. Director Ron Curry said a "call for nominations" would run in the Gazette on Feb. 8. Anyone interested in running for a board position should call the district office, 481-0711. If there are no new candidates, Curry said he will cancel the election on March 6.

The Academy Water and Sanitation District board usually meets at 7 p.m. the first Wednesday of every month at the fire station on Sun Hills Drive. The next meeting is March 7.

Susan Hindman can be reached at susanhindman@ocn.me.

Monument Board of Trustees, Jan. 3

Board approves three-month agreement with Triview

By Jim Kendrick

On Jan. 3, the Monument Board of Trustees (BOT) approved a three-month administrative services intergovernmental agreement (IGA) between the town and Triview Metropolitan District. The Triview board approved the IGA in December.

This administrative services IGA extended the period for having the town staff operate the Triview District on a fee-for-services basis until March 31. The cost of the office space rental and payroll management IGA is \$2,764 per month, paid by Triview to the town.

The town also has two other IGAs with Triview for town staff operation of Triview's water system and sanitary sewer collection systems, landscaping systems and roads maintenance, sweeping, and snow removal.

Note: The board did not meet on Dec. 19 or Jan. 17 due to a lack of agenda items.

Donation to Trails End HOA approved

The BOT also unanimously approved the donation of a

\$1,200 check to the Trails End Homeowners Association that remained unused from a \$50,000 performance bond posted by the Trails End developer for use by the HOA for common area improvements. Ashley Fritz and Carol Kramer accepted the check from Mayor Travis Easton.

Financial reports

Treasurer Pamela Smith presented the October sales tax report. Two major retailers did not report sales tax in October,

resulting in a drop of about \$25,000. Net sales tax revenue was less than the amount budgeted through October by 1.9 percent or \$40,000, a decline of \$24,000 from September. The board unanimously approved the October sales tax report.

The board unanimously approved a payment of \$110,746 to Triview for its share of Monument's October sales tax (\$107,575), November motor vehicle tax (\$3,078), and November Pikes Peak Regional Building Department sales tax (\$93.)

Staff reports

Town Manager Cathy Green reported that she had received over 60 resumes for the vacant Public Works director position. A consultant will screen the resumes and make recommendations to Green on selecting the finalists for interviews.

Green also said that the staff is making recommendations for updates to the town's website. She added that meetings are being held between the town and the Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District toward resolving differences over water rights in Monument Lake, with a goal of agreeing on a first draft report in February.

Director of Development Services Tom Kassawara reported that the town would pay for road stripes to be painted at the busy intersection of Leather Chaps Drive and Jackson Creek Parkway to help motorists safely make left turns from the dual left-turn lanes on Leather Chaps.

There was consensus that with the town paying for the stripes, Triview should pay the full expense for any adjustments in the optical traffic sensors for the troublesome traffic signal at this intersection. The signal often does not sense cars in the dual left-turn lanes for west-bound Leather Chaps Drive.

The meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

The next meeting will be held in Town Hall at 6:30 p.m. on Feb. 6 at Town Hall, 645 Beacon Lite Road. Meetings are normally held on the first and third Monday of the month. Information: 884-8017.

Jim Kendrick can be reached at jimkendrick@ocn.me.

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Monument Planning Commission, Jan. 11

I-25 Gateway Corridor Use Plan approved

By Jim Kendrick

On Jan. 11, the Monument Planning Commission approved an I-25 Gateway Corridor Use Plan that is an amendment to the town's Comprehensive Plan. Chair Ed Delaney and Vice Chair Kathy Spence were re-elected to these positions for 2012.

Commissioners Delaney, Dave Gwisdalla, and Glenda Smith were absent from the meeting.

The Planning Commission has sole discretion over the Comprehensive Plan by statute, as well as amendments to it. Principal Planner Karen Griffith noted that the staff will present the Planning Commission's actions to the Board of Trustees for endorsement. She added that the changes in any comprehensive plan amendment apply to new proposals for development projects, but do not retroactively apply to properties within areas where zoning regulations are already in place.

Griffith noted that the proposed amendment contains

specific planning area recommendations for the corridor immediately adjacent to both sides of I-25 from County Line Road to the northern boundary of the Air Force Academy. The purpose of the proposed changes to the comprehensive plan is to preserve and enhance the scenic qualities of the corridor, particularly the gateway to southern Colorado along Monument Hill. This is to be achieved through updated goals, policies, and strategies addressing the quality of future development and redevelopment in this corridor. These proposed revisions are based on recommendations of the town's I-25 committee, which consisted of members of the staff, Board of Trustees, and Planning Commission.

Griffith stated that the staff's proposal calls for adding "Gateway" to the title of two existing town land use designations: Regional Commercial Centers and Small Office/Warehousing. Griffith also gave a detailed description of the revisions for

proposed land uses in the Comprehensive Plan for this gateway corridor.

Griffith discussed in detail the Board of County Commissioners' proposals for less restrictive county commercial zones. She also noted the details of planning meetings held by the staff with the county Development Services Department.

The county's proposed planning changes for vacant county commercial space on the east side of the I-25 gateway corridor do not include the town's recommendations for an overlay that would make the county commercial zone regulations consistent with the town's gateway corridor commercial zone regulations.

Note: After this Planning Commission meeting, the Board of County Commissioners approved the county staff's proposals for less restrictive commercial zone regulations without adopting the Monument staff's recommendations for more restrictive regulations in the county's portion of the gateway corridor. Director

of Development Services Tom Kassawara gave a detailed formal presentation on the town's request to add the town's overlay proposal to the county commissioners during that county zoning hearing before the commissioners voted.

Griffith also noted the details of planning meetings held by the staff with the county Development Services Department and Dennis Minchow of the Shuck Corp., which owns the vacant land between Baptist Road and the Air Force Academy, southeast of the intersection of Baptist Road and Old Denver Highway. Schuck plans to develop the Forest Lakes Business Park, including an industrial park at the southwest corner of its vacant parcel.

During public comment,

Minchow thanked the staff and members of the Board of Trustees and Planning Commission on the I-25 committee for adopting the Schuck request to restore its original plans for an industrial park in the Forest Lakes Business Park, now that the previously-approved water park plan that was in place for the south end of the Schuck property, has fallen through.

The commission unanimously approved this amendment to the town's comprehensive plan.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

The Feb. 8 Planning Commission has been canceled due to lack of agenda items.

Jim Kendrick can be reached at jimkendrick@ocn.me.

Palmer Lake Town Council, Jan. 12

Town lays off two more employees

By David Futey

At the Jan. 12 meeting of the Palmer Lake Town Council, Mayor John Cressman said two additional employees, Miles Reed of the Roads and Parks and Recreation Departments and Administrative Clerk Kathy Van Tuinen, were laid off due to reduced revenue from property taxes. Two employees from the Palmer Lake Police Department were laid off in December.

Trustee Nikki McDonald's absence from the meeting was excused.

Cressman said that as a result of the layoffs, citizens might not reach a person when contacting the town offices. Town Clerk Tara Berreth and Deputy Town Clerk Bob Radosevich are the only office employees and now are sometimes attending to issues outside the Lucy Owens Town Office Building. Cressman asked "citizens to be patient" and leave a voice mail message. He said Berreth and Radosevich are doing a "great job" considering all the changes.

Lot line vacation approved

By unanimous decision, the council passed a request to vacate and replat inner lot lines for the lot at 9 Valley Crescent. The request was made by Cheryl Baldwin. Tim Wagner, of Wagner Land Survey, represented the Baldwins. The request is to vacate the lot line between lots 1 and Lot 3 in the Valley Crescent subdivision.

This request had passed unanimously in the Planning Commission.

Resolution for Youth Empowerment Day approved

Family Nation representatives Mattie Peltier and Bill Clark requested to have April 28, 2012, recognized as Youth Empowerment Day. Cressman read the Palmer Lake Youth Empowerment Day proclamation. Peltier stated that Family Nation "fills the gap between social

services and the school system programs."

The council approved the request.

Family Nation receives referrals from teachers, social workers, and neighbors to identify youths in need. Family Nation locates mentors and aligns child and teens with their interest.

Committee reports

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Gary Coleman said he raised \$565 from his annual holiday train display for the Palmer Lake Volunteer Fire

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Department (PLVFD.) Coleman thanked The Depot Restaurant for its support of the display. Coleman also stated that he is becoming a member of the Palmer Lake Historical Society Board of Directors.

Berreth said the town's 2011 Clean & Green projects have been completed. The town will receive \$32,000 in federal funds for 2012 projects. El Paso County's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program distributes the funds to municipalities throughout the state. These municipalities directly administer the completion of homeowners' projects financed by individual grants of up to \$1,000.

Berreth said the town will send out a mailer to notify residents when they can submit a request for some of the grant money. This year those selected will be on a first-come, first-served basis. Berreth said Palmer Lake received the largest amount among cities receiving the grant.

Cressman said the Pike Peak Regional Building Department provided the town with a new Polaris ATV. It will be used for mountain rescue, reservoir access, and other duties.

Economic Development Trustee Michael Maddox thanked *Our Community News* and the *Tri-Lakes Tribune* for coverage of events occurring in the Palmer Lake area. He said the Tri-Lakes Center for the Arts (TLCA) canceled a concert scheduled for Jan. 14 due to the Denver Broncos playoff game.

Maddox is planning for the first Palmer Lake Balloon Festival and is in communication with the Palmer Lake Historical Society. Maddox wants to use the open space on the north side of County Line Road as the launch location but needs the assistance of Coleman to determine who owns the property. No date has been set for this new event.

Maddox is working with local business owners toward the development of an Economic Council. Once formed, the council will meet on a regular basis to brainstorm ideas to benefit Palmer Lake.

Police Trustee Nikki McDonald had hip surgery, and no police report was available.

Water Trustee Max Stafford said the new water plant is producing water and is coming to completion. The water plant produced 12.18 acre-feet of water in December.

An acre-foot is 326,851 gallons.

PLVFD Chief Greg Lokken said the department responded to 349 calls in 2011, an increase of 23 calls from the previous year. Volunteer hours increased to 26,530.5, over 10,000 more hours than the previous year. Amy Tronnier became the newest member of the department at its December meeting. Lokken said with the addition of another shift, personnel are now at the station at all hours every day except Fridays. There are now four shifts. The department's next sponsored event is the Easter Pancake Breakfast in April.

Berreth said the auditors were in Palmer Lake this week and will return in April to discuss their finding. The auditors interviewed Cressman and Berreth during this visit. Cressman said the auditors were "very thorough."

Business license approved

By unanimous decision, the council approved a business license for Ron Farley's train restoration business, Rocky Mountain Trading Post #1 Inc. at 780 S. Highway 105 Unit A.

Public input

Resident Jeannine Hartley asked about the process of securing a business and liquor license for her proposed business. The business will include a hair styling salon, a fitness business offering Tai Chi and Zumba, and a "canvas and cocktail" concept. In the latter, customers will receive painting instructions and have the opportunity to purchase an alcoholic beverage.

Hartley spoke with Maddox about cooperating with the TLCA regarding this program because she said she does not want to compete with the art center. Hartley is working on getting a lease so she can apply for a business license at the February council meeting. The liquor license request will occur at the council March meeting. Regarding the liquor license, Hartley will need to conduct a survey of neighbors within 500 feet of the business.

The meeting adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

The next regular council meeting will be at 6:30 p.m. Feb. 9 at Town Hall, 42 Valley Crescent. Regular council meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month. Information: www.ci.palmer-lake.co.us or call 481-2953.

David Futey can be reached at dfutey@ocn.me.

El Paso County Board of County Commissioners, Jan. 31

County OKs scaled-down oil, gas regs

El Paso County news release

Following a lengthy public hearing Jan. 31, the Board of El Paso County Commissioners approved a dramatically scaled-down version of local oil and gas regulations. The board eliminated most of the proposed regulations that had been recommended for approval by the county Planning Commission.

The board also directed staff to develop an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) that will give the county a designated representative to make sure local concerns are heard by the Colorado Oil and Gas Commission when the state agency reviews oil and gas applications.

Regulations approved by the board are limited to damage to roads and bridges, impacts on emergency response agencies, and the mitigation and control of noxious weeds. They also incorporate Colorado Oil and Gas Commission standards that establish baseline water quality testing and monitoring of wells in the vicinity of oil and gas drilling operations at one-year, three-year, and six-year intervals.

All of the other regulations proposed, including those covering setback requirements from neighboring properties, mitigation of visual impacts, noise, wildlife, and open space issues will be reviewed through the Enhanced Local Government Designee program that was recently established by the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission. The program is designed to minimize conflicts between state regulations on the oil and gas industry and the historic principle of local control over local land use matters.

The county will work with the Attorney General's Office and the State Oil and Gas Conservation Commission to develop an IGA to include areas of local concern that should be addressed by state regulators during their permit process. Similar agreements have been forged between the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission and local government agencies throughout the state to avoid the creation of a patchwork of local regulations that may overlap or pose operational conflicts with state laws. ■

Woodmoor Improvement Association Board of Directors, Jan. 25

2011 spending below budget estimate

By Harriet Halbig

The Woodmoor Improvement Association (WIA) Treasurer Nick Oakley told the board Jan. 25 that spending for 2011 was below budget by 3.2 percent and revenues were above projections by 4 percent.

These figures are offset by the fact that reserve funds were spent on such items as a new vehicle for Woodmoor Public Safety and repairs and furniture for the Barn. The board will deposit \$54,000 into the reserves.

Oakley also reported that he has received an unofficial report on the IRS audit of the association's 2009 records. The association will be responsible to pay about

\$400 in taxes on payments to a contractor who participated in building the Marsh Trail because the contractor was not issued a Form 1099.

Common Areas Director W. Lee Murray reported that he and WIA Manager Matt Beseau had gotten three estimates for repairs to the floor in the Barn where water had leaked in during a heavy rain. He said insurance will cover the cost of the floor repairs.

The WIA will have more than one contractor evaluate the source of the leak before getting bids for repair of the roof. The cost of the roof repair is estimated to be \$700 to \$1,400 and Beseau said that it likely would be

considered wear and tear on the building and not covered by insurance.

