Local Events

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

- Black Forest Arts and Craft Guild Fall Show and Sale, Thu.-Sat., Nov. 3-5, 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Sun. Nov. 6, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
- Downtown Monument Holiday Open House, Fri.-Sat., Nov. 4-5
- Chamber Concert Series: Sound Travels with Trio Vivante, Sun., Nov. 6, 2:30 p.m.
- Foot Care Clinic, Wed., Nov. 9
- LPHS Musical: Thoroughly Modern Mlle., Thu.-Sat., Nov. 10-12, 7 p.m.
- Monument Academy Veterans’ Day Assembly: “Honoring All Who Have Served,” Fri., Nov. 11, 9:45 a.m.
- Tribute Concert to Veterans by Danny Byram, Fri., Nov. 11, 7 p.m.
- Tri-Lakes Community Blood Drive, Tue., Nov. 15, 3-7 p.m.
- Palmer Lake Historical Society: “A Tale of Two Hurdles,” Thu., Nov. 17, 7 p.m.
- PRRHS Musical: Starlight Express, Thu.-Sat., Nov. 17-19, 7 p.m.
- Heartsmart CPR/AED/First Aid Certification Course, Sat., Nov. 19, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Foot Care Clinic, Fri., Nov. 18
- NNEPC Meeting, Sat., Nov. 19, 10 a.m. - noon; County planning.
- Free Premier Showing of Star vs Sun- dance, Sun., Nov. 20, 2 & 3 p.m.
- Foot Care Clinic, Fri., Nov. 25
- WMMI: The Gold Assay Process, Sat., Nov. 26, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Monument Library: Community Blood Drive, Sat., Nov. 26, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Palmer Lake’s 80th Annual Chili Supper & Star-lighting Festival, Sat., Nov. 26, 5:30-7 p.m.
- Michael Martin Murphy’s Cowboy Christmas Show, Sun., Nov. 27, 3 & 6:30 p.m.
- Plan Monument Open House, Wed., Nov. 30, 4-7 p.m.
- Downtown Monument’s Small Town Christmas, Sat, Dec. 3, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
- Monument Hill Kiwanis Club’s 11th Annual North Pole at Tri-Lakes Arts and Crafts Fair, Sat., Dec. 3, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.

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El Paso County Planning Commission, Oct. 18

Gleneagle golf course rezone OK’d; Flying Horse North denied

By Lisa Hatfield

The El Paso County Planning Commission considered two items related to northern El Paso County at its Oct. 18 meeting. The application regarding re-zoning the golf course area in Gleneagle was approved. The other, Flying Horse North, which is a proposed development between Highway 83 and Black Forest Road, was denied. Both will now be heard by the El Paso Board of County Commissioners (BOCC).

Gleneagle Development

- Agreement Dissolution—Map Amendment (Rezone)

The Gleneagle golf course property is north of Northgate Road along Gleneagle Drive. In 2009, the driving range portion was converted to a Planned Unit Development (PUD) zoning district so that 47 patio homes could be built. It included an agreement limiting land use changes within the remaining golf course.

On Oct. 18, Westminster Capital Holdings LLC requested approval of a map amendment (re-zoning) of 10.35 acres from the PUD zoning district to RR-5 (Residential Rural) zoning. The request to rezone the PUD back to RR-5 would nullify the PUD agreement. The applicant wishes to build 56 single-family homes throughout the golf course, instead of the previously planned patio homes just on the driving range area. The remaining open space would likely be re-planned into open space to be utilized by the Gleneagle community, the staff report noted.

The minimum lot size was approved at 7.5 acres. “Findings with regard to water suf-
ficiency and wastewater disposal are not required with a rezoning request,” the packet stated.

The item was approved by a 6-1 vote and will be heard at a future BOCC meeting.

Flying Horse North

- rezone denied

The commission considered a new proposed development that would be known as Flying Horse North. It would be west of Black Forest Road and east of Highway 83 on a proposed eastward expansion of Stagecoach Road at Donald Wescott Fire Protection District’s Station 2. None; Flying Horse North is not to be con-
fused with Flying Horse, which is west of Highway 83 at Northgate Boulevard.

Flying Horse North is owned by PR2 and represented by NES Inc. On Oct. 18, they requested a rezoning of 1,417 acres from the RR-5 (Residential

(Continued on page 4)

More recommendations on procuring renewable water

By Lisa Hatfield

At the Oct. 3 Monument Board of Truste-
es meeting, “the future of water” was the main topic of discussion, including an amendment to the water supply section of water master plan, more information about how the town hopes to deal with radium in the water, and words of experience from neighboring Donals Water and Sanitation District General Manager Kip Petersen on its connection with Colorado Springs Util-
ties (CSU). The trustees also approved two land use applications for the Jackson Creek Senior Living facility.

Mayor Jeff Kaiser and Trustee Jeff

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued on page 2)
The three items approved were:

- A map amendment (rezone) for Jackson Ranch Phase 2, rezoning 60 acres of land from RR-5 (Rural Residential) to RR-2.5 (Rural Residential), with some 5-acre lots added as a buffer with Canterbury Estates.

- A preliminary plan amendment for eight parcels totaling 119 acres to include 37 dwelling units and 14.7 acres of open space.

- A final plat for Jackson Ranch Filing 2 for three parcels totaling 33.75 acres to include eight single-family lots and a 9-acre open space.

Soaring Hope given Nov. 3 deadline

On Oct. 18, Steven Klaffky, assistant county attorney, and Mark Gebhart, deputy director, Planning and Community Development, presented a request to have the BOCC authorize the county attorney to pursue litigation to bring the property at 18375 Spruce Road into compliance with the El Paso County Land Development Code, which identifies that operation of a rehabilitation facility is not an allowed use in the RR-0.5 (Residential Rural) zone district. The commissioners approved the recommendation, but put a “stay” on it until Nov. 3.

Since August 2015, neighbors have complained regarding the number of residents staying at the Soaring Hope Recovery house and the possible operation of a rehabilitation facility. (Its own website, www.soaringhoperecover.com/, calls it “sustainable addiction recovery.”)

On July 11, the Planning and Community Development director determined that the land use by Soaring Hope Recovery (formerly called Courage to Change) did not meet the definition of a group home for the handicapped or disabled persons but was instead a rehabilitation facility, requiring a Variance of Use application instead of a Special Use permit.

On or about July 12, the executive director of the Planning and Community Development Department advised the property owners that they had until Aug. 31 to appeal the determination, bring the subject property into compliance, or apply for a variance of use, but they did not comply.

A new violation file was opened Aug. 30 and a Notice of Violation issued to the operator and the landowners, John and...
Joan Green. No application to establish a rehabilitation facility was received as of Oct. 11.

The operator contends that they are presently functioning at the site as a group home for handicapped or disabled persons for five or fewer persons and are no longer operating as a rehabilitation facility at the property.

The Planning and Community Development Department recommended that the BOC C authorize the county attorney to pursue litigation to bring the property into compliance with the El Paso County Land Development Code. The commissioners voted unanimously to adopt the recommendation with the stipulation that the applicant would admit to the violation as a rehabilitation facility in a residential area and will curtail any rehabilitation facility uses immediately and in the future.

In exchange for the stipulation, the applicant would be allowed until Nov. 3 to file a variance of use application and meet a list of other requirements outlined by the county in this resolution, including submitting a detailed list of current uses of the property, allowing unannounced inspections, and limiting parking to the garage and driveway.

More decisions
Other items unanimously approved by the commissioners:
- Oct. 6 − a variance of use application for Bajwa Roofing. The applicant, Amanpreet Bajwa, is now allowed to store contractor’s equip-
The Forsgren study estimated that demand for water could almost double in the next 20-35 years and made suggestions about the town’s water supply and its short-term, long-term, and emergency options. The trustees did not take any action on the presentation, but they did ask a lot of questions.

Note: Forsgren Associates wrote the new 20-year water master plan that was unanimously approved by the trustees in 2014. See www.ocn.me/v14n9.htm#mbot-0804 and www.ocn.me/v14n10.htm#MBoT0902.

The best overall short-term options recommended by Forsgren:

- Purchase renewable water rights, such as water from rivers recharged annually by precipitation.
- Develop the town’s water reuse system, which could double the use of each molecule of water. It would allow the same water to be treated and used repeatedly after it is obtained, instead of being lost downstream.

After many hours of discussion and public testimony, this item was denied by the planning commissioners in a 5-2 vote. It was then scheduled to be heard by the BOCC on Nov. 15.

Lisa Hatfield can be reached at lisahatfield@ocn.me.
after just one use when it meets the wastewater treat-
ment standards for effluent and is discharged from the
Tri-Lakes Wastewater Treatment Facility into Monu-
ment Creek. Forsgren’s reuse plan will come before
the board as a feasibility study very soon. Woodmoor
Water and Sanitation District (WWSD) is a potential
partner.

• Add additional wells as demand increases. But more
wells cannot economically supply the needed volume
in an emergency condition nor meet the long-term
future demand due to cascading reduction in well
yields.

The best overall long-term options recommended by Fors-
gren:

• The completion of the Pikes Peak Regional Water
Authority (PPRWA) regional infrastructure project,
which could bring much needed stored water and allow
delivery of renewable water to the Monument area
from Fountain Creek by “exchanging of water rights”
from the Arkansas River. Tri-Lakes-area PPRWA
members include the Town of Palmer Lake, Town of
Monument, WWSD, Triview Metropolitan District, and
Donala. This proposal is separate and different
from the existing Southern Delivery System (SDS).

• Keep options open with CSU and the associated SDS
to possibly bring renewable water to the town. Be-
sides the cost of purchasing water rights, there would
be many other associated costs.

• Water reuse plan.

The best overall emergency connection option recom-
manded by Forsgren, in case of leaks, malfunctions, or
water contamination:

• Connect to the WWSD’s reliable potable water sys-

• Triview is another feasible option to supply emer-
gency water, since it is already connected to Donala,
which is connected to SDS.

Donala’s experiences with CSU explained
Petersen shared information about Donala’s connection to
the CSU pipeline. The goal was to give the trustees
direct knowledge of another district’s experiences before making a
decision regarding CSU or the SDS.

