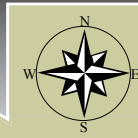


# Our Community News

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



PRSR STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
MONUMENT, CO  
PERMIT NO. 32

**\*\*ECRWSS\*\***  
Postal  
Customer

Issue #225 — Volume 19 Number 11 — Saturday, November 2, 2019

**Free**

Read, download, and search all the OCN back issues at [www.ocn.me](http://www.ocn.me).

## Local Events

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

- Black Forest Arts & Crafts Guild 55th Annual Fall Show & Sale, Thu.-Sat., Oct. 31-Nov. 3
- Downtown Monument Holiday Open House, Fri.-Sat., Nov. 8-9
- NEPCO Meeting, Sat., Nov. 9, 10 a.m.-noon. County commissioners.
- WMMI: *History of Oil & Natural Gas Development in Colorado*, Tue., Nov. 12, 7-9 p.m.
- Monument Academy Veteran's Day Celebration, Mon., Nov. 11, 8:45 a.m.
- Tri-Lakes Community/Centura Blood Drive, Tue., Nov. 12, 2:30-7 p.m.
- Bettman & Halpin Concert at TLCA, Fri., Nov. 15, 7 p.m.
- Friends of Fox Run Park, Sat., Nov. 16, 1 p.m.
- Harley's Hope Tea and Biscuits, Sun., Nov. 17, 2-4 p.m.
- Palmer Lake Historical Society, Thu., Nov. 21, 7 p.m.
- Palmer Lake Fire Department Annual Chili Supper & Star-lighting Festival, Sat., Nov. 30, 4:30-7 p.m.
- Palmer Lake Yule Log Potluck Dinner, Tue., Dec. 3, 6 p.m.
- The Hazel Miller Band Concert at TLCA, Fri., Dec. 6, 7 p.m.
- Monument Hill Kiwanis Club's 14th Annual North Pole at Tri-Lakes Arts and Crafts Fair, Sat., Dec. 7, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Downtown Monument's Small Town Christmas, Sat., Dec. 7, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
- Monument Tree Lighting, Sat., Dec. 7, 3-6 p.m.
- Annual Palmer Lake Yule Log Hunt, Sun., Dec. 8, 1 p.m.
- Black Forest Community Potluck & Tree Lighting, Sun., Dec. 8, 5:45 p.m.

## In this issue

- County News 1-3
- WIA News 1, 4
- Monument News 1, 4-10
- Palmer Lake News 10-12
- Water & San District News 13-16
- D38 School District News 17-18
- Fire District News 20-22
- Weather 22-23
- Letters 23
- Columns 24-26
- Snapshots 26-28
- Notices and Calendar 28-31
- OCN Information 31

## Circulation

Print Run: 21,550  
Mail Delivery: 20,612  
Stacks: 938

**Our free circulation area now includes over 1,600 mailboxes in Black Forest!**

## Woodmoor Improvement Association, Oct. 23 Board honors Officer Schill, encourages caution for estate sales and funerals



**Above:** WIA board Director of Public Safety Brad Gleason, left, and WPS Chief Kevin Nielsen, right, present a Life-Saving Award to WPS Officer Karl Schill, center, for his quick response and successful CPR on a Woodmoor resident. *Photo by Jackie Burhans.*

*By Jackie Burhans*

The Woodmoor Improvement Association (WIA) board met on Oct. 23 to present a lifesaving award, discuss services for residents holding estate sales or attending funerals, and provide director updates. Board members Lee Hanson and Per Suhr were absent.

### Officer saves lives

Woodmoor Public Safety (WPS) Chief Kevin Nielsen and Public Safety Director Brad Gleason presented a plaque and token of appreciation to Officer Karl Schill. In the early hours of Sept. 24, Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District (TLMFPD) was dispatched to a local residence for a possible cardiac arrest. Schill arrived within two minutes and took over CPR. When paramedics arrived, the patient was not breathing and had no pulse. Schill continued with CPR and, as the paramedics were about to cancel efforts, the patient took a deep breath

and regained a pulse. Due to Schill's immediate response and actions, the patient survived. TLMFPD also recognized Schill with a lifesaving coin for his actions.