Secretary Craig Gaydos reported that 800 votes are still required to ratify changes in the governing documents. The association's previously ratified Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation need to be registered with the county.

Vice President Jim Hale reported that 682 ballots have been received by mail for the Jan. 30 board election. This exceeds the quorum.

The board discussed and approved the agenda for the annual membership meeting to be held Monday, Jan 30.

Hale and Oakley reported the Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District (WWSD) will charge \$319 per month for water at the Barn, under the new WWSD rate scale. Hale offered to speak with WWSD to see if it would be possible to reduce the size of the tap and lower the rate.

Hale reported receiving a postcard from the Board of County Commissioners regarding a meeting Feb. 14 about the Doewood Gate and future plans for that area. He offered to attend the meeting on the board's behalf.

Beseau reported that the Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District completed its inspection of the Barn and gave its approval.

Forestry Director Jim Woodman and Architectural Control Director Anne Stevens-Gountanis presented lists of committee members for the approval of the board.

The Board of Directors of the Woodmoor Improvement Association meets at 7 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday of each month at the association's barn, 1691 Woodmoor Drive, Monument.

Harriet Halbig can be reached at
harriethalbig@ocn.me.

Woodmoor Improvement Association Annual Membership meeting, Jan. 30

Achievements summarized; new board elected

By Harriet Halbig

Woodmoor Improvement Association (WIA) officials summarized the organization's achievements at its annual membership meeting Jan. 30.

President Chuck Maher reported that the WIA held more open meetings and fewer executive sessions in 2011 than previously. Accounting functions were brought back into the WIA's office and 2011 was the second year of a balanced budget, he said.

Vice President Jim Hale thanked the outgoing members of the board, Maher, Secretary Craig Gaydos and Forestry Director Jim Woodman for their service. He also praised homeowners association Manager Matt Beseau for his management and hiring choices during the year.

Treasurer Nick Oakley reported that WIA's income was over budget by 4 percent and its expenditures under budget by 3.3 percent for 2011. Some projects completed during 2011 were the reseal and repair of the Barn parking lot, purchase of a new vehicle for Woodmoor Public Safety (WPS), and new furniture for use in the Barn.

Public Safety Director Paul Lambert reported that Woodmoor Public Safety (WPS) accounts for almost half of the WIA budget. He mentioned the following about WPS services:

- Offers services day and night, 365 days a year.
- Works with the county sheriff and firefighting services.
- Monitors traffic in school zones.
- Offers vacation check services for absent homeowners.
- Can aid homeowners with such problems as being caught in a ditch, locking keys in car, or jump starting a car. Towing service is not available.

Common Areas Director W. Lee Murray reported on his committee's achievements:

- Improved noxious weed control and mowing
- Added picnic tables in three common areas
- The Great American Cleanup
- Repair of wooden signs at entrances to the community
- New chairs and tables in the Barn and maintenance of the building

Woodman reported that his committee provides:

- Creation of a healthy forest environment and lower wildfire risks in common areas through control of scrub oak and other measures
- Free information and advice offered to homeowners
- Cost-sharing grants to homeowners who choose to act on lot assessments
- Chipping Day
- Firewise Community Day to acquaint homeowners with local services

Covenants Director Kirstin Reimann reported that her committee found 927 violations during 2011, most of them reported by residents. Complaints are always veri-

fied by the committee. Primary areas of complaint were slash and dead trees, trailers parked for more than 72 hours, and barking and aggressive dogs.

Architectural Control Administrator Sherry Puryear reported that the committee has completed revisions to the Design Standards Manual, and it will be available for homeowners' comments after being reviewed by the board. She also reminded members that such projects as painting, fences, roofing, window replacement, and landscaping could be approved through the WIA office.

The 2011 Vincent Elorie Award for Outstanding Citizenship was awarded to Carolyn Streit-Carey for her years of service on the Forestry and Architectural Control committees. She trained as a tree monitor and later trained others and took an active part in the planning of Firewise Community Days. She also served as forestry director on the board during 2011.

Board Secretary Craig Gaydos reported that about 780 votes are still required for approval of the Articles of Covenants document update.

The following were answers to members' questions:

- Beseau has applied for a grant to cover the cost of noxious weed control and assured homeowners that WIA is working in concert with the county on this problem.
- The Walters property in south Woodmoor was originally intended to be used as a golf course. It is private property and would require rezoning to be developed.
- WPS does a semi-annual evaluation of the condition of the streets in Woodmoor and reports to the county. Homeowners may call the county directly in the event of urgent problems.
- There are five sub-associations within Woodmoor. Beseau said that WIA encourages representatives of these other groups to attend WIA board meetings to be up-to-date on association activities. Members of the sub-associations pay Woodmoor dues and sometimes have their own covenants, but all benefit from services of WPS.
- WIA is in contact with Woodmoor Water and Sanita-

tion regarding its new rate scale, but has no control over it.

- Gaydos reported that former WIA President Hans Post will receive a certificate from WIA in appreciation for his work on updating the association's docu-

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ments.
The board held a reorganization meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 1, following the election held during the annual meeting.
The new board is:
• President – Jim Hale
• Vice President -- Kirstin Reimann
• Treasurer – Nick Oakley

- Secretary – Jeff Gerhart
- Director of Covenants – Darren Rouse
- Director of Public Safety – Paul Lambert
- Director of Forestry – Eric Gross
- Director of Common Areas – W. Lee Murray
- Director of Architectural Control – Anne Stevens-Gountanis

The Woodmoor Improvement Association Board of Directors meets at 7 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday of each month at the association’s Barn, 1691 Woodmoor Drive in Monument. The next meeting will be held on Feb. 22.
Harriet Halbig can be reached at harriethalbig@ocn.me.

January Weather Wrap

By Bill Kappel
It was a warm and dry January around the Tri-Lakes region as temperatures averaged well above normal and snowfall well below normal. January is normally a very dry month in the region, so we don’t usually expect much precipitation, but last month was exceptionally dry, with no single event producing more than 2 inches of snow.
Temperatures never reached record highs during the month, with the highest temperatures only hitting the mid-50s, but only one brief Arctic air mass moved in for a couple of days, so overall, most days were slightly warmer than normal.
The first week of January was dry, with temperatures starting a little below normal but quickly reaching above normal from the 3rd through the 5th. Skies were generally clear with mountain wave clouds at times. Changes began to take place on the 6th as a storm quickly dropped out of the Pacific Northwest and Northern Rockies. However, this storm was somewhat unorganized and moisture-starved, therefore only a light dusting of snow resulted on the 7th. Temperatures were noticeably cooler than in the previous few days, but certainly not cold by January standards.
Active weather affected the region from the 8th through the 15th. We started off on the cold side, with highs holding below freezing on the 8th. Highs steadily warmed over the next few days, hitting 40° on the 9th and 50° on the 10th. Then a strong cold front moved in on the 11th before sunrise. This brought much colder air, and temperatures steadily fell through the day, reaching subzero levels by that evening. This front was moisture-starved however, with only 1 to 2 inches of snow falling.

The cold air mass was quickly ushered out of the area by the next afternoon, and high temperatures briefly reached back above freezing. Breezy and mild conditions moved back in for the rest of the week, with temperatures reaching above normal, into the upper 40s and low 50s, on the 14th and 15th.
It was a typical week weather-wise around the region during the second full week of January. Temperatures started off a little bit above normal on the 15th and 16th, with 40s to low 50s and breezy conditions. Some cooler air moved in on the afternoon of the 16th, with some light snow falling that evening. This only amounted to a little more than a dusting for most of us. The next day was a chilly one, with highs only hitting the mid-20s and some gusty winds making it feel even colder.
Mild and windy conditions then moved in for the remainder of the week as high temperatures moved back to above normal. Highs reached into the mid-50s on the 19th, as winds gusted well over 40 mph. Mild and breezy conditions stuck around through the weekend, before finally cooling down on Sunday the 22nd to normal levels. This was associated with a storm system moving over the region that deposited heavy snow in the mountains and again produced strong winds and a brief accumulation of snow.
The month ended much the same as it began, with temperatures slightly warmer than normal interrupted by one brief shot of cold and snow. Highs reached the 40s and low 50s each day except the 27th and 28th as a quick-moving cold front dropped around a half inch of snow during the morning of the 27th.

A look ahead
February is often a dry and cold month for the region as we move toward the snowy and unsettled conditions of March and April. Precipitation averages less than an inch, with average high temperatures in the 30s. It can get very cold in February with Arctic air making strong pushes into the region. However, days begin to get a little longer, which leads to some nice, sunny days, and snow melts faster.
January 2012 Weather Statistics
Average High 43.0° (+2.9°)
100-year return frequency value max 48.4° min 30.8°
Average Low 16.3° (+4.1)
100-year return frequency value max 26.6° min 6.6°
Highest Temperature 55° on the 25th
Lowest Temperature -7° on the 12th
Monthly Precipitation 0.13”
(-0.62” 82% below normal)
100-year return frequency value max 1.56” min 0.01”
Monthly Snowfall 3.5”
(-10.3”, 75% below normal)
Season to Date Snow 55.6”
(-1.5”, 3% below normal)
(the snow season is from July 1 to June 30)
Season to Date Precip. 13.03”
(+0.99”, 8% above normal)
(the precip season is from July 1 to June 30)
Heating Degree Days 1097 (-98)
Cooling Degree Days 0
Bill Kappel is a meteorologist and Tri-Lakes resident. He can be reached at billkappel@ocn.me.


Top weather events of 2011

By Bill Kappel
Below average precipitation for the year
Precipitation ended the year below average, with less than 20 inches of rain accumulating for most of us. This was especially prevalent during the first half of the year, when we were running 50 percent below average.
Below average snowfall late winter and spring
Snowfall was well below normal for winter 2010-11 and for the year as a whole, finishing with just about 100 inches for the calendar year, about 30 percent less than average. We did finally receive a double digits snowfall

on December 21-22, 2011, breaking a streak that had extended back to April of 2010.
Late January/early February Arctic chill
Temperatures plummeted on the last day of January 2011 as a very cold air mass moved into the region. Temperatures fell below zero on the evening of the 31st and didn’t rise back above zero until mid-afternoon on Feb. 2. That was only for an hour or so, with temperatures touching 1° F. We then had a brief respite of a couple of days before another shot of Arctic chill moved back in. Over the two-week period, several mornings had lows reach well into the -20° F range.
Late summer drought relief
After a very dry first half of the year, mid- to late-summer

rain and early season snow helped provide some relief to the region. Precipitation totals were above normal in July, September, October, and December, with above normal snow in October and December as well.
Early season snowfall
Heavy snow made an early appearance on Oct. 8, when 6 to 12 inches of snow fell across the region, taking us quickly from the Indian summer conditions that started the month and reminding us that yes, it can snow around here.
Bill Kappel’s year-end summary table and charts are posted at www.ocn.me/v12n2.htm#weather.

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Letters to Our Community

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed in Letters to Our Community should not be interpreted as the view of OCN even when the letter writer is an OCN volunteer. For letter guidelines, see page 31.

Thanks for supporting Multiple Sclerosis Alliance
We would like to extend a very heartfelt thanks to the community of Monument for your generosity in supporting the Multiple Sclerosis Alliance of Southern Colorado (MSASC) through your contributions to the Christmas “Giving Tree” Program at the Walmart store. Thanks to all of you, the program was a great success, and the donations of merchandise and gift cards we received enabled us to provide greatly needed items for over 40 of our clients and their families within the area. Such community spirit deserves to be acknowledged, and



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we say kudos to everyone who participated.

March is Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Month. We are working to promote greater awareness of this disease that affects so many within our community and to find more ways to meet the needs of those individuals.

MSASC has a support group in Tri-Lakes/Gleneagle, which meets the second Wednesday of every month from 9 to 10:30 a.m. at Oakley's Café at Sundance Mountain Lodge, 1865 Woodmoor Drive in Monument. For more information, call the MSASC office at (719) 633-4603.

Nikki Pfeiffer, president

Multiple Sclerosis Alliance of Southern Colorado

School STEM programs available

President Obama has said we must inspire our students to study STEM subjects — science, technology, engineering, and math — and get excited about STEM careers. Here are some industry STEM programs available on the Internet supporting the president's concerns and mentoring local and state communities interested in STEM school programs.

Search the term in quotation marks for more details or contact me.

1. "Team America Rocketry Challenge" provides seventh- through 12th-grade students a realistic experience designing a flying aerospace vehicle. Students work together in local and virtual teams in the same way today's aerospace engineering professionals support space programs.
2. "MathCounts" works to secure America's global competitiveness and inspires excellence, confidence, and curiosity in middle school through fun and challenging math programs. Sponsors, volunteers, and leadership of the National Society of Professional Engineers are providing students with the foundation for success in STEM careers.
3. "CTEq" (Change the Equation) works to: improve STEM teaching at all grade levels; inspire student appreciation for STEM careers and opportunities for advanced education, especially among females and students of color; and achieve a sustained com-

mitment improving STEM learning from business leaders, government officials, and STEM educators through innovation, communication, and community collaboration.

4. "FIRST Robotics" inspires students to pursue careers in STEM by creating opportunities to engage in after-school activities that offer a mix of technology, sports, and staging team-based robotics contests.

These are just some of the organizations and programs available if District 38 members are interested in advancing STEM educational activities. We can work as a community to increase STEM in our district and collaborate with other El Paso County school districts.

Gordon Reichal

Status of D-38 teacher morale questioned

Lewis-Palmer School District 38 Board of Education Vice President Mark Pfoff recently commented that back in 2008, there were serious issues with staff morale. Then he said a good job was done in dealing with that issue. He maintains that teacher morale is no longer an issue. What was done? He has ignored the fact that D-38's teacher turnover is the highest in El Paso County and that our superintendent acknowledged that the biggest challenge he faces is teacher morale.

The last district-wide teacher survey (2009) indicated that 48 percent of teachers feared retaliation for expressing their opinions about the district—for exercising their First Amendment rights. Pfoff also stated, "You walk into any school and pull a teacher out of any classroom and you ask them how they feel about this administration, how do they feel about the school board, and I am confident that the majority of the teachers will say things are much better."