Petersen’s comments included:

• Donala purchased renewable water rights from the
Willow Creek Ranch in Leadville for $4.5 million,
which is connected to SDS.

• Water reuse plan.

• We don’t want to drill another well! They cost $1.5
million each and produce less water all the time.

• The SDS does have extra capacity now that it did not
anticipate.

Note: Donala provided an emergency water connection to
Triview for 111 hours in July when Triview experienced
an undetected water leak that lost 20-30 million gallons.
See www.ocn.me/v16n8.htm#dwsd0721.

details about radon quarantine

Trustee Dennis Murphy asked Tharnish to include an
agenda item at a board meeting soon with an explanation
about the status of the plan to deal with elevated levels of
radon in the town’s water supply. Murphy knew about it
from the town’s Aug. 25 press release but wondered why
it had not been explained to the trustees at a board meeting
yet. See www.ocn.me/v16n8.htm#water.
Tharnish said he would give more details at the Oct. 17 meeting. However, he explained briefly that the town has been working with Forstner Associates on plans for dilution using water from Well 8, and an “HMO” chemical treatment to remove the radium from the groundwater in Well 9. He said the town is applying for a grant from the Colorado Rural Water Association to help pay for the HMO treatment process. See related Oct. 17 Monument Board of Trustees article on page 6.

Town Manager Chris Lowe said that in addition to the one sampling site required by local, state, and federal law, the town has also been sampling further down the distribution system. “We are absolutely certain that the radium levels were always under 5 picocuries” by the time it was delivered to customers, he said. “Everyone was safe during that monitoring period.”

Mayor Pro Tem Don Wilson asked if the radium present in some of the groundwater would cause a problem if the town were doing water reuse. Tharnish said with reuse, the town would be mixing groundwater originally produced from wells and diluting it with the surface water in Monument Creek, and it would also undergo “environmental scrubbing” in the creek.

Trustee Kelly Elliott asked Tharnish several questions about the difference between Triview Metropolitan District and the town’s water system management and the levels of standards required to make sure Triview had the right infrastructure in place. Tharnish said there were differences between the two organizations and that the request for help never came (during the Triview water leak in June and July).

Elliot accused Triview of incompetence and carry too much debt and worried about the possibility that the town was considering an emergency water connection with them. See related comments by Triview President Reid Bolander at the Oct. 17 Monument Board of Trustees meeting in the BOT article on page 6.

Town Treasurer Pamela Smith said that the town could make capital recommendations to Triview, and that somehow, when Triview’s large debt is paid off, it could make capital recommendations to the town. Tharnish said he would give more details at the Oct. 17 meeting. However, he explained briefly that the town has been working with Forstner Associates on plans for dilution using water from Well 8, and an “HMO” chemical treatment to remove the radium from the groundwater in Well 9. He said the town is applying for a grant from the Colorado Rural Water Association to help pay for the HMO treatment process. See related Oct. 17 Monument Board of Trustees article on page 6.

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The memo outlined four options for addressing radium levels in the water:

1. **Filtration.** This technique “adsorbs” the radium into humic solids, which are then backwashed out of filters, so a large portion of the low-level radioactive radium would end up either in the biosolids or in the effluent from the Tri-Lakes Wastewater Treatment Facility, which might lead to radioactive contamination of TLWTF sludge due to the higher concentrations of radium in the backwash water. Could cost $146,000 plus an annual $9,000 O&M.

2. **Ion Exchange treatment system.** This option results in the radium being removed from the wastewater containing radium. It uses a one-use throw-away media that must then be disposed of in a licensed facility. Could cost $360,000 plus an annual $80,000 O&M. Forsgren recommended the dilution option plus installing an HMO filtration system. The trustees asked questions but did not take any action.

3. **Adsorptive Resin.** This option results in the radium being removed from the water system and does not produce wastewater containing radium. It uses a one-use throw-away media that must then be disposed of in a licensed facility. Could cost $360,000 plus an annual $80,000 O&M. Forsgren recommended the dilution option plus installing an HMO filtration system. The trustees asked questions but did not take any action.

4. **Radioactive contamination of TLWTF sludge may occur due to the as-yet unspecified concentrations of radium in the system’s regeneration water.**

Note: The memo did not address what levels of radium concentration would be rinsed into the backwash water, which was a concern discussed at the Oct. 11 Tri-Lakes Wastewater Treatment Facility Joint Use Committee (JUC), after the memo was re-released. Currently, all town water filter backwash water is sent to Tri-Lakes Wastewater Treatment Facility (TLWTF) in unannounced surges during filter flushing, which might lead to radioactive contamination of TLWTF sludge.

**Technical memorandum on Well 9 and radium**

Tharnish introduced the fact that Steven Farbaugh, PE of Forsgren Associates, wrote a draft technical memo for the town explaining Forsgren’s recommendations on options for addressing radium levels in Well 9 for the Town of Monument. Recent testing has shown increased concentrations of radium that are above Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) limits, and has prompted the town to issue a notice of violation to its citizens. See www.ocn.me/v16n9.htm#water and related Oct. 3 Monument Board of Trustees article on page 1.

No formal presentation of the contents of the Oct. 11 technical memo was made, but excerpts include:

- **Radium concentrations in the water from Well 9 have been detected for many years; until recently these concentrations were within the limits of the Safe Drinking Water Standards (SDWS) set by the EPA.**
- **Recent testing has shown increased concentrations of radium-226 and radium-228 at over 7 picocuries per liter (pCi/L) combined.**

The memo outlined four options for the town to consider:

1. **Blend Wells 3 and 9 finished water with Well 8 finished water. Dilution would help, but it would not result in a final radium concentration below the level set by the EPA, it may impact distribution pressure zones, and it may leave radium in the backwash filters that would need to be disposed of at an authorized site. Could cost $500,000.**

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2. **Filtration.** This technique “adsorbs” the radium into humic solids, which are then backwashed out of filters, so a large portion of the low-level radioactive radium would end up either in the biosolids or in the effluent from the Tri-Lakes Wastewater Treatment Facility, which might lead to radioactive contamination of TLWTF sludge due to the higher concentrations of radium in the backwash water. Could cost $146,000 plus an annual $9,000 O&M.

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proved a resolution to allow the town to apply for a grant application from Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) to help pay for a proposed $550,000 project at Limbach Park. Tharnish said the town would find out in April if it earned the $350,000 grant to help build a water “splash pad” play-ground and other amenities.

Checks over $5,000

• Triview Metropolitan District, August sales tax, September Regional Building use tax − $229,441
• Tri-Lakes Chamber of Commerce, fourth-quarter support − $5,000
• CIRSA Insurance, fourth-quarter liability − $23,669
• Forsgren Associates, water master plan amendment per BOT instructions − $9,550
• Forsgren Associates, Well 9 treatment for radium − $11,460
• Schmidt Construction Co., asphalt work − $146,127

By James Howald

In October, the Palmer Lake Town Council met only once, on Oct. 13; the meeting scheduled for Oct. 27 was cancelled due to lack of agenda items.

The board heard comments from the public on the proposed budget for 2017, approved two requests for lot subdivisions, and considered appointments to the Board of Adjustments.

The meeting was led by Mayor Pro Tem Rich Kuehster. Proposed ballot initiatives will affect budget

Nikki McDonald, who previously served as the town’s mayor, spoke in support of several initiatives that will be on the ballot in November, arguing that they would potentially improve the town’s finances. McDonald said the proposed continuation of the 1 percent sales tax for public and safety could provide $90,000 of revenue to the town.

The proposed excise tax on wholesale marijuana sales would also boost revenue, according to McDonald. McDonald pointed out that the TABOR measure would allow the town to keep tax revenue it is already collecting, and could aid the town in benefiting from grants provided by state agencies.

The proposed initiative also could lower the costs of elections by requiring fewer questions to be put to the voters. McDonald also said the initiative allowing the town to publish only the titles, rather than the complete texts, of proposed ordinances would be a money-saver.

Brenda Woodward, owner of Premier Organics LLC, spoke against the proposed initiative to tax wholesale marijuana sales. Woodward said the initiative would generate less revenue than expected, and would drive jobs out of the community. She also pointed out that it would be fairer to increase taxes on the wide range of businesses that don’t generate tax revenue than to exempt marijuana businesses to be subject to more taxes. Woodward cited real estate agents, veterinarians, and auto repair shops as examples of businesses that don’t contribute tax revenues to the town.

Subdivisions approved

The board voted to approve conditionally the subdivision of the lot where the new facility for Fincinelli Motors is being built, subject to the builder, Kurt Ehrhardt, providing more detail about layout of parking spaces.

The board voted to approve the subdivision of 52 Walnut Street into two lots.

Havenar appointed to Board of Adjustments

The board voted to appoint Trustee Giant Havenar to the Board of Adjustments, which needs to have one member to represent the Town Council. Previously, Havenar had a seat on the Planning Commission, from which she has withdrawn.

The two meetings for November will be at 6:30 p.m. on Nov. 10 and Nov. 24, at Town Hall, 42 Valley Crescent. Meetings are normally held on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month. Information: 481-2953.

James Howald can be reached at jhowald@ocn.me.
The Oct. 11 meeting of the members of the Tri-Lakes Wastewater Treatment Facility (TLWWTF) Joint Use Committee (JUC) included information about the continuing struggle to meet changing permit limits and questions about how treatment of radium in Monument’s water could affect the facility.

TLWWTF operates as a separate joint venture public utility and is owned in equal one-third shares by Monument Sanitation District (MSD), Palmer Lake Sanitation District (PLSD), and Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District (WWSD).

The three-member JUC acts as the board of the facility and consists of one director from each of the three owner districts’ boards: MSD board Director at Large Rich Strom, president; MSD board Chairman Ed Delaney, vice president; and PLSD board and JUC Secretary/Treasurer Ken Smith. Other board and staff members of the three owner districts also attended, including MSD District Manager Mike Wicklund, PLSD District Manager Becky Orcutt, and WWSD District Manager Jesse Shafer.

Governmental regulations are a moving target

MSD Environmental Compliance Coordinator Jim Kendrick summarized the results of several governmental regulatory meetings around the state.

