

Welcome to our new Black Forest readers*! from the all-volunteer staff at

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 #216 — Volume 19 Number 2 — Saturday, February 2, 2019

Free

Read, download, and search all the OCN back issues at www.ocn.me.

Local Events

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

- **Historical Society:** Liz Duckworth presents *Poker Alice Tubbs: The Straight Story*, Thu., **Feb. 21**, 6:30 p.m.
- **Benet Hill:** *A Call to Action: What the Military Can and Should Do About Sex Trafficking*, Mon., **Feb. 4**, 6:30-8:15 p.m.
- **High Altitude Gardening**, Tue., **Feb. 5**, 5-6 p.m.
- **Benet Hill:** *Aging Gracefully, Aging Gratefully*, Thu., **Feb. 7**, 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
- **Landscape Design Principles**, Fri., **Feb. 8**, 10 a.m.
- **Black Rose Acoustic Society:** *The Sweet Lillies*, Fri., **Feb. 8**, 7-10 p.m.
- **Free D-38 Chess Tournament**, Sat., **Feb. 9**, 8-8:30 a.m.
- **Heartsaver CPR/AED/First Aid Certification Course**, Sat., **Feb. 9**, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.
- **Palmer Lake's Winterfest**, Sun., **Feb. 10**, noon-3 p.m.
- **Benet Hill:** *Protecting Our Precious Cargo*, Mon., **Feb. 11**, 6:30-8:15 p.m.
- **Wildfire Presentation by Black Forest Together**, Tue., **Feb. 12**, 6 p.m.
- **Monument PD:** *Active Threats and Personal Safety class*, Wed., **Feb. 20**, 6-8 p.m.
- **WMMI Exhibit Opening & Lecture:** *Our Report Card in Mining*, Mon., **Feb. 21**, 7 p.m.
- **Black Rose Acoustic Society:** *Braithwaite, Uveges, & Sokol*, Fri., **Feb. 22**, 7-10 p.m.
- **Water-wise Gardening**, Tue., **Feb. 26**, 10 a.m.
- **2nd Annual Purse Party**, Wed., **Feb. 27**, noon-2 p.m.
- **Benet Hill: Rocky Mountain Women's Film Institute Free Film:** *Buck*, Fri., **Mar. 1**, 6:30 p.m.
- **Visions of Light Photography Exhibition Opening Reception**, Fri., **Mar. 1**, 6-8 p.m. ■

In this issue

Fire District News 1-6
 Monument News 6-9
 Palmer Lake News 9-10
 Water & San District News 10-14
 D38 School District News 14-18
 County News 18-21
 HOA News 21
 Weather and Letters 21-22
 Columns and Snapshots 22-27
 Notices and Calendar 27-31
 OCN Information 31

Circulation

Print Run: 21,200
 Mail Delivery: 20,484
 Stacks: 716

***Starting with this issue, our free circulation area now includes over 1,600 mailboxes in Black Forest!**

Not just kids enjoy snow days



Above: District 38 students received an extension to their holiday weekend when snow drifts and icy winds closed schools Jan. 22. Students weren't the only residents to appreciate the extra play time and capitalize on powdery snow drifts, however. Lumi, friend and family member of Don and Renee Borchelt, romps along a snowy but familiar path—a most suitable place for a dog of her breed. *Photo provided by Don and Renee Borchelt. Caption by Jennifer Kaylor. See page 21 for Weather Wrap, OCN's monthly weather column by meteorologist Bill Kappel.*

Donald Wescott Fire Protection District, Jan. 15

2019 salary decision fallout

By Allison Robenstein

The Donald Wescott Fire Protection District (DWFPD) board discussed the 2019 salary decisions and possible subdistrict consolidation at its regular meeting on Jan. 15. The directors also discussed the ongoing talks with Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District (TLMFPD) for a possible consolidation, and minimum staffing on calls for service.

Chief Vinny Burns was excused.

2019 salaries squabble; strategic plan discussion

Finances, including the budget and firefighter salaries, took up most of this meeting. Chairman William "Bo"

McAllister was absent from the Dec. 4 meeting but said he was shocked to learn about the salary changes the board ultimately approved for the 2019 budget that night.

McAllister said he left for vacation on Dec. 3 assuming the board members were all on the same page regarding salary increases, with plans to make them close to those of TLMFPD. Instead, three of the members voted to give all paid Wescott staff a 10 percent raise, with Treasurer Joyce Hartung voting against, saying firefighters deserved a bigger increase. This decision was different from what was discussed the previous two months.

DWFPD (Cont. on 2)

Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District, Jan. 23

Emergency response times rise along I-25 gap; "full staffing" achieved

By Natalie Barszcz

At the Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District (TLMFPD) board meeting on Jan. 23, directors heard that response times along the I-25 Gap were increasing and directed the fire chief to continue studying the possibility of a merger with Donald Wescott Fire Protection District (DWFPD). TLMFPD celebrated as the most recently hired EMS/Paramedic was sworn in, achieving the goal of "full staffing."

President Jake Shirk and Director Jason Buckingham were excused.

I-25 response times

Deputy Chief Randy Trost stated that

since the commencement of the Gap widening project between Monument and Castle Rock, a problematic nightmare now exists on I-25 that changes week to week depending on which ramps are closed. Lanes have been reduced to 8 feet or less in some areas, which is simply not wide enough for engine access.

Trost is meeting every two weeks with Larkspur Fire Protection District (LFPD) and Castle Rock Fire and Rescue Department (CRFD), Kramer Construction engineers, and the Colorado Department of Transportation

TLMFPD (Cont. on 5)

An important message for our readers

Our Community News needs your help!

This paper's unbiased reporting, favorable advertising opportunities, and platform for expressing opinions on Tri-Lakes events appears in over 20,000 area mailboxes every month due to **volunteer time and energy**. If you can spare a little—or a lot of—time, here are some vital jobs that can help you build skills and enjoy the camaraderie of new friends:

Ads Coordinator

This role involves significant phone and email communications with advertisers. This volunteer must be comfortable using (or learning) Excel, working at a computer, and explaining the detailed benefits of advertising in OCN. Expect to commit at least 75 hours per month with a concentration of work at the end of the month.

Ads Sales

This volunteer will enjoy engaging potential advertisers about the many benefits of reaching potential customers through OCN's distribution from the mountains to Black Forest Road, and from County Line Road to Northgate Boulevard. The time commitment varies widely from 15 to 40 hours per month.

Mailing Day

Volunteers are needed for various tasks such as inserting flyers, counting papers, loading and unloading tubs of papers for delivery to post offices, and delivering stacks of papers to local businesses. A typical time commitment is generally two to five hours on the Friday before the first Saturday of the month.

Technology & Equipment Assistant

We need another volunteer to learn how to maintain computer hardware and software. Ability to work one on one to train new reporters how to install and use digital recorders and digital cameras. Familiarity with computers, Windows XP and beyond, Sony SX-68, PX-333, Fuji FinePix 6000 is necessary. Hours per month vary.

Graphic Layout

This is a long-term commitment that involves learning the layout and design process using an InDesign application and working with the Managing Editor to determine content. Volunteers can expect to work 20 to 30 hours during the final three to four days prior to print day.

OCN will provide whatever equipment and training are needed. Come, use your enthusiasm and creativity to benefit our community and celebrate unfiltered information. Join us today! Call Managing Editor Lisa Hatfield at (719) 339-7831 or email editor@ocn.me. ■