



**Kiwanis**<sup>®</sup>  
Monument Hill Club

K-News

February 7, 2026

*Monument Hill Club - Service Since 1974*

## Today's Program



**2025 and 2026 Tax Updates**

***Geoff Bradshaw***

President Jim Head called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

Zoomers were Rich Rima, Ron Mangiarelli, Barrie Town, Dr. Marlene Bizub, Cay Price, Benny Nasser, and Donald Johnson.

Dave Bailey was Sergeant at Arms.

Bill Kaelin led the Pledge Of Allegiance.

Bob Harrigan was this week's Scribe.



### **Member Concerns**

Rich Hicks led member concerns.

Recognizing members with recent surgeries (Bill Kaelin - left knee replacement, Terry McMullin - left shoulder replacement), Jim Wolf suggested that in our seating arrangements we set up a Red Cross table or a Parts Replaced table for those affected. Best wishes for speedy recoveries!

Rich led a morning prayer. Gracious Father, Please bring creativity to the minds of our youth. Help them dream solutions and reimagine the way we serve one another. May their energy spark renewal in every corner of our community. Amen





### **Guests and Visiting Kiwanians**

Ted Bauman introduced his good friend, Lee Meier. Ted has known Lee for over 20 years. Lee's two daughters graduated from Lewis Palmer high School and have successful careers. He is retired now and worked at Schriever Air Force Base, Cheyenne Mountain and Space Force. Lee has said he is interested in the Club, so Ted asked us to treat him well on Saturday. Welcome!

We also had a return visitor, Dana Franzen. Welcome back!

### **Upcoming Programs**

- Feb 14 - Human Trafficking Task Force
- Feb 21 - Meeting, but no Program
- Feb 28 - Snow Creek Ranch, Joe and Michelle Kopriva
- Mar 7 - Member Bios
- Mar 14 - Gang Activity in El Paso County, Lt. Mike Pitt, El Paso County Sheriff's Office

## Membership Minute

Bill Stoner presented Saturday's Membership Minute.

Upcoming events are:

- Feb 10 - Happy Hour at Goat Patch Brewery, 4:00 p.m.
- Feb 12 - Konnectors at Goat Patch Brewery, 5:30 p.m.
- Feb 14 - MHKC Board meeting following regular meeting
- Feb 21 - Stars of Tomorrow Auditions at Big Red, 9:00 a.m.
- Feb 23 - DECA at the Broadmoor Hotel
- Feb 25 - Kiwanis Day of Giving
- Feb 27 - SLP meeting following regular meeting
- Mar 15 - Stars of Tomorrow talent show at Palmer Ridge High School





## Member Recognition

Jim Head and Ted Bauman presented "One Can Make A Difference" awards to Rich Hicks and Dave Bailey.

Rich was recognized for outstanding contributions to the Club as Member Concerns coordinator. Ted said we greatly appreciate your prayers of encouragement and all the update on our members who are not in such great shape. Thank you very much!

Dave was recognized for outstanding contributions to the Club as our Sergeant at Arms coordinator. Ted mentioned that it is great to have you here as Sergeant at Arms and when you are not, you have someone taking your place. Dave said he would share this award with all the others helping out as Sergeant at Arms - Larry Young, Scott Ross, Dean Snow, Dick Salverson. He also included Jim Wolf and Max Williams who get to the meetings very early and make coffee and setup tables. Thank you all for your hard work!

Ed Tomlinson was awarded a Legion of Honor pin for his 30-year membership in our Club! Ted expressed how much we really appreciate Ed in our Club. Ed commented that "This is such a unique group. Needless to say, it is not exactly the same as when I joined 30 years ago, but actually the tone, tenor and character hasn't changed a bit. Thank you, thank you, thank you for allowing me to still be around." Congratulations!



### **Stars of Tomorrow**

Rich Strom announced the good news that we have received 37 contestant applications so far and we will have a good talent show. He needed some help for the auditions that will be following our weekly meeting on Saturday, February 21st. He passed around a signup sheet to fill in a couple of shortfalls during auditions (ushers and announcers). You can contact Rich to help at 719-963-4464.