Kendrick’s summary of the Sept. 19 Water Quality Forum stated that the state continues to set unnecessary and unattainable permit levels on water temperature and nutrient levels for discharger permit holders. And the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was not taking action to correct the situation.

For example, the EPA took no action on Reg. 31.17 TP or total nitrogen (TN) interim values that they did not agree with and could not scientifically defend but will still be enforced in 2022 when Reg. 31, The Basic Standards and Methodologies for Surface Water, takes effect.

Another example was that state Water Quality Control Division Project Engineer Jon Erickson said due to budget constraints, he was not able to provide detailed cost estimates for various technologies available in the future that dischargers might need to meet standard levels that have not yet been set. Kendrick quoted Erickson as saying, “Every facility will have to do their own studies and make their own decision on what discharger specific variances to ask for and what technologies they will choose. We did not get very far on this in our study.”

However, the deadlines for the new temperature and nutrient limits are getting closer every day.

Relation of the Town of Monument’s drinking water radium to TLWWTF

Wicklund said that the above confusing answers from state and federal officials on future regulations, which make it so difficult for discharge permit holders to plan for funding and make technology decisions, were another reason to work toward developing water reuse systems, with a goal of “zero discharge” of effluent back to the creek and more efficient use of water.

However, he brought up the fact that the town of Monument’s public works water system west of I-25 now has two wells containing Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material (NORM) in the form of radium (Well 9, and Well 6 that has been shut down, in the mobile home park). See two related Monument Board of Trustees articles on page 1 and 6.

He said that representatives from Forsgren Associates, the town’s consulting engineers who are helping the town make plans to remove radium from the drinking water, have called him twice asking permission to discharge into the MSD.
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hearing at the upcoming Nov. 8 meeting that would be posted on the district website about a week prior to the meeting.

Triview, on the east side of I-25, includes two-thirds of the population of Monument and is still growing at a rapid rate. Triview was created as one of the first Colorado Title 32 developer special metropolitan districts within the Regency Park development. Regency Park was annexed into the town in 1987. Triview provides roads, parks, and drainage maintenance, as well as water and sanitation utility services, to the residents of Jackson Creek, Promontory Pointe, and Sanctuary Pointe. Triview’s water system is wholly independent of Monument’s Public Works water system located on the west side of I-25. The Town of Monument provides land use planning, police, and general government for the district’s property owners.

Financial overview of district and 2017 draft budget
Treasurer Marco Fiorito presented a “30,000-foot view” of the district’s finances, based on the 2015 audit, as a precursor to deliberating on the 2017 budget. Bolander invited the public to ask questions during the presentation. Fiorito’s comments included:

• District valuation is $56 million in capital assets, infrastructure, water rights, etc.

• Triview has $53 million in total liabilities. This is mostly debt and accrued interest from late 1980s and early 1990s from what the audit called the “inactive period” when 12 percent interest was accruing but the district didn’t do anything about it.

• Due to recent refinancing, Triview now pays about $4.2 million in debt service each year at 2 percent interest.

• The 2015 audit said that the district’s financial situation has improved a lot in the last two years.

• Nine individuals plus the board support 4,200 residents.

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• Donala Water & Sanitation, UMCRWWTF quarterly report − $26,620

• Monson, Cummins & Shohet LLC, water attorney, August and September − $16,800

• Northgate Co., second of three annual payments for water rights − $481,500

• Donala Water & Sanitation, UMCRWWT quarterly − $102,201

• Terracon Consultants Inc., roads study − $45,300

Tap fees discussion coming soon
Melville presented a first draft of a proposed new multi-year increase in tap fees for brand new residential and commercial development. This fee is paid by new homes and business construction to get connected to Triview’s water and sanitation infrastructure.

Water connection with Monument?
Regarding the possibility of building an emergency water interconnection with the Town of Monument, Remington said she had called Monument Public Works Director Tom Tharnish and the town’s engineer but had not heard back from either of them as of Oct. 13.

However, she said, after she read one account of the Oct. 3 Monument Board of Trustees meeting in the Oct. 12 Tri-Lakes Tribune, she interpreted it as a “no” from Monument about wanting to build a water interconnection.

Note: To read OCN’s summary of that same controversial meeting, see related Oct. 3 Monument Board of Trustees meeting article on page 1. Or listen to the recording at http://monumenttwnco.minutesondemand.com/.

More decisions made
The following items, each with its own discussion, were unanimously approved by the directors:

• Utility billing contract with AmCoBi (American Conservation & Billing Solutions Inc.) starting Jan. 1, pending legal review. Remington said Triview Billing Manager Joyce Levad will be managing this contract.

• Final version of the intergovernmental agreement with Donala Water and Sanitation District regarding the emergency water interconnection between the two districts and how and when it could be used and metered in the future.

• Month-to-month contract with The Hudson Firm for social media services including Facebook and Twitter accounts and a customer e-mail platform, a complete customer emergency distribution list, website redevelopment, customer outreach, NextDoor.com, and regular updating all social media.

At 7:42 p.m., the meeting went into executive session for conferring with the district’s attorney regarding legal advice on specific questions and personnel matters. Remington told OCN after the meeting that no votes or announcements were made after the board came out of executive session.

**********

The next Triview meeting will be held Nov. 8 at 5 p.m.
By James Howald

The Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District (WWSD) board met on Oct. 20 to plan public hearings, to consider a request for supplemental water service, to hear comments from residents, and to hear operational reports. Typically, the board meets on the second Thursday of each month, but in October the meeting was held a week later. In November, the board will meet on Nov. 17, again departing from its regular schedule.

Customer comments sought on rates and budget

The board voted unanimously to have a public hearing to present the 2017 budget to district customers, and give them a chance to comment. The hearing on the budget will be part of the board meeting to be held Nov. 17. Details will be posted on the district’s web page (www.woodmoorwater.com).

Mines Shopping Center requests supplemental water

Greg Nagel, owner of the Mines Shopping Center, asked the board to approve supplemental water service to the property. The water was necessary to support the expansion of the Pikes Peak Brewing Co., Nagel said.

The board voted unanimously to approve Nagel’s request.

Resident questions service to new residential developments

Darryl Beckmann, a district customer, asked the board to explain why, since water is a limited resource, the board allows new residential developments to use sod in their landscaping efforts. Using the new residential development at Highway 105 and Knollwood as an example, Beckmann said he found the “optics” of sod along Highway 105 troubling, especially in light of the district’s rate increases in recent years.

Board President Jim Taylor explained that the board does not have any oversight authority concerning land use and planning issues, and can’t control the actions of developers. If the district has water available, it must provide it to developers whose projects have been approved by the municipal and county departments that have that authority, Taylor said.

Interconnect with Monument Water District discussed

District Manager Jessie Shaffer asked the board to consider an interconnect between the WWSD water district and the Monument Water District. The interconnect would be used in emergency situations only, and would allow the two districts to exchange water as needed, according to Shaffer.

District Treasurer Jim Wyss said the needs of the district’s customers would be the first priority for the board but that the district should also be a good neighbor to the rest of the community.

The board decided to investigate the interconnect over the next couple months.

Thank you to OCN volunteer Audrey Burkart for her contributions to this article. Lisa Hatfield can be contacted at lisahatfield@ocn.me.

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On West Fillmore across from Coronado High School
First draft of 2017 budget includes water rate increase

By Jim Kendrick

On Oct. 20, Donala Water and Sanitation District General Manager Kip Petersen presented the first draft of the 2017 Donala budget to the board, which included a Jan. 1 water rate increase of 4 percent that is estimated to increase water revenue by $108,000 and a $1 per month increase in the sewer charge that is estimated to increase water revenue by $33,276. These increases are intended to help the district’s operating and maintenance costs as has been done in the past.

Director Bob Denny responded that this practice is “recommended and traditional.” Director Ken Judd said this is a “best practice.” President Dave Powell noted that property tax is now being used to buy additional renewable water rights and putting in new pipelines.

Petersen added that the district’s property tax revenue, about $1.6 million per year, is now being used to replace older pipes that have been in the ground for 50 years or more and that he plans to replace 10 percent of these pipes per year over the next decade. Office Manager Betsy Bray stated that Donala will no longer be receiving significant tap fee revenues as the district nears buildout and the board has adopted the policy of working toward funding operations and maintenance entirely with service fees five years ago.

Financial reports

Petersen noted that Donala’s budget items remain in line with the 2016 budget through the first three quarters. Summer water sales had increased due to irrigation during the recent dry spell. He expects to complete more capital projects in the fourth quarter that will be financed with a low-interest state loan. There will also be some capital projects completed in the fourth quarter at the Upper Monument Creek Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility (UMCRW- WTF), which Donala operates for itself and the two co-owners, Triview and Forest Lakes Metropolitan Districts.

Of note was a brief discussion of how to build new water tanks or rebuild existing tanks if the board decides to begin reuse of its treated effluent from UMCRW-WTF, which would require a new separate potable reuse water treatment plant and distribution piping for this reuse water supply. No decisions were made on this option.

Petersen stated that the Triview board had provided a full single-payment reimbursement of $151,943 for the emergency water Donala supplied July 4-9. (See ocn.me/v16n9.htm#dwsd0721 and ocn.me/v16n8.htm#dwsd0720 and ocn.me/water Donala supplied July 4-9. (See ocn. water Donala supplied July 4-9. (See ocn.)

No decisions were made on this option.

Petersen said the Latrobe-Holbein water-ter tank connection line construction project was proceeding on schedule. All concerns from Donala customers neighboring the construction have been addressed in a timely and satisfactory manner to date. The contractor estimates that the project will be completed in November.

The board unanimously approved the final draft of the proposed counter offer from the Gray Family Trust for purchase of the Laughlin Ditch Water Right of 324 acre-feet per year that was presented to the board by the trust’s water broker Gary Barber at a special district board meeting on Oct. 5. The purchase price for this “firm water right” was $3.8 million. This reusable ditch surface water could be reused to extinction, adding another potential 162 acre-feet of annual use, 486 acre-feet in all. The trust also offered to provide seller financing for Donala’s purchase.


