

Our Community News

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



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Issue #267 — Volume 23 Number 6 — Saturday, June 3, 2023

Free

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

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.

- OCN mailing day, Thu., June 1 & June 29, approx. 9 am-2 pm.
- YMCA summer day camp, starts Tue., May 30. See ad on page 6.
- Concerts in the park, every Wed., through Aug. 9, 6:30 to 8:30 pm.
- Color splash art show 2023, Thu., June 1 through Wed. June 28, Opening reception Fri., June 2, 6:30 pm.
- Love shop, Restyle your furs event, Tue.-Wed., June 6 & 7, 10 am-5 pm. See ad on page 8.
- MVEA Annual meeting of members, Thu., June 8.
- Art Hop, Thu., June 15, 5-8 pm. See ad on page 2.
- Jackson Creek Community garage sale, Fri.-Sat., June 16-17.
- Front Range Maker's Market, Sat., June 17, 8:30 am-3 pm. See ad on page 2.
- Palmer Lake Historical Society Annual Father's Day ice cream social, Sun., June 18, 2-4 pm.
- WMMI, STEaM camps, June 19-23, July 17-21, www.wmmi.org.
- Shakespeare's Pericles, Prince of Tyre. FREE performances Sat., June 24, 1:30 pm & 6 pm. Lecture 12:30 pm. Palmer Lake.
- MA Town Hall Meeting on Gender Issues, Tue., June 27, 6 pm. East campus
- Monument Hill Kiwanis 4th of July parade, See list of events on page 9.

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Tri-Lakes honors Memorial Day



Above: It was warm and sunny on May 29 when about 200 people attended a Memorial Day ceremony in Monument Cemetery. The red, white, and blue American flag and the black POW/MIA flag were raised, then lowered to half-staff as an honor guard made up of members of St. Peter Church Knights of Columbus Assembly #2594, Knights of Columbus Assembly #11514, American Legion Post 9-11, and VFW Post 7829 saluted and some raised their swords while the crowd sang the national anthem. The ceremony included speeches by local and state politicians and the traditional reading of the names of veterans interred in the cemetery while a bell was rung for each name. The program ended with taps played by Michael Carlson, a graduate of Palmer Ridge High School. Photo by Michael Weinfeld.

Lewis-Palmer D38 Board of Education, May 22

Pay schedule approved, board roles revised, funding detailed

By Harriet Halbig

The Lewis-Palmer D38 Board of Education discussed several major topics at its May 22 meeting. These included the final total of funding from the School Finance Act, a reversal of the Board of Vice President and Appointment of Secretary, approval of the 2023-24 pay schedule, and other subjects.

School funding for 2023-24

Chief Business Officer Brett Ridgway reported that the School Finance Act funding for the 2023-24 school year increased by 10.2%. Because the previous estimated increase was 9%, this

amount resulted in significant changes in the proposed budget for the coming school year.

The per pupil revenue as a result of this increase will be \$10,000 and the increase will also be reflected in the pay schedule, as seen below.

Ridgway reported that, in addition to this increase, schools and departments were able to discover efficiencies in their operations which would yield an additional \$850,000 to be used for compensation of staff.

Treasurer Ron Schwarz asked

D38 BOE (Cont. on 8)

MA School Board, May 11, 25

MA addresses gender issues, budgets

By Jackie Burhans

At its May 11 regular meeting, the Monument Academy board heard from its community about a gender restroom issue and heard committee highlights. At a special meeting on May 25, the board approved budgets, including changes to job descriptions and organizational structures.

MA addresses gender issues again

During citizen comments, mother and daughter Jenn and Avery Brady spoke out on an interaction between the daughter and a transgender girl who used a restroom. Jenn Brady said her daughter had started a petition to secure privacy and safety in the restroom. She said she was proud of MA's previous proclamation on gender issues but that it must close the loop to protect all students. The current solution for a student who feels unsafe is to use a unisex restroom or one by the nurse, which she felt discriminated against the majority, causing students to lose passing time—the time between classes when students must pass from one room to another. The solution, while costly, she said, was for MA to overhaul its restrooms. She felt confident parents would rally and said the ball was in MA's court.

MA (Cont. on 2)

Principal Parsley retires



Above: Bear Creek Elementary School students didn't want retiring Principal Peggy Parsley to leave without showing how much she meant to them. On May 8, student officers of the Kiwanis K-Kids Club gave Parsley a binder of letters written by club members. The students wrote the letters and then copied them onto special paper that was laminated and loaded into a three-ring binder with a cover designed by one of the students. The K-Kids Club is made up of fourth- through sixth-graders. They do projects aimed at strengthening leadership skills and their appreciation for the impact of service to others. Parsley is the only principal the school has ever had. Photo by RF Smith.