

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

- Green4Green Tailgate Kickoff Party, Sat., Mar. 5, 5-9 p.m.
- D-38 Middle School and High School Parent/Guardian Resource Night, Mon., Mar. 7, 6-8 p.m.
- D-38 Career Awareness Event, Tue., Mar. 8, 5:45-8:30 p.m.
- Foot Care Clinic, Wed., Mar. 9
- Basics of Bookkeeping: Part 1, Wed., Mar. 9, 9 a.m.-noon
- El Paso County Hazardous Materials & Recycling Collection Facility, Sat., Mar. 12, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
- Palmer Lake Elementary School (PLES) Library Silent Auction and Dinner, Wed., Mar. 9, 5:30-8:30 p.m.
- Monument Board of Trustees Candidate Forum, Wed., Mar. 9, 6-8 p.m.
- Lewis-Palmer School District School Board Parent Coffee, Thu., Mar. 10, 9-10:30 a.m.
- LPHS Spring Play: Great Expectations, Thu.-Sat., Mar. 10-12, 7 p.m.
- Permian Basin String Quartet Concert at TLCA, Fri., Mar. 11, 7 p.m.
- NEPCO Meeting, Sat., Mar. 12, 10 a.m.-noon. County issues.
- WMMI Family Exploration Day – SCIENCE!!!, Sat., Mar. 12, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Tri-Lakes Community Blood Drive, Tue., Mar. 15, 3-7 p.m.
- Palmer Lake Historical Society: Early Automobiles in the Pikes Peak Region, Thu., Mar. 17, 7 p.m.
- Olivia Mainville & the Aquatic Troupe Concert at TLCA, Fri., Mar. 18, 7 p.m.
- Foot Care Clinic, Fri., Mar. 25
- WMMI Long Ears Easter Egg Hunt, Sat., Mar. 26, 10 a.m. & 1 p.m.
- Bonfils Blood Center Community Blood Drive, Sat., Mar. 26, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
- Palmer Lake Easter Egg Hunt, Sat., Mar. 26, 10 a.m.
- Palmer Lake Volunteer Fire Department Pancake Breakfast, Sun., Mar. 27, 8-11 a.m.

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Above: Parent and chess team coach Steve Waldmann introduced trophy winners from the 10th Annual Chess Tournament held Feb. 13 at Lewis-Palmer Elementary School. They are: Front row, from left, Annie Qin, Cameron Edmond, Jace Baehman, Ben Ladau, Priscilla Jeub, Christopher Perez and Ningnie Qin. In the back row, D-38 parent and chess team coach Steve Waldmann and Cindy Waldmann, LPES technology teacher. *Photo by Harriet Halbig.*

Lewis-Palmer D-38 Board of Education, Feb. 18

Board approves conditional charter renewal for Monument Academy

By Harriet Halbig

The Lewis-Palmer D-38 Board of Education approved a conditional charter renewal for Monument Academy and discussed graduation guidelines, calendar adjustments, and exceptional student services at its Feb. 18 meeting.

Monument Academy contract update

The board approved a motion to conditionally approve the charter of Monument Academy for five years.

Superintendent Karen Brofft explained that the motion determines the time frame for renewal of the charter, allowing time for attorneys from both parties to review it. The procedure is for the district and the Academy to hold discussions before involving legal counsel.

Graduation guidelines update

Director of Assessment and Gifted Edu-

cation Lori Benton reported that her department had conducted discussions with focus groups including staff, Building Accountability Advisory Committees, the District Accountability Advisory Committee, the Special Education Advisory Council, the Gifted Education Leadership Team, Lions, Kiwanis, and Business Advisory Committee regarding graduation requirements within the district compared to those required by the state.

All agreed that Lewis-Palmer should have more rigorous requirements than those of the Colorado Department of Education. After compiling the comments from all sources, five main themes dominated:

- Emphasize technological skills
- Add math requirement
- Require study of a world language or world culture
- Offer PE credit for participation in

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Triview Metropolitan District, Feb. 9

Corrected 2015 revenue report from Monument still missing

By Lisa Hatfield

At the Feb. 9 meeting of the Triview Metropolitan District, the directors discussed action to take on missing corrected tax revenue statements from Monument, as well as the snowplowing policy and standards documents, the anticipated roads study, and the end-of year financial statements. They also listened to payment concerns from Doug Stimple, CEO of Classic Homes.

Director Marco Fiorito was absent. One visitor was a high school student who attended the meeting to fulfill some community service hours for his civics class.

Triview is a Title 32 special district within the town of Monument that provides roads maintenance, open space maintenance, water, and sanitation services to the residents of Jackson Creek, Promontory Pointe, and Sanctuary Pointe.

Monument still owes Triview corrected tax statements

District Manager Valerie Remington asked the board for direction on how to get the town of Monument to deliver corrected tax revenue reporting statements for 2015 before the district auditor requests those records. She had mentioned this problem

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Academy Water and Sanitation District, Feb. 17

Sewer rates raised; voters could reduce the amount of future increases

By Lisa Hatfield

At the Feb. 17 meeting, the board members of the Academy Water and Sanitation District (AWSD) explained unavoidable future expenses due to stricter government regulations on wastewater treatment. The board voted to raise sewer rates, and rates will go up more again in the near future. However, if district residents approve the May ballot measure asking to remove TABOR restrictions, this would ultimately save money for the residents by allowing the district to receive and spend federal grant money that could pay for up to half of the required upgrades.

Election law requires that now that the AWSD board has approved the ballot language, the "official" board position may only present "balanced" discussions of the issue and it cannot solicit invitations to speak on the topic. However, if individuals or groups invite them to share information, board members would be allowed to do that, Paul Murphy, the district's attorney, said.

AWSD is a special district providing water and sewage services to about 300 residences in the Pleasant View neighborhood and the closely surrounding area (but not including the Air Force Academy or Gleneagle). Most members of the district have both water and sewage service, although some have an existing septic tank and use water services only.

Sewer rates increased \$20 per month

The board unanimously approved an increase in wastewater rates of \$20/month, to take effect in March. It did this as an incremental step to start building a reserve fund toward the anticipated 30-year loan for the joint wastewater connection project with Donala Water and Sanitation District, under an approved intergovernmental agreement. See related Donala Water and Sanitation District article on page 14.

The district has initiated this \$3.1 million Donala project in order to take advantage of economies of scale in wastewater treatment as government regulations require stricter tolerances for specific nutrients in effluent. The federal Clean Water Act is the problem, Director and Designated Election Official Ron Curry said. Monthly wastewater fees might have to go as high as \$100, he said. More will be known when the exact amount of the loan is determined and when they find out how much grant money has been awarded the district.

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