Petersen stated that Yocam Construction LLC had completed rebuilding the Monument Creek streambank reinforcements next to UMCRW-WTF, and the secondary access road to the facility that goes under the adjacent railroad track trestle, before the Sept. 30 deadline for winter hibernation noise restrictions for the adjacent Pueblo’s meadow jumping mouse habitat imposed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The streambank and road were damaged by a stormwater event earlier this year. Future flood waters will flow over the reinforced banks, along the new roadway, and back into the channel.

Petersen also reported that El Paso County will not repair the adjacent portion of its Santa Fe Trail in 2016, but plans to perform this work in 2017. He noted that the county’s repairs are critical to prevent overtopping the trail and a recurrence of the damage to the double culverts under the trail that Yocam just repaired.

Operations report

Petersen said the district’s Holbein and R. Hull water treatment plants would be shut down in turn for annual cleaning and rehabilitation.

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There will be no regular board meeting in November due to the board’s traditional annual long-range planning workshop with the district’s engineering and legal consultants, which will be held on Nov. 17 at 9 a.m.

The next regular board meeting will include the final 2017 budget hearing and will be held at 1:30 p.m. on Dec. 8, in the district conference room at 15850 Holbein Drive. Information: 488-3603 or www.donalawater.org.

Jim Kendrick can be reached at jinkendrick@ocn.me.
By Lisa Hatfield and Kate Pangelinan

The City of Colorado Springs annexed Flying Horse Ranch on Oct. 14, 2003 without opposition by Donald Wescott Fire Protection District’s (DWFPD) and had also annexed the land making up the southern half of DWFPD’s current property-tax-paying service area many years ago. Now the district is working on a new 2017 budget that looks ahead to drastically reduced tax revenue in 2018 and beyond as those properties are de-included from DWFPD in two phases over the next two years.

By November 2017, district property owners will likely be asked to vote on a mill levy ballot measure to determine what level of service will be offered to the north remainder of the district in the long term. Note: The southern half will be served by the new Colorado Springs Fire Department Station 22 on Voyager Parkway.

Now, Colorado Springs has been annexing territory from DWFPD since before 2003. See www.ocn.me/v3n10.htm#dwfpd

**First draft of 2017 budget**

The Sept. 20 DWFPD Board of Directors meeting included a first glimpse of the 2017 budget. Chief Vinny Burns indicated that the district was endeavoring to save money compared to the budget for 2016, including notable projected cuts from the Total Firefighting Operations and Administration line items.

During public comments on Sept 20, a civilian asked about how the de-annexation negotiations between the fire district and the city’s lawyers progressed, but Burns said there was nothing new to report. See www.ocn.me/v1n6.htm#dwfpd-062

“Orderly exclusion” options discussed in executive session

On Sept. 20, the board went into executive session at 7:37 p.m. for “Determining positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations; developing strategy for negotiations; and instructing negotiations.” It was related to current negotiations with Colorado Springs concerning the “orderly exclusion” of the southern half of Wescott’s service area that lies within Colorado Springs.

The meeting came back into open session and adjourned around 11 p.m. Executive Administrator Stacey Popovich told OCN that no announcements were made after the executive session and that the board planned to schedule another executive session soon to finish the discussion.

Preparing to sign the IGA excluding property from district service area

On Sept. 27, the directors continued the executive session. When they returned to open session at about 7:15 p.m., they voted unanimously to approve Resolution 16-9, saying that would signify the intergovernmental agreement (IGA) with the City of Colorado Springs when that document is finalized by the attorneys.

Chairman Greg Gent said the IGA would cover the exclusion of certain property from the DWFPD service area and the filing of petitions for exclusion of such property.

Evaluating voters on decisions for the future

Residents attending the Oct. 18 meeting asked for clarification on where the district posts its public meeting notices. Popovich said they are posted on the district website, on the news board in front of station on Gleneagle Drive, and submitted to El Paso County.

Then directors and staff answered questions from Gleenage Civic Association representative William Lowes (a past president of DWFPD) and Gleneagle North Homeowners Association President Bill Filion on what Resolution 16-9 meant for the future of the district.

Burns said that the Colorado Springs City Council approved the IGA unanimous. Yet the next step was for a judge to approve it. The IGA would cover the exclusion of DWFPD between Interquest Parkway and Northgate Boulevard. The overall effect will be to reduce the size of DWFPD by half of its current 22 square miles and reduce its total revenue by 66 percent. The timeline:

- In 2017 DWFPD will still receive 100 percent of previously projected revenue that was generated in 2016 by property taxes.
- Jan. 1, 2017: exclusion of Phase One Property, from Interquest Parkway north to the proposed location of the Powers Boulevard extension with I-25 (north of The Classical Academy).
- In 2018, DWFPD will receive property tax revenue generated in 2017, which will amount to half of recent “normal” revenue.
- Jan. 1, 2018: exclusion of Phase Two Property, extending the rest of the way up to Northgate Boulevard.

By Lisa Hatfield

Oct. 26, as they had done at their Sept. 28 meeting, the directors of the Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District (TLMFPD) discussed the 2017 budget and how to improve the district’s hiring process to avoid this year’s challenges and resolve vacancies.

Fire Chief Chris Truty has proposed a 6 percent pay raise to move TLMFPD closer to the average wage for comparable districts. The directors also tossed around some ideas for long-term plans regarding a permanent location for the TLMFPD administrative offices, which are now in a leased space outside of the district, and possibly combining them with a new fire station.

The next TLMFPD meeting will include a public bud-
District Accountability Advisory Committee, Oct. 11

Committee sets calendar, discusses charge and teacher evaluations

By Harriet Halbig

The Lewis-Palmer D-38 District Accountability Advisory Committee (DAAC) discussed the calendar for its meetings, the committee charge, and the teacher evaluation process at its Oct. 11 meeting.

Meeting schedule

The committee will meet three more times in the 2016-17 school year. It will meet in January, February, and April at various locations. The February meeting will move from Feb. 14 to Feb. 7 to avoid conflict with Valentine’s Day. During other months, the co-chairmen of the committee and members of the district administration will meet with various building committees to discuss unified improvement plans before their approval at the April meeting.

The committee consists of two co-chairs, a board liaison, an administration liaison, and representatives of parents and teachers from each district school.

Those attending were reminded that although the meetings are held in public they are not public meetings and only members have a vote.

Committee charge

The charge for the committee had its first reading at the Sept. 1 meeting of the district Board of Education.

Elements of the charge include:

- Facilitate communication among district committees and the board by providing a forum for reports from the Special Education Advisory Council and Gifted Education Leadership Team.
- Generate or participate on task forces created to pursue student learning ends related to the district’s strategic vision.
- Facilitate accreditation of schools by monitoring schools via Unified Improvement Plans.
- Assist the board in community engagement through educating the community on public policy issues, participating in Education Summits with the board, and reviewing and providing input to the board concerning feasibility of charter applications.
- Consult with the board as to the fairness, effectiveness, and professional quality of the licensed personnel performance evaluation system.
- Advise the board regarding budget priorities.

The committee engaged in a lengthy discussion of the charge. Several members said that they wished to learn about the details of the teacher evaluation and budgeting processes and would be better able to take action on these measures knowing that they were well informed.

The committee voted to create a hearing.

Note: The meeting date has changed to Tuesday, Nov. 15.

Truty also said recent team-building discussions and interviews with Peak Leadership and the four TLMFPD chief officers have helped him see some things he is doing that have contributed to lack of leadership, or faith, or trust, and it was very eye-opening to him. He said these discussions next week will include all the staff. See www.ocn.me/v/16n8.htm/tmlmpd.

The meeting went into executive session at 8:10 p.m. to confer with employment counsel for the district to answer specific legal questions and provide legal advice on an employment matter.

This was despite the fact that the Chicago Cubs were playing in Game Two of the World Series at that time! No announcements or votes were made after the executive session, said Office Administrator Jennifer Martin.

Meetings are usually held the fourth Wednesday of each month.

However, the next meeting is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 15 in the Monument Town Hall at 645 Beacon Lite Road. For information, contact Jennifer Martin at 719-484-0911 or see www.ocnfire.org. Lisa Hatfield can be reached at lisaahatfield@ocn.me.
The Board of Education liaison report
Board Liaison John Magerko said that the district Board of Education is continuing to send representatives to various district committees, including DACAC and the Special Education Advisory Council. Board representatives also are participating in long-term planning meetings with the Town of Monument.

Magurko urged all members to read their state blue book and vote in the November election.

Superintendent update
Brofft reported that it is critical to maintain focus on the welfare of the kids in the district. This goal is served by ensuring post-secondary preparedness whether in college or in the workforce. This is supported by offering a gifted/talented program, response to intervention (RtI) for those who need extra help, the Transitions program for those who need support through age 21, the Area Vocational Program, concurrent enrollment enabling college credit during high school, the Homeschool Enrichment Academy, and Options 38. Also, the arts have been added to the STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) program because creativity is an important aspect of 21st-century learning.

Brofft reported that the long-term planning process is in process because the area is growing and district facilities are aging. There must be constant monitoring of the efficient use of facilities and demographics of the district.

Safety and security in the district is a continuing subject of study, and Brofft reported that D38 is one of a few districts that does not have a director of security with the specialized knowledge to monitor the issue. The job has been posted.

Brofft also touched on funding and the fact that the district is funded at 12.1 percent lower than state law requires. Adjoining states have a higher pupil funding rate than Colorado, and this could make our students less competitive on the market.

This lack of funding makes partnerships with such organizations as Kiwanis and the Tri-Lakes Women’s Club critical, as well as seeking grants from other entities.

The District Accountability Advisory Committee meets five times a year at various locations. The next meeting will be at 7 p.m. Jan. 10 at Monument Academy, 1150 Village Ridge Point, Monument.

Harriet Halbig may be reached at harriethalbig@ocn.me.

Mississippi: Superintendent Karen Brofft commented that, since the committee also exists under a state charter, it was not critical for the board to vote on the charge at its Oct. 20 meeting.

Teacher evaluation discussion
Director of Personnel and Student Services Bob Foster updated the committee on the application of Senate Bill 191 and its impact on teacher evaluation.

