

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.

- WMMI: *Life in an Arizona Mining Company Town*, Thu., Sep. 8, 7 p.m.
- Acoustic Eidolon Concert at TLCA, Fri., Sep. 9, 7 p.m.
- PLES Annual Community Garage Sale, Sat., Sep. 10, 8 a.m.-2 p.m.
- WMMI Reynolds Ranch Restoration Day, Sat., Sep. 10, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Front Range Open Studios, Sat.-Sun., Sep. 10-11, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
- Art Hop, Thu., Sep. 15, 5-8 p.m.
- Judy Collins Live in Concert at TLCA, Thu., Sep. 15, 7 p.m.
- Palmer Lake Historical Society: *Colorado Inventions and Inventors of the 19th Century*, Thu., Sep. 15, 7 p.m.
- Larkspur Autumn Harvest & Craft Fest, Sat.-Sun., Sep. 17-18, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
- D38 Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony, Sat., Sep. 17, 2 p.m.
- Tri-Lakes Lions Golf Tournament 4-Player Scramble, Mon. Sep. 19
- Tri-Lakes Community Blood Drive, Tue., Sep. 20, 3-7 p.m.
- Tri-Lakes Women's Club: *Harvesting Hope: Food & Wine Tasting Event*, Thu., Sep. 22, 5:30-9 p.m.
- Tom Paxton Concert at TLCA, Fri., Sep. 23, 7 p.m.
- NEPCO Meeting, Sat., Sep. 24, 10 a.m.-noon. Planning and pot.
- Palmer Lake Art Group's 43rd Annual Christmas Arts & Crafts Fair, Fri.-Sat., Sep. 30-Oct. 1; 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
- Phil Keaggy Concert at TLCA, Fri., Sep. 30, 7 p.m.
- Rocky Mountain Music Alliance 10th Anniversary Season Concert, Sat., Oct. 1, 7 p.m. ■

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Above: On Aug. 7th, the 15th Annual Tri-Lakes Cruisers Benefit Car Show raised several thousand dollars for Tri-Lakes Cares. Visitors got to see dozens of classic cars in historic downtown Monument. The club welcomes new members who own (or are enthusiasts of) foreign or domestic vehicles of all years, restored or custom automobiles, muscle cars, hot rods, street rods, vans, trucks, and daily drivers. For information, visit www.tl-cruisers.weebly.com or write to TL-Cruisers@Mail.com. *Photos courtesy of an OCN volunteer.*

Town bulletin cites radium level in drinking water

By Lisa Hatfield

On Aug. 25, Town of Monument Public Works Director Tom Tharnish published a public notice about a recent violation of a drinking water standard. The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) notified the town it had violated the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for radium 226/228, an element that is naturally present in rocks, soil, and groundwater supplies in the Pikes Peak region.

The MCL for radium 226/228 is 5.0 picoCuries (pCi/L). For the four quarters that were sampled, the calculated compliance average at Well 9 was 6.1 pCi/L.

Well 9 was shut down for one month to evaluate possible options, and additional chemical changes have been made since it has been restarted. Also, the town's engineers are evaluating other possible options such as using the "best available technology" to reduce the amount of radium from water treatment plant discharge. "This is not an emergency.... We anticipate resolving this problem within six to nine months," the press release said.

Monument's well 6 was shut down by CDPHE for the same reason as reported at

the Dec. 3, 2012 Board of Trustees meeting. (<http://ocn.me/v13n1.htm#bot1203>)

Exposure to radium 226 or 228 in excess of the MCL, over the course of many years, may have an increased risk of getting cancer, according to the town bulletin. Citizens do not need to take any corrective action, Tharnish noted.

The notice concluded with, "For more information, please contact Steve Sheffield at 719-487-9291 or 645 Beacon Lite Road, Monument, CO, 80132. Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses)."

The town, as well as neighboring water and sanitation districts, have dealt with this issue in the past, and depending on the level of contamination, sometimes it has had to shut down other wells for this reason. For eight examples, go to www.ocn.me and search "radium."

See www.townofmonument.org/town-bulletins/ to read the two-page Aug. 25 bulletin in its entirety.

Lisa Hatfield can be reached at lisahatfield@ocn.me.

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

Board discusses enrollment, data privacy, medical marijuana policy

By Harriet Halbig

Superintendent Karen Brofft, in her superintendent update and opening of schools update, reported on developments over the summer break.

Brofft said that enrollment on the first day of school exceeded budgeted amounts

by 75 students, cautioning that the numbers often fluctuate between the first day and the official annual state count in October.

Brofft reported that the district has been chosen by the U.S. Department of

(Continued on page 2)

Palmer Lake Town Council,
Aug. 11

Recreational marijuana initiatives head to Palmer Lake voters

By James Howald

In August, the Palmer Lake Town Council met only on Aug. 11; the meeting scheduled for Aug. 25 was cancelled due to lack of agenda items.

The future of marijuana sales in the town dominated the discussions on Aug. 11. The board debated two ballot resolutions, the first proposing the legalization of recreational marijuana sales, and the second proposing a sales tax of 5 percent on recreational marijuana sales, if those sales should become legal. The board also heard a presentation concerning the Monument Creek watershed, and voted on changes to the town's building code.

Enough signatures collected to put recreational sales on ballot
Mayor John Cressman told the board that proponents of recreational marijuana sales had collected enough valid signatures to put the measure to a vote during the election in November. Cressman asked Town Attorney Maureen Juran to review the history of the issue for the board.

Juran said that in 2014 the town's voters had passed an initiative that banned recreational marijuana sales in the town until 2017. She went on to say that citizens have a constitutional right to propose laws using the ballot initiative process, and that any law could be overturned by a new ballot initiative.

Juran said the board had only two legal choices: They could vote to approve the sale of recreational marijuana as set forth by the proposed ballot initiatives, or they could send the initiatives to the voters in November. Juran also pointed out that, if approved by voters in November, the law could be changed again by the board or by another ballot initiative.

Juran's summary provoked questions and comments from the board and from the audience. Asked by a resident if the new initiative should override the will of the voters in 2014, Juran said that the right to use the ballot initiative process is guaranteed by the constitution.

Cressman said he thought it would be "irresponsible" for the board to vote to approve recreational sales, given the outcome of the vote in 2014.

Trustee Rich Kuehster pointed out that the voters might approve the sales of recreational marijuana, but not approve the ballot initiative that would impose a sales tax on those sales.

Several audience members expressed their hope that the voters would not approve the sale of recreational marijuana, arguing that marijuana was dangerous, bad for children, and, in one case, its sale ran counter to biblical precept.

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