

# 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 #145 — Volume 13 Number 3 — Saturday, March 2, 2013

Free

## Local Events

See pages 31-35 for details of these and many other local events.

Senior Dental Clinic, Wed., Mar. 6

El Paso County Hazardous Materials & Recycling Collection Facility, Sat., Mar. 9, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

NEPCO Meeting, Sat., Mar. 9, 10 a.m.-noon. County engineer Andre Brackin reports on transportation projects.

HAP-py Feet Foot Care Clinic, Wed., Mar. 13

Palmer Lake Historical Society Meeting: "Women Who Fought as Men in the Civil War", Thu., Mar. 21, 7 p.m.

Evacuation Stories and Packing Advice, Sat., Mar. 2, 9-11 a.m.

Evening in Athens at TLCA, Sat. Mar. 2, 6 p.m.

John Fielder presents a lecture/slide show at TLCA, Thu., Mar. 7, 6:30-9 p.m.

John Fielder's Field Training Expedition, Sat., Mar. 9, 7 a.m.

Western Museum of Mining & Industry (WMMI): Is it Magic? No, Electricity! Sat., Mar. 16, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Tri-Lakes Cares Blood Drive, Tue., Mar. 19, 3-7 p.m.

Western Museum of Mining & Industry (WMMI): Women's Work in the Mining Camp, Sat., Mar. 23, 11 a.m.

Palmer Lake's Annual Easter Egg Hunt, Sat., Mar. 30, 10-11 a.m.

Palmer Lake's Easter Pancake Breakfast, Sun., Mar. 31, 7-11 a.m.

Rocky Mountain Music Alliance Free Concert, Sun., Apr. 7, 3 p.m.

Pine Forest Antiques Home Decor & Garden Show & Sale, Sat., Apr. 20, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sun., Apr. 21, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. ■

## In this issue

Monument News 1, 4-15  
Water & San District News 15-20  
Fire District News 1, 20-21  
D-38 News 18-23  
Baptist Road News 24  
WIA News 24  
Weather 25  
Letters 25  
Books, Birds, and Arts 25-27  
Snapshots of Our Community 27-28  
Gray Matter 28  
Emergency Preparedness 29  
Library Events 30  
Special Events and Notices 31-32  
Our Community Calendar 32-35  
OCN information 29, 30, 35

See page 13 for I-25  
Expansion Plans



Above: Recruit Ryan Grafmiller "rescuing" Lt. Ryan Graham while Recruits Brian Olmos, Cristian Guerra, and Michele Bumgarner watch during the ice rescue portion of the Recruit Academy ceremony. Photo by Franz Hankins. See page 28 for additional photos.

## Firefighter and paramedic graduates honored

By Bernard L. Minetti

*"The call to serve ... It has no sound ... Yet, I have heard it ... In the whispered retelling of honorable sacrifices made by those who have served before me ... The call to serve has no form ... Yet, I have seen it ... In the eyes of men and women infinitely more courageous and more driven than most ... The call to serve has no weight ... Yet, I have held it in my hands ... I will commit to carry it close to my heart until my country is safe ... and the anguish of those less fortunate has been soothed ... The call to serve is at once invisible, and always present ... and for those who choose to answer the call ... for their country ... for their fellow man ... for themselves ... It is the most powerful force on earth."*

Fire Lt. and Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District Fire Academy Superintendent Mike Keough read these words in his presentation of the firefighter and paramedic class 01-2013 to those assembled at the Sundance Mountain Lodge for the graduation ceremony. The author is Coby Dillard, a member of the national advisory council of the Project 21 black leadership network and a founder of the Hampton Roads Tea Party in southern Virginia. He is a Navy veteran who served in the Middle East and at Guantanamo Bay.

About 250 attended the Feb. 2 ceremony. At the dais were Interim Fire Chief Bryan Jack, Assistant Fire Academy Superintendent, Fire Lt. Ryan Graham, and Fire Trainee Matthew Snyder.

Keough provided a dissertation and overview of the schooling process and a brief presentation on the traditions and the nobility of the fire service in general. Jack reminded the assembled of the heritage of the district and the sequence of events that led up to this ceremony. Graham provided a few comments about the training program itself. Snyder provided a jocular overview of his experience in the training process.

The class consisted of six fire trainees who are recipients of the federal Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant that provided funding for two years as firefighters. They are William Vogl, Brian Olmos, Cristian Guerra, Adam Wakefield, Padraic Atkinson, and Ryan Grafmiller. The paramedic class consisted of five trainees from inside and outside the district. They are Jennifer Catanach, Nathan Snyder, Michael Webster, Aaron Wood, and Michele Bumgarner. The firefighter trainee's starting salary is about \$36,439 and the paramedic starting pay is \$40,787.

Bernard Minetti may be contacted at [bernardminetti@ocn.me](mailto:bernardminetti@ocn.me).

## Monument Planning Commission, Feb. 13

### Senior living facility approved

By Jim Kendrick

On Feb. 13, the Monument Planning Commission approved a preliminary/final planned development (PD) site plan and a related replat and vacation of right-of-way for the proposed Beacon Lite Senior Living Facility on the vacant Hull property between Grace Best Elementary School

and Beacon Lite Road, and south of the Pankratz center and the Santa Fe Trail.

Director of Development Services Tom Kassawara introduced the town's new Principal Planner Mike Pesicka, a former senior planner for the City of Centennial.

(Continued on page 4)

El Paso Board of County Commissioners, Feb. 19

## Developer given more time on hazardous intersection issue

By Lisa Hatfield

On Feb. 19, the El Paso Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) planned to request authorization to pursue litigation against the Brookmoor Estates Homeowners Association. The goal was to bring the sight distance issue at the intersection of Lake Woodmoor Drive and Moveen Heights into compliance with the Engineering Criteria Manual. However, the developer, who is a member of the HOA board, requested a postponement because the engineering study that had been requested of him at the Dec. 20 meeting was not done. The commissioners asked no questions of the developer. The item was continued to the March 12 BOCC meeting by a unanimous vote of the commissioners.

Another BOCC agenda item pertaining to the Tri-Lakes area was the regional stormwater resolution. This plan will encourage all municipalities in the Fountain Creek basin to cooperate on flood control measures.

### Brookmoor wall background

As reported in the Brookmoor article in the Oct. 6, 2012, edition of OCN, the sight distance problem at the entrance to Brookmoor Estates came to the attention of the county commissioners after residents began using a rear emergency gate as a free-flowing intersection to South Park Drive. ([www.ocn.me/v12n10.htm#brookmoor](http://www.ocn.me/v12n10.htm#brookmoor))

An automated gate was installed there by the Brookmoor Estates HOA so residents could avoid using the main entrance, since visibility from Moveen Heights to Lake Woodmoor Drive at that intersection is blocked by a stucco front entrance wall. The owners of the adjacent development complained to the county about the traffic on what was supposed to be a cul-de-sac, and the county agreed the thoroughfare did not conform to the use specified in the approved planned unit development (PUD) site plan.

The tall stucco wall built at the intersection of Lake Woodmoor Drive and Moveen Heights created the sight distance safety hazard at this intersection. Developer Michael Brennan, who is a member of the HOA board, built the solid wall to replace a split-rail fence that was falling down. However, the new wall was not in compliance with the county-approved PUD site plan.

The Brookmoor HOA received a letter from El Paso County Code En-

(Continued on page 2)