

Thank you Firefighters and other First Responders!

Our Community News

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

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Issue #150 — Volume 13 Number 8 — Saturday, August 3, 2013

Free

Local Events

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

6th Annual Chautauqua Returns in Palmer Lake, Fri.-Sun., Aug. 2-4

Old-Fashioned Ice Cream Social, Sat., Aug. 3, 1:30-3 p.m.

Black Rose Acoustic Society Open Stage: headlined by Phil Volan & Joleen Bell, Fri., Aug. 9, 7 p.m.

Pleasant View Community-Wide Garage Sale, Fri.-Sat., Aug. 9-10

Kings Deer Community-Wide Garage Sale, Sat.-Sun, Aug. 10-11

Black Forest Trail & Wildlife Habitat Restoration, Sat., Aug. 10, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

El Paso County Hazardous Materials & Recycling Collection Facility, Sat., Aug. 10, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Social Spark Community & Event Center Grand Opening Chalk Fest, Sat., Aug. 10, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Art Hop, Thu., Aug. 15, 5-8 p.m.

Palmer Lake Historical Society Meeting: "Pikes Peak as Seen in Early Postcards," Thu., Aug. 15, 7 p.m.

Black Rose Acoustic Society Open Stage headlined by Catherine Fraser and Duncan Smith, Fri., Aug. 23, 7 p.m.

Charlie Daniels live at the Tri-Lakes Music Festival, Sat., Aug. 31, 11 a.m. to sunset

Monument in Motion: Kinetic Structure Derby & Street Fair, Mon., Sep. 2

Richard Pankratz, A Retrospective Exhibition Opening Reception, Fri., Sep. 6, 6-8 p.m.

Whimsy County Frog Festival Show of Classic Conveyances, Sat., Sep. 7, 1-6 p.m. ■

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Above: On June 19, Gov. John Hickenlooper announced the award of state nutrient grants for 21 large wastewater treatment facilities. After his public statement, Hickenlooper met with, from the left, Tri-Lakes Facility Manager Bill Burks, Palmer Lake Sanitation District Manager Becky Orcutt, and Monument Sanitation District Manager Mike Wicklund to discuss the successful result of four years of effort by Wicklund and the Monument Sanitation District staff. The grants include \$80,000 for planning and \$1 million for construction of nutrient treatment equipment at the Tri-Lakes Facility. The Monument Sanitation District will hold a special district election on Nov. 5 to seek voter approval for a one-time waiver to accept the state grants, which far exceed the district's current annual maximum grant acceptance limit of \$50,000. *Photo by Jim Kendrick.*

Tri-Lakes wastewater plant awarded \$1 million state grant

By Jim Kendrick

The Tri-Lakes Wastewater Treatment Facility has received two state grants: a grant of \$80,000 for planning for the new equipment required by the state to improve removal of total phosphorus (TP) and total nitrogen (TN) from treated effluent and a second grant of \$1 million for design and construction of this new nutrient treatment equipment. The planning grant requires a 20 percent match by the grant recipient, up to \$16,000, or \$5,333 per owner district.

Gov. John Hickenlooper announced the award of the grant to the Tri-Lakes Wastewater Treatment Facility on July 19. A total of \$14.7 million in state nutrient grants was awarded to 21 wastewater treatment facilities appropriated by the Colorado Legislature in HB 13-1191.

MSD schedules election for one-time TABOR waiver

To receive the grant, a technicality in the TABOR amendment requires Monument Sanitation District to hold a special district election on Nov. 5 to seek voter approval for a one-time waiver to accept this state grant, which far exceeds the district's current annual maximum grant acceptance limit of \$50,000. Under the TABOR amendment to the state constitution, voter approval of a TABOR waiver is required to avoid having to refund all but \$50,000 of the funds from the \$1 million state grant proceeds that will be provided to Monument Sanitation District.

The district is only seeking a one-time waiver for this particular nutrient treatment construction grant, not a permanent waiver for all future state grants.

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Lewis-Palmer D-38 Board of Education, July 26

Voters to decide \$4.5 million ballot measure

By Harriet Halbig

At a special meeting held on the morning of July 26, the Lewis-Palmer School District Board of Education approved a measure to place a mill levy override on the November ballot. The measure requests a district tax increase of \$4.5 million.

Board President Jeffery Ferguson commented that, over the past five years, the district has been coping with an erosion of financing from the state level. In many cases, the state has rescinded funding during a school year, making budgeting and planning even more difficult.

Board Vice President Mark Pfoff commented that, during his six years in office, there has been a major overhaul in the district's budget. In 2007 the district's budget was not balanced. During the following few years, many cuts were made that did not affect classroom activities. With the onset of the recession, cuts were made of necessity that resulted in larger class sizes, removal of many support services such as math and reading labs, and fewer technology purchases.

Pfoff said that, as these cuts were made, the superintendent was tasked

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Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District, July 24

Black Forest Fire coordination called ineffective

By Bernard L. Minetti

Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District Fire Chief Chris Truty recommended July 24 that the district revise its response system to improve dispatch capability. He said the present El Paso County dispatching system is currently not configured for a structured tiered response. He explained that a tiered response system is a comprehensive, multiple-agency, fire protection/emergency response system. An operations center dedicated to fulfilling response requests directs and controls the dispatching necessary with predetermined equipment and local agency capabilities.

Truty said the dispatching agency is not capable of accomplishing this rapidly and effectively. Structured tiered

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Above: Spectators rose to their feet all along the Monument Fourth of July parade route when the Pike Interagency Hotshot Crew walked by. Many people shook hands with the wildland firefighters. *Photo by David Futey.* See more Independence Day photos on page 23.