

Our Community News

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



PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MONUMENT, CO
PERMIT NO. 32

ECRWSS

Postal
Customer

Issue #188— Volume 16 Number 10 — Saturday, October 1, 2016

Free



Local Events

See pages 23-27 for details of these and many other local events.

- PLAG's Christmas Arts & Crafts Fair, Fri.-Sat., Sep. 30-Oct. 1, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
- RMMA's 10th Anniversary Season Concert, Sat., Oct. 1, 7 p.m.
- Palmer Lake 2nd Annual .5K Fun Run, Sun., Oct. 2, 10:30 a.m.
- Tri-Lakes Land Use Committee Meeting, Mon., Oct. 3, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- Empty Bowls Dinner & Silent Auction, Wed., Oct. 5, 5-7:30 p.m.
- Joshua Davis Trio Concert at TLCA, Thu., Oct. 6, 7 p.m.
- Conjure One Concert at TLCA, Fri., Oct. 7, 8-10 p.m.
- WMMI Reynolds Ranch Harvest Festival, Sat.-Sun., Oct. 8-9, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Free Outdoor Movie Night: *Inside Out*, Sat., Oct. 8, 7 p.m.
- Haunted Mines & Colorado Fear Fest at WMMI, through Oct. 31.
- D-38 School Board Community Coffee, Mon., Oct. 10, 6-7:30 p.m.
- Foot Care Clinic, Wed., Oct. 12
- Active Adults Club: Elephant Rock Open Space Hike, Sat., Oct. 15, 9-11 a.m.
- Free Flu Shots at Tri-Lakes Cares, Thu., Oct. 20, noon-3 p.m.
- Foot Care Clinic, Fri., Oct. 21
- Steve & Ruth Smith Concert at TLCA, Fri., Oct. 21, 7 p.m.
- Monument Library: Job Search & Career Tools, Tue.-Thu., Oct. 25-27, 2-3 p.m.
- Foot Care Clinic, Fri., Oct. 28
- Trunk or Treat, Fri., Oct. 28, 5-8 p.m.
- Kings Deer Annual Handmade Art Show, Fri.-Sat., Oct. 28-29
- Creepy Crawl 5 K & 1-mile Kids' Run, Sat., Oct. 29
- Historic Downtown Monument Safe Trick or Treat, Mon., Oct. 31, 4-6 p.m.
- D-38 School Board Parent Coffee, Wed., Nov. 2, 9-10:30 a.m.
- Black Forest Arts and Craft Guild Fall Show and Sale, Thu.-Sun., Nov. 3-6, 9 a.m.-8 p.m.
- Downtown Monument Holiday Open House, Fri.-Sat., Nov. 4-5 ■

In this issue

- School District News 1-6
- Palmer Lake News 1, 6
- Monument News 6-12
- Water & San District News 12-16
- Baptist Road News 16-17
- County News 17-18
- Weather 19
- Letters 19
- Columns 20-22
- Snapshots 22-23
- Notices and Calendar 23-31
- OCN Information 23, 28

Circulation

Print Run: 17,410
Mail Delivery: 16,769
Stacks: 641



Above: Students and staff throughout Lewis-Palmer School District honored local emergency responders Sept. 21, with district-wide school assemblies and banners. Monument Academy choir students also sang to the fire chiefs in their office. *Photos by Julie Stephen of LPSD 38.*

Lewis-Palmer D-38 Board of Education, Sept. 15 Board receives school readiness waiver, passes medical marijuana policy

By Harriet Halbig

The Lewis-Palmer D-38 Board of Education received news of approval of a waiver in the school readiness process, discussed and passed a policy on administering medical marijuana during school hours, and approved the purchase of three new buses during its Sept. 15 meeting.

School readiness waiver approved

During her update, Superintendent Karen Brofft thanked Assistant Superintendent Cheryl Wangeman and Director of Curriculum and Professional Development Sheila Beving for their efforts in gaining a waiver from the use of TS Gold to determine student readiness to enter kindergarten.

Early this year, the district's first effort to gain a waiver was denied. The board voted in May to apply again, following public hearings to demonstrate community support for the action.

TS Gold is a commercial product that evaluates student readiness through an exhaustive examination of a variety of factors. Parents had raised objections to some of the data included in the evaluations. District teachers felt that using TS Gold was unnecessary, as the district report cards for students that age are very detailed. In the interest of avoiding duplication of effort, the board sought the waiver, which was granted the day before the meeting, on Sept. 14.

Brofft also reported that Director of Assessment and Gifted Education Lori Benton had been working with the high

schools to develop a new guide to dual enrollment, in which students may attend Pikes Peak Community College or the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs while still in high school and receive both high school and college credit.

Benton is hoping to get reduced tuition rates for teachers who need additional credentials to teach such classes in the high schools.

Medical marijuana policy passed

After discussion in its Aug. 18 meeting, the board once again addressed the administration of medical marijuana during school hours. The policy allows a parent or guardian to administer the materials at a designated location and students must have a certificate from the state Department of Health to demonstrate the need. The marijuana must not be in smokeable form and not be in a form that could be shared. The substance would not be stored on school grounds, and school nurses would not be involved.

Director Sarah Sampayo stated that the school district is not granting the right to the use of medical marijuana, as that right is conferred by the state.

Board Secretary Matthew Clawson expressed concern that marijuana is still considered a class 1 controlled substance under federal law and that the state board is trying to force the districts to pass such a policy. He also expressed concern that there has been no long-term research on the effects of marijuana use by young chil-

Palmer Lake Town Council,
Sept. 8

Resident hints at lawsuit over recreational marijuana sales

By James Howald

In September, the Palmer Lake Town Council met only on Sept. 8; the meeting scheduled for Sept. 22 was cancelled due to lack of agenda items.

Once again, the question of whether to allow the sale of recreational marijuana in Palmer Lake was the focus of public comments. Issues related to the town's water supply were also discussed. The board granted two new business licenses.

Ballot initiative could lead to lawsuit

At the previous Town Council meeting in August, Town Clerk Tara Berreth announced that enough signatures had been collected and verified to require the town to include on the ballot in November a pair of initiatives that could legalize and tax recreational marijuana sales. At the same meeting, Town Attorney Maureen Juran told the board that in her opinion the board had only two legal courses: It could either vote to legalize and tax such sales themselves at the August meeting, or it could put the measures before the voters in November. Citizens have a constitutional right to use the ballot initiative process, Juran said.

On Sept. 8, resident Chris Amenson used the public comments portion of the meeting to imply that he would sue the board if they did not prevent the ballot initiatives from going before the voters.

Amenson introduced himself as the author of citizen initiative 301, which was passed in 2014 and made the sale of recreational marijuana in the town illegal until at least 2017. He went on to say he had managed the successful defense of the initiative against a legal challenge.

Amenson pointed out that town leadership had changed since 2014, and asked the current mayor and board if they would allow initiatives that would legalize heroin or LSD. Amenson argued those drugs are illegal under federal law, and that should prohibit initiatives to allow their sale. Marijuana is also illegal under federal law, Amenson said.

Amenson argued that if the current initiatives were approved by voters, and implemented by the board, then the board would be violating federal law. Amenson argued that, in that case, the town's financial resources could not be used by board members to defend themselves in court if they "knowingly and willfully violate federal law by allowing retail sales of marijuana."

While Amenson did not say directly that he would sue the board, he described his experience with a lawsuit based on similar principals.

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued on page 6)