

Our Community News

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



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Free

Local Events

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

Black Forest Arts & Crafts Guild 50th Anniversary Fall Show & Sale, Thu.-Sun., Nov. 6-9,

Free Flu Shots, Mon., Nov 10, 3-5 p.m.

Monument Academy Veterans' Day Assembly: "Honoring the Honorable," Nov. 11, 9 a.m.

HAP-py Feet Foot Care Clinic, Wed., Nov. 12

Free Rape Prevention & Women's Self Defense Seminar, three Wednesdays, Nov. 12, 19, & 26, 7:30-9:30 p.m.

Palmer Ridge High School Fall Musical, "Hello Dolly," Nov. 13-15, 7-10 p.m.

St. Peter Catholic School's Annual Holiday Boutique, Sat., Nov. 15, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Palmer Lake Historical Society: "Mountain Man Jedediah Smith", Thu., Nov. 20, 7 p.m.

NEPCO Meeting with county commissioner, Sat., Nov. 22, 10 a.m.-noon

Yesterday in Concert: Acclaimed Beatles Tribute Band from Las Vegas, Sat., Nov. 22, 7 p.m.

Lewis-Palmer High School Fall Musical: Oklahoma, Thu.-Sat., Nov. 22, 7 p.m.

Free Traditional Thanksgiving Dinner at Rosie's Diner, Thu., Nov. 27, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Western Museum of Mining and Industry (WMMI): The Gold Assay Process: Magic or Chemistry? Sat., Nov. 29, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Small Town Christmas: Small Town Saturday, Sat., Nov. 29, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Palmer Lake's Traditional Chili Supper & Annual Star-lighting Festival, Sat., Nov. 29, 5-8:30 p.m.,

Palmer Lake Yule Log Pot Luck Dinner, Tue., Dec. 2, 6 p.m.,

Kiwanis' 9th Annual North Pole at Tri-Lakes Arts and Crafts Fair, Sat.-Sun, Dec. 6-7, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.,

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Above: State Education Commissioner Robert Hammond, left, awards the 2015 Colorado Teacher of the Year title to math teacher Kathy Thirkell. *Photo by Harriet Halbig.* (Additional Picture on page 21)

Lewis-Palmer High School math teacher named Colorado Teacher of the Year

By Harriet Halbig

Kathy Thirkell, a math teacher at Lewis-Palmer High School, has been named 2015 Colorado Teacher of the Year.

Thirkell has spent her entire 34-year teaching career at Lewis-Palmer High School. She is well known for her mentoring and support of students and her innovative use of songs to help remember math concepts.

Among those who recognized her talents at a school assembly on Oct. 13 were the state education commissioner, the Colorado Education Association, Adams State College, the Colorado Free Masons,

and Blue Bell Ice Cream, which provided ice cream for all students.

In her acceptance speech, Thirkell thanked her students for all their efforts, encouraged them to consider teaching as a profession, and urged them to thank a teacher.

Thirkell will tour the country with other state honorees, visit the White House, and attend Space Camp as part of her title. She is the first teacher from District 38 to be so honored.

Harriet Halbig can be contacted at harriethalbig@ocn.me

Palmer Lake Town Council, Oct 9

Town retains ban on recreational marijuana sales

By James Howard

Whether or not to allow legal sales of recreational marijuana in Palmer Lake was once again the focus of a well-attended and often contentious Town Council meeting on Oct. 9. This time the question took the form of a request from a group named Peaceful Palmer Lake that the Town Council repeal Ordinance 2, 2014,

which prohibits the sale of recreational marijuana. Repealing the ordinance would have pre-empted the two ballot initiatives addressing such sales that the town will vote on in the Nov. 4 election, one initiative allowing such sales, and the other prohibiting them for the next three years.

The Town Council invited Marc Sny-

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Above: A large crowd and local media attend the Palmer Lake Town Council meeting on Oct. 9 to hear the council decide on a request, by a group called Peaceful Palmer Lake, to override the ban on recreational marijuana sales that was passed in April. *Photo by Jackie Burhans.*

Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District, Oct. 9

Rate increase, budget hearings scheduled

By Nancy Wilkins

At the Oct. 9 Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District (WWSD) Board of Directors meeting, the board endorsed efforts to preserve historic water rights, received a proposal to purchase or lease a vacant lot, discussed how to improve water quality after receiving complaints, approved servicing 28 new homes, and scheduled a rate increase hearing, a budget workshop, and a budget hearing.

Raising rates

President Barrie Town, Treasurer Tommy Schwab, Secretary Beth Courrau, Director Rich Strom, and Director Jim Taylor scheduled a rate increase hearing Dec. 4, a budget hearing Nov. 13, and a budget workshop on Oct. 22. The hearings start at 1 p.m. at 1845 Woodmoor Dr. and are open to the public.

A "first round" draft budget for 2015 was handed out to the board. A copy of the draft budget and approved financial reports dated Sep. 30 from the Oct. 9 meeting should be available at the district office.

Preserving historic water rights

Veronica Sperling from Buchanau and Sperling PC asked the board to endorse her efforts to help preserve and protect ownership rights to historic water claims. Sperling explained: If courts conclude the consumptive use of water has been claimed in subsequent cases, then the holder of unchanged historic shares of water may "get zero." This may affect owners with unchanged shares decreed hundreds of years ago. Sperling said there are about 20 cases pending, and four are appeals to the Colorado Supreme Court.

Sperling's efforts include proposing new legislation. Sperling asked if she could include WWSD'S name on a current list of supporters. The board voted unanimously to support this cause.

HOA wants unused parcel for park

Representing the Homeowners Association and the Metropolitan District board of Village Center Estates, Forest Hindley asked WWSD if it would sell or lease an undeveloped lot.

Located near the entrance to Village Center Estates, the lot is near fully landscaped residential half-acre home sites and a church. Hindley envisions a park with trees and perhaps a picnic area maintained by the Metropolitan District. Both Hindley and the board suspect the lot is in a flood zone and cannot be commercially developed.

Hindley also expressed his concern that the WWSD would use the land as a booster station, and commented on the lot's current poor aesthetics. Town

(Continued on page 2)