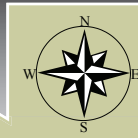


# Our Community News

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.

- Palmer Ridge High School Fall Musical: *Little Women*, Thu.-Sat., Nov. 2-4, 7 p.m. plus 2 p.m. matinee Sat.
- Black Forest Arts and Craft Guild Fall Show and Sale, Thu.-Sun., Nov. 2-5
- TLCA Annual Resident & Member Artists Exhibition Opening Reception, Fri., Nov. 3, 6-8 p.m.
- Downtown Monument Holiday Open House, Fri.-Sat., Nov. 3-4
- Marty Haggard, Tribute to His Father, Merle Haggard at TLCA, Sat., Nov. 4, 7 p.m.
- D38 Deliberates: Community Engagement Opportunity, Mon., Nov. 6, 6-8:30 p.m.
- Tri-Lakes Land Use Committee Meeting, Mon., Nov. 6, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- Monument Academy Veterans' Day Assembly: *Honoring All Who Have Served*, Fri., Nov. 10, 9:45 a.m.
- Sisters of Benet Hill Monastery Free Film: *Maya Angelou: And Still I Rise*, Fri., Nov. 10, 6:30 p.m.
- Film Screening, *Screenagers: growing up in the digital age*, Mon., Nov. 13, 5:30-8 p.m.
- Palmer Lake Historical Society: *The Star on Sundance Mountain*, Thu., Nov. 16, 7 p.m.
- Dakota Blonde Concert at TLCA, Fri., Nov. 17, 7 p.m.
- NEPCO Meeting, Sat., Nov. 18, 10 a.m.-noon. MVEA, Black Hills Energy.
- Palmer Lake's 81st Annual Chili Supper & Star-lighting Festival, Sat., Nov. 25, 4:30-7 p.m.
- Hazel Miller Christmas Jazz Concert at TLCA, Fri., Dec. 1, 7 p.m.
- 11th Annual North Pole at Tri-Lakes Arts and Crafts Fair, Sat., Dec. 2, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Downtown Monument's Small Town Christmas, Sat., Dec. 2, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

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**Above: Hands-on learning at the museum:** Sunny days and Questers volunteers greeted the many visitors who enjoyed the sixth annual Reynolds Ranch Harvest Festival hosted by the Western Museum of Mining and Industry (WMMI) on Oct. 7 and 8. WMMI works to preserve the history of the Colorado Springs area. Thousands of artifacts throughout the exhibit helped visitors learn and interpret mining and industrial technology, geology, and environmental concerns of Colorado and the West. The original Reynolds home—a working farm, dairy farm, ranch, and sawmill—occupied terrain that the U.S. Air Force Academy now inhabits. The festival invited guests to ride a hay wagon, shop a farmers' market, operate indoor and outdoor machinery, stroll through a pumpkin patch, create crafts, witness Gold Canyon Gunfighters' dramas, and peruse the farm buildings and museum. Elijah Houston, pictured, playfully panned for gold and gems in the cool shade and gentle breeze of a Colorado afternoon. *Caption and photo by Jennifer Kaylor.*

### D-38 District Accountability Advisory Committee, Oct. 10

## First hearing held on Monument Academy high school proposal

By Harriet Halbig

The District Accountability Advisory Committee (DAAC) of Lewis-Palmer School District 38 began its Oct. 10 meeting with a presentation supporting an application by Monument Academy to create a high school.

Monument Academy (MA) Executive Director Don Griffin and Chief Executive Officer and Principal Elizabeth Davis explained that MA parents had long requested the addition of a high school for grades 9 through 12 where their children could continue their education abiding by the same principles as the academy's current grade K-through-8 facility.

The current academy, now 22 years old, has a student population of just over 1,000, and the facility cannot expand due to its location.

Griffin said that planning for a high school began about two years ago. School officials felt that they should try to offer a different approach than the public high schools, because there are already two excellent high schools in the district. He said that population growth in the district could support the addition of a high school for 500 students.

Davis explained that the committee developing the curriculum for the new high school is using a character-first approach and following the

guidelines of Strata Leadership LLC, an Oklahoma company that strives to teach leadership on the levels of self, team, organization, and community. Students are taught such traits as diligence, self-control, patience, and willingness to work.

The mission of the school will be to use a challenging, content-rich program to develop good citizens and community leaders. There will continue to be programs in the arts and athletics.

An aspect of the current MA curriculum is the concept of houses in grades six through eight. The students are divided into groups of 30 or so, mixed grades, to form the basis of the school day. The students do not all attend the same classes, but this small group serves as a base where students can get to know and support one another rather than feeling lost in a larger community.

Davis said that parents are praising this system and that students feel much more comfortable and included as a result.

The house system will continue into the high school. With a total population of fewer than 500 students, each class will include about 115 students, divided into houses of 30 or so.

The plan is to open the school in **MA high school (cont. on page 2)**

Triview Metropolitan District, Sept 29, Oct. 5, 10, and 18

## Water rates, fees evaluated; interim district manager hired

By Lisa Hatfield

The Triview Metropolitan District board met on Sept. 29, Oct. 5, 10, and 18. This was because at a special meeting on Sept. 21, the board had announced that District Manager Valerie Remington had gone on administrative leave after its regular Sept. 11 meeting. See [www.ocn.me/v17n10.htm#tvmd](http://www.ocn.me/v17n10.htm#tvmd).

On Sept. 29, after OCN went to press, and on Oct. 5, Triview held special meetings to discuss water rates and fees and to hold an executive session to discuss personnel matters, but no announcements were made at those meetings.

On Oct. 10, at the end of the regular meeting, the board accepted Remington's resignation and hired an interim district manager, Jim McGrady of Walker Schooler District Managers.

On Oct. 18, McGrady called a special meeting, because he saw the need for some decisions that could not wait until the next regularly scheduled meeting on Nov. 14. He and the directors also brainstormed about ways to work more efficiently.

Also at the September and October meetings, the board worked toward a new water use rates schedule that would both encourage conservation and bring the water enterprise fund closer to solvency. Since Triview bought 500 shares of renewable water in December, the board contemplated a new renewable water fee for all residents so the district could pay off that loan within 15 years.

Triview is a Title 32 special district inside Monument that provides roads, landscaping, open space maintenance, and water and sanitation services to Jackson Creek, Promontory Pointe, Sanctuary Pointe, and several commercial areas. However, the town of Monument provides land use planning, police, and general governance for the district's property owners.

Triview (cont. on page 10)



**Above:** Triview Metropolitan District's new interim district manager, Jim McGrady of Walker Schooler District Managers, left, spoke with John McGinn of JDS-Hydro Engineers at a special meeting on Oct. 18. McGrady will lead Triview for no less than six months, and he told OCN, "I am so happy to be here!" *Photo by Lisa Hatfield.*