

The Story of Christmas, Dec. 15



Above: The Tri-Lakes Music Association presented *The Story of Christmas* on Dec. 15 at Palmer Ridge High School. Attendees were welcomed in the lobby by the carolers, conducted by Ellen Finley. When the program began in the auditorium, there was standing room only. The appreciative audience warmly welcomed the holiday music presented. *Photo by John Howe.*

Community Caroling, Dec. 15



About 30 students and family members attended a community caroling event Dec. 15 at Antelope Trails Elementary School in Gleneagle. Groups of carolers wandered the neighborhoods around the school, going from house to house singing a variety of Christmas songs including, *We Wish You a Merry Christmas*, *Deck the Halls*, *Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer*, and *'Twas the Night Before Christmas*. Many neighborhood residents were surprised when they answered the door to find a group of children standing and singing on their doorstep. Carolers returned to the school after about an hour and a half of singing to enjoy hot chocolate and cookies. The annual event was sponsored by ATE. **Above:** Antelope Trails Elementary School kindergarten student Wyatt Van Wyhe drinks hot chocolate and eats cookies with his father Scott Van Wyhe after caroling in the Gleneagle neighborhood. Scott said, "It was a great community event. I met some new people and helped spread Christmas cheer." *Photo by Chrystie Hopkins.*

Outpourings, Dec. 19



Above: Thomas Csrnko, CEO/president of Veterans Squaring Away Veterans (VSAV), spoke at the Dec. 19 meeting of Outpouring: A Local Version of TED Talks sponsored by Tri-Lakes United Methodist Church. Csrnko noted that there are 22 million veterans in the U.S. today, with an estimated 50,000 who are homeless and a suicide rate of 22 per day that hasn't changed in 15 years. He said traditional Veterans Affairs services are overwhelmed with the sheer volume of transitional service members. Also, the bureaucratic nature of organizations is overwhelming for vets in need and can be impossible to navigate. The unique solution that VSAV, a nonprofit 501 (c)(3) organization, offers includes peer advisors who are veterans themselves who have dealt with these issues and are committed to providing assistance. Csrnko said VSAV complements existing veteran service organizations with a results-driven approach. VSAV is an all-volunteer organization and can use donations, peer volunteers, auxiliary volunteers, and referrals. VSAV assists service members and their families with the challenges of transitioning from active service and integrating with civilian communities. More information on VSAV can be found at <http://www.vsav.org>. Outpouring talks are held on the third Tuesday of each month at Pikes Peak Brewing Company. More information on these talks can be found at <http://tlumc.org/outreach/outpouring>. *Photo by Jackie Burhans.*

St. Peter Christmas Concert



Above: On Friday, Dec. 15, St. Peter Catholic Church hosted a free Christmas concert to benefit Tri-Lakes Cares (TLC). The quartet, composed of vocalist J. J. Kaelin, violinist Theresa Phillips, cellist Pam Chaddon, and pianist Robert Lambrecht, played two sets to a packed house. Paul Zmuda acted as emcee for the evening. All four performers participated in the first selection, a medley of traditional songs. Next, Lambrecht played selections from the *Nutcracker Suite* solo with exquisite perfection, receiving rousing applause. In *Christmas Jig*, arranged by Yo-Yo Ma, Phillips flawlessly kept the quick beat, encouraging the audience to clap along. After a short intermission, Kim Jordan harmonized with J.J. Kaelin in *Carol of the Bells*. In the final selection, the audience sang along to *Silent Night*. Haley Chapin, executive director of TLC, spoke about supporting our community during the holidays. Over \$3,000 was raised from the concert. *Photo by Allison Robenstein.*

Yule Log Hunt, Dec. 17



Above: The annual Palmer Lake Yule Log Hunt was held Dec. 17, starting at Town Hall. Gary Athens has been working on the event for 35 years and said this was the 84th annual hunt. They expected about 350 people to attend, with many participating in the hunt while others stay indoors keeping warm. Five of the "hunters to be" are, from left, Robin Beachy-Richards, Erin Richards, Jeff Richards, Scott Richards, and Mark Richards. Many wished them well as they went forward in their red/green capes, which signified they were registered to hunt the Yule Log. *Photo by John Howe.*

USTC pie toss fundraiser, Dec. 22



Left; Master Jay Lee, left, CEO of US Taekwondo Center (USTC), observed as Lead Instructor Charles Day gave Master Ho Jun Park a pie to the face at USTC's Dec. 22 pie toss. The school is hosting events like this to draw public attention to, and raise money for, the Children's Hospital Foundation of

Colorado Springs. The pie toss allowed USTC to raise over \$11,000 in December, and Master Lee is committed to donating \$250,000 over the next four years to the hospital. USTC's mission is to contribute to a safe and peaceful community while encouraging respect for others and helping develop men and women who are positive, respected and contributing members of society. *Photo courtesy of US Taekwondo Center.*