Rather than use empirical evidence, his words indicate a strong-armed approach intended to intimidate professional workers into toeing the party line. He also doesn't address low pay, frozen wages, larger class size, increased total student numbers and associated workload, and teaching more classes that impedes our teachers' abil-

ity to do their job as well as they have in the past.

On Jan. 17, the Denver Post published an article about teacher morale in Douglas County. In a 2008 school survey, the teachers of DougCo reported a positive climate in their buildings and were able to give the district an 80 percent approval rating. Last month's survey was disturbing. Teachers now feel little support for the classroom and their approval rating of the district climate has dropped to 14 percent. This begs the question, why doesn't D-38 survey its teachers?

Stephen Boyd

Effects of alcohol far worse than marijuana

What Shawn O'Toole fails to point out in his letter to *Our Community News* ("Marijuana's harmful health effects are well-documented," Jan. 7) is that alcohol is still the No. 1 drug of choice and that the overall damage that alcohol does to the human body is far greater than marijuana. There have been other studies that have shown that short-term memory problems occur because of the aging process—in other words, just getting older.

The benefits of marijuana for those of us with serious illness is much greater than the narcotics that doctors push on people every day. Also, a lot of people more and more prefer to eat marijuana so they do not damage their lungs.

Please, Mr. O'Toole, prove to me that long-term abuse of alcohol does far less damage to the human body from top to bottom than marijuana. This is my opinion: Alcohol is the most damaging and dangerous drug around.

As a parent, I would like to see Mr. O'Toole be as outspoken about the dangers of alcohol as he is marijuana. Alcohol, the No. 1 drug of choice, is widely used among the youths in this country.

The gist of my first letter to OCN was about the fact that alcohol is the No. 1 drug of choice and the most damaging drug to the human body over long-term abuse. I am a recovering alcoholic, 23 years clean and sober of alcohol, the drug that nearly took my life.

John D. Wedgewood ■

Between The Covers at the Covered Treasures Bookstore

Glimpses into the lives of the famous

By the staff at Covered Treasures

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to be Queen Elizabeth, or George Washington, or a modern day celebrity like Diane Keaton, or even Tim Tebow? Memoirs offer us a window into those other worlds.



Elizabeth the Queen: The Life of a Modern Monarch

By Sally Bedell Smith (Random House) \$30 Compulsively readable and scrupulously researched, this book gives us a close-up view of a woman we've known only from a distance, illuminating the lively personality, sense of humor, and canny intelligence with which she meets the most demanding work and

family obligations. It is also a fascinating window into life at the center of the last great monarchy.

Being George Washington

By Glenn Beck (Simon & Schuster Inc.) \$26

This is the amazing, true story of a real-life superhero who wore no cape and possessed no special powers—yet

changed the world forever. Washington's life reads as if it were torn from the pages of an action novel: bullet holes through his clothing; horses shot out from under him; unimaginable hardship; disease; heroism; spies and double agents; and, of course, the unmistakable hand of Divine Providence that guided it all.

Catherine the Great

By Robert K. Massie (Random House) \$35

Born as an obscure German princess, Catherine traveled to Russia at 14 and transformed herself into an empress by sheer determination. Possessing a brilliant mind and an insatiable curiosity, she devoured the works of Enlightenment philosophers and, when she reached the throne, attempted to use their principles to guide her rule of the vast and backward Russian empire.

Through My Eyes

By Tim Tebow with Nathan Whitaker (Harper Collins) \$26.99

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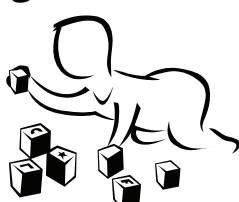
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a Christian. What emerges is a captivating portrait of a man whose passions demand the best from teammates, whose words inspire faith in others, and whose heart leaves everything on the field.

Then Again

By Diane Keaton (Random House) \$26
In this unforgettable memoir, you will meet the woman known to tens of millions as Annie Hall, but you will also meet her mother, the loving, complicated, always-thinking Dorothy Hall. Drawing on thousands of pages of journals Dorothy kept over the years, Diane paints a portrait of her mother, as well as of her entire family, recounting a story that spans four genera-

tions and nearly a hundred years.

Extraordinary, Ordinary People

By Condoleezza Rice (Three Rivers Press) \$15

From one of America’s most admired women comes her inspiring story of growing up at the height of segregation in Birmingham, Ala., and the remarkable role her parents and community played in her rise to the highest levels of Washington power

Mitt Romney: An Inside Look at the Man and His Politics

By R.B. Scott (Lyons Press) \$16.95

A talented journalist takes a frank

and revealing look at what makes Mitt the man tick, portraying him as more human than he often appears to be on the stump. Scott also attempts to answer the question everyone is asking: Could a faithful Mormon really win his party’s nomination and then upset the popular, if now struggling, incumbent president?

Old Friend from Far Away

By Natalie Goldberg (Free Press) \$15

If you have ever toyed with the idea of writing your own memoir, this is the book for you. Goldberg, a poet, teacher, and author of 11 books, tells us that to write a memoir, we must first know how to remember. Through associative and medi-

tative exercises, she helps people open forgotten doors of memory, welcoming aspiring writers of all levels and encouraging them to find their unique voice to tell their stories.

If life sometimes seems drab, difficult, or complicated, it may be some consolation to learn that celebrities face many of the same challenges as we ordinary people do. Or it may just be entertaining to read of their storied lives.

Until next month, happy reading.
The staff at Covered Treasures Bookstore can be contacted at books@ocn.me.

Bird Watch on the Palmer Divide

Ring-billed gull



Above: Painting of Ring-billed gulls by Elizabeth Hacker. A color version is posted at www.ocn.me/v12n2bird.htm.

By Elizabeth Hacker

When my children were young I often read to them, and one of their favorite stories was *Jonathan Livingston Seagull*, a classic tale about a seagull’s search for the meaning of life. They also enjoyed the silly seagulls in the film *Finding Nemo* that loudly utter one word, “mine.” As a result of these depictions, every time they saw a gull they were sure it was Jonathan and that he was saying “mine, mine.” But more importantly, it sparked their interest in birds. Seagulls are big birds that do not shy away from humans and thus provide immediate gratification for the beginning birder.

The land gull

Ring-billed gulls are the most common gull in North America and can be found in parks, fields, parking lots, on beaches, and in other urban and suburban habitats. They are communal birds, so common that they tend to be ignored, and in that respect, they are rather like pigeons. Often gulls are associated with oceans but this gull is as much at home on land as in the water.

Appearance and size

When compared to other gull species, the ring-billed is a small to medium bird about 17 inches in length with a wing span of 4 feet. Its beak is yellow with a black ring

near the tip, thus the name. Its eyes are yellow and its legs and webbed feet are a greenish yellow. The adult’s body plumage is white with pale gray wings. The tips of their gray wings are black with white spots.

Some bird species, such as the robin, attain adult plumage in a single season, while other species like the bald eagle take up to five years to mature. The ring-billed gull attains its sleek looking adult plumage in its third year. Until that time juveniles appear a mottled brown or gray and have pinkish bills.

What is a feather and why do birds molt?

A bird’s most precious possession is its feathers. Feathers are beautiful and allow birds to fly while protecting their bodies. Feathers are complex structures with scientific names and upon which volumes have been written. In very simple terms, there are two types of feathers. Vaned feathers are used for flight, and down feathers, which are located below the vaned feathers, provide thermal insulation.

When pin-feathers first poke through the a bird’s skin they are alive but after feathers become fully formed, they are dead tissue and cannot be repaired, somewhat similar to human hair. Even with preening, over time, feathers wear out and become frayed.

Molting is the process of replacing worn feathers with new ones. Some birds lose all their feathers during a molt while others lose a few at a time. All birds lose their feathers symmetrically. When feathers on the right side molt, the same feathers on the left molt. Without this symmetry birds would be unbalanced, and their flight would be unstable. Gulls molt twice a year, and with each molt juveniles begin to look more like an adult.

Behavior

Gulls are intelligent, watchful, and highly social birds that aren’t picky about the food they eat. Although they prefer a diet of fresh fish, earthworms, rodents, insects, and grains, they are also the sanitation engineers of the bird world, scavenging for garbage near picnic areas and landfills. They consume dead animals and organic litter that when left to rot could pose health hazards to humans.

Ring-billed gulls congregate in large flocks and forage while walking, wading, swimming, or flying and can become aggressive when protecting their food. While

kayaking on Monument Lake, I noticed gulls flying overhead. I’d heard that they were watchful and to see how watchful, I threw a peanut butter cracker as high as I could into the air. In a flash, one gull swooped over and caught it before it hit the water and then flew to shore with it wedged in its beak. As soon as it landed other gulls surrounded it, screaming “mine, mine.”

Reproduction

During mating season, the thin orbital ring around the gull’s yellow eyes become bright red. While this change may be difficult for humans to see, it’s like a neon sign to a gull. Mating season begins in March and eggs are laid in May or June.

Gulls are considered monogamous but a male may mate with two females. When this occurs, the females locate their nests close together and the male defends one territory. Females lay two to four brown eggs and both parents incubate the eggs for about three weeks. Parents take turns tending to the hatchlings and foraging for food until the fledglings learn to fly, about five weeks after hatching.

Flight

Like acrobats in a circus, seagulls make their difficult aerial twists and turns look easy. Their movements seem effortless whether they are floating on top an air current or flapping their wings. People in remote coastal communities use seagulls to predict storms. One saying that I remember hearing while in coastal Alaska was, “Seagull, seagull, sitting on the sand; it’s never good weather when you all fly to land.”

Folklore

The English words “gullible” and “gulled” are thought to be derived from gulls’ foolish behavior. The Russian dramatist Anton Chekhov named his play, *The Seagull*, for the foolish characters that chose to remain ignorant that their world had changed.

Native American folklore is also filled with references to the gull. While some cultures considered the gull to be a noisy antagonist, others considered it a trickster clever enough to get the better of hero Raven. The gull is revered by many tribes for its endurance and perseverance.

Elizabeth Hacker is a writer and artist. Email her at elizabethhacker@ocn.me to share bird pictures and stories.

Art Matters

New art association in town



By Janet Sellers

I dropped by the Bella Art and Frame Gallery one cold, snowy day. It was nice to come in from the cold and into a pleasant, spacious world of art for the afternoon, and I had a chat over a mocha there with Maggie, the owner.

She told me about a new art group just forming and interested artists, galleries, and local merchants are welcome to join. They’d like to promote the arts here locally and widen the interest for people traveling down from Denver and up from Colorado Springs and from farther south in New Mexico. Since we have art venues ranging from Baptist Road (Southwinds Gallery) to Monument to Palmer Lake, that’s a lot of art available!

The group is called the Monument Arts Association (MAA). Maggie said its mission is to enhance the quality of life and the creative vitality of the people of Monument and surrounds. It’s also nice for those visitors to our area to visit our art venues on a Friday evening—easier to do than during the week. The current location for the group is at Secret Window Gallery at 47 Third St. (Front Street and Third) in Monument.

Later, I dropped by to look into the MAA there, and spoke for a bit with co-owner Anthony Archuleta, just before the oil painting class at his studio. He took me on a tour of the main gallery, all the while telling about the upcoming summer MAA events and the like, which

includes a Fourth of July “Indian Market” of highly sought-after Native American artworks. We walked amid the opulent floral artworks of the on-site floral studio and casually perused the wide variety of large-scale works displayed and the variety of sculptures, featuring artists from all over Colorado and the U.S.

While January is more of a cocoon month here in our town, February is a great month to check out the art venues and perhaps purchase something artfully wonderful for your sweetie. Art as a gift means a welcome message of love for years and years. See you in town for art!

Call to artists

Tri-Lakes Views announces a Call for Entries for its

annual outdoor public art exhibit titled ARTSites. Submittal deadline is March 10. If you have questions, contact bkonarski@earthlink.net.

Tri-Lakes Center for the Arts (TLCA) will hold a "Visions of Light" photography show beginning Feb. 28. The exhibition will have five categories and a \$500 best of show award. For details, visit the TLCA at 304 Highway 105, Palmer Lake, or visit www.trilakesarts.org.

Also of interest to local artists: TLCA has two art studios to rent. For information, call 719-481-0475.

Janet Lee Sellers is an American painter and sculptor who works in paint, metal and, most recently, concrete. Sellers lives in Woodmoor, Colorado. She can be reached at JanetSellers@ocn.me.



Above: Anthony Archuleta, co-owner of Secret Window Gallery in Downtown Monument talks about the Monument Arts Association (MAA) as he prepares to teach an oil painting class at his adjacent art studio. The MAA is a way to organize artists and art studios to become more involved in the community by sharing their work and creating new sales opportunities. *Photo by Janet Sellers.*



Above: Archuleta's "Experience Oil Painting" class. From left: Hiromi Ahlstrom, Dianne Schroeder, Tracy Grotzmager, Anthony Archuleta (Instructor), Dolly Rickerman, Sara Delany Cara Backman, and Maggie Williamson. The class is about living the experience of oil painting and gaining insight into techniques used to create an oil painting. *Photo provided by Anthony Archuleta.*

Legacy Sertoma presents sound system to Foothills Elementary

On Friday, Jan. 13, representatives of the Legacy Sertoma and Rocky Mountain Sertoma Clubs formally presented a Frontrow To Go sound amplification system to the Foothills Elementary School P.E. Department in front of the entire student body assembled along with parents and other guests. Representing the two clubs, Pikes Peak District Governor Kinney made the presentation remarks.

When Legacy Sertoma received the request for assistance, funds were not in the club's budget, but their Board decided to front \$300 if one of the other local Sertoma Clubs would proffer the rest. Rocky Mountain Sertoma immediately stepped up with \$250, allowing the equipment to be ordered and it has now been in use at the school since just before the Christmas holiday break.

