

# Our Community News

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



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Issue #134 — Volume 12 Number 4 — Saturday, April 7, 2012

Free

## Local Events

See pages 35-39 for details of these and many other local events.

**Palmer Lake and Monument Easter Egg Hunts, Sat., Apr. 7, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.**

**Palmer Lake's Easter Pancake Breakfast, Sun., Apr. 8, 7-11 a.m.**

**Free One Day HAP Estate Seminar, Wed., Apr. 11, 12:30 p.m.**

**Anne of Green Gables, the Play, Fri.-Sat., Apr. 13-14, 7 p.m., LPHS**

**Tri-Lakes Chamber Dinner & Silent Auction, Sat., Apr. 14, 5:30**

**The Quality of Life Indicators for the Pikes Peak Region, Wed., Apr. 18, 2:30 p.m.**

**Protect Our Wells: Experts Discuss the Risks and Dangers of Oil & Gas Development, Thu., Apr. 19, 7 p.m.**

**Palmer Lake Historical Society: Trails to Interstate: Transportation Systems Across the Palmer Divide, Thu., Apr. 19, 7 p.m.**

**Tri-Lakes EDC Economic Update Luncheon with Fred Crowley, Ph.D., Thu., Apr. 26, registration 11 a.m.**

**Palmer Lake After Dark, Fri., Apr. 27, 8 p.m.**

**Pine Forest Antiques & Garden Show & Sale, Sat., Apr. 28, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., & Sun., Apr. 29, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.**

**Youth Empowerment Festival, Sat., Apr. 28, 4-11 p.m.**

**Senior Citizen Fraud Protection, Wed., May 2, 12:30 p.m.**

**Black Forest Arts & Crafts Guild Spring Show & Sale, Thu.-Sat, May 3-5; 9 a.m.-8 p.m., Sun., May 6, 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.**

**Tri-Lakes Time Trial Bicycle Race, Sat., May 5**

**Spirits of Spring Wine and Food Tasting and Auction, Sat., May 5, 5-8 p.m. ■**

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**Above:** On March 24, the Donald Wescott Fire Protection District dedicated its new Shamrock Ranch Station 2 to the memory of late Chief Jeff Edwards, who spearheaded the station's design and construction contract. Memorial plaques dedicated to "Chief Ed" will be displayed inside the new firehouse and on an entrance pedestal. This \$2 million firehouse, with a contemporary barn design to match its rural setting, is built on a five-acre lot at Highway 83 and Stagecoach Road that was donated by David and Mary Wismer, owners of the Shamrock Ranch. The ceremony included a parade up the new massively reinforced driveway, with bagpipes, by the Wescott staff, and presentations to the Edwards family, to the Wismers, to Kevin McCullough of firehouse contractor Colarelli Construction, to physician advisor Dr. Dave Ross, and to AMR operations manager Ted Sayer. Also there were champagne bottle christenings of the new AMR 582 ambulance and a new smaller-scale rural area pumper for use in the adjacent wooded areas with narrow driveways, a presentation of the official station key to the Wescott board and staff by McCullough (whose grandfather owned Shamrock Ranch before the Wismers), speeches by district board President Scott Campbell, Chief Vinnie Burns and senior shift commanders, and a ribbon-cutting by Chief Edwards' widow, Debbie. *Photo by Jim Kendrick.* See also the photo on page 14.

## Colorado Water Quality Control Commission, Mar. 12-14

# Lengthy nutrients hearings end with new regulations

By Susan Hindman

Despite a concerted effort to strip nitrogen removal from regulations that would force extremely costly treatment methods on wastewater treatment facilities across the state, the Colorado Water Quality Control Commission voted on March 14 to include nitrogen in the new wastewater standards. Regulations 31 and 85 represent the first time all facilities will be required to remove phosphorus and nitrogen from their effluent—the treated water released back into streams. The regulations impose numeric restrictions on those two nutrients.

The verdict followed two and a half days of testimony by 48 stakeholders that included the state's Water Quality Control Division (WQCD, which set the new numeric standards); the EPA (which was requesting new standards); the Colorado Nutrient Coalition, representing 67

treatment facilities against the nitrogen standards; and mountain, Western Slope, and Front Range treatment facilities that detailed the effects the regulations would have on them. The commission then deliberated for four hours before making its decision.

The WQCD argued that the regulations are necessary to clean state waters to standards that would "satisfy" the EPA. Public utility managers had no argument with phosphorus removal, but they argued that comparable levels of nitrogen removal would be nearly six times more costly to remove than phosphorus and that the science did not support removing both. Instead, they believed that phosphorus-only removal would be more likely to help take care of the problems caused by algae in state waters.

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## Lewis-Palmer D-38 Board of Education, March 15

# Bus fee approved

By Harriet Halbig

On March 15, the Lewis-Palmer School District Board of Education unanimously approved a charge of 50 cents per ride for bus transportation beginning in the 2012-13 school year.

Following a study and surveys administered by a special committee composed of staff, parents, teachers, and members of the community, Assistant Superintendent Cheryl Wangeman presented the proposal, incorporating suggestions and questions posed at the February meeting. These changes included:

- A multiple child discount so that no family would be required to pay more than \$500 per school year.
- Additional attempts to make payment easier for families.
- The district would request a \$25 deposit by July 1 for those wishing to use the service. This would allow for any necessary adjustments in routes. If the deposit causes hardship, parents will be urged to sign up anyway.
- Parents may pay \$150 in advance for an entire year of service. Any remaining balance at the end of the school year remains in the account until the family leaves the district or the student graduates.
- The first swipe card will be provided to the student free of charge, paid for by a grant received by the district. There will be a \$5 replacement fee for the first lost card and \$10 for each additional card. Students will have a swipe card regardless of whether they choose to ride the bus. It has not yet been determined whether the card will remain with the student all day (perhaps combined with the card used to purchase lunch) or will remain on the bus.
- Parents can add credit to the card via the district's website. They will be notified if the balance falls below \$5.

Wangeman also pointed out that those students who are entitled to free or reduced price lunches will not be charged for transportation. Their cards will look like everyone else's, but the Transportation Department will make note of their status. Special needs students whose individual education plan requires bus transportation will also be exempt.

- Bus drivers will not be involved in enforcing payment of the fee. If students come to a stop without a card, the driver will take them to school and make a note of their names. At the end of the day, parents will be called to pick up those students. The card can only be used for trips to and from home and school, not between schools.

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