

Happy Independence Day! 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 #257 — Volume 22 Number 7 — Saturday, July 2, 2022

Free

**OCN needs
your help!
See page 28**

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.

- **July 4th events** see Kiwanis ad on page 16.
- **NEPCO meeting**, Sat., **July 9**, 10 am - 12 pm.
- **"Crepes and Cruisers"** at JCSL, Sat., **July 9**, 10 am-noon
- **Ashes to Beauty**, Waldo Canyon fire recovery, Sat.-Sun., **July 9-10**, 9-5 pm
- **WMMI, Summertime Family Days**, Sat., **July 9, Aug. 20**
- **Chamber After Hours Networking Event**, Tue., **July 12**, 5 pm-7 pm
- **Concerts in the Park**, Wed., **July 13, 20, 27, Aug. 3, 10, 17**. See ad on page 14.
- **Party for the Parks**, Sat., **July 16**, 2-9 pm. See ad on page 14.
- **Pikes Peak Brewing, Hops and Hot Rods**, Sun., **July 17**. See ad on page 13.
- **PLHS Guided Walking Tour of Palmer Lake**, Thu., **July 21**, 1-4 pm
- **Monument Art Hop**, Thu., **July 21**, 5-8 pm. See ad on page 2.
- **TLMFPD Station 1 Grand Reopening**, Sat., **July 30**, 11 am-1 pm.
- **WIA Chipping Days**, Sat.-Sun., **July 30-31**
- **Return of the Rocky Mountain Chautauqua**, Sat., **Aug. 6**, 1-4 pm
- **Technology & Engineering Camps**, **Aug 1-12**, 9 am-3 pm
- **Our Community News mailing day**, Thu., **Aug. 4**, approx. 9 am-2 pm. Information on page 28.
- **Hummingbird Festival**, Fri.-Sat., **Aug. 5-6**, 10-3 pm
- **WMMI Western Saloon night fundraiser**, Sat., **Aug. 6**, 6 pm. See ad on page 20.
- **Elementary/Middle School Robotics Information Session**, Sat., **Aug 13**, 10-11:30am.