The P.E. teacher, Barb Francklyn, actually tears up when describing the vast difference it has made for a surprisingly large number of her students. The last sentence of her Thank You note – "You have touched many lives for years to come." -- really says it all and it's why Sertomans do what they do. ■



Above: (L - R) Bob Swickert, President, Rocky Mountain Sertoma; Barb Francklyn, Foothills Elementary School P.E. teacher; Val Hunter, Front Row to Go representative and Legacy Sertoma Member; Eddie Kinney, Pikes Peak District Governor; and Sam DeFelice, President of Legacy Sertoma. *Photo provided by Legacy Sertoma*

Snapshots of Our Community

VFW Ladies Auxiliary teaches Brownies about flag etiquette



Above: From left, bottom row are Brownie Scouts Ali Kromberg, Sammy Brague, and Sophie Logsdon. In the second row are Brownie Scouts Madson Smith, Julia Matson, and Elizabeth Padrnos. In the third row are VFW Post 7829 Ladies Auxiliary President Martine Arndt and auxiliary members Nannette Smith, Janna Kjonaas, and Val Loman. In the top row are Girl Scout Brownie Troop 4609 Troop Leader Lori Matson with helpers Valerie Kromberg and Michelle Brague. Girl Scout Brownie Troop 4609 had gathered with the Ladies Auxiliary for a lesson on the folding of the flag. *Photo by Bernard Minetti.*

By Bernard L. Minetti

VFW Post 7829 Ladies Auxiliary President Martine Arndt joined with Girl Scout Brownie Troop 4609 to teach a lesson in flag etiquette on Jan. 13. The lesson was a demonstration to the troop on folding the flag and the meaning of the 11 folds. With the assistance of three ladies from the auxiliary, Arndt demonstrated and explained the technique to the six brownies and the three troop leaders at Trinity Lutheran Church.

Arndt explained that the first fold stood for liberty, the second fold for unity, the third for justice, the fourth for perseverance, the fifth for hardiness, the sixth for valor, the seventh for purity, the eighth for innocence,

the ninth for sacrifice, the 10th for honor, and the 11th for independence. Following this explanation, the brownies were instructed in the method to properly fold the flag.

Arndt continued by stating that in 1782, Secretary of Congress Charles Thomson was the original specifier of the virtues associated with folding the flag. This was adopted by the National Flag Foundation and is recommended as a formal procedure prior to the folding of the casket flag. Following the lesson, Troop Leader Lori Matson thanked the auxiliary for the instruction.

Bernard Minetti can be contacted at bernardminetti@ocn.me.

Front Range musicians honor Bob Dylan, Jan. 28

By David Futey

On Jan. 28 the Tri-Lakes Center for the Arts (TLCA) hosted Positively Pikes Peak (PPP) for a near-capacity audience. The project is a tribute to the music of Bob Dylan, who has now amassed a 50-year musical career.

PPP resulted in a

2011 CD release of 13 Bob Dylan songs performed by musicians from the Pikes Peak region and was produced by Colorado Springs resident Jason Bennett.

Jeremy "Doc" Hodges, who performed Jan. 28, said, "Dylan's influence is

worldwide" and "through

his music he brings us all together." On this evening musicians performed the songs they contributed to the CD along with one or two of their own works. The Dylan songs ranged from the well-known such as Lay, Lady, Lay to the lesser-known Not Dark Yet, and all songs were performed with unique, personal twists.

Information on PPP is at <http://www.positivelypikespeak.com/>. Information on upcoming events at the TLCA is at www.trilakesart.org.

David Futey can be reached at dfutey@ocn.me.

Pictured below (clockwise from top left): Barry Beard, Bill W., Paula Wulf and Randy Ruebsamen, and Jeremy "Doc" Hodges during their performances during the f the Positively Pikes Peak presentation at the TLCA. *Photos by David Futey*



January and February Library Events

Join the Winter Blues Blast

By Harriet Halbig

January programs at the library were all well attended, especially the Crafty Teens program. More than 20 teens learned the art of kumihimo, Japanese braiding.

Teens are encouraged to continue learning new skills during the February Crafty Teens event on Friday, Feb. 10. Learn how to make great valentines from a wonderful teacher. Space is limited for this special class, so register online or with a librarian at 488-2370. The program will last from 4 to 5:30 p.m.

Join us for our annual winter festival, the *Winter Blues Blast*, on Feb. 11. The day begins with an opportunity to learn to play the harmonica from one of the best: Ronnie Shellist from the Colorado Blues Society. Participants from grades 2 to 8 are welcome to learn about the origins of blues music and how the blues can be a positive part of their lives. Each participant will receive a complimentary harmonica and an introductory lesson, and will have an opportunity to jam with the band. Registration is required and space is limited, so sign up soon. The class will last from 10:30 a.m. until noon.

In the afternoon, blast away your winter blues with a series of fun, music-inspired programs, crafts, and activities. There will be a live jazz and blues music jam session concert at noon. Join a sing-along with Nathan Worthey at 1:30 p.m., learn to dance with a Palmer Lake Elementary School sixth-grade class, and become part of an impromptu rhythm band at 3:30 p.m. Face painting, crafts, snacks, and hand bells will be available throughout the afternoon. Come join us for one of the biggest events of the year! Mark your calendar for Feb. 11.

Book-Eaters, the teen book club for grades 7 and up will meet on Wednesday, Feb. 15, from 4 to 5:30 p.m. to

discuss *Found – Book One of The Missing* series by Margaret Peterson Haddix. Come and chat, enjoy snacks, and get a chance to win a book.

The Monumental Readers book club is open to all patrons. This month's selection is *Crooked Letter, Crooked Letter* by Tom Franklin. The group will meet on Friday, Feb. 17, at 10 a.m.

Saturday, Feb. 18, will be a busy day at the library. In the morning, LEGO enthusiasts of all ages are welcome to join the LEGO Club. We'll provide the LEGOs and you bring the creativity. Please do not bring your own LEGOs (although donations are gladly accepted). Be sure to bring your camera to record your creation—all pieces used to make projects remain the property of the Pikes Peak Library District. The fun begins at 10:30 a.m. and lasts until noon.

The AARP Mature Safe Driving Program will be offered on the afternoon of Feb. 18 from 1 to 5 p.m. This is a refresher course specially designed for motorists age 50 and older. Graduates may present their course completion certificate to their insurance agent for a discount. Charge for the four-hour course is \$12 for AARP members and \$14 for nonmembers. Class size is limited and registration is required.

Looking ahead, there will be a workshop on "Hiring an Unpaid Colorado Intern" at the Monument Library on Monday, March 5, from 8:30 to 10 a.m. The workshop covers such topics as how your non-profit will benefit by having an intern, which colleges are best for quality interns, how to post for an intern online, and interviewing and hiring techniques. A step-by-step guide is available for sale to those who cannot attend. The program is sponsored by the Tri-Lakes Non-Profit Council. To register, please call the Tri-Lakes Chamber of Commerce at 481-3282.

Artwork by students of Lewis-Palmer High School will be on the wall in February. In the display case will be a display by the Pikes Peak Depression Glass Club.

Palmer Lake library events

Come to Palmer Lake Town Hall for a special program, Destination: Mount Everest. Mark Schaible, a volunteer at the library, will present a photo journal of his 2011 trip to Mount Everest. Mark overcame serious illness and a bone marrow transplant before embarking on this jour-



Above: Hilary Penner of The Traveling Sea shows young patrons a sea sponge and explains its habitat. Photo by Harriet Halbig.

ney. Learn all the details of his 10-week adventure. Please register at 481-2587.

Palmer Lake's Family Fun Program for February is The Traveling Sea. Have a hands-on experience with sea animals in a travel touch pool. Learn about adaptations, movement, body shapes, and what we can do to help protect these creatures. Make an ocean craft to take home. The program will take place on Saturday, Feb. 18, at 10:30 a.m.

Palmer Lake's Paws to Read dogs are waiting to read with our young patrons. Read with Misty, the Sheltie, on Thursday, Feb. 6, from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Kirby, our golden retriever friend, will read with you on Saturday, Feb. 25, from 11 to noon.

Knitters of all skill levels are welcome to join the Palmer Lake Library Knitting Group, which meets each Thursday from 10 until noon. Bring your project and enjoy the fellowship of other crafters.

The Palmer Lake Book Group will discuss *Into the Wild* by Jean Hegland at 9 a.m. on Friday, March 2. New members are always welcome.

Please note that all Pikes Peak Library District facilities will be closed Feb. 20 for Presidents Day.

Harriet Halbig can be reached at harriethalbig@ocn.me.

Film Workshops

Mar. 10: *Acting for Film* (11-18 yrs)
Mar. 17: *Behind-the-Camera* (13-18 yrs)

10 am—4 pm, Penrose Library

\$60/student/workshop. Register at www.tinroof-productions.com or call at (719) 203-8721

University School of Monument

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Palmer Lake Historical Society, Jan. 19

Society introduces new board members

By Bernard L. Minetti

About 70 people attended the annual potluck, membership renewal and sign-up meeting for the Palmer Lake Historical Society on Jan. 19. During the meeting, now President Emeritus Phyllis Bonser announced that she had retired from the presidency and had accepted the role of liaison to the other historical societies in the region.

The new board members were introduced. They are retired pastor of Monument Presbyterian Church the Rev. John Snyder; local historian and Society contributor, retired Air Force Col. Jack Anthony; Treasurer Barbara Arbuthnot; Society member Pat McCarthy; Bella Art & Frame owner Maggie Williamson; member Georgia Follansbee; and retired Army Lt. Col. Al Walter, the new president of the Society.

The February meeting of the Society will be highlighted by a presentation, "The Frank Lewis-Dale Jones Gang." Retired Colorado Springs police investigator Dwight Haverkorn will describe some of the history of this group that killed nine police officers between 1913 and 1918. He will also tell the story of the deadly shootout involving the gang in Colorado Springs in September

1918. Haverkorn is well-known for his persistence in attempts to identify whoever slaughtered six people in two neighboring homes in Colorado Springs on one night in September 1911 and who was never caught. The killings are still considered the worst in the city's history because of the number of deaths.

The Palmer Lake Historical Society meets at 7 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month. The next meeting will be on Feb. 16 at the Palmer Lake Town Hall. Membership is not required to attend.

Bernard Minetti can be contacted at bernardminetti@ocn.me.



Above: New board members of the Palmer Lake Historical Society are, from left to right, the Rev. John Snyder, Jack Anthony, Treasurer Barbara Arbuthnot, Pat McCarthy, Maggie Williamson, Georgia Follansbee, and Al Walter, the new president of the Society. Photo by Bernard Minetti.

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*Up to 4 visitors. Not valid with other coupons or discounts. Good thru 3/31/12.

Special Events and Notices

By Judy Barnes, Editor Emeritus

Although we strive for accuracy in these listings, dates or times are often changed after publication. Please double-check the time and place of any event you wish to attend by calling the info number for that event.

Wednesday Senior Lunch at Big Red February Menu

Feb. 8 Brats, sauerkraut, & beans

Feb. 15 Meatloaf, mashed potatoes, & salad

Feb. 22 Pulled BBQ chicken sandwich, beans, & cole slaw

Feb. 29 Beef brisket, mashed potatoes, & salad

Rolls and butter are served with each meal except sandwiches. Dessert is also provided.

An activity of Tri-Lakes Health Advocacy Associates. Meals are provided by Pinecrest Catering, Palmer Lake; Nikki McDonald, executive chef, 481-3307.

Free income tax filing assistance by AARP, Feb. 2-April 16

Free income tax filing assistance and e-filing is offered by the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) Tax-Aide program. Trained AARP volunteers will be available every Monday and Thursday, **Feb. 2-April 16**, (except Feb. 20, Presidents Day), 1-7 p.m., at Tri-Lakes Cares, 235 Jefferson St., Monument, to answer questions and to assist filers in completing their federal and state income tax returns. Please note that **Feb. 16** and **March 16** tax assistance will only be available 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Volunteers will assist taxpayers in preparing their Forms 1040, 1040A or 1040EZ. Filers are asked to bring proof of Social Security numbers for themselves and for any dependents they are claiming. Filers should also bring their W-2s, 1099-INT, 1099-DIV, etc., to complete their 2011 return, plus a copy of last year's (2010) tax return. For additional locations, visit <http://www.aarp.org/VMSLocator/searchTaxAideLocations.do>. For more information, or to make an appointment (recommended), call Jim Taylor, 488-1317.

Loveland Valentine's Day postmark travels the world

Ever wonder how to get "Loveland" postmarked on your special Valentine's Day card without having to drive 100 miles north to mail it from that city? Continuing a 67-year old tradition, the U.S. Postal Service and Loveland Chamber of Commerce are teaming up to send cards and letters around the world with a special "Loveland" postmark. A unique design created by a local artist and selected via a competitive contest is stamped on the outside of all valentine envelopes and remailed from the Sweetheart City. To have cards and letters remailed with the Loveland postmark, properly stamp and address each individual valentine and put them all in a larger, stamped envelope and mail them to:

Postmaster, Valentine Remailing, 446 E. 29th St., Loveland, CO 80538

Valentine cards/envelopes destined for remailing to other countries should be in Loveland by **Feb. 4**. Those for remailing within the U.S. and outside of Colorado should be in Loveland by **Feb. 9**. Those for remailing within Colorado should be in Loveland by **Feb. 12**. You can also drop off pre-stamped valentine envelopes at King Soopers and City Market stores that have Loveland Valentine Remailing boxes.

Volunteers needed for Fairgrounds Corp., apply by Feb. 10

The Fairgrounds Corp. is a nonprofit corporation established by the El Paso County Board of Commissioners to acquire, manage and/or hold a liquor license assigned to the El Paso County Fairgrounds; to coordinate the use of the fairgrounds for special events during which the consumption of alcohol is desired; and through its operation, to provide funding to support the county Fair, the Fair and Events Complex, and the county 4-H program. It consists of five members who are appointed for three-year terms. The volunteer application is located at www.elpasoco.com and can be accessed by clicking on the "Volunteer Boards" link. Applications are due by **Feb. 10**. For more information call 520-6436.

D-38 school bus fees informational meetings, Feb. 7, 8, & 10

Public meetings about the possibility of implementing bus fees for the 2012-13 school year will be held in the Learning Center of the District Administration Building, 146 Jefferson St., Monument: **Feb. 7**, 7 p.m.; **Feb. 8**, 4:15 p.m.; and **Feb. 10**, 9 a.m. For more information, call

481-9546.

