

# Our Community News

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



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**OCN needs  
your help!  
See page 29.**

WHERE TO FIND OFFICIAL COVID INFORMATION  
<https://covid19.colorado.gov/>

## 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 29-31 for event locations and other details of these and many other local events.

- **Palmer Lake Art Group Winter art show, Feb. 4-24**, opening reception Fri., Feb. 4, 6-8 p.m.
- **Tri-Lakes Chamber of Commerce, Education Series: Active Shooter Class**, Wed., Feb. 9, 6-7:30 p.m.
- **John Schneider country music in concert at TLCA**, Sat., Feb. 12, 7 p.m.
- **Tri-Lakes Chamber of Commerce, After Hours Networking Event**, Tue., Feb. 15, 5 p.m.-7 p.m., Scheels
- **Palmer Lake Historical Society**, Thu., Feb. 17, 7 p.m. "Adventures on the Pikes Peak Cog Railway"
- **Heart saver CPR first aid AED class**, Sat., Feb. 19, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.
- **Tri-Lakes Chamber of Commerce, Education Series: Hiring Training, and Retaining Your Workforce with Incentive Programs**, Tue., Feb., 22, 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
- **Wildfire neighborhood ambassadors free class**, Kickoff, Sat., Feb. 26, Tue. Mar. 1-May 3.

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## Circulation

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## Palmer Lake Outdoor Classic pits HS teams



**Above:** The boys' varsity hockey teams from Lewis-Palmer and Cheyenne Mountain high schools competed in the first annual Palmer Lake Outdoor Classic on Jan. 4. Fans sat in newly-constructed bleachers to watch the teams skate on frozen Palmer Lake. Cheyenne Mountain won the exhibition 4-1. Lewis-Palmer senior Eliot Bauer said, "It was actually really exciting. Not a lot of kids can skate on an outdoor pond. We are pretty grateful for the opportunity." Proceeds from ticket sales supported the Lewis-Palmer team. *Caption by Michael Weinfeld and Creighton Smith. Photo by Creighton Smith.*

Lewis-Palmer D38 Board of Education, Jan. 24

## Board recognized, grants announced, compensation approved

By Harriet Halbig

January was National School Board Recognition Month, and representatives from each school spoke of their appreciation for the board and presented mementoes during the Jan. 24 meeting of the Lewis-Palmer D38 Board of Education.

In his update, Superintendent KC Somers announced the receipt of two large grants. The Colorado Multi-Tiered System of Supports grant consists of \$90,000 over four years. In the first year, grant funds will be used at Lewis-Palmer Elementary School and Bear Creek Elementary School. This grant is used to offer additional help to students who are in need of support.

The second grant is the Emergency

Connectivity Award, which provides \$520,280 for the purchase of Chromebooks.

The impact of these grants was detailed in the financial update later in the meeting.

Somers also reported that Palmer Ridge senior Diya Suri has been selected for a trip to Washington, D.C. by placing second in the Mountain View Electric Youth Leadership Trip competition.

The Palmer Ridge High School Knowledge Bowl Team was chosen as Region V champions for the fourth year in a row.

### Portrait of a Lewis-Palmer Graduate project update

Career and Technical Education Coor-

dinator Jess McAllister introduced student interns Addison Haworth (Lewis-Palmer High School senior) and Olivia Jones (recent Palmer Ridge High School graduate), who reported on progress in developing an image of a Lewis-Palmer graduate.

In earlier stages of the project, it was determined that four characteristics should be emphasized: communicator, problem solver, community member, and empowered individual.

With these characteristics in mind, the interns interviewed students, recent graduates, alumni, parents, teachers, staff, and community members to determine how the district helps students to

D38 BOE (Cont. on 2)

Donald Wescott Fire Protection District, Jan. 18

## Director resigns; unification moving rapidly

By Natalie Barszcz

At the Donald Wescott Fire Protection District (DWFPD) meeting on Jan. 18, the board learned of a director resignation, received multiple updates about the unification process amid the ongoing COVID-19 staffing shortages, and heard about the plans to combat wildland urban interface problems. Board resignation

Chairman Mark Gunderman announced that Joyce Hartung had formally submitted her resignation by letter on Jan. 15, and the resignation from the board was effective immediately. Gunderman said Hartung had served the community in many capacities and she was proud to have served on the DWFPD board since May 26, 2010. Before serv-

ing on the Wescott board, Hartung had served on multiple Academy District 20 boards, and he is glad she will now have time for other things, he said.

### Unification update

DWFPD attorney Emily Powell of Ireland Stapleton Pryor Pascoe PC law firm said a telephone conference was held between Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District (TLMFPD) attorney Maureen Juran of Widner Juran LLP, Fire Chief Andy Kovacs, Gunderman, and TLMFPD board President John Hildebrandt to discuss the next steps and prepare the full contract-for-services Intergovernmental Agreement. The contract is expected to be brought to the boards in the first quarter of 2022, or shortly thereafter, said Powell. See [www.ocn.me/v22n1.htm#dwfpd](http://www.ocn.me/v22n1.htm#dwfpd).

Kovacs said DWFPD will utilize the same auditor and contractor for fire prevention services as TLMFPD to streamline the administrative processes, and the audits will begin in May.

Division Chief of Operations Jonathan Bradley said the following:

- The crews of Wescott were blended with TLMFPD on Jan. 11.
- Equipment is moving around from station to station to create more efficiency and provide orientation to all staff on apparatus from both districts.
- Personnel are also moving around within the districts, and with two extra personnel available, the

DWFPD (Cont. on 9)