

# 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 27-31 for details of these and many other local events.

- Ranger Lacrosse Parent Meeting, Sat., Feb. 4, 2:15-5:30 p.m.
- Branson on the Road Concert at TLCA, Sat., Feb. 4, 7 p.m.
- CERT, Mon. nights, Feb. 6 – Mar. 6, 5:30-9:15 p.m.
- Tri-Lakes Land Use Committee, Mon., Feb. 6, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- Foot Care Clinic, Wed., Feb. 8
- Free Chamber Education: Strategic Planning, Wed., Feb. 8, 9 a.m.-noon
- WMMI Lecture & Exhibit: *Minerals We Use Everyday*, Thu., Feb. 9, reception at 6 p.m., lecture at 7 p.m.
- ID Theft Seminar, Fri., Feb. 10, 1-3 p.m.
- Wendy Woo Concert at TLCA, Fri., Feb. 10, 7-9 p.m.
- 11th Annual District 38 Chess Tournament, Sat., Feb. 11, 8:15 a.m.-2 p.m.
- D-38 Community Open House: Long-Term Planning, Mon., Feb. 13, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
- D-38 Parent Education Night: *How will you pay for college?* Mon., Feb. 13, 6:30 p.m.
- Palmer Lake Historical Society: *John Cleveland Osgood: Colorado Coal Baron*, Thu., Feb. 16, 7 p.m.
- Foot Care Clinic, Fri., Feb. 17
- WMMI: *Publish!*, Sat., Feb. 18, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
- Senior Trip to the Butterfly Pavilion, Wed., Feb. 22, meet at 8:30 a.m.
- Land use of areas surrounding the USAF Academy, Thu., Feb. 23, 5-7 p.m.
- Foot Care Clinic, Fri., Feb. 24
- Monument Library: AARP Drive Smart, Sat., Feb. 25, 12:45-5 p.m.
- Palmer Lake Art Group 2017 Winter Art Show, on now, ends Sat., Feb. 25
- Rocky Mountain Music Alliance Concerto Night, Sat., Feb. 25, 7 p.m.
- Fire Preparedness Workshop, Fri., Mar. 3, 9:30-11:30 a.m.
- *Visions of Light* Photography Exhibition Reception, Fri., Mar. 3, 6-8 p.m.
- *Olivia Mainville & the Aquatic Troupe Concert* at TLCA, Fri., Mar. 10, 7-9 p.m. ■

## In this issue

I-25 News 1  
Fire District News 1-8  
Monument News 9-14  
Palmer Lake News 14  
Water & San District News 14-19  
School District News 19-21  
County News 21  
Woodmoor News 21  
Weather 22  
Letters and Columns 23-25  
Snapshots 25-27  
Notices and Calendar 27-31  
OCN Information 26, 27, 31

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Above: Attendance was high at the CDOT public meeting on the I-25 Colorado Springs Denver South Connection project on Jan. 24 at Pikes Peak Library 21C. A second meeting with a similar number of attendees was held in Castle Rock at the Douglas County Fairgrounds on Jan. 26. Photo by Jackie Burhans.

Colorado Department of Transportation, Jan. 24 and 26

## CDOT gets public input on I-25 widening

By Jackie Burhans

The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) held two public meetings in January to present information and solicit public feedback on the proposed I-25 widening and improvement projects. The first meeting on Jan. 24 was held at Library 21C in Colorado Springs and was attended by about 160 people, including Colorado Springs Mayor John Suthers. A similar meeting was held on Jan. 26 in Castle Rock at the Douglas County Fairgrounds with a similarly sized crowd.

The meetings consisted of a brief presentation providing an overview of the project and its long-range goals, with

a special focus on advancing an early action construction project in the “Gap” area between Monument and Castle Rock where I-25 currently has two lanes in each direction. A key project vision is to provide near-term relief in the “Gap,” supported by a long-term vision for the whole study area from Monument to C-470.

The accelerated “Gap” project would include an extra lane in each direction, wider shoulders, and some bridge replacements with construction starting in 2019 and finishing in 2021. To achieve this goal, construction funding would have to be identified by the end of 2017.

If successful, this would be the fastest project completed by CDOT. Additional long-term projects would continue after the “Gap” early action is complete.

Some time was spent describing the process, which consists of a Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) study, a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) portion, a design phase, and construction. The PEL study combines federal requirements and environmental clearances, including community engagement through public meetings. CDOT staff noted the high attendance at these meetings compared to other projects. One

(Continued on page 2)

Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District, Jan. 25

## Rescue, call volume disparity discussed

By Lisa Hatfield

On Jan. 25, the Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District (TLMFPD) directors reviewed the 2016 financial summary. They discussed a Jan. 2 rescue (see photo on left) and considered a December request from Donald Wescott Fire Protection District (DWFPD) Chief Vinny Burns that Wescott be compensated by

(Continued on page 3)



Left: Capt. Kris Mola and his crew rescued the occupant, his son, and their dog from a third-story roof ledge during the fire that broke out in the five-unit townhomes on Raspberry Lane south of Monument Lake Road on Jan. 2. The occupant had been awakened by his smoke alarms and he attempted to leave the home, but he encountered too much heat and smoke to get down the stairs. He exited the third story bedroom window onto a roof ledge where he and his son were found and rescued. Crews from Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District contained the fire to the entry way and living room of the residence. Crews from DWFPD and the Palmer Lake Volunteer Fire Department assisted on the scene, as did the Monument Police Department and El Paso County Sheriff's Office. Photo by TLMFPD Battalion Chief Mike Keough.