Palmer Lake Board nomination petitions available Feb. 13

The Palmer Lake Municipal Election is scheduled for April 3 and six positions are open for election — mayor (two-year term) and five trustees (four-year terms). Nomination petitions will be available beginning **Feb. 13** at the Palmer Lake Town Office, 42 Valley Crescent. Requests for absentee ballots are now being accepted. For more information, call Tara Berreth, 481-2953.

Bring used CDs to the library to help support All Pikes Peak Reads

Donate used CDs until **Feb. 13** in collection boxes at all Pikes Peak Library District locations. Independent Records will donate \$1 to the library for each donated CD to help support All Pikes Peak Reads in 2012. CDs must be in good condition, including all original lyric sheets and/or art. All Pikes Peak Reads is a community-wide effort to improve literacy and foster dialogue across social, cultural, and generational lines. The program includes free community events, author visits, children's programs, theater presentations, school curriculum guides, art exhibits, and much more. The Monument Branch Library is located at 1706 Lake Woodmoor Dr. The Palmer Lake Branch Library is at 66 Lower Glenway.

Volunteers needed for Board of Health, apply by Feb. 17

The local Board of Health seeks volunteers with three to five years of nonprofit and/or educational senior level experience. Experience in grant development and management is also desirable. The individual appointed will serve a five-year term beginning April 1. Applications are due by **Feb. 17**. Further information and volunteer applications are available at the website, www.elpasoco.com. Click on the "Volunteer Boards" link at the top of the page. For more information, call 520-6436.

Volunteer for Wescott Fire Protection District, apply by Feb. 20

Wescott Fire is now accepting applications for the next class of volunteers. Applications must be received by **Feb. 20** and can be downloaded from the website, www.wescottfire.org, or picked up at the station, 15415 Gleneagle Dr. For more information email Lt. Tim Hampton thampton@wescottfire.org or Lt. Bryan Ackerman ackerman@wescottfire.org or visit www.wescottfire.org.

Clerk & Recorder's Office Citizens' Academy, apply by Feb. 22

The El Paso County Clerk & Recorder will host its third Citizens' Academy March 7-April 18. The Academy offers participants an overview of the County Clerk's departments—Elections, Recording, Motor Vehicle, and Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners. The academy provides an interactive and informative behind-the-scenes look at the responsibilities and operations of the office, with emphasis on elections in preparation for the upcoming presidential election. The sessions will be held **March 7-April 18**, 6:30-8:30 p.m., mostly at the Citizens Service Center, 1675 W. Garden of the Gods Rd., Colorado Springs. There is no session **March 28**. There is no charge to attend the academy but space will be limited. High school and college students are welcome to apply. The deadline for applications is **Feb. 22**. The application can be found on the website, <http://car.elpasoco.com/Pages/CitizensAcademy.aspx>. For more information, contact Mary Lynn Black, 520-6215 or email marylynnblack@elpasoco.com.

El Paso County Sheriff's Office Reserve Unit Open House, Feb. 23

The El Paso County Sheriff's Office Reserve Unit seeks motivated individuals to join this all-volunteer unit. Reserve deputies are certified peace officers and provide vital support to the Sheriff's Office by working in patrol, detentions, and special events throughout the county. The unit will host an open house **Feb. 23**, 7 p.m., at the Sheriff's Office Training Academy, 2741 E. Las Vegas St., Colorado Springs. This event is open to everyone interested in becoming a reserve deputy. Members of the media are also welcome to attend. Applications are available for download at the Sheriff's Office website at <http://shr.elpasoco.com/Law+Enforcement+Bureau/Patrol+Division/Reserve+Unit.htm>. The reserve unit application deadline is Feb. 24. For more information, call 310-5538 or email reserverecruiter@elpasoco.com.

Novel Destinations adult reading program

Pikes Peak Library District's annual adult reading program runs through **March 5** and is open to anyone age 18 and older with a PPLD library card. Read any four books and receive prizes. Books on CD, audiocassette, audiobook players, eBooks, and eAudiobooks count, too! To register, bring your library card to any district library and sign up at the information desk, or sign up online at ppld.org beginning. After you read your first four books, visit your nearest library to pick up your first prize. Read four more books before March 5 and visit the library again for your second prize and to be entered for the grand prize drawing of a new Kindle eReader! For more information, call 531-6333.

WMMI celebrates Military Appreciation Month, Feb. 1 - 29

The Western Museum of Mining & Industry is showing thanks to our military by offering free admission to active duty military that show their Active Duty ID. The rest of the family will receive \$1 off per person in honor of their family member. The museum is open Mon.-Sat., 9 a.m.-4 p.m., and is located at 225 North Gate Blvd. (I-25 Exit 156 A). For more information, call 488-0880 or visit www.wmmi.org.

Senior Mondays at WMMI

Each Monday through March, seniors will be admitted into the Western Museum of Mining & Industry for just \$2.50 (regularly \$6). Come see the museum that works! Tours begin at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Group tours are available upon request. WMMI is located at 225 North Gate Blvd. (I-25 Exit 156 A). For more information, call 488-0880 or visit www.wmmi.org.

You Got Talent Auditions, apply by March 3

Do you have talent? Tri-Lakes, Colorado Springs, and Larkspur area youths and young adults ages 6-24 can compete for prizes and awards. Music, comedy, dance, whatever—send your video auditions by **March 3**. Video auditions may be cell phone quality. Get details and download the entry form at www.familynation.net or call 465-2001.

ARTSites 2012 Call to Artists, apply by March 10

Tri-Lakes Views invites artists to participate in ART-Sites, a public outdoor art exhibit showcasing sculpture on pedestals installed around the community and in the newly established Monument Sculpture Park at Big Red. The exhibit will be on display for one year and will be featured in the annual ARTSites map distributed to restaurants, hotels, and shops throughout the area. Artists receive a \$300 stipend for each piece accepted by the jury. Entries must be received by **March 10**. Visit www.trilakesviews.org for details on how to enter. For more information, email bkonarski@earthlink.net.

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Tri-Lakes Women’s Club 2012 Grant Applications, due March 15

Continuing its 35-year tradition of support to the Tri-Lakes community through charitable and educational endeavors, the Tri-Lakes Women’s Club (TLWC) will once again consider grant requests for special programs and projects from 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations, public service organizations, and public schools that significantly serve the Tri-Lakes area defined by School District 38. Applications and instructions for the 2012 grant awards will be available on the TLWC website (tlwc.net) through March 15. Completed applications (which must include certain required documentation) must be post-marked no later than March 15. Late and/or incomplete

applications will not be considered. Awards will be announced to grant recipients in late May. For more information, email Nancy Brown, Grant Committee Chair, at Brownnw@comcast.net.

Attention Tri-Lakes residents with medical conditions

If you have a medical condition or a physical disability, please contact Jennifer at Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District, 484-0911, to register for emergency assistance if evacuation is required.

Black Forest Animal Sanctuary needs volunteers

Black Forest Animal Sanctuary was founded in the late 1990s as the Charlotte & Arthur Romero Wildlife Sanc-

tuary, an all-volunteer and not-for-profit 501c3 that helps all animals. The sanctuary is getting dozens of calls and emails every day begging for them to take in unwanted, neglected, and abused horses and other livestock animals, dogs, and cats from the Front Range area. Its goal is to rescue, rehabilitate, and retrain horses and find them permanent loving homes. They are in immediate need of funding for feed and veterinary care and significant shelter improvements to continue their work. To volunteer, adopt an animal, or make a donation, contact 494-0158, bfasfarm@aol.com, or visit www.bfasfarm.org.

Multiple sclerosis support group

A multiple sclerosis (MS) group is forming for the Tri-Lakes and surrounding areas. If interested, please email Susan, susan@cvsCorp.com. ■

Our Community Calendar

By Judy Barnes, Editor Emeritus

Although we strive for accuracy in these listings, dates or times are often changed after publication. Please double-check the time and place of any event you wish to attend by calling the info number for that event.

- GOVERNMENTAL BODIES**
- **Monument Board of Trustees Meeting**, Mon., **Feb. 6**, 6:30 p.m., Town Hall Board Room, 645 Beacon Lite Rd., Monument. Meets 1st and 3rd Mon. each month. Info: 884-8017.
 - **El Paso County Planning Commission Meeting**, Tue., **Feb. 7**, 9 a.m., 2880 International Circle (off Union Blvd & Printers Pkwy). Meets 1st & 3rd Tue. (if required) each month. Info: 520-6300 or http://adm2.elpasoco.com/planning/agendas/pc/pc-agn.asp.
 - **D-38 Accountability Advisory Committee (DAAC) Meeting**, Tue., **Feb. 7**, 7 p.m., Palmer Lake Elementary School, 115 Upper Glenway. Normally meets 2nd Tue. each month, location varies. Info: 488-4700, or visit lewispalmer.org.
 - **D-38 Special Education Advisory Council**, Wed., **Feb. 8**, 6:30 p.m., Learning Center, 146 Jefferson St., Monument. Normally meets 2nd Wed. each month. Info: 488-4700.
 - **Monument Planning Commission Meeting**, Wed., **Feb. 8**, **CANCELED**. Town Hall Board Room, 645 Beacon Lite Rd., Monument. Normally meets 2nd Wed. each month, 6:30 p.m., Info: 884-8017.
 - **Palmer Lake Planning Commission Workshop**, Wed., **Feb. 8**, **CANCELED**. Palmer Lake Town Hall, 28 Valley Crescent. Meets 2nd Wed. each month. Info: 481-2953 or visit www.ci.palmer-lake.co.us.
 - **Woodmoor Water & Sanitation District Meeting**, Thu., **Feb. 9**, 1 p.m., 1845 Woodmoor Dr., Monument. Meets 2nd Thu. each month. Info: 488-2525.
 - **Palmer Lake Town Council Combined Workshop and Meeting**, Thu., **Feb. 9**, 6:30 p.m., Palmer Lake Town Hall, 28 Valley Crescent. Meets 2nd Thu. each month. Info: 481-2953 or visit www.ci.palmer-lake.co.us.
 - **Tri-Lakes Wastewater Facility Joint Use Committee Meeting**, Tue., **Feb. 14**, 10 a.m., 16510 Mitchell Ave. Meets 2nd Tue. each month. Info: Bill Burks, 481-4053.
 - **Triview Metropolitan District Board Meeting**, Tue., **Feb. 14**, 5 p.m., Town Hall Board Room, 645 Beacon Lite Rd., Monument. Meets 2nd Tue. each month. Info: 488-6868.
 - **Palmer Lake Sanitation District Board Meeting**, Tue., **Feb. 14**, 7 p.m., 120 Middle Glenway. Meets 2nd Tue. each month. Info: 481-2732.
 - **Palmer Lake Planning Commission Meeting**, Wed., **Feb. 15**, **CANCELED**. Palmer Lake Town Hall, 28 Valley Crescent. Meets 3rd Wed. each month. Info: 481-2953 or visit www.ci.palmer-lake.co.us.
 - **Donala Water & Sanitation District Board Meeting**, Thu., **Feb. 16**, 1:30 p.m. 15850 Holbein Dr., Colorado Springs. Normally meets 3rd Thu. each month. Info: 488-3603.
 - **Lewis-Palmer School District 38 Board Meeting**, Thu., **Feb. 16**, 6 p.m., Learning Center, 146 Jefferson St., Monument. Meets 3rd Thu. each month. Info: 488-4700.
 - **Monument Sanitation District Board Meeting**, Thu., **Feb. 16**, 7 p.m., 130 2nd St. Meets 3rd Thu. each month. Info: 481-4886.
 - **Monument Board of Trustees Meeting**, Mon., **Feb. 20**, 6:30 p.m., Town Hall Board Room, 645 Beacon Lite Rd., Monument. Normally meets 1st and 3rd Mon.

- each month. Info: 884-8017.
- **El Paso County Planning Commission Meeting**, Tue., **Feb. 21**, 9 a.m., 2880 International Circle (off Union Blvd & Printers Pkwy). Meets 1st & 3rd Tue. (if required) each month. Info: 520-6300 or http://adm2.elpasoco.com/planning/agendas/pc/pc-agn.asp.
 - **Triview Metropolitan District Board Meeting**, Wed., **Feb. 22**, 5 p.m., Town Hall Board Room, 645 Beacon Lite Rd. (at Hwy 105). Meets 4th Wed. each month. Info: 488-6868.
 - **Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District Board Meeting**, Wed., **Feb. 22**, 6:30 p.m., 166 Second St., Monument. Meets 4th Wed. each month. Info: Jennifer Martin, 484-0911.
 - **Wescott Fire Protection District Board Meeting**, Wed., **Feb. 22**, 7 p.m. Station 1, 15415 Gleneagle Dr. Meets 4th Wed. each month. Info: 488-8680.
 - **Woodmoor Improvement Association Board Meeting**, Wed., **Feb. 22**, 7 p.m., Woodmoor Barn, 1691 Woodmoor Dr. Meets 4th Wed. each month. Info: 488-2693 or visit www.woodmoor.org.
 - **Forest View Acres Water District Board Meeting**, Thu., **Feb. 23**, 6 p.m. Monument Sanitation District boardroom, 130 Second St. Meets 4th Thu. each month. Info: 488-2110 or visit www.fvawd.com.
 - **Palmer Lake Town Council Workshop**, Thu., **Mar. 1**, 6:30 p.m., Palmer Lake Town Hall, 28 Valley Crescent. Meets 1st Thu. each month. Info: 481-2953 or visit www.ci.palmer-lake.co.us.
 - **Academy Water & Sanitation District Board Meeting**, Wed., **Mar. 7**, 7 p.m., Donald Wescott Station 2, 15000 Sun Hills Dr. Meets 1st Wed. each month. Info: 481-0711.