Foster said that all teachers are now evaluated annually and that student growth is still 50 percent of a teacher’s score. He explained the evaluation process as continuing through orientation at the beginning of the year, followed by self-assessment by the teachers, a review of goals, observation, midyear review, and final assessment.

Foster reminded the committee that many employees could not be evaluated on the basis of state tests. These include media specialists, instructional coaches, teachers on special assignment, and teachers in such fields as art, music, world language, and physical education and special education specialists. Assessment standards for some of these individuals have been developed by the staff.

Among the developments expected this year are a new data management system.

Board of Education liaison report
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By Jackie Burhans
The Monument Academy (MA) School Board met on Oct. 13 to hear about revenue adjustments and corrections to PARCC tests and to approve salary increases. Board members Julie Galusky and Andy Gifford were absent.

Treasurer reports one-time income adjustment
Treasurer Patrick Hall said that the treasury report was the best seen in some time with a deposit of nearly $80,000 as a result of the reconciliation of District 38 purchased services for the last fiscal year, a per pupil revenue (PPR) catch-up amount of about $50,000 for July and August, and a $5,500 credit for Exceptional Student Services purchased services. The total income for September was about $163,000, of which $144,797 was a one-time adjustment due to the contract negotiation.

Mis-coded tests corrected; salaries increased
By Jackie Burhans
The Monument Academy School Board, Oct. 13

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presents an increase for 70 percent of teachers. Those not recommended for an adjustment are the newest teachers. There was a similar adjustment for certain members of administration. Most administrators work 210-240 days, compared to teachers who work 180 days, so a daily rate was used to calculate salary recommendations for 10 staff. Board President Sonya Camarco noted that this meant MA would have competitive salaries compared with other charter schools for the first time.

Other board highlights:
• MA has an approved inductee program for teachers who hold an initial teaching license and are in the process of transferring it to a professional license, which can save teachers $3,000 to $5,000.
• Director Don Griffin reported attending a meeting of the School Coalition for Excellence to hear about upcoming legislation in Denver.
• The board unanimously approved the School Accountability Advisory Committee plan to survey teachers at the beginning of the year in October and at the end of the year in February, presenting reports in January and May.

The next meeting will be on Thursday, Nov. 10 at the Monument Academy library at 1150 Village Ridge Point. The Monument Academy usually meets at 6 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month. Information on the MA School Board, including schedule, minutes, committees, and finances can be found at http://www.monumentacademy.net/school-board.

Jackie Burhans can be reached at jackieburhans@ocn.me.

Lewist-Palmer D-38 Board of Education, Oct. 11

Board approves boilers for Palmer Ridge, receives grants from Kiwanis

Above: Representatatives of Monument Hill Kiwanis Foundation present a check for $17,840 to fund eight projects in the district. With them are recipients of the funding. Photo by Harriet Halbig.

By Harriet Halbig

The Lewis-Palmer District 38 Board of Education approved the purchase of two boilers for Palmer Ridge High School and received grants for eight projects from Monument Hill Kiwanis Foundation at its Oct. 11 meeting.

Palmer Ridge boiler discussion

Assistant Superintendent Cheryl Wangeman explained the problems with the geothermal system at Palmer Ridge High School and proposed solutions.

When the school was constructed in 2008, this was the largest geothermal field in the state. The primary problem currently is leaks. Although several companies were involved with reviewing the system before use, it was later discovered that there were no air bleeders or strainers in the system and the valves were inadequate.

Consequently, in addition to leaks there was gravel and sand in the water. In response, bleeders were added to remove excess air and strainers were added to remove rocks and gravel. Valves were added to make it possible to close off parts of the system when necessary.

During last summer, Major Geo-Thermal and ME Engineering were hired to locate the source of the leak and purge the sand and gravel. As of September an additional leak was found. Although circulation was improved, there are now pieces of piping in the materials coming from the field, indicating failure due to installation deficiencies.

If all deficient areas were capped, it would remove 20 percent from the field. This would make it difficult to keep the building warm in the coming cold months.

The district has notified its insurance carrier and Sanders Construction Co. and is waiting for more information. Experts from Major Geo-Thermal and ME Engineer-

ing recommended the purchase of two boilers to add to the system. The boilers would only be used on an as-needed basis.

Estimated cost would be $130,000 for the boilers, $15,000 for the engineering, and $5,000 for the piping. Wangeman recommended the use of ME Engineering for the installation and that the proposal be approved immediately.

In the discussion that followed, it was determined that a factor in the failure of parts of the system was that it was installed during a very cold winter and this could have affected the welding joints.

Board Secretary Matthew Clawson asked whether this is a permanent back-up plan and whether the district’s insurance carrier had been notified. He also asked whether there might be a less expensive solution. Wangeman responded that this was the most adequate solution, as it could carry 65 percent of the total load.

Wangeman also pointed out that the cost of gas for heating and cooling Lewis-Palmer High School is $8,000 per year when the cost for Palmer Ridge is $5,800. It is likely that the boilers will only be on when the temperature falls below zero outside.

Director Sarah Sampayo asked whether there is glycol in the wells and whether it will affect the groundwater nearby. The engineers concluded that there is glycol and it may be going out into the area but it is food-grade glycol.

Sampayo asked whether the district had applied for reimbursement for the faulty system. Wangeman responded that the company that installed the system and the bonders are on notification.

Wangeman also said that the budget each year includes $150,000 for use in such emergencies.

Board President Mark Pfoff recommended that the issue be passed, as the savings in the cost of heating and cooling over the years far exceeds the cost of the repair.

The issue passed unanimously.

Monument Hill Kiwanis makes grants to district

Ted Bauman, executive director of the Monument Hill Kiwanis Foundation, said that the organization had granted the district $17,840 to fund eight grants requested by the district.

These included adaptive PE, the district’s Deaf and Hearing program, Bearbatics at Palmer Ridge, scholarships to attend Boys and Girls State, career starter scholarships for Options 38, a sound system for the Lewis-Palmer High School Theatre, STEM programs for Bear Creek Elementary, and the Colorado Preschool Project.

The check was presented by Dennis Beasley, the granting presenter from the organization.

Teacher demonstration of learning

Tyler Dall, teacher of the Principles of Engineering Class at Palmer Ridge, explained how his class is structured and brought three students to explain their projects.

The concept of the class is to use projects that are open-ended, with few rules other than those involving safety. The students explain that they are assigned to build devices that serve a specific purpose, and the de-

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terrific design and on-target messaging.”
— Brad Rhodes, Rhodesco

By Jim Kendrick and Lisa Hatfield
On Oct. 21, Senior Assistant County Attorney Lori Seago, a
member of El Paso County’s Baptist Road Rural Transporta-
tion Authority (BRRTA) transi-
tional shutdown staff, told the
BRRTA Board of Directors that
“we should be able to dissolve
BRRTA, possibly by the end of
the year, rather than continuing
on for a two- or three-year period
for purposes of liability.”

This advice is different than
what she told the board at the pre-
vious Sept. 16 BRRTA meeting.
It now appears that the county’s
liability insurance carrier would
honorable its BRRTA liability insur-
ance coverage through the end
of the current annual policy in
August 2017 to cover potential
claims or lawsuits after BRRTA
dissolves, since it has been so
long since BRRTA’s last con-
struction has been completed.
(See http://www.ocn.me/v16n10.
htm#brarta)

On the recommendation of
Elaine Johansen, EPC Funding
Optimization manager and dis-
trict manager for BRRTA, the
board unanimously approved an
audit engagement letter from
Biggs-Kofford CPA for the 2016
BRRTA audit at a cost ranging
from $7,875 to $8,925. Biggs-
Kofford charged $8,500 for the
2015 BRRTA audit.

New IGA approved
Based on Seago’s recommenda-
tion, the board unanimously
approved a new Resolu-
tion and Amended and Restated
Intergovernmental Agreement
(IGA) between BRRTA and El
Paso County. The new IGA re-
places the original 2015 transi-
tional IGA between BRRTA and
the county.

The new IGA states that all
BRRTA funds it holds as of Dec.
31 will be transferred to a coun-
try restricted BRRTA road and
bridge account to be used only for
the following purposes and only
within the BRRTA Road Corridor:

1. Administrative costs includ-
ing but not limited to the
2016 BRRTA audit
2. Design, engineering, and
construction of
3. Concrete sidewalks and me-
diaries
4. A cul-de-sac at the west end of
the BRRTA frontage road
that runs west from Leather
Chaps Road on the south
side of Baptist Road or
5. Ongoing county maintenance
of the Baptist Road Corridor

Note: The total amount of
remaining BRRTA funds that will
go in BRRTA’s road and bridge
decision on Dec. 31 is about $1.3
million.

The new IGA also states:
6. Any future BRRTA funds,
including any funds left in
BRRTA’s $25,000 sale tax
reserve, on or after Jan. 1,
2017 will be deposited in the
county’s general fund.
7. The county agrees that until
BRRTA is dissolved, vari-
ous members of the county
staff will be available, at
no cost to BRRTA, to assist
with the legal, administra-
tive, and financial duties and
functions of the authority.
8. Lists the specific legal, ad-
ministrative, and financial
services that county staff
will perform after BRRTA
is dissolved.
9. Lists specific BRRTA re-
sponsibilities that the county
will assume after Dec. 31.
10. The county staff will pro-
vide an annual report on its
management and oversight
of BRRTA’s assets and re-
spnsibilities annually to the
El Paso Board of County
Commissioners (BOCC) at a
public meeting and provide
advance notice to the Town
of Monument of the date for
these annual meetings.

Seago stated that BRRTA’s fi-
ned 2016 budget will be pre-
ented at the next regular BRRTA
board meeting, in De-
ember, along with a draft joint
Memorandum of Understanding
and BOCC resolution to dissolve
BRRTA.

The meeting was adjourned at
3:06 p.m.

After this meeting, the BOCC
scheduled a hearing for approval
of the new resolution, new IGA,
and the special warranty deed
on Nov. 3, after COEN went to press
for this edition.

The next regular BRRTA
board meeting is scheduled to be
held on Dec. 2 or Dec. 9 at 2:30
p.m. in the Academy Conference
Room of the county’s Citizen
Service Center, 1675 W. Garden
of the Gods Road, rather than
Nov. 1, as previously planned.
Information: 520-5547 or
520-6386.