**State DECA at the Broadmoor, February 23**

Ed Hettler reminded us about the upcoming state DECA competition, which will be held at the Broadmoor on February 22-24. There's a need for judges, and many of our Club members have served. This is a competition where high school students are given business problem scenarios with 15 minutes to build a presentation on how to solve them. This is the state championships. Winners will represent Colorado at the national championships in Atlanta in April. Register to be a judge [at this link](#).

### **DECA (Distributive Education Clubs of America) State Judges Needed**

**What:** DECA needs Volunteers to Judge Local High School Students at the State Competition State Winners go to Nationals in Atlanta April 25-28, 2026

**When:** Monday February 23, 7:00am - 5:00pm for Individual & Team Role Play Eve

**Where:** The Broadmoor. 1 Lake Ave, Colorado Springs

**Why:** Support Students Demonstrate Problem Solving Skills  
Leave with a Great Feeling About the Youth of Today and the Future

**How:** Register Online at One of the Following Links or Google "Colorado DECA Judging Form 2026"  
<https://www.coloradodeca.org/state-conference/state-conference-judge-volunteer-form>  
[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSebFR49jqRmpmb2MqqcNSBMBg8ikfHrMNRijEpiX\\_vbaAvDQ/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSebFR49jqRmpmb2MqqcNSBMBg8ikfHrMNRijEpiX_vbaAvDQ/viewform)

**Info:** No Experience Needed, Dress is Business Casual  
Judges Receive Free Breakfast and Lunch  
An Internet Capable Charged Device Required to Input Scores

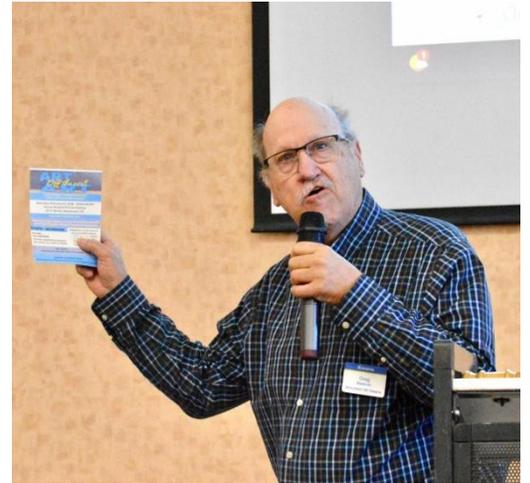


**Contact Ed Hettler ([edhettler@gmail.com](mailto:edhettler@gmail.com), 719-641-3349) on Questions, Signup Info**

## Palmer Lake Arts Council

For all the arts patrons and others, Greg Bielanski wanted us to know about the big event that the Palmer Lake Arts Council has planned for Saturday, February 21st at 47 Third Street in Monument from 6:00 - 9:00 pm. The Secret Window Fine Art Gallery will host this *Off The Wall* event. Tickets are \$65 which includes:

- Your choice of one ARTWORK (donated by a local artist)
- Appetizers, 2 drinks & desserts
- Live musical entertainment from 6 to 7 p.m.



# ART *Off the wall* ART

A FAST-PACED ART GRAB BENEFITING  
THE PALMER LAKE ARTS COUNCIL

Saturday, February 21, 2026 6:00-9:00 PM  
Secret Window Fine Art Gallery  
47 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Monument, CO

## TAKE HOME ORIGINAL ART!

When your ticket is drawn, you have 30 seconds to grab ANY artwork **OFF THE WALL**. All pieces donated by local artists.