- LOCAL LIBRARY EVENTS**
- All PPLD facilities will be closed
Mon., Feb. 20, for Presidents’ Day
- **The Palmer Lake Library** hours are Tue.-Fri., 10 a.m.-6 p.m., and Sat., 10 a.m.-2 p.m. 66 Lower Glenway. Info: 481-2587 or ppld.org.
 - **The Monument Branch Library** hours are Mon.-Thu., 10 a.m.-9 p.m., Fri. & Sat, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Sun., 1-5 p.m. 1706 Lake Woodmoor Dr. Info: 488-2370 or ppld.org.
 - **Monument Library: Paws to Read, Mon. & Wed.**, 3:30-4:30 p.m. Let your child practice reading to a Paws to Read dog. No registration required. Monument Branch Library, 1706 Lake Woodmoor Dr. Info: 488-2370 or ppld.org or ppld.org.
 - **Monument Library: Bookbreak, Mon, Wed., and Fri.**, 10:30 a.m. A short read-aloud session particularly for preschoolers. Monument Branch Library, 1706 Lake Woodmoor Dr. Info: 488-2370 or ppld.org.
 - **Monument Library: Storytime**, every Tue., 10:15 & 11 a.m. Stories and more for children ages 3 and older. Monument Branch Library, 1706 Lake Woodmoor Dr. Info: 488-2370 or ppld.org.
 - **Palmer Lake Library: Storytime**, every Wed., 10:30-11:30 a.m. Stories and more for children ages 3 and older. Palmer Lake Branch Library, 66 Lower Glenway. Info: 481-2587 or ppld.org.
 - **Monument Library: Toddler Time**, every Thu., 10:15 & 10:45 a.m. Rhymes & rhythms for kids up to 24 months. Monument Branch Library, 1706 Lake Woodmoor Dr. Info: 488-2370 or ppld.org.
 - **Monument Library: Snuggle-Up Storytime**, every Thu., 7:30 p.m. Evening stories; PJs and blankies welcome. Monument Branch Library, 1706 Lake Woodmoor Dr. Info: 488-2370 or ppld.org.

- **Palmer Lake Library: Toddlertime**, every Fri., 10:30 a.m. An introduction to the delights of rhyme, rhythm, and a few special stories as a first step to reading for 1- and 2-year-old children. Palmer Lake Branch Library, 66 Lower Glenway. Info: 481-2587 or ppld.org.
 - **Palmer Lake Library: Paws to Read**, Thu., **Feb. 9**, 4:30-5:30 p.m. Read with Misty, the sweet tiny Sheltie, and then select a prize. Palmer Lake Branch Library, 66 Lower Glenway. Info: 481-2587 or ppld.org.
 - **Monument Library: Crafty Teens**, Fri., **Feb. 10**, 3:45-5:15 p.m. Ages 12 and up, learn how to make valentines from a wonderful teacher! Space is limited for this special class, so register on-line or with a librarian. Please bring scissors for cutting paper, an old magazine to cut up, and a glue stick. Monument Branch Library, 1706 Lake Woodmoor Dr. RSVP & Info: 488-2370 or ppld.org. .
 - **Monument Library: Family Fun–Winter Blues Blast**, Sat., **Feb. 11**, 10:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Activities begin with harmonica lessons at 10:30 a.m. for children in grades 3-6 (registration required), followed by live jazz and blues music at noon. Join the sing-along with Nathan Worthey at 1:30, line dancing at 2:30, and become part of an impromptu rhythm band at 3:30. Face painting, crafts, snacks, and hand bells will be available throughout the afternoon. Monument Branch Library, 1706 Lake Woodmoor Dr. RSVP & Info: 488-2370 or ppld.org.
 - **Monument Library: Book eaters Club**, Wed., **Feb. 15**, 3:30-5 p.m. Grades 7 and up, have a snack with your friends and discuss *Found*, book one in The Missing series by Margaret Peterson Haddix. A chance to win a book, too! Monument Branch Library, 1706 Lake Woodmoor Dr. Info: 488-2370 or ppld.org.
 - **Monument Library: Fabulous Friday Fun**, Fri., **Feb. 17**, 4:15-5:15 p.m. Elementary and middle school students, continue exploring the Dewey Decimal System and finish the scavenger hunt. Have snacks and rewards for finding answers. Every participant earns a free book! Bring a friend for twice Monument Branch Library, 1706 Lake Woodmoor Dr. RSVP & Info: 488-2370 or ppld.org.
 - **Monument Library: Anime & Manga Club**, Fri., **Feb. 24**, 4:15-5:30 p.m. For teens in grades 8-12: Great discussion and activities regarding your favorite anime or manga. Refreshments provided. Monument Branch Library, 1706 Lake Woodmoor Dr. Info: 488-2370 or ppld.org.
 - **Palmer Lake Library: Paws to Read**, Sat., **Feb. 25**, 4:30-5:30 p.m. Read to Kirby, a quiet Golden Retriever, and collect a prize. Palmer Lake Branch Library, 66 Lower Glenway. Info: 481-2587 or ppld.org.
 - **Monument Library: American Girl Book Club**, Wed., **Feb. 29**, 4:15-5:30 p.m. Grades 3-5. Registration is closed for this club. Members are reading *Molly Takes Flight* for this meeting. Monument Branch Library, 1706 Lake Woodmoor Dr. RSVP & Info: 488-2370 or ppld.org
 - **Pikes Peak Library District’s Kids Web**: Kids Web at www.ppld.org features resources for school reports and homework. Tumblebooks—free online read-along books, and a Fun & Games link. A “grown-ups” link has information about local school districts, home-schooling, and more.
- Adult Programs**
- **Monument Library: Speak English!** every Mon., 7 p.m. Join this informal conversation circle for adults

- who want to improve their skills and increase their comfort levels when speaking English. No registration is required. Monument Branch Library, 1706 Lake Woodmoor Dr. Info: 488-2370, or ppld.org.
- **Monument Library Socrates Café**, every **Tue.**, 1-3 p.m. This group focuses on a deeper look into philosophy, religions, spirituality, and the common threads among humanity. Monument Branch Library, 1706 Lake Woodmoor Dr. Info: 488-2370, or ppld.org.
 - **Monument Library: Beginning Computer Classes**. Check at the desk for the schedule of free classes **Wed.** mornings for beginner computer users. Monument Branch Library, 1706 Lake Woodmoor Dr. Info: 488-2370, or ppld.org.
 - **Monument Library Senior Synergy**, every **Wed.**, 10 a.m.-noon. Join this group dedicated to empowering individual growth through life-long learning and positive relationships. Monument Branch Library, 1706 Lake Woodmoor Dr. Info: 488-2370, or ppld.org.
 - **Palmer Lake Library: Palmer Lake Knitting Group**, every **Wed.**, 10 a.m.-noon. Knit with other knitters. Cheri Monsen, expert knitter, will be there to answer questions. Palmer Lake Branch Library, 66 Lower Glenway. Info: 481-2587 or ppld.org.
 - **Monument Library: Life Circles**, **Mon.**, **Feb. 6**, 10:30 a.m. This supportive writing group provides inspiration and structure during the process of writing one's memories or history. Normally meets 1st & 3rd **Mon.** each month. Monument Branch Library, 1706 Lake Woodmoor Dr. Info: 488-2370 or ppld.org.
 - **Monument Library: Introduction to PPLD's CyberShelf Downloads**, **Wed.**, **Feb. 8**, 4-5:30 p.m. Learn to navigate the PPLD CyberShelf page, download free software, place eHolds, search for eBooks or eAudiobooks to checkout. This class will include a download demonstration for an eBook and eAudiobook as well as instruction on how to transfer to device. Registration required. Monument Branch Library, 1706 Lake Woodmoor Dr. Info & RSVP: 488-2370 or ppld.org.
 - **Monument Library: Free Yoga Class**, **Thu.**, **Feb. 9**, noon-1 p.m. Yoga flow for beginners and intermediates. Monument Branch Library, 1706 Lake Woodmoor Dr. Info: Corinne, 651-4694 or ppld.org.
 - **Monument Library: Introduction to PPLD's CyberShelf Downloads**, **Tue.**, **Feb. 14**, 4-5:30 p.m. Learn to navigate the PPLD CyberShelf page, download free software, place eHolds, search for eBooks or eAudiobooks to checkout. This class will include a download demonstration for an eBook and eAudiobook as well as instruction on how to transfer to device. Registration required. Monument Branch Library, 1706 Lake Woodmoor Dr. Info & RSVP: 488-2370 or ppld.org.
 - **Monument Library: Free Yoga Class**, **Thu.**, **Feb. 16**, noon-1 p.m. Yoga flow for beginners and intermediates. Monument Branch Library, 1706 Lake Woodmoor Dr. Info: Corinne, 651-4694 or ppld.org.
 - **Monument Library's Monumental Readers Book Club**, **Fri.**, **Feb. 17**, 10-11:30 a.m. All are welcome to this spirited group. This month's selection is *Crooked Letter*, *Crooked Letter* by Tom Franklin. Meets 3rd **Fri.** each month. Monument Branch Library, 1706 Lake Woodmoor Dr. Info: 488-2370 or ppld.org.
 - **Monument Library: Tri-Lakes Knitters & Crafters**, **Fri.**, **Feb. 17**, 3:30-5:30 p.m. Drop in to share ideas, get help. Normally meets 1st and 3rd **Fri.** each month. Monument Branch Library, 1706 Lake Woodmoor Dr. Info: Clare Wissinger, 481-8442 or ppld.org.
 - **Monument Library: AARP Mature Safe Driving Program**, **Sat.**, **Feb. 18**, 1-5 p.m. Bone up on your driving skills and lower your insurance rates. Cost: \$12 for AARP members, \$14 for nonmembers. Registration required. Monument Branch Library, 1706 Lake Woodmoor Dr. Registration & Info: 488-2370 or ppld.org.
 - **Monument Library: History Buffs Book Discussion Group**, **Wed.**, **Feb. 22**, 1-3 p.m. Enjoy a trip through history with other history lovers. Meets 4th **Wed.** each month. Monument Branch Library, 1706 Lake Woodmoor Dr. Info: 488-2370 or ppld.org.
 - **Monument Library: Free Yoga Class**, **Thu.**, **Feb. 23**, noon-1 p.m. Yoga flow for beginners and intermediates. Monument Branch Library, 1706 Lake Woodmoor Dr. Info: Corinne, 651-4694 or ppld.org.
 - **Free Yoga Class**, **Thu.**, **Mar. 1**, noon-1 p.m., Monument Branch Library, 1706 Lake Woodmoor

- Dr. Yoga flow for beginners and intermediates. Info: Corinne, 651-4694.
- **Palmer Lake Book Group**, **Fri.**, **Mar. 2**, 9 a.m. New members welcome, no registration needed. Meets 1st **Fri.** each month at Palmer Lake Branch Library, 66 Lower Glenway. Info: 481-2587 or ppld.org.
 - **Monument Library: Tri-Lakes Knitters & Crafters**, **Fri.**, **Mar. 2**, 3:30-5:30 p.m. Drop in to share ideas, get help. Meets 1st and 3rd **Fri.** each month. Monument Branch Library, 1706 Lake Woodmoor Dr. Info: Clare Wissinger, 481-8442 or ppld.org.
 - **Monument Library: Hiring an Unpaid Colorado Intern Workshop**, **Mon.**, **Mar. 5**, 8:30-10 a.m. Unpaid interns allow nonprofits to keep costs down while providing high-quality services and products. This workshop will help attendees to design an effective intern program. Monument Branch Library, 1706 Lake Woodmoor Dr. Info: Jean Harris, 488-2370, or ppld.org.
 - **The Library Channel (Comcast 17)** broadcasts 24/7. See live simulcasts of programs, recorded presentations, a schedule of Library events, children's story times, an adult literacy program, El Paso County Commissioners meetings, and much more. Find the schedule online at ppld.org, then click on the link "Happenings @ Your Library," then click on the "Comcast 17" link to search the schedule.
- For these and other library events, please check ppld.org/communityconnections/calendar.

WEEKLY & MONTHLY EVENTS


- **Monument Hill Kiwanis Club Breakfast Meeting**, every **Sat.**, 8 a.m., The Inn at Palmer Divide, 443 Hwy 105, Palmer Lake. Info: Jan Heinlein, 306-6975.
- **Share a Free Meal at Western Bee Co.**, every **Sun.**, 1-3 p.m., 16625 Roller Coaster Rd., Colorado Springs (near the corner of Baptist Road and Roller Coaster Road). Western Bee Co. is offering a simple meal and simple fellowship to those in need in our community. If you need transportation, call 749-1086 or be at the Monument Park and Ride shelter between 12:45 and 2:30 p.m. every Sunday. Meals are organic and gluten free is also available. Info: Suzzannemarie, 749-1086.
- **Artfully Speaking Toastmasters Club**, every **Mon.**, 5:45-6:45 p.m., DeVry University, 1175 Kelly Johnson Blvd., Room 11, Colorado Springs. Improve your public speaking, leadership, and meeting planning skills. New members and visitors welcome. Info: Hunter McCord, 439-2795; email huntersmccord@gmail.com; or visit <http://artfullyspeaking.freetoasthost.us>.
- **Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting: Sunlight of the Spirit Women's Closed Step Study**, every **Mon.**, 6 p.m. Family of Christ Lutheran Church, 675 E. Baptist Rd. Info: 487-7781.
- **Senior Lunches at the old Monument Town Hall**, every **Mon. & Thu.**, except the 1st **Thu.** each month and holidays, Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District Administration Complex 166 Second St., Monument. Arrive 11:30 a.m., dine at noon. Stay for free bingo the 2nd **Thu.** each month. Cost: \$2. Info: Dorothy Myers, 481-4189; Maggie Nealon, 488-3037.
- **Tri-Lakes Business Accelerators Leads Group**, every **Tue.**, 8-9:15 a.m., Shani's Café, 140 Second St. Monument. New businesses are invited to join the group and share leads and tips. Info: Glenn, 492-0551.
- **YMCA Senior Fitness Classes**, every **Tue. & Thu.**, SilverSneakers Cardio Circuit, 8:30 a.m.; SilverSneakers Muscular Strength & Range of Movement, 9:30 a.m., Tri-Lakes Family YMCA, 17250 Jackson Creek Pkwy. Participants must be YMCA or SilverSneakers members. Info: 481-8728.
- **BNI Tri-Lakes Chapter**, every **Wed.**, 8-9:30 a.m., Inn at Palmer Divide, 443 Hwy 105, Palmer Lake. If your company needs more business, visit us and learn how we can help you. Come see

