

Our Community News

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



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Free



Local Events

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

Foot Care Clinic, Wed., Sep. 9.
Meet the D-38 School Board Candidates, Wed., Sep. 9, 6-8 p.m.
The Black Lillies at Tri-Lakes Center for the Arts, Thu., Sept. 10, 7 p.m.
WMMI: Trails and Trials, Thu., Sep. 10, doors at 6 p.m., lecture at 7 p.m.
El Paso County Hazardous Materials & Recycling Collection Facility, Sat., Sep. 12
Hangers to Hutches Thrift Shop Extravaganza, Sat., Sep. 12, noon-3 p.m.
Tour Estemere, Sat., Sep. 12, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Tri-Lakes Emergency Preparedness Fair, Sat., Sep. 12, 11:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
Monument Parks Plan Open House, Mon., Sep. 14, 4-7 p.m. Monument Town Hall
Tri-Lakes Community Blood Drive, Tue., Sep. 15, 3-7 p.m.
Art Hop, Thu., Sep. 17, 5-8 p.m.
Palmer Lake Historical Society: "Rocky Mountain Park," Thu., Sep. 17, 7 p.m.
Haunted Mines at the Western Museum of Mining & Industry (WMMI), Fri.-Sat., Sep. 18-Oct. 31, 7 p.m.
Larkspur's Autumn Harvest & Craft Fest, Sat.-Sun., Sep. 19-20, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Rocky Mountain Music Alliance (RMMA) Concert: Sep. 20, 3 p.m.
Rocky Mountain Storytelling presents the 27th Annual Storytelling Festival, Sat., Sep. 26, 9:30 a.m. - 8:30 p.m.
NEPCO Meeting, Sat., Sep. 26, 10 a.m.-noon. El Paso County Sheriff
Dare to Prepare! Family Emergency Preparedness Event and Zombie 3K Fun Run, Sat., Sep. 26, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
Palmer Lake Art Group 42nd Christmas Arts & Crafts Fair, Fri.-Sun., Oct. 2-4

In this issue

Monument News, 1, 6-13
Water & San District News, 1-5, 13-16
Fire District News, 16-17
D-38 News, 17-18
Baptist Road News, 18-20
WIA News, 20-21
Weather, 21
Letters, 22
Books, Library, History, Gardening, and Arts, 22-24
Snapshots, 24-27
Our Community Notices, 27-28
Our Community Calendar, 28-31
OCN Information, 26, 31

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Above: The first shift of ice cream scoopers at the annual Ice Cream Social on Aug. 1 were, from left, Monument and Palmer Lake Library manager Drew Hart, and Jean Harris and Gus Freyer of the Tri-Lakes Friends of the Library. They happily scooped for attendees on the porch of the Palmer Lake Town Hall. *Photo by Harriet Halbig*

Monument Board of Trustees special meeting, Aug. 24

Emergency moratorium on clinics approved

By Lisa Hatfield

The Monument Board of Trustees held a special meeting on Aug. 24. Its sole purpose was to enact a temporary moratorium on clinics, which the trustees were prepared to vote on as soon as possible after emerging from an executive session with an attorney for the town to receive legal advice on specific legal questions that preceded the meeting. However, the specific wording of the originally proposed emergency moratorium ordinance was modified later in the meeting after the trustees agreed to receive input from attorney William Louis, who was representing Jamie Fenley and the "No Methadone in Monument" group. Louis said the town's initial proposed wording would have got-

ten them a "quick march to the federal courthouse."

All seven board members attended this special meeting.

Initially the board was in favor of adopting the proposed ordinance included by Town Attorney Gary Shupp in the board packet. However, Louis stated that he had submitted a revised version that day that he claimed would make it less likely the town would be the subject of a lawsuit. The board's initial position was there was not enough time to deal with the details of Louis's proposal at this special meeting, and it would modify Shupp's ordinance language at the next board meeting if needed.

(Continued on page 6)



Above: On Aug. 26, a tanker truck carrying aviation fuel caught fire on I-25 between Greenland Road and County Line Road, shutting down the highway for hours that afternoon. Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District (TLMFPD) was one of the responding agencies to fight the volatile truck fire and the associated grass fire. The TLMFPD crew, including firefighter Will Vogl, left, and fire medic Jon Bodinsky, was part of nearly two dozen fire agencies called to assist Larkspur in the grass fire, which burned 250 acres, including part of Devon's Dog Park on Greenland Road. Chief Chris Truty said, "Our guys did a stunning job." *Photo by TLMFPD Fire Marshal John Vincent.* See page 16 for more fire district coverage.

Triview Metro. District, Aug. 11

Questions raised about Monument services and Promontory Pointe

By Lisa Hatfield

The Aug. 11 Triview Board of Directors meeting included a discussion about problems with the payments and services the district receives from the town of Monument. A resident of Promontory Pointe spoke on behalf of a group of homeowners concerned about lack of responsibility of both Classic Homes and Triview on open space maintenance. The 2014 audit was approved, and the directors discussed unaccounted-for water.

Services from town of Monument discussed

In the manager's report, District Manager Valerie Remington said that "because of turnover there," Monument town staff "is making mistakes on checks made out to Triview" and that "the will-serve process for developers was breaking down due to quality issues."

Board President Robert Fisher said that at a future meeting he would like to consider taking back collection of all fees from the town of Monument. He said he has had several meetings with Monument Mayor Rafael Dominguez and will provide an opportunity for the town to correct those issues. Fisher said he would like to wait until the new Monument town manager takes over from Interim Town Manager Pamela Smith before making decisions on the performance of services the town does for Triview, but that now "the service they are supposed to provide us is not working very well."

Questions from Promontory Pointe residents

During public comments, Promontory Pointe homeowner Steve Liebowitz said he was representing a Promontory Pointe homeowner community action group and asked the board for help finding out which entities were responsible for maintenance of open space areas in Phases 1, 2, and 3 of this development, a neighborhood of "\$500,000-plus" homes. He said the residents were "disgruntled and dissatisfied" with the lack of mowing as well as dead trees and a preponderance of noxious weeds in open spaces. "Those open spaces look like hell." He added that erosion was damaging open spaces as well as private property.

Liebowitz stated that Classic Homes told him that Triview had taken over maintenance of Phases 1, 2, and 3 as of Jan. 28, but when he called Triview's office, he was told Phase 3 was still Classic's responsibility.

Liebowitz also asked if the town of Monument was not paying all the tax money it owed Triview. He also asked

(Continued on page 2)