

Our Community News

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



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Free

Local Events

See pages 28-31 for details of these and many other local events.

Otis Taylor Concert at TLCA, Fri., Oct. 3, 7 p.m.

Palmer Lake Art Group's 41st Annual Christmas Arts & Crafts Fair, Fri.-Sun., Oct. 3-5

HAP-py Feet Foot Care Clinic, Wed., Oct. 8
Monument Fall Fest, Sat., Oct. 4, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Empty Bowls Dinner & Silent Auction, Wed., Oct. 8, 5-7:30 p.m.

Reynolds Ranch Harvest Festival, Fri.-Sat., Oct. 10-11, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.,

Ice Cave Creek Trail Building, Sat., Oct. 11, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.,

Slash Disposal Drop-off Day, Sat. Oct. 11, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

El Paso County Hazardous Materials & Recycling Collection Facility, Sat., Oct. 11, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Pumpkin Patch at Peak Ranch's Alpaca Boutique, Sat., Oct. 11, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.,

Danny Byram Concert at TLCA, Sat., Oct. 11, 7 p.m.,

Miguel Dakota Welcome Home Concert with Spiral Lions, Sun., Oct. 12, 3 p.m.

Palmer Lake Historical Society: Sheriff Rankin Scott Kelly, First Sheriff of El Paso County, Thu., Oct. 16, 7 p.m.,

Monument Library: AARP Smart Driver Course, Sat., Oct. 18, 1-5 p.m.

RMMA Concert: The Beethoven Project I, Sun., Oct. 19, 3 p.m.

Wine and Roses, Sat., Oct. 25, 6-9 p.m.,

Caravan of Thieves Concert at TLCA, Sat., Oct. 25, 7 p.m.,

Safe Trick-or-Treat sponsored by the HMMA, Fri., Oct. 31, 4-6 p.m.

How and Why To Do Fire Fuel Mitigation? Sat., Nov. 1, 9 a.m.,

Black Forest Arts & Crafts Guild 50th Anniversary Fall Show & Sale, Thu.-Sun., Nov. 6-9

Monument Academy Veterans' Day Assembly: "Honoring the Honorable," Tue., Nov. 11, 10 a.m.

Free Rape Prevention & Self Defense Seminar, Wed., Nov. 12, 19, & 26, 7:30-9:30 p.m. □

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Above: Lewis-Palmer District 38 Hall of Fame inductees for 2014 are, left to right, Dwight "Ted" Bauman, Amy O'Dair, Dr. Jeffery Ferguson, Avis Cook, Dallas Strawn, Dr. Genevieve Garcia, and Victor Garcia. Not pictured is Dodi Whitelaw. Photo by Harriet Halbig.

Nine named to D-38 Hall of Fame

By Harriet Halbig

Many community members came to Lewis-Palmer High School on Sept. 20 to recognize nine individuals who have contributed to the excellence of Lewis-Palmer School District 38. This was the second year of the Lewis-Palmer Hall of Fame.

Inez Johnson Lewis

A special Legacy Award was presented to Inez Johnson Lewis, whose name is on the building now known as Big Red. Lewis served during a time when the county began with 58 separate school districts, a number reduced to 18 by the time she went on to serve as the state's superintendent of public instruction. She was the superintendent for El Paso County schools from 1908 until 1928.

By consolidating many rural districts

with single schoolhouses, Lewis made it possible for more students to achieve the goal of a high school diploma. Among the innovations under her tenure were the guarantee of safe drinking water for each school, introduction of preschools, adult education and vocational school, and the development of school lunch and transportation programs.

Dwight "Ted" Bauman

Dwight "Ted" Bauman was recognized for his service as principal, assistant superintendent, and superintendent of schools three times, first in 1998-2003, then again as interim superintendent in 2010-11 and 2014. Bauman came to the district from Canon City and was hired as the first principal of Ray E. Kilmer El-

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Above: The 2013 Black Forest Fire reduced the ground's ability to absorb rainwater and runoff, presenting the need for anti-erosion practices. On Sept. 13 and 14, volunteers guided by the Rocky Mountain Field Institute used pickaxes, sledgehammers, and saws to install log erosion barriers (LEBs) in Black Forest Regional Park. LEBs allow rainwater to run downhill in wide sheets instead of channeling into deep rills that erode sediment and wash it downstream, clogging drainage ditches and washing out roads. Volunteers also planted grass seed to promote slope stabilization. See www.rmfi.org for more information. See also www.blackforesttogether.org to volunteer to help Black Forest landowners with continuing cleanup work on their properties after the fire. Photo by George Lee. See additional photos on page 23.

El Paso County Board of County Commissioners, Sept. 2

Stormwater drainage fee set for ballot

By Allison Colburn

On Sept. 2, the El Paso Board of County Commissioners unanimously approved an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) as well as ballot language regarding possible funding for the proposed Pikes Peak Regional Drainage Authority (PPRDA). If the ballot measure passes in November, the PPRDA, governed by a board of elected officials representing El Paso County, Colorado Springs, Fountain, and Green Mountain Falls, would serve to plan and coordinate regional stormwater management over the course of the next 20 years.

Neither Monument nor Palmer Lake is part of this IGA. Residents of El Paso County will vote in November whether or not to approve the ballot measure funding the PPRDA. (See Woodmoor article on page 19.)

Commissioner Amy Lathen said, "This recognizes our obligation to our downstream neighbors, and it recognizes that we simply can't afford to spend money over and over again fixing roads, bridges, trails, and utility lines damaged by uncontrolled stormwater."

The board presented a list of over 100 projects and improvements to be completed in the next several years. While the majority of proposed improvements are concentrated in Colorado Springs, a few involve the Tri-Lakes area. The board suggested stormwater management improvements in Gleneagle/Northgate and Woodmoor, as well as a channel stabilization project for Kettle Creek, which was deemed necessary after the Black Forest Fire.

The priority of these projects may shift as storms and flood events dictate over the course of the agreement. Areas in need of improvement were identified and prioritized by a citizen-led task force that was formed two years ago.

The task force held public outreach meetings and met with residents, business groups, and nonprofits to develop a plan to finance the stormwater management projects, which would be funded by a fee, if approved by county residents this November. The fee per property will be determined based upon a property's total impervious surface (a surface that is resistant to water infiltration, such as concrete), impervious surface density (the ratio of impervious surface to total surface area), land use, and ownership.

For the average homeowner, this results in a fee of \$7.70 per month, \$92.40 annually. No more than 1 percent of gross revenue would be used for administrative expenses, while 55 percent would be used for capital improvements, 35 percent for operation and maintenance, and 10 per-

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