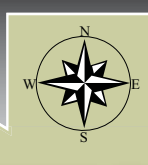


Our Community News

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



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Local Events

See pages 28-31 for details of these and many other local events.

- County's Annual Treecycle, Sat.-Sun., Jan. 7-8, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
- NEPCO Meeting, Sat., Jan. 7, 10 a.m.-noon. Local development plans and issues.
- Tri-Lakes Little League Spring Season Registration Opens, Mon., Jan. 9
- Tri-Lakes Land Use Committee Meeting, Mon., Jan. 9, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- Tri-Lakes Chamber of Commerce Monthly Education Series: Identity Theft, Tue., Jan. 10, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.
- Foot Care Clinic, Wed., Jan. 11
- Palmer Lake Art Group 2017 Winter Art Show Opening Reception, Fri., Jan. 13, 6-8 p.m.
- Monument Library Family Fun: Black Falcon School of Arms, Sat., Jan. 14, 2:30-3:30 p.m. 15th century armored combat demonstration.
- Tri-Lakes Community/Centura Blood Drive, Tue., Jan. 17, 2:30-7 p.m.
- Palmer Lake Historical Society and WMMI, Tue., Jan. 17, 7 p.m. Jack Anthony will repeat his presentation of "A Tale of Two Husteds."
- Palmer Lake Historical Society: Annual Potluck Dinner and Membership Meeting, Thu., Jan. 19, 6:30 p.m.
- Foot Care Clinic, Fri., Jan. 20
- Heartsaver CPR/AED/First Aid certification course, Sat., Jan. 21, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.
- CDOT I-25 Improvements Public Meeting, Tue., Jan. 24, 5-7 p.m.
- Foot Care Clinic, Fri., Jan. 27
- Monument Library: Bonfils Blood Center Blood Drive, Sat., Jan. 28, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Branson on the Road Concert at TLCA, Sat., Feb. 4, 7 p.m.
- Community Emergency Response Training (CERT), Mon. nights Feb. 6 - Mar. 6, 5:30-9:15 p.m. ■



Above: Singers from Palmer Ridge High School entertained with traditional carols in the library on Dec. 13. Photo by Harriet Halbig. See page 22 for the monthly library events article.

Board of County Commissioners, Dec. 13

Flying Horse North rezoning approved despite opposition

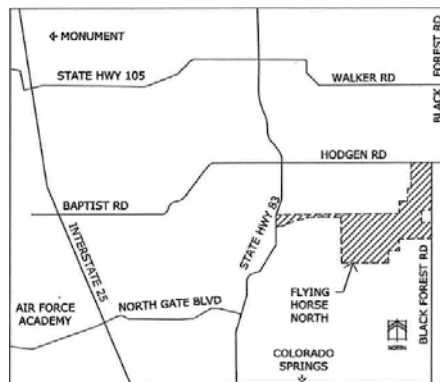
By Lisa Hatfield

In a quasi-judicial land use hearing continued from Nov. 15, the El Paso Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) voted 4-1 to permit the rezoning of Flying Horse North from RR-5 (5-acre lots) to a Planned Unit Development (PUD). The proposed development will eventually consist of 13 phases between Highway 83 and Black Forest Road south of Hodgen Road, at the eastern edge of the OCN coverage area that ends at Highway 83.

PRI 2 LLC's proposed PUD development plan includes about 1,417 acres for 283 single-family residential lots with a minimum lot size of 2.5 acres, 114 acres of open space, and a 199-acre 18-hole golf course. Access to the development is proposed via an extension of Stagecoach Road from State Highway 83 on the west to Black Forest Road on the east. Other proposed access roads include Holmes Road and Hodgen Road.

On Oct. 18, the El Paso County Planning Commission recommended denial of this rezoning application from RR-5 to PUD by a vote 5-2. Its resolution included statements that the application was

(Continued on page 2)



Above: The El Paso Board of County Commissioners approved the rezoning of Flying Horse North from 5-acre lots to Planned Unit Development on Dec. 13. The golf course development will encompass 1,417 acres that used to be part of the Shamrock Ranch, bounded by State Highway 83 on the west and Black Forest Road on the east. High Forest Ranch and Donald Wescott Fire Protection District Shamrock Station 2 are located at the northwest corner of the proposed subdivision. Map courtesy of El Paso County Board of County Commissioners.

Monument Board of Trustees, Dec. 5

Water infrastructure plans in progress; eminent domain proceedings approved

By Lisa Hatfield

The Dec. 5 meeting of the Monument Board of Trustees included approval of the 2017 budget and a detailed discussion of five pending water infrastructure projects for the town. The trustees approved using the eminent domain process to try to remove the covenants on the piece of land where they want to build a new water tank, which is the subject of litigation between the town and Forest View Estates Neighborhood Association Filing IV.

Also, when public comments rolled around at 10 p.m., a resident asked for clarification on what actually happened at

the Nov. 7 meeting when Trustees Shea Medlicott, Greg Coopman, Dennis Murphy, and Jeff Bornstein attempted to vote Mayor Jeff Kaiser and Mayor Pro-Tem Don Wilson back to their elected trustee positions. Town Attorney Gary Shupp said, "(Kaiser and Wilson) are in their positions and will remain in their positions and beyond that, unless the board directs, I don't have any other comments."

As noted on the agenda, at the beginning of the meeting, the trustees voted unanimously to go into executive session to discuss pending litigation and the threat of litigation. When the meeting went back

(Continued on page 3)

An important message for our readers

Our Community News needs your help!

For 16 years, our volunteers have provided unbiased reporting on important local issues, including real estate development, fire departments, school districts, and water availability. We have provided a very favorable platform for advertising local businesses. We have published letters to the editor to allow you to express your opinions on events in the Tri-Lakes area.

Now we find that we have more tasks than we have volunteers. Some vital jobs where we could use your help:

- *Ad sales coordinator.* We are looking for one dedicated volunteer who loves OCN. Commitment is about 45 hours a month and is very busy the second half of each month.
- *Bookkeeping assistant.*
- *Reporters.* Reporting on local meetings, what they talked about and what they decided.
- *Mailing assistants.* Counting and lifting tubs of papers to take the mailing to the post offices and stacks of papers to local businesses, loading and unloading mailing tubs from a truck at two locations, preparing postoffice paperwork, tub labels, subscription labels, etc. (three hours once a month).
- *Drivers.* Driving rental truck to various post offices once a month.
- *Backup managing editor.* Keeping track of content and word counts and preparing the new content spreadsheet each month.

The time and skills involved vary greatly from job to job. OCN will provide whatever equipment and training you need.

Please join us today! Meet a group of interesting and committed people. Learn new skills—use your enthusiasm and creativity to benefit our community and celebrate unfiltered information.

Please call Managing Editor Lisa Hatfield at (719) 339-7831, or email editor@ocn.me to see how you can contribute. Contact us today! We are waiting to hear from you. If you can spare some time to help ensure that OCN continues to provide a vital service to our wonderful Tri-Lakes community, please contact us as soon as possible, preferably by Saturday, Jan. 14. ■



Above: Our 2014 crop of volunteers included, from left, Nancy Wilkins, Mike Wicklund, Wayne Claybaugh, RaeJean Claybaugh, Lisa Hatfield, Allen Alchian, James Howald, Jackie Burhans, Harriet Halbig, John Heiser, Chris Pollard, Arjun Gheewala, Janet Sellers, Mark Aggers, and Bernard Minetti. Photo by Wayne Claybaugh.

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