- why our networking group is so successful. Info: www.bnitrilakes.com, Dr. Kathy Yuhasz, 594-9700, email katyuhasz@comcast.net.
- **Senior Citizen Luncheons**, every **Wed.**, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., D-38 Learning Center, 146 Jefferson St., Monument. Tri-Lakes Health Advocacy Partnership (HAP) invites area seniors for lunch & activities. Free blood pressure screening 1st & 3rd **Wed.** \$3 donation requested. Info: 487-8218.
 - **Gleneagle Sertoma**, every **Wed.**, 11:45 a.m., Liberty Heights, 12015 Ambassador Dr. (off Voyager Blvd.) Interesting speakers and programs; all are welcome. Info: Sherry Edwards, 488-1044; or Bill Nance, 488-2312.
 - **Al-anon Meeting: Letting Go**, every **Thu.**, 9-10:10 a.m., Tri-Lakes Chapel, room 209, 1750 Deer Creek Rd., Monument. Info: visit www.al-anon-co.org or www.al-anon-alateen.org or call the 24-hour answering service at 719-632-0063 (locally) or 8 a.m.-6 p.m. weekdays at 1-888-425-2666 (nationwide).
 - **FACCMasters Club**, every **Thu.**, noon, Lockheed Martin, 9975 Federal Dr. Improve your public speaking, leadership, and meeting planning skills with Toastmasters. New members and visitors welcome. Info: visit <http://faccmasters.freetoasthost.us> or call Kirby, 481-3738.
 - **Delivered through Christ Recovery Group**, every **Thu.**, 6:30-8 p.m., 14960 Woodcarver Rd. (just west of I-25 and Baptist Rd.) Bible-based support group for all addictions. Info: 930-1954.
 - **Alateen meeting**, every **Thu.**, 7 p.m., Family of Christ Lutheran Church, 675 E. Baptist Rd., southwest corner room, door will be ajar. Info: Jean, 487-8781.
 - **Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting: Recovery in Action Group-Open, Big Book Study**, every **Thu.**, 7 p.m., Family of Christ Lutheran Church, 675 E. Baptist Rd. Info: 487-7781.
 - **Tai Chi for Health Class**, every **Fri.**, 1-1:45 p.m., Tri-Lakes HAP Senior Center, Lewis-Palmer High School, across from the YMCA. This gentle exercise program can relieve the symptoms of chronic pain, anxiety, and depression. Even those who cannot stand can participate and benefit. Info: 481-8728, or visit www.trilakeseniors.org.
 - **Myasthenia Gravis Association of Colorado Support Group Meetings**. Location varies. For information, call Carolyn, 488-3620, or contact the MGA: visit www.4-mga.org, phone 303-360-7080, or email 4mga@4-mga.org.
 - **Tri-Lakes Business Incubator Free Workshop: Branding your Business**, **Tue.**, **Feb. 7**, 10-11 a.m., 14960 Woodcarver Rd, Colorado Springs. Logo and artwork guidelines, and more. Cost: \$5 TLBI members, \$10 non-members. Prepayment & registration required: call 481-4877 x100 or visit www.trilakesbi.org.
 - **Black Forest Chapter of AARP Potluck Luncheon**, **Wed.**, **Feb. 8**, 11:30 a.m., Black Forest Lutheran Church, Shoup and Black Forest Road. Meets 2nd **Wed.** each month. Info: Chuck Karlstrum, 749-9227, or Stan Beckner, 596-6787.
 - **Tri-Lakes Incubator Low-Cost Workshop: Making Dollars & Sense of Social Media - Part II**, **Thu.**, **Feb. 9**, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., 14960 Woodcarver Rd, Colorado Springs. Find the best places to be online, learn easy improvements that make a website more attractive to your clients, explore some of the basic ways to use social media as a part of your online marketing campaigns. Cost: \$15 members, \$20 nonmembers. Bring your lunch. Pre-payment & registration required: call 481-4877 x100 or visit www.trilakesbi.org.
 - **Senior Bingo at Old Monument Town Hall**, **Thu.**,

Calvary Fellowship Monument
238 Third St.—Downtown Monument
Pastor Tony Magar (719) 290-1748
6:00 p.m. Saturday Evening Service

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 **ANIMAL MOVERS**

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- Feb. 9**, Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District Administration Complex, 166 Second St., Monument, after the noontime senior lunch. Come for lunch at 11:30 a.m., then stay and play. Free! Win prizes! Meets 2nd Thu. each month. Info: Maggie Nealon, 488-3037.
- **Legacy Sertoma Dinner Meeting, Thu., Feb. 9**, 6:30 p.m., Monument Hill Country Club, 18945 Pebble Beach Way, Monument. New members and visitors welcome. Meets 2nd & 4th Thu. each month. Info: Ed Kinney, 481-2750.
 - **Ben Lomond Gun Club, Tri-Lakes Chapter, Thu., Feb. 9**, 7 p.m., Tri-Lakes Fire Station 1, 18650 Hwy 105 west of Monument near the bowling alley. Meets 2nd Thu. each month. Info: 481-3364.
 - **Palmer Lake Art Group, Sat., Feb. 11, 9 a.m.**, Vaile Hill Gallery, 118 Hillside Rd., Palmer Lake. A variety of art programs are offered after the business meeting. Guests welcome. Meets 2nd Sat. each month. Info: 487-1329, or visit www.palmerlakeartgroup.com.
 - **El Paso County Hazardous Materials & Recycling Collection Facility, Sat., Feb. 11**, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., 3255 Akers Dr., Colorado Springs. Open the 2nd Saturday each month as well as Mon.-Thu., 7 a.m.-5 p.m., and now accepts common recyclable items in addition to household hazardous waste such as paint and related products, lawn and garden chemicals, household cleaners, old batteries, fire extinguishers, fireworks, flares, ammunition, automotive products (no tires), various electronics, and TVs up to 19-inch diagonal. Bring a nonperishable food item for Care and Share. Info: 520-7878, or visit http://adm.elpasoco.com/Environmental_Services/Solid_Waste_Management.
 - **Fibromyalgia Support Group, Mon., Feb. 13**, 5 p.m., College Pharmacy, 3505 Austin Bluffs Pkwy (downstairs), Colorado Springs. A DVD on the disease and treatments will play 5-6 p.m.; the meeting starts at 6 p.m. Share concerns and success stories and address your questions to a D.O. Learn how you can become pain-free. Visitors and new participants welcome. No charge, no products sold. Meets 2nd Mon. each month. Info: Lorna Searle, 481-3735.
 - **Tri-Lakes Home Educators' Support Group, Mon., Feb. 13**. Meets 2nd Mon. each month for support, information, field trips, and special events. Info: email TLHESG@gmail.com.
 - **Macular Degeneration Support Group for the Visually Impaired, Thu., Feb. 16**, 1-2 p.m. Meets 3rd Thu. Location varies. Info: Tri-Lakes Cares, 481-4864 x23.
 - **Tri-Lakes Business Incubator Low-cost Workshop: Outlook 101, Thu., Feb. 16**, 1-3 p.m., 14960 Woodcarver Rd, Colorado Springs. There's more to Microsoft Outlook than just emails! Cost: \$15 TLBI members, \$20 nonmembers. Prepayment & registration required: call 481-4877 x100 or visit www.trilakesbi.org.
 - **Palmer Lake Historical Society Meeting: Frank Lewis-Dale Jones Gang, Thu., Feb. 16**, 7 p.m., Palmer Lake Town Hall, 28 Valley Crescent. Retired police investigator Dwight Haverkorn tells of the gang that perfected the use of the getaway car to flee bank robberies, killed nine police officers between 1913 and 1918, and had a deadly shootout in Colorado Springs in 1918. Free and open to all. Refreshments served after the program. Info: Sarah, 481-4278, or visit palmerdividehistory.org.
 - **Tri-Lakes Women's Club (TLWC) Luncheon, Fri., Feb. 17**, 11 a.m., The Pinery, Black Forest. The program is Skin Health and Wellness by Dr. Lisa Jenks of Genesis Medspa. RSVP: Charlie Ann Hayes, nonahayes@comcast.net, 481-9693, or Maureen Kral, reenbean@aol.com, 282-0164. The luncheons are open to all current TLWC members and their guests. Membership is open to all women living in School District 38. The club sponsors the Wine and Roses event in October and the Pine Forest Antique & Garden Show & Sale in April. Proceeds from these events benefit local nonprofit groups. Visit www.tlwc.net or contact Kathy Murphy, murphys13@comcast.net, or Sandra Sciadni, suzyisp@erfect@yahoo.com.
 - **Gleneagle Women's Club Luncheon, Fri., Feb. 17**, 11:30 a.m., Glen Eagle Golf Course Club House. "It All Started with a Hairdryer": Dee Kirby, a member of the Second Friday Book Club, will share her writing journey. Cost: \$19. RSVP by **Feb. 10**, 5 p.m., to Dianne, 330-8748, cleaverdb@comcast.net; Marilyn, 488-6892, mlynLaRue@aol.com; or Nadine, 487-

- 3125, nabbols@q.com.
- **Juvenile Diabetes Support Group, Sat., Feb. 18**, 9 a.m., It's a Grind Coffee House, 15954D Jackson Creek Pkwy, Monument. Meets 3rd Sat. each month. Info: Chris, 884-0832, or email cabernathy@woodmoor.com.
 - **Amateur Radio W0TLM (Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Radio Association), Mon., Feb. 20**, 6:30 p.m., Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District Station 1, 18650 Hwy 105 (next to Pinz bowling alley). All Amateur Radio Operators or those interested in becoming Amateur Radio Operators are welcome. Meets 3rd Mon. each month. Info: Joyce Witte, 488-0859.
 - **Senior Tea, Tue., Feb. 21**, 1-3 p.m., Senior Center at Lewis-Palmer High School (across from the YMCA). Come early to socialize, bring a salad or dessert to share. Meat dishes and tea provided. Be prepared to have fun! Voluntary donations welcome. Meets 3rd Tue. each month. Info: Irene C., 484-0517.
 - **Cancer Support Group for Women, Tue., Feb. 21**, 7 p.m., St. Matthias Episcopal Church, 18320 Furrow Rd., Woodmoor. Meets 3rd Tue. each month. Info: Lindsay, 487-9362.
 - **Ladies Auxiliary to VFW Post 7829, Tue., Feb. 21**, 6-7:30 p.m., Sundance Mountain Lodge, 1865 Woodmoor Dr., Monument. New members welcome. If you are a female relative of a veteran who served on foreign soil during war or other military action, you might be eligible. Meets 3rd Tue. each month. Info: Martine Arndt, 231-5323, or email Martine.Arndt@yahoo.com.
 - **Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7829, Tue., Feb. 21**, 7 p.m., Sundance Mountain Lodge, 1865 Woodmoor Dr., Monument. New members welcome. Meets 3rd Tue. each month. Info: Tony Wolusky, post commander, 481-4419, or twolusky@aol.com.
 - **Senior Social, Wed., Feb. 22**, 1-4 p.m., Fellowship Hall of the Black Forest Lutheran Church, 12455 Black Forest Rd. The Black Forest Lutheran Church and the Black Forest AARP Chapter 1100 invite area seniors for an afternoon of socializing. All are welcome; bring a friend and enjoy chatting, doing handwork, or playing Mexican train dominoes. Light refreshments will be served. Meets 4th Wed. each month. Info: Lavonne, 495-4021.
 - **Tri-Lakes Incubator Low-Cost Workshop: Put the Rights in your Copyrights, Thu., Feb. 23**, 4:30-5:30 p.m., 14960 Woodcarver Rd, Colorado Springs. Learn more about how to use these powerful rights to protect your creative works. Cost: \$5 members, \$10 nonmembers. Pre-payment & registration required: call 481-4877 x100 or visit www.trilakesbi.org.
 - **Legacy Sertoma Dinner Meeting, Thu., Feb. 23**, 6:30 p.m., Monument Hill Country Club, 18945 Pebble Beach Way, Monument. New members and visitors welcome. Meets 2nd & 4th Thu. each month. Info: Ed Kinney, 481-2750.
 - **Monument Homemakers Club Monthly Potluck Lunch & Meeting, Thu., Mar. 2**, 11:30 a.m., Tri-Lakes Fire Department Administrative Building, 166 Second St., Monument (Second at Jefferson). Bring a food dish to share and your own dinner service and flatware. Meets 1st Thu. each month except Jan. and unless D-38 is delayed or closed due to bad weather. Newcomers are welcome. Please call Irene if you are bringing a "first-time" guest so she can bring the handmade guest gift. Anyone needing a ride to the meeting may call Faye Brennehan, 488-0076. RSVP & info: Irene Walters, 481-1188, or Jean Sanger, 592-9311.
 - **Palmer Divide Quilt Guild, Thu., Mar. 2**, 7 p.m., Church at Woodmoor, 18125 Furrow Rd. Meets 1st Thu. each month. Info: Teresa Kovacic, 559-0083, or email teresa.kovacic@biofunctionusa.com.
 - **NEPCO Meeting, Sat., Mar. 10**, 10 a.m.-noon, Monument Town Hall, 645 Beacon Lite Rd. Susan McLean, Donala professional landscaper, will discuss landscaping with xeriscape. All are welcome to this meeting of local homeowners associations. Info: 481-2723 or visit www.nepco.org.
 - **MOMS Club of Monument and Colorado Springs North**. Come meet other stay-at-home moms and kids in your area. Weekly activities and playgroups scheduled throughout the month for ages newborn and up. Moms in Monument and Palmer Lake visit <http://sites.google.com/site/monumentmoms/> or email monumentmomsinfo@gmail.com. Moms in ZIP 80921 and parts of Black Forest contact Kim L., 488-9665 Info: visit www.cosnorthmomsclub.com.

