

Hazel Miller at TLCA, Dec. 6

Right: On Dec. 6, Hazel Miller and her band performed their blend of R&B, blues, jazz, and soul music at the Tri-Lakes Center for the Arts (TLCA). Miller started singing in the third grade as she joined the eighth-graders at a grade school performance. She has over 30 years performing with the band formed over 20 years ago. Their selection of songs included Fleetwood Mac's Dreams, My Favorite Things from The Sound of Music, the Christmas standard Silent Night, Donny Hathaway's This Christmas and Santa Baby, a song she remembered watching being performed by Eartha Kitt on The Ed Sullivan Show. Information on upcoming events at the TLCA is at trilakesarts.org. Photo by David Futey.



Kiwanis Craft Fair, Dec. 7

Right: The Monument Hill Kiwanis Club held its 13th annual craft fair on Dec. 7 at Grace Best School. The mood was festive as shoppers browsed many individual tables full of crafts, jewelry, and foods. Santa strolled through the aisles and holiday music played in the background. Customers were able to shop here and then head over to the stores at Monument's Small Town Christmas. Photo by Allison Robenstein.



Song Spinners, Dec. 8



Above: The Song Spinners, who have been performing for about 50 years, performed a Christmas program at Jackson Creek Senior Living for residents and guests Dec. 8. The performance included movements with Santa, the Grinch, Frosty, "Leroy the Redneck Reindeer" and others with costume changes on-the-fly. The volunteer choir is composed of former professional musicians and other skilled entertainers. Greg Chandler and Trish Davison performed and introduced scenes. The Song Spinners are the official Colorado Springs show choir, and the group is led by Doyle Combs, music conductor, and Rhonda Combs, choreographer and production manager. Photo by Steve Pate.

Palmer Lake Fire & Safety, Dec. 6



Above: On Dec. 6, Palmer Lake Fire and Public Safety Committee members discussed safety concerns with local residents, including the mayor, at Palmer Lake Town Hall. Issues included the wait—sometimes as long as an hour—for an ambulance to come to Palmer Lake. They come from Tri-Lakes or Gleneagle or even from Fillmore Street in Colorado Springs, depending on which company has an ambulance available. The building that houses the Fire Department was built in the mid-1930s, and although it has been remodeled, it has reached its maximum capacity. If the town buys a private ambulance there is nowhere to park it. The Palmer Lake Police Station lacks the facilities to securely store or lock up private information and currently houses prisoners in Monument. A survey will be mailed to registered voters in Palmer Lake regarding budget issues for the police and fire departments, stations, equipment needed, and for hiring and retaining officers and personnel. **Pictured from left** are committee members Rich Kuehster, Shana Ball, Capt. Weston Oesterreich and Meredith "Kit" Bromfield. Photo by Marlene Brown.

Monument Tree Lighting, Dec. 7



Above: Girl Scouts from Troop 1625 sold hot beverages, treats, and homemade crafts to support their troop at Limbach Park in Monument during the Annual Holiday Tree Lighting event on Dec. 7. Children waited with anticipation to visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus in the bandstand, and candy canes were given to the children by the town staff. Donations were gratefully accepted by Tri-Lakes Monument firefighters for Santa on Patrol. Photo by Natalie Barszcz.

School in the Woods, Dec. 10



Left: Young Naturalists Thrive in the Woods: On Dec. 20, photo-journalist Byron Reed of Denver's Channel 9 News featured Academy District 20's School in the Woods in the studio's monthly Cool Schools program. Each year, 78 fourth-graders attend this school in Black Forest, which welcomed its 20th year by moving into a permanent building in April 2019. School in the Woods Administrator Jon Wuerth celebrates the school he helped create in 1999 as "a place where one's voice matters, where students have power, where naturalists learn they can make a difference, and where teachers challenge students to create a learning environment open to relationship building." One young naturalist celebrates "recess like none other" on the school's 10-acre preserve. "Teachers trust us outside," not only with playtime, "but also with jobs." Another student raves about the field trips which can "last all day or even become an overnight." She appreciates "learning which comes from the land." Caption by Bill X. Barron. Photo by Jon Wuerth.

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