Jim Kendrick can be reached at
jimkendrick@ocn.me.
**Mark Smith retires after 20 years with Woodmoor Public Safety**

By Jackie Burbans

The Woodmoor Improvement Association (WIA) board, which met on Oct. 26, celebrated the retirement of Woodmoor Public Safety (WPS) officer Mark Smith. Smith joined WPS in 1996 and retired from the Army after 20 years of service.

Smith worked in private security in Colorado Springs and later served as a security guard. He then attended and graduated from the Pikes Peak Regional Law Enforcement Academy with honors. WPS chief Kevin Nielsen noted that Smith spent his entire 20 years working a graveyard shift and once called the Sheriff’s Office to report a suspicious minivan that turned out to be related to 54 burglaries in the area. WIA President Eric Stensland noted that Smith is the first officer to retire from WPS, and his tenure represents an invaluable service.

In other reports, the board also noted they have board elections coming up with three open positions. The board encouraged residents to come to the Architectural Control Committee for guidance before they start projects to avoid spending a lot of money having to redo work.

The WIA Board of Directors usually meets at 7 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday of each month in the Barn at 1691 Woodmoor Drive, Monument. The next meeting will be on Nov. 29. The next meeting will be on Nov. 29. The meeting minutes can be found at: https://www.woodmoor.org/wia-calendar/. WIA board meeting minutes can be found at: [https://www.woodmoor.org/wia-calendar/](https://www.woodmoor.org/wia-calendar/). WIA board meeting minutes can be found at: [https://www.woodmoor.org/wia-calendar/](https://www.woodmoor.org/wia-calendar/). WIA board meeting minutes can be found at: [https://www.woodmoor.org/wia-calendar/](https://www.woodmoor.org/wia-calendar/).

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**October Weather Wrap**

By Bill Kappel

October followed the same general pattern as September, with temperatures well above normal and precipitation below normal. Normally, we have several nights with low temperatures in the teens and at least a few days of accumulating snowfall. Not this year. Low to mid-20s was the best we could do for cold air, and only a few days of snowflakes, which didn’t accumulate. Instead, most days were mild and dry, with many days reaching well into the 70s. However, we note that this is also the same pattern we saw last year, when September and October 2015 were much drier and warmer than normal. Of course, we made up for it in a hurry last year, with a big snowstorm during the middle of November and well above normal seasonal snowfall overall. It’s important to remember because of our location (high elevation, interior of the continent, etc.), we are rarely blessed with “normal” conditions. We are most often at one extreme or another (hot cold, warm dry). So enjoy the dry and mild weather while it lasts, because it won’t last much longer.

The first three days of October were mild with low 70s from the 1st through the 3rd. A change in the pattern moved in from the 4th through the 7th, as temperatures dipped normally each day. Highs were in the upper 50s to low 60s on the 5th, then upper 40s on the 6th. As the main trough moved over the area right around sunrise on the 6th, we saw our first snow of the season, with most areas on top of the Palmer Divide picking up a trace to half inch. Of course, this all melted quickly, but the days remained cool and breezy. Temperatures warmed back to normal levels over the next few days with lots of sunshine through the weekend. Also, the cooler air mass and clear skies returned overnight temperatures to consistently fall below freezing, reaching into the mid-20s from the 5th through the 8th.

For the remainder of the month we received no measurable precipitation—very unusual for October. With the exception of four days between Oct. 9th and the 31st, every day was above normal, with some days near record-breaking high territory.

Highs reached into the upper 60s to low 70s from the 9th through the 12th. A weak surge of cooler air and upslope flow made a brief intrusion on the region during the overnight hours of the 11th, leaving behind low clouds, fog, and drizzle all day on the 12th. This also dropped high temperatures by about 30°F between the two days. But this intrusion of cool air was very short-lived, as we quickly jumped back up by the 70s over the next few days. In fact, we hit upper 70s from the 14th through the 16th, nearly 20°F warmer than normal for mid October. Overnight lows were mild as well, as a blanket of high clouds and breazy conditions held low temperatures well into the 40s.

Our next brief intrusion of cooler air came on the 18th. Highs were held to about normal levels, in the low to mid-50s. But of course this felt much cooler because we have previously been so warm. Overnight lows were also chilly, bottoming out in the upper teens during the morning hours of the 20th.

However, this was the last cool air we saw during the month, as highs consistently reached the 60s and 70s all the way through Halloween. There were plenty of high and mid-level clouds moving through at times, and gusty winds as well, but the only precipitation we saw from the 13th through the 31st was a brief rain shower during the early evening of the 25th. Given how cold and snowy it can often be around Halloween, I’m sure most trick-or-treaters were happy to leave the mild and dry conditions.

A look ahead

November is generally dry and cool around the region. We usually get several light snowfalls interspersed with sunny skies. Gusty winds commonly develop on a couple of days as the jet stream becomes more active and more directly affects Colorado. Our first sub-zero morning low temperatures occur during the month as well. High temperatures average in the upper 40s early in the month to low 40s by the end, with overnight lows often dipping into the teens and single digits.

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**Annual Holiday Craft Fair**

**Sat., Nov. 12, 9 am - 3 pm**

Come shop the works of a variety of crafters and home-based businesses! Breakfast and lunch concessions will be available.

**Heartsaver CPR/First Aid Class**

**Sat., Nov. 19, 8 am-4 pm**

Open to everyone; includes CPR/AED for infant, child, and adult; conscious choking; and first aid.

Limited to 24 students. To reserve a spot, send a personal check for $25 (required in advance) to Carley Lehman, 17630 Woodhaven Dr., Colorado Springs, CO 80908. Deadline to receive payment is Mon., Nov. 14. Please include an e-mail address or phone number for confirmation. There will be a 30-minute lunch break. Please bring your own food, as this location is not close to any restaurants. Practicing of skills is required, so please wear comfortable clothing. See [http://tlumc.org for directions to Tri-Lakes United Methodist Church, 20256 Hunting Downs Way (SW of Highway 83 and County Line Road).](http://tlumc.org)

Questions: Call Carley Lehman at (719) 502-3242.
“Regulate Palmer Lake”—more to the story

Recently, local marijuana wholesalers sent mail requesting the citizens of Palmer Lake to vote “yes” for petitioned items 300 and 301 in the November election. Please! Be fore you vote, read this letter.

The petitioners want to open a retail marijuana store in Palmer Lake. Please go to their listed website in the mailer and read what it says in detail. Then please go to the Palm- er Lake Administration building and ask for copies of the petition and for people to submit and read them very carefully. There could be lots of problems in them for our town. For example:

A vote of “yes” for recreational MJ would cause Palmer Lake to be limited to one Recreational retail seller to 2,000 citizens. It also says that the all town MJ-eligible wholesalers as of a certain date would automatically become recreational retailers in Palmer Lake unless our pop- ulation grows over 100. In town Hall how many wholesalers there are in Palmer Lake. This could give one MJ recreational retail store in Palmer Lake a monopoly. Could this mean lawsuits against Palmer Lake from other people who want to open an MJ retail store, too?

In 2014, the Palmer Lake voters declared a morato- rium on any voting on establishment of recreational mari- juana store(s) in Palmer Lake for three years. That vote passed by 710-634. This petition seeks to nullify that vote of the people. If you vote for this petition, you are voting to nullify the vote that we already passed in 2014. The federal government says sales of recreational MJ are illegal. The petitioners say the taxes they pay will help fund our town’s needs. Do we really want a major tax contributor in Palmer Lake to be a seller of drugs that are illegal under federal law? If you pass it, then they could become the only recreational retailer between Manitou Springs and Denver. Think about that. What negative im- pacts can you see for our small town?

The petitioners only have listed one way to protect our children from the increased availability of MJ in our town and that would be to sell the MJ and its products in “childproof containers.” Teenagers are also our children!

The petitioners have no way to control who ends up us- ing the product and the quality falls on the town government and could be very hard and expensive to control.

Bob Musial

A thank you and a clarification

Thank you to Janet Sellers in her October OCY High Al- titude Natural Gardening article for addressing the efforts that have been made toward noxious weeds eradication. I tend to obsess on noxious weeds, sharing bits of informa- tion regarding every plant I see.

In the reservoir trailhead area, knapweed flower head weevils and root weevils cause an exceptional job eradicating knapweed, because they will eat con- sume. They are migrating to other knapweed areas that are calling for their assistance. Knapweed is allopathic, exud- ing a toxic substance which inhibits growth of other sur- rounding plants, spread primarily by seed which is estimated to be viable for five or more years. The larva- stage of the flower head weevil consumes the seeds, there- by diminishing the seed bank. The root weevil weakens the plant by feeding on the roots.

Bouncing bet, Canada thistle, Common tansy, Leafy spurge, and Toad flax, also noxious weeds, are spread by rhizomatous root systems, as well as seed, making them difficult to eradicate. Seeds of Common mulefoot, another Colorado noxious weed, are viable for 100 years. All noxious weeds are non-native plants which pro- duce thousands of seeds, allowing them to aggressively invade and diminish native ecosystems and biodiversity, are harmful or poisonous to humans and animals, and they in- crease wildfire potential as ground and ladder fuels. (Pos- son Ivy is a native plant, therefore it is not a noxious plant)! Thanks to everyone who has joined in this effort to protect our native biodiversity by eradication noxi- ous weeds. Additional information is available from the Colorado Department of Agriculture and Colorado Weed Management Association. The El Paso County guide to Identification and Control of Noxious Weeds is available in limited quantity at the Palmer Lake Post Office, town office, and library. We can be contacted at phloxiousweed- s@ocn.me.

Phyllis Head

Vote on principle

In this election, the fate of the Supreme Court and our en- tire nation hangs in the balance. The unremarkable and innocent, the unborn child’s fate will rest upon this deci- sion. Beginning as early as 24 weeks’ gestation there is vi- ability outside the womb. Despite this fact there are those seeking laws to allow abortion.

Democrat Hillary Clinton supports access to abor- tion and is an outspoken defender of Planned Parenthood, which is the largest provider of abortions in the U.S. and of- fers other health services.

