

Happy Holidays! from the all-volunteer staff at

Our Community News

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



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Local Events

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.

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

- **First Annual Trails End Christmas Market**, Fri.-Sun., Dec. 3-5
- **Kiwanis Monument Hill Club - North Pole Craft Fair**, Sat., Dec. 4, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- **Monument Small Town Christmas**, Sat., Dec. 4, 10 a.m.- 6 p.m.
- **Monument Tree Lighting**, Sat., Dec. 4, 3-5 p.m.
- **Kiwanis Monument Hill Club, Colorado Gives Day**, Tue., Dec. 7
- **Tip a Cop**, Thu., Dec. 9, 5-9 p.m.
- **Southwinds Fine Art Holiday Art Sale**, Fri.-Sun. Dec. 10-12
- **O Holy Night Christmas concert**, Fri., Dec. 10, 7 p.m.
- **Friends of Fox Run Park annual tree "wood cookie" ornament party**, Sat., Dec. 11, 1-3 p.m.
- **Palmer Lake Annual Yule Log Hunt**, Sun, Dec. 12, 1 p.m.
- **Monument Santa on Patrol**, Toys should be dropped off by Mon., Dec. 13, 5 p.m.
- **Northern Delivery System meeting**, Wed., Dec. 15, 5:30 p.m.
- **Woodmen Valley Chapel: Christmas Eve Services**, Fri., Dec. 24, 11 a.m., 1 p.m., 3 p.m., and 5 p.m.
- **Christmas Eve at Tri-Lakes United Methodist Church**, Fri., Dec. 24, 5 p.m., 7 p.m., and 9 p.m.

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The Palmer Lake Star shines brightly



Above: This photograph was taken from the east side of Palmer Lake after this year's Palmer Lake Star Lighting Nov. 27. Please see page 28 for more details about the Palmer Lake Fire Department's annual chili supper and Star lighting. Photo by Steve Pate.

Monument Board of Trustees Special meeting Nov. 3

Raises built into 2F fund for police; disparities in raises questioned

By Allison Robenstein

During the special Monument Board of Trustees meeting held Nov. 3, the board discussed pay raises for town employees and police, as well as retirement benefits. One trustee admitted during public meeting time that she and an on-duty police officer violated the rules government employees must follow regarding elections.

Trustee Laurie Clark was noted absent by Town Clerk Laura Hogan.

Police funding approved by voters

Monument voters passed the 2F ballot initiative which will add a .5 percent

additional sales tax at the first of the year. Ballot issue 2F states that sales taxes will increase \$1.65 million in 2022 through the imposition of an additional 0.5 percent sales tax. With a vote of 2,061 for and 1,252 against, the initiative passed.

Town Manager Mike Foreman explained that the 2022 police department budget will include a \$2.6 million transfer from the General Fund into a specially created fund specific to 2F revenues. Foreman reminded the board the needs of the police will not be met all at once since revenues will funnel into the town over the year.

2F (Cont. on 2)

Monument Board of Trustees Meeting, Nov. 17

Unprecedented 10 percent raise for town employees; rules on remote attendance overridden

By Allison Robenstein

During the Nov. 17 meeting, the Monument Board of Trustees directed Town Manager Mike Foreman to make it possible to pay 10 percent raises to all departments in 2022. Higby Road was annexed into the town and a public safety resolution was passed.

Trustee Laurie Clark and Mayor Pro Tem Kelly Elliott attended remotely. During their June 7 meeting, the board decided each trustee would only get one chance to participate remotely for the rest of this year and two chances in 2022. Additionally, during that vote, the board decided quasi-judicial decisions must be made in person. Clark had already used her one remote par-

ticipation in July.

Don Wilson and the board decided to vacate the previous decision for tonight's meeting. Nothing was said about Clark's second virtual attendance. She and Elliott were allowed to vote remotely.

Budget discussion

The board will consider the 2022 budget at the Dec. 6 meeting. In the meantime, the board has directed staff to pay raises of 10 percent. At first, just the police department was to get a 10 percent raise as Town Manager Mike Foreman and Police Chief Sean Hemingway informed the board they had built in a raise for all officers. Clark said she is in

Lewis-Palmer D-38 Board of Education, Nov. 15

Members take oath of office, student voices regarding No Place for Hate, budget discussion

By Harriet Halbig

Continuing board members Chris Taylor and Tiffiney Upchurch swore their oath of office at the Nov. 15 meeting of the board of education. Members of the board will continue to serve in their current capacity: President Chris Taylor, Vice President Theresa Phillips, Secretary Tiffiney Upchurch, Treasurer Ron Schwarz, and Director Matthew Clawson. In addition, Vicki Wood will be assistant secretary and Kitte Overton will be assistant treasurer.

Taylor and Upchurch ran unopposed, and the district did not participate in this year's election. They will each serve an additional four-year term.

Student voices: No Place for Hate

Superintendent KC Somers introduced a group of students from Lewis-Palmer Middle School who had recently completed training as peer ambassadors in *No Place for Hate*, a program developed by the Anti-Defamation League to eradicate bias and acts of hate among individuals.

Through the use of exercises, the students encouraged individuals to stop, think, feel, and act when confronted with acts of bias. Members of the board were given single sentence statements to read which displayed acts of bias or discrimination. Among

MONUMENT (Cont. on 4)

D-38 BOE (Cont. on 6)