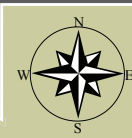


Our Community News

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



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Issue #289 — Volume 25 Number 4 — Saturday, April 5, 2025

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OCN.ME

Audio is posted for many of the articles and videos for some events.



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 page 22 and page 23 for event locations and other details of these and many other local events.

- **OCN mailing day**, Thu., Apr. 3 & May 1, approx. 7-8:30 am. **Become an OCN reporter!** We will train you! Call 719-488-3455.
- **D38 Elementary School Student Art Show**, Apr. 1-6.
- **D38 Middle and High School Student Art Show**, Apr. 8-13.
- **Bethesda Gardens' Annual Hop-Out-Hunger pancake breakfast**, benefits Tri-Lakes Cares. Sat., Apr. 5, 7:30-9 am. \$10/person.
- **Monument Hill Foundation**, grant applications accepted **Apr. 15 - May 31**. See ad on page 11.
- **100+ Women Who Care Bi-Annual Meeting**, Wed., Apr. 16, 5 pm.
- **Puzzle swap and speed jigsaw puzzle competition**. Mon., Apr. 21, 6:30-8:30 pm
- **Space Foundation National Space Day**, May 3. See ad on page 12.
- **Taste of Tri-Lakes Cares**, Wed., May 14, 5:30-8:30 p.m. See ad on page 8.
- **Silver Key Senior Summit**, Thu., May 15, 8 am-2 pm. See ad on page 2.
- **WMMI Picnics and Planes**, USAFA graduation airshow event, Thu., May 29. See ad on page 12.
- **Front Range Maker's Market**, Sat.-Sun., June 7-8. See ad on page 5.



Above: Pianist Annabelle Carter, a homeschooled high school junior, earned the top prize in the Monument Hill Club's Stars of Tomorrow talent show held at Palmer Ridge High School in Monument on March 16. Photo by Michael Weinfeld. For more on the show see page 21.

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Lewis-Palmer D38 Chess Tournament, Mar. 8



Above: More than 100 students ranging in age from 5 to 18 took part in the 18th annual D38 Chess Tournament at Bear Creek Elementary School in Monument on March 8. Among kindergartners, homeschool student Maverick Mandrick came in first. Bear Creek Elementary School first-grader Sam Knauf won his age group. The second-grade winner was Palmer Lake Elementary School student Hanvi Santhamathi. Luke Heiberger of Prairie Winds Elementary led the third-graders. The fourth-grade competition was won by Bradley Walker of Bear Creek. Another Bear Creek student, Max Lindemann, came in first among fifth-graders. The sixth-grade winner was Walter Hefter of Prairie Winds. In the middle school division, Corey Cinalli of Lewis-Palmer Middle School was tops. And the high school winner was Robbie Collier of Lewis-Palmer High School. Photo by Michael Weinfeld.

Palmer Lake Board of Trustees, Feb. 27, March 13 and 27

Buc-ee's rescinds annexation request; three board members face potential recall

By James Howald and Jackie Burhans

This article covers the second board meeting for February, which was held after the February issue of OCN went to press, and the two board meetings held in March.

Issues raised by the proposed Buc-ee's travel center were a central focus of the Palmer Lake Board of Trustees (PLBOT) in February and March.

In response to the contentious discussion of the Buc-ee's travel center in social media, the board looked at revising its policies governing use of social media by board members.

The PLBOT also held workshops on the future direction of the Palm-

er Lake Police Department, the use of the Elephant Rock property, and the possible transition to a single-hauler trash service for the town. The discussions at the workshop led to actions and further discussions at the board meetings.

Buc-ee's annexation discussion rages on

A lawsuit against the town brought by a Colorado Springs watchdog group named Integrity Matters and Buc-ee's annexation petition were discussed by the board at the executive session following its board meeting on Feb. 27. Executive sessions are used to discuss negotiating positions and legal advice that are

PALMER LAKE (Cont. on 2)

Lewis-Palmer D38 Board of Education, March 17

Board posts superintendent position internally, receives updates on Home School Enrichment Academy and Transitions Services

By Harriet Halbig

The Lewis-Palmer D 38 Board of Education determined the method for selecting a new superintendent and discussed rehousing the Home School Enrichment Academy and the Transitions Services program at its March 17 meeting.

Superintendent search

In her board comments, board Secretary Dr. Patti Shank said she had attended a number of district meetings and meetings of groups such as the Parent and Community Advisory Committee and the Staff Collaboration Committee and received emails from stakeholders in favor of posting the position of superintendent

internally, thereby limiting the pool of candidates to those currently employed by the district.

Shank said that she was gratified that most of the responses to the question were so largely in favor of one approach. Board President Tiffney Upchurch also commented that she found this to be the case, as many of those who contacted her felt that by using this method the district would be considering only those who know the community well.

Board approves internal superintendent search process. Treasurer Ron Schwarz cast the only

D38 (Cont. on 5)

Monument Town Council, Mar. 5

Residents discuss Monument 2040 Plan

By Laura Lucero

On the evening of March 5, the Monument Town Council (MTC) invited the community to join in a discussion of the Monument 2040 Comprehensive Plan. A comprehensive plan is required for communities with a population over 2,000. According to the town's webpage, "The comprehensive plan will serve as a long-term blueprint, guiding the community's growth over the next 10-15 years and addressing critical areas such as housing, economic development, stormwater management, parks, and a special focus on the downtown area."

MONUMENT PLAN (Cont. on 9)



Above: Monument community members gather around a detailed map of downtown during a public workshop on March 5 to help shape the Monument 2040 Comprehensive Plan. The entire community was invited, and about 60 people showed up to share their thoughts. Residents discussed where downtown's true boundaries lie, along with key elements the plan will address—such as transportation flow, land use, historic preservation, economic development, housing, and park access. The workshop, held in the Bear Creek Elementary School gym, invited thoughtful input on the town's future. Photo by Chris Jeub.