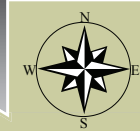


# Our Community News

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 #235 — Volume 20 Number 9 — Saturday, September 5, 2020

Free

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

## Local Events

Many local events continue to be canceled, suspended, or are being conducted on-line or by conference call. See pages 28-31 for details.

The unpredictability of the COVID-19 situation presents scheduling challenges for area governance entities and other organizations. Because OCN is a monthly publication, readers should assume that event information published in this issue is subject to change and information should be confirmed a day or two before the event by calling the information number or checking the organization's website.

Dates are shown for events even though the event has been canceled or suspended. The date indicates when the event was planned to be held or when it would normally have been held.

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

- Monu-Palooza Music Festival, Sun., Sep. 6, 1-8:30 p.m.
- NEPCO Zoom Meeting, Sat., Sep. 12, 10 a.m.-noon. County Engineer Jennifer Irvine.
- Rocky Mountain Pig Jig at WMMI, Sat., Sep. 12, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
- PLHS, tentatively scheduled, Thu., Sep. 17, 7 p.m., Colonel Duhs presents 10th Mountain Division.
- Art Hop is back!, Thu., Sep. 17, 5-8 p.m.
- National Take a Kid Mountain Biking Day, Sat., Sep. 19, 9-11 a.m.
- Run4Hope 5K for Schools, Sat., Sep. 19, 9 a.m.
- Gleneagle Sertoma 19th Annual Patriot Golf Benefit, Mon., Sep. 21, 8:30 a.m.
- Friends of Fox Run Park, Thu., Sep. 24, 5:30 p.m.
- St. Peter Fundraiser Golf Tournament, Fri., Sep. 25, 8 a.m.
- WMMI Harvest Festival and Miners' Pumpkin Patch, Sat.-Sun., Oct. 3-4. Sat. 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sun. noon-4 p.m.

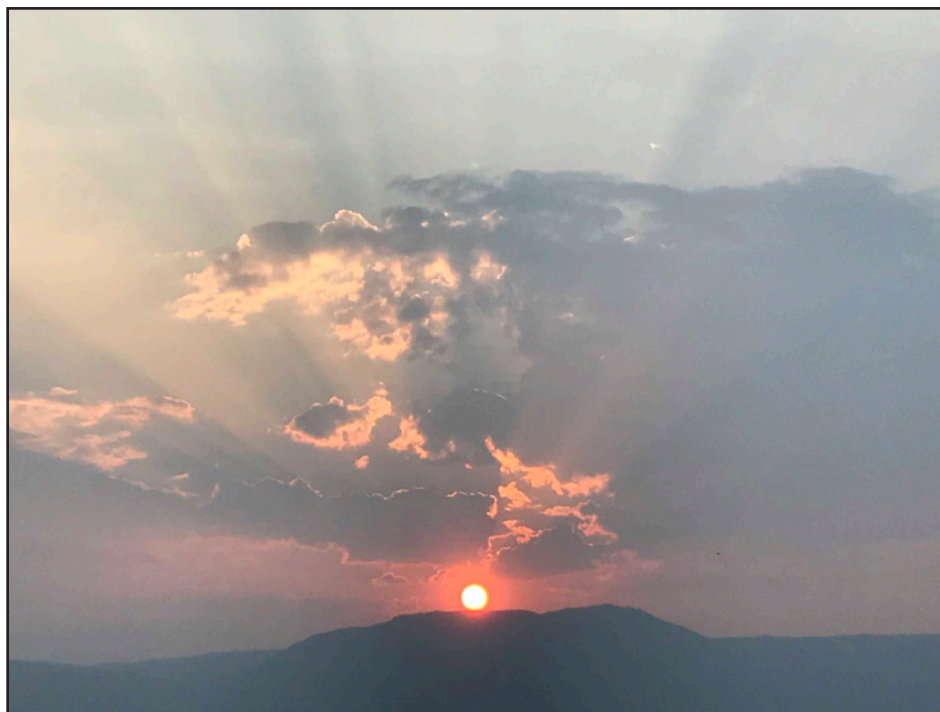
## In this issue

D38 School District News 1-7  
Water & San District News 1, 7-16  
Monument News 1, 16-20  
Palmer Lake News 20  
Fire District News 21-22  
County News 23  
WIA News 23-24  
Weather 24  
Letter 24  
Columns 24-25  
Snapshots 26-28  
Notices and Calendar 28-31  
OCN Information 31, 32  
**OCN Photo Contest 27-28**

## Circulation

Print Run: 21,600  
Mail Delivery: 21,021  
Stacks: 579

## Sunset over Mount Herman



**Above:** Sunset over Mount Herman, Monument, amid the haze on Aug. 21. Front Range residents grow accustomed to days of low visibility and smog caused by multiple fires burning in the western and northern portions of the state. After experiencing many days of thick haze from Colorado fires, strong winds from the west direct smoke from the California fires, causing an increased heavy layer of smog and further reduced visibility. Photo by Natalie Barszcz.