Republican Donald Trump, who in the past was a sup- porter of abortion rights, now says he isn’t, although he’s been somewhat inconsistent in his campaign statements on abortion. Numerous anti-abortion leaders, initially wary of Trump, now support him because of his pledge to nominate Supreme Court justices who are open to cur- tailing abortions and his choice of Mike Pence, a staunch abortion foe, as his running mate. www.yahoo.com/news/ why-matters-abortion-054108979-election.html

On Jan. 22, 1973, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled its historic Roe v. Wade decision making abortion legal in this country.

In June 1969, Norma McCorvey alleged rape, al- though untrue, to obtain a legal abortion but gave birth prior to a case decision. Years later, she wrote a book titled I Am Roe, declaring she was the “Roe” in Roe v. Wade.

“I was sitting in R.O.’s offices when I noticed a fetal develop- ment poster. The progression was so obvious, the eyes were so sweet. It hurt my heart, just looking at them. I ran outside and finally, it dawned on me. ‘Norma,’ I said to myself, ‘They’re right.’ Seeing the picture of that tiny, 10-week-old embryo and I said to myself, ‘That’s a baby!’ I suddenly understood the truth—that’s a baby! Abor- tion—at any point—was wrong,” McCorvey said.

Vote on principles! Pro-life!

Tommy John
and a program about dry ice. Have fun experimenting with blowing foggy bubbles, shooting cloud rings through the air, and adding fizz to apple juice. All ages welcome.

The Lego Build Club will meet on Nov. 10 from 10 to 11:30. We will be in the children’s area this month.

**Teen and Tween programs**

Celebrate National Novel Writing Month with a variety of programs.

A visit from author Annie Dawid will be featured Saturday, Nov. 5 from 2:30 to 4:30. She will read from several openings in her Award-winning novel Beginnings. Registration is required.

The Monument community room is reserved for those who would like to come write alone or with a friend on Saturday, Nov. 12 from 10 to 1, Thursday, Nov. 17 from 2 to 4, Friday, Nov. 25 from 1 to 4 and Wednesday Nov. 30 from 6:30 to 8:30. Everyone ages 15 and up is invited.

The Teen Advisory Board will meet on Friday, Nov. 11 from 4 to 5. Help us plan future events for teens at the Monument Library. Meet us in the study room for snacks and conversation. No registration required.

Having trouble with math? Come to the library each Monday from 3:30 to 7 for free math tutoring with AfterMath. Experienced tutors assist students of all ages and grade levels. No appointment necessary. AfterMath follows the District 38 schedule. If schools are closed, tutoring will not take place. This includes the Monday of Thanksgiving week, Nov. 21.

The Tween Time program on Friday, Nov. 18 from 4 to 5 will offer the community to build and program a robot. We’ll have Mindstorms and Sphere bots. This activity is for tweens ages 9 to 12. Registration is required at 488-2370.

The Teen Arts and Crafts Open Studio will be offered on Wednesday, Nov. 30 from 4 to 6. Come use our meeting room as a space to create. Supplies will be provided as available. However, feel free to bring whatever materials you are currently working with and use the space. No registration required.

**Adult programs**

See above for details on programs involving National Novel Writing Month.

On the first Wednesday of each month from 3 to 4:30, an intergenerational group of knitters will meet in the community room. Practice materials are provided, but attendees are encouraged to bring their own materials. Some instruction is provided for those new to the world of knitting. The next meeting will be on Dec. 7.

The first Friday of each month from 3 to 5:30 is Coloring for Everyone. Research shows that coloring is good for your health and a great way for all ages to enjoy time together. We will provide a selection of coloring pages, pencils, gel pens, and crayons. You are also welcome to bring your own supplies. The next meeting will be Dec. 2.

**Western Museum of Mining & Industry, July 15-17**

1,600 attend fifth annual Harvest Festival

By David Futey

On Oct. 8 and 9, the Western Museum of Mining & Industry hosted its fifth annual Harvest Festival.

The weekend event is becoming a fall season must-do for many local, Colorado Springs communities as over 1,600 attended during the two-day event. Festival-goers had their choice of a variety of activities. They could go on tractor-pulled hayrides, watch an old west gunfight performed by the Gold Canyon Gunfighters, work an apple press, pan for gold with the help of the Gold Prospector of Colorado, wander through a hay maze to select a pumpkin, visit the historic Reynolds Ranch House, learn about animals from the Pale of the Forest, visit with the museum burros, watch a rock crusher demonstration, and see a blacksmith in operation.

Information on upcoming museum events is at www.wmmi.org.

David Futey can be contacted at davidfutey@ocn.me

**Right:** A hay maze was used as a fun way to find that special pumpkin to carve and decorate. Photo by David Futey.

**Art Matters**

**Buying from the little guy empowers community**

By Janet Sellers

This time of year, we celebrate all kinds of things—we have Thanksgiving this month and lots of parties and other holidays coming up. Festive times cheer us up as the winter cold keeps us indoors more. I know my dog and I will miss some daily walks on cold days—no slip and slide for me outdoors. I do enjoy the arrival of all the ‘festive stuff’ and the colorful fun traditions indoors and outdoors.

For many people, this season includes gifts, both personal and for friends. The most common aesthetic things that sell this time of year are decorations, but a growing number of wise givers and getters are clearing the path for meaningful expression through art that lasts.

Do you know how to design and make wonderful gifts? Most people do not, but they love giving and get-
ti ng them. That is where our local artists and pop-up shops come in. Since the ad hoc venues literally just pop up, here are several places to look for them and get going. Lots of pop-ups use last-minute signs on street corners, and many are pointing the way online and we can search for them just by remembering to use the words “local pop up shops” and your town to zero in on them. Posing Facebook, nextdoor.com, and even the Etsy and eBay sites of fers a glimpse at what is available, and you can ask local artists and clients for hints or wish lists to help support your search.

One of the best ways to figure this out is to simply ask. Either the personal gift or the corporate gift can be more meaningful and appreciated, so asking what the person’s hobbies or likes are will be appreciated. In art circles, we often help clients create a wish list for a business as well as for spouses, family and friends. This time of year, we can host gift parties with the wish list hints as central to the event while having fun shopping for creative gifts such as art, cards, jewelry, pottery, etc. Wish lists are a thoughtful way to help family and friends get thinking and enjoy their ef forts to please.

And, add the personal touch of hand made cards; you can buy them from local artists and add a handwritten note to share your thoughts. Most galleries, many stores, and every artist I know make greeting cards for sale. At my own pop-ups, I even plan the size of the artwork and packaging to fit easily for shipping—so convenient for the patron that that aspect can make the sale.

The impact on the community of buying local, especially with local artists, can be immense. Of course, the artists generate the artists and maintain the quality, but the buyers are supporting this and so much more. Buying local creates community, personal interaction and, satisfying experiences and interactions right at home. Buying locally is not limited to giving locally, either, and a quality local gift has tremendous cultural value worldwide. Our community artists and shops participate in the national Small Business Saturday event, too.

The quality of the gift represents the quality of the relationship across all cultures, and that factor is not as much related to money spent as it is to thoughtfulness and appropriateness. And, it’s possible business gifts are tax deductible up to $25 per person for the tax year, but not the wrapping or shipping, so consider delivering the gift personally if possible. That benefits you by keeping you top-of-mind with the clients.

Shoppers now care as much about the shopping experience as the gifts they get, according to auditors PricewaterhouseCoopers. This puts holiday markets and small-business owners at an advantage. The statistics for dollars spent shopping for Small Business Saturday may also surprise. According to a study from Civic Economics in Michigan and data from Forbes and PricewaterhouseCoopers: 1/3 persons spend $100 at a local business, roughly $68 stays in your local economy. If you spend the same amount at a large business, only $43 stays in the local economy. Americans spent big on Small Business Saturday 2015, topping $16.2 billion, a 14 percent increase from the previous year.

Our world is increasingly distant and technical, so the human touch of handmade gifts and thoughtful design is tremendous-ly popular now (a fact proven by data for Etsy and Amazon Handmade). Happily, local artists, craftpeople and small businesses help define our community and create a powerful social sensibility, an infrastructure known as “love of place.” As new pop-up shops, holiday markets, church bazaars, and trunk shows spring up all over town and in our favor-ite local brick and mortar shops, our local artists and craftspeople have an advantage over any big box store for thoughtful, beautiful, and fun gifts. I typed in a Face- book search, “local holiday pop up shops” and got a top hit for our local Tri-Lakes.

This season, do seek out and visit these tiny venues of local artists and shops, and welcome the personal touch of hand made cards; you can buy them from local artists and craftspeople have an advantage over big box stores for thoughtful, beautiful, and fun gifts. I typed in a Facebook search, “local holiday pop up shops” and got a top hit for our local Tri-Lakes.

On this evening, he blended songs from his Christian-oriented albums and a more commercial sound. Keaggy’s musical career formally began in 1968 in this influential trio, he turned toward Christian-oriented music for the next 40-plus years. On this evening, he blended songs from his Christian-oriented albums and a more commercial sound. Keaggy’s musical career formally began in 1968 in this influential trio, he turned toward Christian-oriented music for the next 40-plus years.

The quality of the gift represents the quality of the relationship across all cultures, and that factor is not as much related to money spent as it is to thoughtfulness and appropriateness. And, it’s possible business gifts are tax deductible up to $25 per person for the tax year, but not the wrapping or shipping, so consider delivering the gift personally if possible. That benefits you by keeping you top-of-mind with the clients.

Shoppers now care as much about the shopping experience as the gifts they get, according to auditors PricewaterhouseCoopers. This puts holiday markets and small-business owners at an advantage. The statistics for dollars spent shopping for Small Business Saturday may also surprise. According to a study from Civic Economics in Michigan and data from Forbes and PricewaterhouseCoopers: 1/3 persons spend $100 at a local business, roughly $68 stays in your local economy. If you spend the same amount at a large business, only $43 stays in the local economy. Americans spent big on Small Business Saturday 2015, topping $16.2 billion, a 14 percent increase from the previous year.