### Safety during estate sales, funerals

Gleason encouraged residents to contact WPS if they or family members are having an estate sale in Woodmoor. He recounted an attempted break-in the night before an advertised estate sale and said such sales are considered easy targets because the houses are usually unoccupied. WPS will put the house on a directed patrol in the time leading up to the sale, similar to a vacation check.

Similarly, he noted that WPS will have an officer positioned to keep an eye on the homes of residents who are attending funerals, which are also publicly advertised.

**WIA (Cont. on 4)**

*Monument Board of Trustees, Oct. 21*

## Kratom moratorium extended ahead of eventual ban; I-25 Gap project revisions

*By Allison Robenstein*

The Monument Board of Trustees (BOT) approved, on Oct. 21, an extension to the existing moratorium on kratom sales with the intent to sign an ordinance to ban its sale entirely at the next regular meeting. After an executive session, the board agreed to transfer property interests to Forest Lakes in exchange for the rights to two well sites. The trustees also approved stormwater impact fee increases and heard a presentation about the I-25 Gap project.

Trustee Greg Coopman was absent.

### Trustees want to ban kratom sales soon

Acting Police Chief Mark Owens had

planned to ask the board to approve an emergency ordinance prohibiting the sale of substances containing kratom to minors and adoption of a new chapter 8.34 to the Monument Municipal Code titled Kratom Regulations.

In Owens' absence, Acting Police Commander Sgt. Jonathon Hudson presented Owens' request, providing additional information for the BOT to consider, saying last Wednesday night that the town of Parker banned all sales of kratom. He said Denver city and county noted it is legal but "not intended for human consumption."

**Background:** During the May 20 BOT meeting, the board approved a 180-day moratorium on the sale of kratom

**MONUMENT (Cont. on 4)**

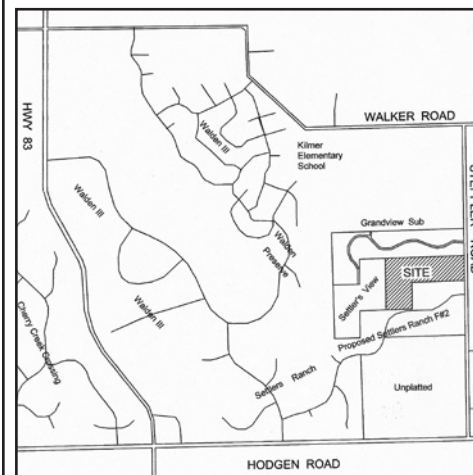
*El Paso Board of County Commissioners, Oct. 1, 3, 8, 15, and 17*

## Abert Ranch preliminary plan approved; initial budget hearings held

*By Helen Walklett*

During October, the El Paso Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) approved a preliminary plan for the Abert Ranch subdivision in Black Forest. The commissioners also held initial hearings for the 2020 preliminary budget.

### Abert Ranch subdivision



*Map courtesy of El Paso County's Planning and Community Development Department's EDARP system.*

At the Oct. 8 BOCC meeting, the commissioners approved 4-0, and without further discussion, a preliminary plan request for the Abert Ranch subdivision. Commissioner Mark Waller was absent. The 40.0-acre property, zoned RR-2.5 (residential rural), is north of Hodgen Road, south of Silver Nell Drive, west of Stepler Road, and east of the Walden development. It is within the Northern Grasslands portion of the Black Forest Preservation Plan area.

The approved plan authorizes the development of 10 single-family lots and 3.85 acres of right of way, with a minimum lot size of 2.5 acres. Lots at the eastern boundary will be a minimum of 5 acres. Access will be via the Grandview and Settlers View developments. The developer will make a financial contribution toward the cost of paving Stepler Road north of Silver Nell Drive.

Now that BOCC has approved the request with a finding for water sufficiency and adequate public improvements at the preliminary plan stage, amendments to the county's Land Development Code, which came into effect on Sept. 1, allow the executive director of Planning and Community Development to approve all subsequent final plat requests. This means that there will be no final plat public hearings for this subdivision.

The BOCC's decision echoed that of the El Paso County Planning Commission, which voted unanimously to recommend the application for approval at its Sept. 17 meeting. *See [www.ocn.me/v19n10.htm#epcpc](http://www.ocn.me/v19n10.htm#epcpc).*

**BOCC (Cont. on 2)**