### Monument Academy School Board, Aug. 13

## Board approves opening plan for both campuses

By Jackie Burhans

The Monument Academy (MA) School Board held a special board meeting on July 29, a regular board meeting on Aug. 13 preceded by a question-and-answer session, and a ribbon cutting and tour on Aug. 29 ahead of the start of its school year. MA previously had delayed its calendar to start the school year on Monday, Aug. 31 to ensure that the new school could be completed.

### School opening plan

At the Aug. 13 special meeting, COO Christianna Herrera announced that Janyse Skalla has been hired as a contractor to MA to help implement its eLearning system. She has 17 years' experience in education, with the last 10 years working in an out-of-state charter school that included online, in-class, and homeschool learning. It was reported that Herrera gave up part of her salary to fund this position, because there was no money in the bud-

get for this hire.

Herrera presented the proposed Learning and Operations Resumption Plan for 2020-21. After school ended abruptly in spring, MA has been listing to guidance and attending training and webinars from the League of Charter Schools, the Colorado Department of Education (CDE), and state representatives to determine how to successfully open without having positive cases of COVID-19 that shut down the school. She presented plans for preschool and elementary school as well as two options for middle and high school. She noted that D38 had approved and published its own plan and, along with the CDE, would be approving MA's plan. She noted that MA's funding is contingent on meeting CDE requirements and that she had engaged the charter's lawyer Brad Miller to review and advise.

MA (Cont. on 2)



**Above:** On Aug. 29, MA held a ribbon-cutting ceremony at its new secondary school campus at the intersection of Highway 83 and Highway 105 to about 100 attendees. Presentations were given by MA's COO Christianna Herrera, MA board President Melanie Strop and former board President Mark McWilliams as well as Lewis-Palmer D38 Superintendent KC Somers, D38 board member Tiffney Upchurch, state Sen. Paul Lundeen, and MA secondary school Principal Julie Seymore. Recognition was given to board members, administrators, the JHL construction company, representatives from CRP architects, and developers Bill and Matt Dunston. After the presentation, MA hosted small group tours of the new facility. Photo by Jackie Burhans.

## Working to keep developments and financial strength aligned

By Jennifer Kaylor

At the Aug. 18 Triview Metropolitan District Board of Directors meeting, developer Rob Oldach of Creekside Developers Inc.—sometimes referenced as CSI construction—presented a comprehensive sketch of a proposed new subdistrict within Triview called the Jackson Creek Commercial Metropolitan District (JCCMD). Directors conducted an amended 2019 budget public hearing and reviewed and considered for approval two additional resolutions, an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) and a professional services agreement.

Board directors and some staff attended via Zoom. District counsel Gary Shupp and water attorney Chris Cummins were present. Director James Barnhart was absent.

District Manager Jim McGrady scheduled a special meeting that was conducted as a conference call on Aug. 24 to finalize the wording of two IGAs with the El Paso County Office of the Clerk and Recorder. The required coordinated election IGAs pertained to the district's proposal to repurpose up to seven mills of its current 35-mill levy for operational expenses and for

TRIVIEW (Cont. on 7)

### Monument BOT, Aug. 17, 24

## Voters will see sales tax increase on Nov. ballot

By Allison Robenstein

At the Aug. 17 Monument Board of Trustees (BOT) meeting, the board voted to place a question on the November ballot asking voters to approve a 0.5% sales tax increase. The board also held a water workshop on Aug. 24 to begin discussions to issue over \$20 million in municipal bonds to pay for water projects. Several land development requests were approved as was a new town purchasing policy.

Trustee Jamy Unruh was noted absent from the regular meeting.

### Tax increase would support police

The BOT will ask voters to increase total sales tax from 3% to 3.5%. The additional revenues, totaling \$1.4 million annually, would be wholly in support of the Police Department.

Police Chief Sean Hemingway, Commander Jonathon Hudson, and Sgt. Greg Melikian presented findings from a needs analysis they performed that included the following:

MONUMENT (Cont. on 16)