Our world is increasingly distant and technical, so the human touch of handmade gifts and thoughtful design is tremendous-ly popular now (a fact proven by data for Etsy and Amazon Handmade). Happily, local artists, craftpeople and small businesses help define our community and create a powerful social sensibility, an infrastructure known as “love of place.” As new pop-up shops, holiday markets, church bazaars, and trunk shows spring up all over town and in our favor-ite local brick and mortar shops, our local artists and craftspeople have an advantage over any big box store for thoughtful, beautiful, and fun gifts. I typed in a Facebook search, “local holiday pop up shops” and got a top hit for our local Tri-Lakes.

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Senior center gets equipment

TLC gets PCs and training

Trunk or Treat events a big hit

Proposed open space
Pikes Peak Library District’s Kids Web and PPLD Teen’s Kids Web at www.ppld.org features resources for school reports and homework, Tumblebooks—free online read-aloud books, and a Fun & Games link. A “grown-ups” link has information about local school districts, home-schooling, and more.

Adult programs


Monument Library: Senior Chats, every Wed., 10 a.m.-12 p.m. All are welcome to this spiritual and social group meeting with free refreshments to inspires friends to gather and enjoy their time together. Monument Branch Library, 1706 Lake Woodmoor Dr Info: 488-2370, 488-2370, www.ppld.org.


Monument Library: Life Circles, Mon., Nov. 7, 9:30-11 a.m. Monroe is a licensed minister, author of several books on history or science. He hosts a radio show and is involved in many community support activities. Info: 481-8668, www.americanlegendatlakespost911.com/bingo.htm.

Monument Library: Coloring for Everyone, Sun., Nov. 13, 3-5:45 p.m. Drop in once a month for coloring and light conversation. Watercolor art for fun and relaxation afterward, every Sat.-Sun., 3-5 p.m. For all ages. Directions for watercolor art provided.

LOCAL LIBRARY EVENTS

All Pikes Peak Library facilities will close at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 23 and remain closed Nov. 24 in observance of Thanksgiving.

The Palmer Lake Library hours are Tue.-Fri., 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and Sat., 10 a.m.-2 p.m. 66 Lower Glenway. Info: 481-2587, www.ppld.org.

The Monument Branch Library hours are Mon.-Thu., 9 a.m.-7 p.m., Fri., 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Sat., 10 a.m.-2 p.m. 1706 Lake Woodmoor Dr Info: 488-2370, 488-2370, www.ppld.org.


Monument Library: Homeschool@MO, MO’s, Skim’s, & Skills, Mon., Nov. 28, 130-230 p.m. Susan Permutt, a volunteer naturalist at Castlewood Canyon State Park, will bring Skim’s, a Skimas, and talk about the animals and their habitat. Monument Branch Library, 1706 Lake Woodmoor Dr Info: 488-2370, 488-2370, www.ppld.org.


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good health, join Janet Sellers and get free local scene color- ing pages, crafts, games and free snacks. 11-3 p.m. All ages. free.
with food, free pool table. 1-3 p.m. All ages. free.
spots. RSVP & info: Janettesellerstogo@gmail.com, 357-7454.
Lake United Methodist Church Worship Hours, every Sun., 8:30, 9:45, 11 a.m. Sunday school, all ages, 9:30 a.m., 20256 Hunting Downs Way, Monument. Info: 481-2341.
Lake Reformed Church Sunday Worship, every Sun., 9:45 a.m., Woodmoor Community Center, 1691 Woodmoor Dr. Monument. Info www.trilakesreformed.org.
Cathedral Rock Church Sunday Service, every Sun., 11 a.m., 2230 Valley Crest, 9-10 a.m., Palmer Lake Town Hall, 28 Valley Crest. All services: Cost: $7. Info: 481-2953 (then press 0) or www.townofpalmerlake.com.
Lake Yoga Class with Olivia Pennington, every Mon., 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Palmer Lake Town Hall, 28 Valley Crest. All ages welcome. Cost: $7. Info: 481-2953 (then press 0) or www.townofpalmerlake.com.
Tai Chi for Health and Wellness Classes, every Mon.-Sat., noon-1 p.m., D ance Art Academy, 13866 Gleneagle Dr.. Tai Chi classes are usually 3-4 miles which can be run or walked. Info: 232-1618, sifumo@whitecranetaichi.net.
Tri-Lakes United Methodist Church Worship, every Sun., 9:45 a.m., Woodmoor Community Center, 1691 Woodmoor Dr. Monument. Info www.trilakesreformed.org.
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A.A. Big Book Study, every Thu., 7 p.m., Family of Christ Lutheran Church, 675 W. Baptist Rd. Info: 481-0431.
Tri-Lakes Land Use Committee Meeting, Mon., Nov. 7, 6:30-8:30 p.m., 1662 St. Monument. Get involved: give input on what Tri-Lakes Land Use Committees influence the direction of growth. All are welcome. Info: Jerry Hamann, Hamann.and.assoc@gmail.com.
Palmer Lake Art Group, Sat., Nov. 12, 9 a.m., M ountain Community Mennonite Church, 643 Hwy 105, Palmer Lake. A variety of art programs are offered after the social gathering and business meeting. Guests welcome. Meets 2nds Sat. each month. Info: 487-3289, www.palmerlakesarts.com.
Foot Care Clinic, Wed., Nov. 9, Senior Center located across the street from the Tri-Lakes YMCA. On the last Wed. of the month at Palmer High School campus. A registered nurse examines your feet and provides foot care advice, toenail trimming. Cost: $35 for a 30-min. visit. Meets 2nd and last Fri. each month, by appointment only. Info & appointments: call the Visiting Nurse Association, 577-4448.
Black Forest AARP Pathways Discussion, Wed., Nov. 9, 10 a.m., Black Forest Lutheran Church, 12455 Black Forest Rd. All ages welcome. Meets 2nds Wed. each month. Info: Cheryl King, 491-2927, or aarpchapter100blackforest.weebly.com.
Senior Bingo, New Location, Thu., Nov. 10, Mountain Community Mennonite Church, 643 Hwy 105, Palmer Lake, after the church service at noon and stay and play. Free! Prizes! Meets 2nds Thu. each month. Info: Maggie Nealin, 488-1057.
Senior Citizen Luncheons, every Mon.-Fri., 12-12:30 p.m., Community Mennonite Church, 643 Hwy 105, Palmer Lake. Call 481-2409 to reserve a seat by the month in the Senior Beat Newsletter. A $2.25 donation is requested. Stay for bingo the 2nd Thu. each month. All reservations are required.
Western Museum of Mining & Industry (WMMI), open Mon.-Fri., 9-4 p.m., 2222 Hwy 105, West End Center, Suite A (3⁄4 mile west of Hwy 105). A low yoga practice; all levels welcome. First class Free. Info: Deb Harano, 338-8467, DimensionsYoga.com.
Monument Hill Kiwanis Bingo, every Mon., 7:30 p.m, 2292 Valley Crest, 6-8 p.m. Family of Christ Lutheran Church, 675 W. Baptist Rd. Info: 481-0431.
Cathedral Rock Church Memorial E.Cafe Happy Hour, every Mon.-Thu., 3-5 p.m., 2370 North Gate Blvd. 20% off drinks and merchandise. Info: 444-6600, 7911.
Al-Anon Meeting: Monument Serenity, every Fri., 6-7 p.m., 1750 Deer Creek Rd., Monument. Info: mark.zeiger@gmail.com.
Letters to Our Community
Our Community News welcomes letters to the editor on topics of general interest to readers in the Tri-Lakes area. We do not knowingly print letters that are substantially the same as letters that have been submitted to other publications. To ensure that OCN contains a variety of viewpoints, each letter writer is limited to a maximum of two letters within any twelve month period. To submit a letter, please:

1. Identify your submission as a letter to the editor and confirm that it has not been submitted to any other publication.
2. Include a suggested headline or title.
3. Limit letters to no more than 500 words.
4. Include your full name, home address, day and evening phone numbers, and email address, if you have one.
5. Email your letter to editor@ocn.me or mail it to P.O. Box 1742, Monument, Colorado 80132-1742.
6. Send your letter at least 10 days before the first “Saturday of the month” when the paper is printed.
7. If you are not at least 18 years old or an emancipated minor, provide a written statement from a parent or legal guardian that you have permission to submit the letter.
8. If, after two business days from the date of your submission, you have not received an acknowledgement of receipt of your letter, please call Lisa Hatfield, Managing Editor, at (719) 339-7831 or send the information to calendar@ocn.me or P.O. Box 1742, Monument, Colorado 80132-1742.

Our Community News is printed by Signature Printing in Colorado Springs using post-consumer waste recycled paper and soy-based water-soluble inks. For more information, visit www.definingsustainableprinting.com.

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John Heisler, President
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Lack issues: lack@ocn.me
Editorial content: editor@ocn.me
Event information: calendar@ocn.me

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Monument, Colorado 80132-1742
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Our Community News carries listings on a space-available basis for Tri-Lakes events that are sponsored by local government entities or non-profits. We include events that are of general public interest and are not religious or self-promotional in nature. If space is available, complimentary calendar listings are included, when requested, for events advertised in the current issue. To have your event listed at no charge in Our Community Calendar, please call (719) 339-7831 or send the information to calendar@ocn.me or P.O. Box 1742, Monument, Colorado 80132.
This little piggy had toenail fungus.
This little piggy had none.
This little piggy had laser.
This little piggy wishes he had some.
Pamper your piggies and kill the pathogens that cause fungus. Call for a FREE consultation.

Mention this ad, get one laser treatment for two toes for only $99 or three treatments for all 10 toes for only $499 (reg. $900)! Offer valid through 12/316.

(719) 487-SKIN (7546)
For Men and Women.
550 Hwy 105, Monument.
Next to Safeway
Gift Certificates Available
www.spamedicausa.com

FREE estimates
Military or Senior Discounts
Residing in the area for over 30 years.
Fully licensed and insured.

- St. Peter Catholic School’s 6th Annual -

Holiday Boutique
and
Craft Fair

124 First Street - Monument
Nov 12th
9 am - 3 pm
Free Parking & Admission!

Welcome to Spa Medica LLC
Custom skin solutions
SKIN AND LASER CENTER

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KKTV Ch. 5
Men’s Everyday

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