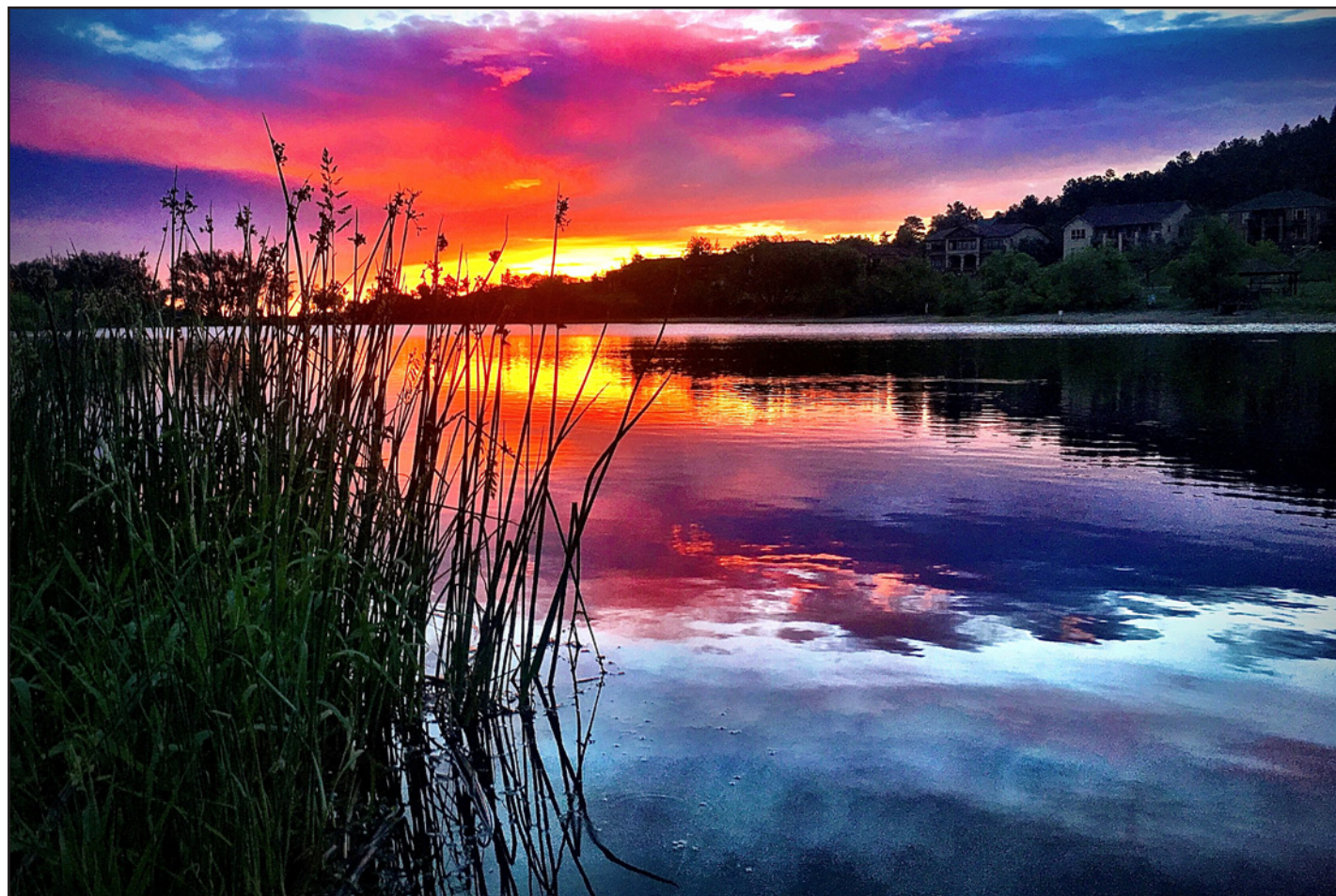
In this issue

- School District 38 News 1-7
- Palmer Lake News 1, 7-10
- Monument News 11-13
- Fire District News 13-20
- Water & San District News 20-22
- County and CDOT News 22
- WIA News 23
- Weather 23
- Letters 23-24
- Columns 24-25
- Snapshots 26-27
- Notices and Calendar 28-31
- OCN Information 10, 28, 31-32

Circulation

Print Run: 22,420
Mail Delivery: 21,730
Stacks: 690

Sunrise over Palmer Lake, June 24



Above: At a sunrise attempt at fishing Palmer Lake on June 24, the fish outwitted the human. Steve Galchutt had many strikes but all misses except one that hung on till he almost got it to shore, then let go. *Photo by Steve Galchutt.*

Monument Academy School Board, June 9

Phase 2 funding, Highway 105 construction hit roadblocks; arming staff decision postponed

By Jackie Burhans

The Monument Academy (MA) School Board held its regular meeting on June 9 to discuss Phase 2 funding, the Highway 105 project, and arming staff. The board also updated four policies and agreed to resume recording, posting, and live streaming its meetings.

MA held a six-hour board retreat on May 31 with current and incoming board members, school administration, and legal counsel. They discussed pressing issues at both campuses, legal training of new board members, a SWOT (Strength, Weakness, Opportunity, Threat) analysis, and more. The board shared some results in the June 9 meeting and planned to discuss the SWOT analysis in the July meeting.

Phase 2 funding

Chief Operating Officer (COO) Merlin Holmes reported that funding for the Phase 2 construction to build out MA's secondary school had gone full circle and hit some roadblocks. He said he would meet with bond counsel the following Monday to discuss how to move forward. Outgoing board member Chris Dole noted that funding had hit a brick wall due to the state of the economy. He said MA's current bondholder for its two existing bonds has no appetite for further financing until things calm down. Dole initially hoped to break ground for a new athletic field last April and see groundbreaking for Phase 2 in August. He said he was not optimistic.

MA (Cont. on 2)

Lewis-Palmer D38 Board of Education, June 20

Board passes 2022-23 budget, learns of recent legislation, discusses potential annexation

By Harriet Halbig

The Lewis-Palmer D38 Board of Education passed the proposed 2022-23 budget, learned the potential impact of recent legislation, and discussed other matters at its June 20 meeting, the last of this school year.

To view the budget, please go the district website, lewispalmer.org. The resolution was divided into sections to

approve the borrowing of funds during the summer to pay commitments until tax revenue is received in October, to carry over funds for ongoing capital projects, and to advance funds to the nutritional services fund.

Legislative update

District Superintendent KC Somers and

D38 BOE (Cont. on 6)

Palmer Lake Board of Trustees, June 9 and 23

Renewable water might be available

By James Howald and Jackie Burhans

On June 23, the Palmer Lake Board of Trustees heard a presentation on a water reuse project that could increase the town's supply of renewable surface water. A public hearing was held and a resolution considered on a conditional use permit for a property just north of the Tri-Lakes Center for the Arts. Two other public hearings were held in June: the first for a conditional use permit for a short-term rental and the second for a final reading of the Model Traffic Code. The board voted following these hearings.

The board also voted on a resolution concerning the county's opioid settlement agreement and on a resolution authorizing Miller Timber to provide fire mitigation. The board heard operational reports and ended its June 23 meeting with a brief executive session.

The board held two workshop meetings in June, both on ideas to improve the town's finances. Those workshops are covered in a separate article in this edition of OCN.

The Loop Project promises renewable water supply

Jessie Shaffer, district manager of the Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District, Amy Lathen, general manager of the Cherokee Metropolitan District, and Tom Tharnish, director of Public Works for the Town of Monument, gave the board an overview of the Loop Project, a large infrastructure project, still in the planning phase, whose goal is to increase

PALMER LAKE (Cont. on 7)