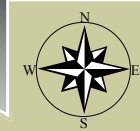


Our Community News

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 Lake Kids Fishing Derby, Sat., Jun. 3, 8-11:30 a.m.
- Tri-Lakes Women's Club First Ever Pre-Harvesting Hope Jewelry Sale, Sat., Jun. 3, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
- D-38 Informational Meeting for Potential School Board Candidates, Tue., Jun. 6, 5 p.m.
- Concerts in the Park, every Wed., Jun. 7-Aug. 2, 7-9 p.m.
- D-38 LPSD's Home School Enrichment Academy Open House, Thu., Jun. 8, 1-3 p.m.
- Color Splash, Annual Fine Art Show & Sale Opening Reception, Fri., Jun. 9, 6-8 p.m.
- Lakeside Free Summer Concert at Waterfront Park: Jody Adams, Fri., Jun. 9, 6-8 p.m.
- Monument's Free Movie Night: *Mona*, Fri., Jun. 9, 7 p.m.
- Friends of Monument Preserve Trail Work Night, Wed., Jun. 14, 6-8:30 p.m.
- Art Hop, Thu., Jun. 15, 5-8 p.m.
- Palmer Lake Historical Society: *Hummingbirds*, Thu., Jun. 15, 7 p.m.
- CPR/AED/First Aid Certification Course, Sat., Jun. 17, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Run to the Ascent 5k for Schools, Sat., Jun. 17, 8:30 a.m.
- Monument Outdoor Quilt Show, Sat., Jun. 17, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
- WMMI First Annual All Colorado Festival, Sat., Jun. 17, 1-7 p.m.
- Father's Day Ice Cream Social, Sun., Jun. 18, 1:15-4 p.m.
- Long Term Planning Seminar, Thu., Jun. 22, 6-8 p.m.
- Free Workshop: *Be a Senior Smarty*, Fri., Jun. 23, 9 a.m.-noon
- Water: Rain Barrels, Your Watershed, and More, Sat., Jun. 24, 10-11:30 a.m.
- Secret Life of Animals Nature Camp at Fox Run Park, Mon.-Fri., Jun. 26-30, 9 a.m.-noon
- Monument's Free Movie Night: *Pete's Dragon*, Fri., Jun. 30, 7 p.m. ■

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Above: On May 24, the Western Museum of Mining & Industry (WMMI) held its annual Picnic 'N' Planes event in conjunction with the Air Force Academy graduation. For a small per car donation, over 300 attendees picnicked, walked the museum grounds, played some catch, enjoyed each other's company and set up cameras until the main viewing activity. The museum's hilltop provided a 360-degree view of the flight acrobatics of the Air Force Thunderbirds. The six-plane team used the Front Range mountains and clear sky as a backdrop. Following the Thunderbirds' show, attendees received a discount to do a tour of the museum and its exhibits. Information on WMMI is at www.wmmi.org. Photo by Mark Aggers. Caption by David Futey.

El Paso Board of County Commissioners, May 23 Academy Gateway and Gleneagle Golf Course projects approved

By Helen Walklett

At its May 23 meeting, the El Paso Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) approved both the Academy Gateway development at Struthers Road and North Gate Boulevard and the Gleneagle Golf Course residential infill development. The Gleneagle project saw an eleventh-hour agreement reached between county staff and the developer concerning unresolved drainage issues to enable the project to move forward. Both projects had been recommended for approval by the county Planning Commission at its May 3 meeting.

Academy Gateway

The commissioners approved a preliminary plan and final plat requests for Academy Gateway, the proposed commercial development on an 18-acre parcel of land at the northwest corner of Struthers Road and North Gate Boulevard. The preliminary plan was approved by a 4 to 1 vote (Commissioner Longinos Gonzalez, who was concerned about a water supply waiver, voted against). The final plat request was approved unanimously.

The preliminary plan includes 11 commercial lots and one tract that will be

(Continued on page 2)

Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District, May 24

Engine taken out of service due to reduced staffing

By Lisa Hatfield

The Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District (TLMFPD) board discussed an engine taken out of service due to the current low staffing situation, public meetings regarding the proposed mill levy increase ballot measure, and impact fees, on May 24. The board also welcomed three new firefighters and celebrated Kris Mola's promotion to battalion chief.

President Jake Shirk was excused.

Engine at Woodmoor Station 3 taken out of service

Truty said the fire engine based at Station

3 in Woodmoor had been taken out of service on May 8 due to continued concerns about reduced staffing and stress on the firefighters related to the required overtime to maintain certain staffing levels. See www.ocn.me/v16n3.htm#tlmfpd0224, www.ocn.me/v16n9.htm#tlmfpd, www.ocn.me/v17n5.htm#tlmfpd.

Truty said that Station 3 was still open and that the ambulance from Station 1 had been moved to Station 3, "So from an emergency services perspective, it's good." His goal was to have enough

(Continued on page 8)

Donald Wescott Fire Protection District, May 17

Board pressed about future of district if mill levy hike fails

By Jennifer Kaylor

The Donald Wescott Fire Protection District (DWFPD) board met May 17 to review administration of the district's finances and April's call volume, and to receive public comments. A resident questioned the board about the future of the district if the proposed mill levy increase fails. The firefighters of DWFPD supported the mill levy increase in a letter that represented them collectively.

All board members were present except Harland Baker, who was excused. Attorney Dino Ross of Ireland Stapleton Pryor and Pascoe PC also attended.

Public questions and comments

District resident Gary Rusnak continued to press the board for answers about the fate of the district if the mill levy increase fails. Rusnak asked if DWFPD would become all-volunteer and if the Colorado Springs Fire Department, as part of the annexation agreement with the city, bore any responsibility in supporting DWFPD. He asked when the board would vote on the mill levy, if the vote would take place in executive session, and whether the public would have an opportunity to make comments on the vote.

Rusnak also disputed the steering committee survey results of 2:1 in support of the mill levy increase, stating that many of the "yes" voters were not confident that the mill levy proposal would pass. Rusnak added that the steering committee vote did not accurately represent home owners' associations (HOAs) in the district and cited that all nine residents of his HOA would have voted "no" had they

(Continued on page 6)

Memorial Day in Monument



At the Memorial Day Ceremony at the Monument Cemetery May 29, the crowd of about 300 salutes flags at half-staff. See also photos on page 27.