## TICKETS -- \$65/PERSON

### Includes:

- One ARTWORK
- 2 drinks, appetizers & desserts
- Live music from 6:00 to 7:00 PM

### UPGRADE for a better chance to win your FAVORITE artwork!

- Regular Pool (1 ticket = \$65 total)
- Sprinter's Pool (1 ticket + \$60 = \$125 total)
- Eat-My-Dust Pool (1 ticket + \$110 = \$175 total)

### GET TICKETS:

[plartscouncil.org/event-details/off-the-wall](http://plartscouncil.org/event-details/off-the-wall)



## SUPPORT COMMUNITY ARTS

All proceeds fund Palmer Lake Arts Council programs and events

## Kiwanis Day of Giving and Legacy of Play Contest

Scott Ross reminded us that the Kiwanis Day of Giving is coming up in a couple of weeks, February 25th. He said this is a chance to give to Kiwanis International Children's Fund and the money is used to help children around the world. This can impact children through book literacy, helping provide antiparasitic medicine, eye exams, and many, many other worthy endeavors. Please consider making a donation.

Scott also told us that our Club has been entered into the Legacy of Play contest which is a coordinated effort between Kiwanis International and one of the major playground equipment companies, Landscape Structures. We have a chance to win \$25,000 for the Heart of Monument Play Park. More to come.





## NFL Pools

Dan Lopez ran a random number generator to produce number assignments for each row and column of the five Super Bowl boards, one for each quarter and the final score. After our meeting, Dan filled out all of the numbers assigned and published the boards for all to see. Dan thanked everyone for their participation in this annual fundraising event. Half the money goes to the winners and half to the foundation. Good luck to all!

## News & Notes

### Birthdays

Courtesy of Frank Wynne

No Birthdays



## **Humor**

Courtesy of Frank Wynne

### **The "Memory"**

An elderly couple, celebrated for their sharp minds, decided it was time to start writing things down, as their doctor had suggested, to help with their memory.

One evening while watching TV, the husband got up to go to the kitchen. "Can I get you anything?" he asked. "A bowl of ice cream would be lovely," his wife replied.

"But you should write it down so you don't forget".

"I can remember that!" he huffed.

"One bowl of ice cream". "Well, I'd like strawberries on top, too," she added. "Write it down".

"I've got it," he insisted. "Ice cream and strawberries". "And whipped cream!" she called out. "I'm certain you'll forget that. Please, write it down".

Agitated, he snapped, "I don't need to write it down! Ice cream, strawberries, and whipped cream. I've got it!".

He disappeared into the kitchen for twenty minutes. Finally, he returned and handed her a plate of **bacon and eggs**.

She stared at the plate for a long moment, then looked up at him and asked, "**Where's my toast?**"

## Happy Bucks



Ben Bellis was two bucks happy: 1) for 2 1/2 days skiing with Steve Sutherland in the Colorado mountains with no injuries 2) Steve Sutherland took Ben's advice and made the trip from Fort Hood, Texas to Colorado Springs in two days instead of one.



Ed Hettler was happy to remind us that the Colorado state DECA competition is coming up in a couple of weeks. The DECA lead at Palmer Ridge HS told Ed they have 51 students participating. They are expecting 3,900 from all of Colorado. They need a lot of judges so please [sign up](#).



Larry Young thanked Dan Lopez and Mark Zeiger for all their work on the Super Bowl boards!



Terry McMullen was happy to return to our meeting on Saturday after his shoulder replacement surgery 2 weeks ago. Also, after the end of the football season, the N on his hat stands for "Indianapolis."



After the end of his term as our President, Bill Kaelin has spent 2 1/2 months caring for his mother in Ohio who has been in the hospital. She is doing much better now. Bill has also recently had knee surgery which he said kicked his butt, but now it is great to be back.

Mike Luginbuhl was happy with the success of the Bear Creek science fair. He thanked everyone who helped judge the entries, and Kiwanians represented about 70% of the judges. There were really outstanding projects by all the kids - estimated attendance was about 2,000 people.



Steve Sutherland was happy to get his coffee cup back from Dave Bailey. Secondly, he was happy that his son has returned to Texas from deployment to Poland. Steve said it's nice to be back and to see everyone here.



### **Weekly 50-50 Drawing**

With only four chips in the bag, Alan Thompson was looking for a blue chip, but pulled out a red one. So \$111 moves on to next week.