SPECIAL EVENTS

- **Palmer Lake Art Group Valentine Art Exhibit and Sale, Fri.-Sat., Feb. 3-4**, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., opening reception **Feb. 3**, 5-8 p.m., West End Center, 755 S. Hwy 105, Palmer Lake. Paintings and photography, jewelry, fiber art, and more are showcased. Nonprofit Palmer Lake Art Group, the oldest art group in the area, has grown from a few Palmer Lake residents to more than 50 members from various Front Range communities. The group raises scholarship funds for D-38 art students who plan to continue their art education. Info: www.palmerlakeartgroup.com or contact Margarete Seagraves, 487-1329 or email seagml@compdsn.com.
- **Town Hall meeting with District 1 El Paso County Commissioner Darryl Glenn, Sat., Feb. 4**, 9:30-11:30 a.m., Colorado Springs Fire Station 19, 2490 Research Pkwy. (near Chapel Hills and Research Parkway). Glenn will discuss the county's 2012 budget, oil and gas regulations, 2012 election year issues and overview, and other county topics. Free and open to the public. Info: 520-6411 or email DarrylGlenn@elpasoco.com.
- **Avon Walk Training Walk, Sun., Feb. 5**, 4-6 p.m., Baptist Road/Santa Fe Trail shelter. Join with others to train for the 39-mile Avon Walk for Breast Cancer. Tax-deductible donations can be made online at www.avonwalk.org/goto/LisaNHatfield. Info: Lisa, 488-0786.
- **D-38 School Bus Fees Informational Meeting, Tue., Feb. 7**, 7 p.m., Learning Center, D-38 Administration Building, 146 Jefferson St., Monument. Find out about the possibility of implementing bus fees for the 2012-13 school year. Info: 481-9546.
- **Free Stroke and Heart Attack Recognition Class, Wed., Feb. 8**, 9-11 a.m., Black Forest Lutheran Church, 12455 Black Forest Rd. Personnel from the Black Forest Fire and Rescue will tell how to recognize the indicators of stroke and heart attack and how to respond. Free and open to the public. All attending the class are invited to stay for the noon lunch with the Black Forest AARP chapter. Guest speaker Walt Sealy will discuss fire hazard mitigation. If School District 20 cancels or delays school due to weather that day, the class and meeting will be rescheduled. Info: Gwen, 495-2176.
- **D-38 School Bus Fees Informational Meeting, Wed., Feb. 8**, 4:15 p.m., Learning Center, D-38 Administration Building, 146 Jefferson St., Monument. Find out about the possibility of implementing bus fees for the 2012-13 school year. Info: 481-9546.
- **Rape Aggression Defense (R.A.D.) Class for Women, Thu., Feb. 9**, 5-9 p.m. & Sat., **Feb. 11**, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Monument YMCA, 17250 Jackson Creek Pkwy. Learn simple techniques to keep yourself safe in daily life. The 12-hour course, conducted by the Monument Police Department, focuses on awareness, prevention, risk reduction and avoidance, and basics of hands-on defense training. Courses are taught by certified R.A.D. instructors and include a workbook and reference manual. Cost: \$30. Register at the Monument Police Department, 645 Beacon Lite Rd., or email Officer Jon Hudson at jhudson@townofmonument.net. Info: monumentpd.org.
- **County Commissioner Darryl Glenn speaks at Tri-Lakes Chamber of Commerce 5th Annual State of the Chamber Breakfast, Fri., Feb. 10**, 7:30-9 a.m., the Inn at Palmer Divide, 443 S. Hwy. 105, Palmer Lake. Glenn will discuss the county's 2012 budget, oil and gas regulations, 2012 election year issues and overview, and other county topics. Cost: Chamber members and regional partners, \$20 per person; nonmembers, \$25 per person. Tickets & info: 481-3282.
- **D-38 School Bus Fees Informational Meeting, Fri., Feb. 10**, 9 a.m., Learning Center, D-38 Administration Building, 146 Jefferson St., Monument. Find out about the possibility of implementing bus fees for the 2012-13 school year. Info: 481-9546.
- **Black Rose Acoustic Society Open Stage with Mountain Holler Bluegrass Band, Fri., Feb. 10**, opening act at 7 p.m., Black Forest Community Center, 12530 Black Forest Rd. at Shoup Road. Cost: \$7 general, \$4 BRAS members, \$5 nonmember students.
- **Cops for Kids Fundraiser, Sat., Feb. 11**, 1 p.m.-1 a.m., Pinz, 855 Hwy. 105, Palmer Lake. Activities throughout the day include Bronco cheerleaders, live music, bowling, food, silent and live auctions,

and much more. The Lions Club will offer free eye testing for 3-6 year-old children, 2-4 p.m. Proceeds will go toward surgery for 2-year-old Parker who was born without irises in his eyes, a rare condition called aniridia. Info: 487-7469.

- **Black Rose Acoustic Society Thanks to the Members Concert with Tom Rush**, Sat., Feb. 11, doors open at 6 for the 7 p.m. show, Black Forest Community Center, 12530 Black Forest Rd. at Shoup Road. Don't miss this opportunity to see a real musical legend. Cost: \$25 general public, \$15 Black Rose Acoustic Society members. No memberships sold at the door. Tickets are available at Black Rose Open Stages and on line at www.BlackRoseAcoustic.org. Info: 719-330-6569 or www.BlackRoseAcoustic.org.
- **Rocky Mountain Music Association (RMMA) Free Concert**, Sat., Feb. 11, 7 p.m., Forestgate Presbyterian Church, 970 Northgate Blvd. The second concert in the RMMA series features John and Gail Carpenter, the Singing Sweethearts, singing everything from Grand Opera to Broadway. Both John and Gail have sung with the Metropolitan Opera among many other venues. Seating is limited so reserve in advance: Call 646-2791 or visit rmmaonline.org.
- **University School of Monument Informational Meeting**, Wed., Feb. 15, 7:30 p.m., Monument Branch Library, 1706 Lake Woodmoor Dr. Find out about a K-12 school opening in the fall of 2012, where traditional Christian education meets home education. Info: 480-7111 or www.usmonument.org.
- **West End Center Open House**, Sat., Feb. 18, 1-5 p.m., 755 Hwy. 105, Palmer Lake. Vanity Box Salon & Spa will offer free chair massages, 3-5 p.m. Drop in to the Upscale Boutique in the Vanity Box Salon for a free gift. Yoga Pathways Studio will conduct free mini yoga classes all afternoon. Lifting Spirits Adult Day Care will serve refreshments and The Urban Cottage will celebrate its grand opening.
- **Western Museum of Mining & Industry (WMMI): Heritage Lecture-Hydraulic Fracturing Panel Discussion**, Thu., Feb. 23, 7-8:30 p.m. In hydraulic fracturing, pressurized liquid is pumped into underground formations, causing fractures in order to release oil or gas for extraction. Representatives of industry, environmental concerns, and the media will be represented. Free and open to the public. WMMI is located at 225 North Gate Blvd. (I-25 Exit 156 A) in Colorado Springs. To reserve your spot, call 488-0880, email rsvp@wmmi.org, or visit www.wmmi.org.
- **Black Rose Acoustic Society Open Stage with The Matt Flinner Trio**, Fri., Feb. 24, opening act at 7 p.m., Black Forest Community Center, 12530 Black Forest Rd. at Shoup Road. Bluegrass, jazz, and Celtic. Cost: \$7 general, \$4 BRAS members, \$5 nonmember students. Info: Joe Maio, 528-6119, or email jrmtn@comcast.net, or visit www.blackroseacoustic.org.
- **Palmer Lake After Dark**, Fri., Feb. 24, 8-11 p.m., Palmer Lake Town Hall, 28 Valley Crescent. For teens and adults: music, dancing, neon lights, food, and raffles. Cost: \$10 plus one canned or packaged food item for Tri-Lakes cares. All proceeds benefit FamilyNation, a non-profit organization devoted to inspiring, empowering, and motivating at-risk youths and young adults to bring about positive change in their lives and communities by improving access to needed tools and programs. Scheduled for the last Friday each month. Info: 465-2001 or www.familynation.net.
- **Hiring an Unpaid Colorado Intern Workshop**, Mon., Mar. 5, 8:30-10 a.m., Monument Branch Library, 1706 Lake Woodmoor Dr. Unpaid interns allow nonprofits to keep costs down while providing high-quality services and products. This workshop will help attendees design an effective intern program. Info: Jean Harris, 488-2370, or ppld.org.
- **D-38 Chess Tournament**, Sat., Mar. 10, 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m., Lewis-Palmer Elementary School, 1315 Lake Woodmoor Dr., Monument. This free chess tournament is open to all D-38 students, K-12. Registration begins 8:30 a.m.; the first round starts at 9 a.m. There will be four rounds; the tournament should end by 2 p.m. Parents may stay or return to the school at the end of the tournament. Chess sets will be provided. Children may bring their own snacks. Pizza and sodas will be available for purchase, with proceeds paying for trophies and medals for each student. RSVP to Steve Waldmann, Creekside Middle School Chess Club Coach, 488-9887 or

huskerco@gmail.com, so he knows how many trophies and medals to order.

- **Western Museum of Mining & Industry (WMMI): Family Exploration Day-Women In Mining**, Sat., Mar. 10, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. In celebration of National Women's History Month, the day features portrayals by renowned historic interpreters, as well as exhibits and activities. At 11 a.m. John Stansfield portrays Dr. Charles F. Gardiner, who cared for miners in the mine camps of Colorado. The afternoon session at 1 p.m. includes Black Forest resident Trisha Dudding as Baby Doe Tabor and author Nancy Oswald recreating characters from her book, *Rescue in Poverty Gulch*. The Women in Mining organization and the museum will provide interactive exhibits and hands-on activities such as wool spinning, knitting, and much more. Cost: \$8 adults, \$7 military/AAA, \$6 seniors & students, \$4 children 3-12, free to children under 3 & museum members. WMMI is located at 225 North Gate Blvd. (I-25 Exit 156 A) in Colorado Springs. Info: call 488-0880, email rsvp@wmmi.org, or visit www.wmmi.org.
- **"How's The Market?" Free Seminar**, Sun., Mar. 11, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Serrano's, 625 Hwy. 105, (next to Vitamin Cottage). Mark Rudolph will present an overview of the current real estate market, including past sales trends and future projections for key neighborhoods in Northgate and Tri-Lakes Areas. Coffee will be provided by ERA Shields Real Estate. Info: 492-3974, 593-1000, or email mrudolph@erashields.com.
- **Chamber Bowl**, Sun., Mar. 11, 1-4 p.m., Pinz, 855 Hwy. 105, Palmer Lake. A fundraiser for the Tri-Lakes Chamber of Commerce. Form a team of four or just come enjoy the fun and cheer on our chamber members. Info: 481-3282 or email kstensland@trilakeschamber.com.
- **"Catching Up With New Technology,"** Thu., Mar. 22, 5-8 p.m., Inn at Palmer Divide, 443 S. Hwy 105, Palmer Lake. Tri-Lakes Women's Club (TLWC) will sponsor an educational seminar showcasing the latest personal technology devices. Guest speakers and break-out sessions will provide overviews of how smart phones and tablets work. Representatives from local companies including Best Buy, Sprint, Verizon, T-Mobile, Staples, and TLC Computers will be on hand to answer questions, display the hottest new gadgets, and offer advice. Cost: \$12 per person or \$20 per couple. Reservations can be made online at www.tlwc.net or paid at the door (cash or check only at the door). Food and beverages will be available for purchase. TLWC supports the Tri-Lakes community through charitable and educational endeavors. TLWC raises and distributes funds to assist qualified organizations and promotes the education of its members and the community through instructional programs. Info: www.tlwc.net.

Our community calendar carries listings on a space-available basis for Tri-Lakes events that are sponsored by local governmental entities and not-for-profit organizations. We include events that are open to the general public and are not religious or self-promotional in nature. If space is available, complimentary calendar listings are included, when requested, for events advertised in the current issue. To have your event listed at no charge in Our Community Calendar, please call 488-3455, or send the information to calendar@ocn.me or P.O. Box 1742, Monument, Colorado 80132.

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The Rabbi's Corner The Two Torahs—Part I

By Oswald Garagorry

Last October, I read an article on the website www.jewishamerica.com entitled the "Two Torahs". The author explained that, "the written Torah consists of the five books of Moses...the Oral Torah also transmitted to Moses on Sinai...it provides keys and approaches with which one can read and understand the written Torah." He further states that, "without the Oral Torah the written Torah will be misunderstood and thereby misused." For us who practice Tanakhee Judaism, we take exception with all the affirmations about the Oral Torah; we see it as material written by wise men, with historical value but that is where it ends. For example, how does the author of said article know that "the Oral Torah (was) also transmitted to Moses on Mount Sinai"?

Nowhere in the written Torah or in the words of Moshe nor the rest of the whole Tanakh can such an assertion be found. Where has HaShem stated in the written Torah that without the Oral Torah that it "will be misunderstood and thereby misused"? Had He made such an affirmation, the Oral Torah would be important, but that is not the case. These statements did not proceed from YAWEH but from a human being and since in America we still have "freedom of religion" the writer of such an article is free to affirm whatever he wishes. Yet, it's important to let the reader know that this position is based on man's opinion and not in the teachings of HaShem and did not proceed from the written Torah given by YAWEH on Sinai.

Also, because of this same religious freedom that we still have, people are free to follow their traditions or other men's opinion. But at the end, wouldn't it be sad that with this freedom we realize we could have followed the pure teachings of YAWEH found in His Torah given to Moshe and instead we chose to follow the inventions of other human beings just like us?

Shalom to you!

*Dr. Garagorry is the Rabbi of
Aliyah Congregation that meets
Saturdays at 10 a.m.*

at 19925 Monument Hill Road.

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Letters to Our Community

Our Community News welcomes letters to the editor on topics of general interest. The OCN editorial board has established a policy that we do not knowingly print letters that have appeared in substantially the same form elsewhere. Please identify your submission as a letter to the editor and include your full name, home address, and day and evening phone numbers. A limit of 300 words is recommended. Letters may be edited for length, grammar, and accuracy. Send your letter to editor@ocn.me or mail to Our Community News, P.O. Box 1742, Monument, Colorado 80132-1742. In response to problems receiving e-mail, if you send your letter by e-mail, we will send an e-mail acknowledgement. If you do not receive an acknowledgement, please call Susan Hindman at 481-8511 to confirm that we have received your letter.

Our Community News

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

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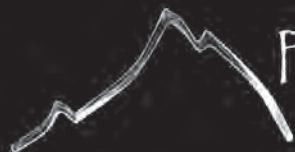
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