

Happy Holidays! from the all-volunteer staff at

Our Community News

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



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Local Events

See pages 27-31 for details of
these and many other local
events.

- **11th Annual North Pole at Tri-Lakes Arts and Crafts Fair**, Sat., Dec. 2, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
- **Downtown Monument's Small Town Christmas**, Sat., Dec. 2, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
- **Monument Tree-lighting Ceremony with Santa**, Sat., Dec. 2, noon-6 p.m.
- **Community Forum on possible commercial development**, Tue., Dec. 5, 6:30-8 p.m.
- **Tri-Lakes Chamber Monthly Education Series: Speed Networking**, Wed., Dec. 6, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.,
- **El Paso County Hazardous Materials & Recycling Collection Facility**, Sat., Dec. 9, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
- **Annual Handbell Christmas Concert**, Sat., Dec. 9, 7 p.m.
- **Palmer Lake Yule Log Pot Luck Dinner**, Tue., Dec. 12, 6 p.m.
- **Foot Care Clinic**, Wed., Dec. 13
- **St. Peter Catholic Church: On This Christmas Night Concert**, Fri., Dec. 15, 7 p.m.
- **Tri-Lakes Music Association Annual Christmas Concert: The Story of Christmas**, Fri.-Sun., Dec. 15-17, 7 p.m. Fri.-Sat., 2 p.m. Sun.
- **Foot Care Clinic**, Fri., Dec. 15
- **Wescott Fire Department Santa Patrol**, Sat., Dec. 16, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
- **Annual Palmer Lake Yule Log Hunt**, Sun., Dec. 17, 1 p.m.
- **Silver Alliance Christmas Party**, Thu., Dec. 21, noon-2:15 p.m.
- **Monument Police Santa on Patrol**, Sat., Dec. 23, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
- **Foot Care Clinic**, Fri., Dec. 29
- **County's Annual Treecycle**, Sat.-Sun., Dec. 30-31; Jan. 6-7, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. ■

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The Palmer Lake Annual Supper and Starlighting Festival showed its continuing popularity as huge numbers lined up for a chili dinner Nov. 25 to open their holiday season. The chili aroma permeated the air, and folks were entertained by the festivities as they waited to enter the holiday-decorated dining room. The Palmer Lake volunteer firefighters and Kiwanis Key Club youths from Palmer Ridge High helped everywhere from the kitchen to the gazebo and popcorn stand. Proceeds will benefit the Fire Department. *Photo above by John Howe. Photo at right by Arlene Fisher-Olson taken from the long line at left in the photo above. See page 26.*



Lewis-Palmer D-38 District Accountability Advisory Committee, Nov. 14

Charter school application panel reports its findings

By Harriet Halbig

The District Accountability Advisory Committee (DAAC) of the Lewis-Palmer School District received the results of a review by the application subcommittee of the Monument Academy Expansion application at its Nov. 14 meeting.

The subcommittee made an in-depth review of the application and compared its results with those of the Charter School Institute (CSI) review. CSI is the state chartering body. Monument Academy is chartered exclusively by District 38, but a comparison of findings seemed significant.

The findings of the two bodies were essentially in agreement and complimented Monument Academy (MA) for submitting a solid application includ-

ing an innovative leadership program concept. The school is well-established with over 20 years of history and its slightly different high school approach could offer an alternative to district families. With a future population of 500, the school could alleviate pressure on the other high schools as the district grows.

The subcommittee recommended that the Board of Education approve the application with the provision that a specific list of items be addressed. These include:

- A stronger commitment to state-required testing
- Continued commitment to small class sizes
- Aligning curriculum with state graduation requirements and re-

vising SAT, graduation rate, and dropout rate targets

- The application states there will be no summer school. Clarify how credit recover will occur.
- Clarify how students with severe special needs will be served.
- Ensure that students will not "bounce" between traditional and charter schools, as this could complicate credits toward graduation.
- Ensure that the budget is adequate to complete construction and staffing of school
- Ensure that the contract includes clear documentation of joint agreements regarding compliance with state and federal requirements.

MA high school (cont. on page 2)

Lewis-Palmer D-38 Board of Education, Nov. 16

Board OKs Monument Academy Expansion application—with conditions

By Harriet Halbig

The Lewis-Palmer D-38 Board of Education conditionally approved the Monument Academy (MA) Expansion application, heard updates on the Long Term Facilities Planning process,

and discussed some policy changes at its Nov. 16 meeting.

MA Executive Director Don Griffin and Chief Executive Officer and Principal Elizabeth Davis attended the meeting to report on activities in the 49 days

since the application was submitted. MA proposes to build a high school to accompany its elementary school.

Griffin reported that the District Accountability Advisory Committee

Board of Ed. (cont. on page 4)