**Program**



## **2025 and 2026 Tax Updates**

***Geoff Bradshaw***

Scribe: Bob Harrigan

Geoff Bradshaw, Senior partner of Bradshaw and Associates, CPAs, PLLC brought us up to date with some of the most recent changes to the tax code (both federal and Colorado). When preparing returns, you are strongly encouraged to:

- do your own research if you're capable and confident
- use a CPA or tax preparation professional
- use a respected software

The legislation passed last year (commonly referred to as the One Big Beautiful Bill ACT or OBBA) made several changes. The following are some of the highlights.

- No Tax on Tips
- 25,000 AGI Phase Out \$150K/250K
- No Tax on Overtime
- 12,500 Single
- 25,000 Married Filing Jointly
- Phase out on Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) above \$150K/250K
- No Tax on Social Security
  - However, the reality is, it's not that simple. Both Colorado and OBBB said no tax on Social Security. However, Colorado excludes Social Security but it absorbs the pension exclusion that was already available.

And...an overview of the Additional Standard Deduction is important:

- Must be at least 65 years old by the end of the tax year. This deduction is available regardless of whether you choose to itemize your deductions or take the standard deduction.
- Amount: For the tax year 2025, the additional standard deduction for seniors is \$6,000 for single filers and \$12,000 for married couples filing jointly, provided both spouses are 65 or older.
- Phase-Out: The additional deduction begins to phase out for individuals with a Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) over \$75,000 and for married couples filing jointly with a MAGI over \$150,000.
- The deduction is reduced by 6 cents for every dollar over these thresholds, completely phasing out at \$175,000 for singles and \$250,000 for joint filers.

Energy Efficient Home Improvement Credit (windows/doors/insulation, certain HVAC, home energy audits, etc.) Residential Clean Energy Credit (home solar, battery storage, geothermal, etc.) and Electric Vehicles have requirements regarding when the credits are earned to qualify as deductions.

There is a new auto loan Interest Deduction. To qualify for the deduction the purchase must be for a new auto, the final assembly must be completed in the United States, it must be included in the IRS vehicle

Identification Number data base and the person/people requesting the deduction must have an adjusted Gross Income of less than \$250,000.

As with all commerce conducted over the internet, we were cautioned to be vigilant for scammers. IRS and Colorado Dept of Revenue do not Email and rarely, if ever, call you. They do communicate by, and they do use collection agencies. Both the IRS and the State of Colorado offer websites that will provide identifications which allow individuals to monitor activity in their accounts.

During the question period Bradshaw was asked for an opinion of TurboTax. His answer was a qualified yes. And he cautioned that, just like AI, you have to know enough to ask the right question. Several audience members added that with both CPA and Financial Planners, the value is in reducing the burden on what you must know. A professional whom you trust can present you with reliable alternatives. Your job then is to choose between them. Finally, with fewer employees working at the IRS, is AI expected to play a larger role in reviewing returns? And, if so, is it expected to lead to more audits? Bradshaw's answer was a qualified yes to more AI involvement. He does expect that it will lead to more requests for additional information but won't increase the number of audits.



The video of today's meeting is at this link: <https://youtu.be/twiS9qSCd7c>

## Quick Links

[Monument Hill Kiwanis Website](#).....[Monument Hill Foundation Website](#)

[Facebook](#).....[Instagram](#).....[Twitter](#)

## Special Thanks

Senior Meals Drivers & Scheduler - Jim Murphy

Deliveries: Tues, Wed, Thurs; Senior Center; Grace Best Education Center

Photographer: Warren Gerig

Media Support: Frank DeLalla and Liam Wynne

### Virtual Meeting Reminder

**We need YOU to help with the K-News weekly.**

**It's FUN and a great way to support the club's communications efforts. Contact one of us to learn more!**

[Rich Hicks](#) \* [Mark Anderson](#) \* [RF Smith](#)

K-News Crew

(click on a name to email us directly)

Members receive a link to each week's meeting via email.

In-person attendance is encouraged. Zoom is available.

### Monument Hill Kiwanis Supporters

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**THANK YOU!**



Monument Hill Kiwanis Club | PO Box 102 | Monument, CO 80132 US