

# Happy New Year! from the volunteers at Our Community News

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



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Issue #143 — Volume 13 Number 1 — Saturday, January 5, 2013

Free

## Local Events

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

Christmas Tree Recycling, Sat.-Sun., Jan. 5-6, & 12-13

HAP-py Feet Foot Care Clinic, Wed., Jan. 9

Black Forest AARP Potluck Lunch, Wed., Jan. 9, noon

“From the Earth: Fine Art in Wood & Clay” Opening TLCA Reception, Fri., Jan. 11, 5-8 p.m.

Second Friday Art Walk & Studio Tour, Fri., Jan. 11, 5-8 p.m.

WMMI - Rock'n Good Stories, Sat., Jan. 12, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Rocky Mountain Music Alliance Free Concert, Sat., Jan. 12, 7 p.m.

Library's adult reading program, Jan. 14-March 11

Tri-Lakes Cares Blood Drive, Tue., Jan. 15, 3-7 p.m.

Tri-Lakes Women's Club 2013 grant applications available Jan. 15

Palmer Lake Historical Society: Annual Potluck Dinner & Membership Meeting, Thu., Jan. 17, 6:30 p.m. ■



Above: Tri-Lakes Health Advocacy Partnership (HAP) Board President, Ted Rinebarger accepts and displays a grant received from Tri-Lakes Women's Club Grant Committee Chairperson, Sandi Liston (left) and Copresident Mary Mills (right). Photo provided by Tri-Lakes HAP.

## HAP receives \$4,000 grant from Tri-Lakes Women's Club

The Tri-Lakes Health Advocacy Partnership (HAP) received a \$4,000 grant from Tri-Lakes Women's Club (TLWC) during the HAP November Board of Directors meeting.

Representing TLWC for the grant presentation at the meeting was Co-president Mary Mills and Grant Committee Chair Sandi Liston. Prior to the presentation, Mills explained that HAP was selected for this grant because of its established record of support for the senior citizens in the local community, and the Women's Club wanted to ensure continued quality weekly luncheons are available to the seniors.

HAP Board President Ted Rinebarger, in accepting the check, said that HAP was grateful for the positive relationship with the TLWC.

TLWC is an all-volunteer, nonprofit organization of more than 200 energetic and dedicated women.

HAP was established in 1996 as a nonprofit organization serving Monument, Palmer Lake, Woodmoor, Gleneagle, and unincorporated areas of north El Paso County. The mission of HAP is to improve the health and well-being of the Tri-Lakes community through community-based services and support. ■

## Lewis-Palmer School District Board of Education, Dec. 20

### In wake of Connecticut shootings, board approves formation of safety council

By Harriet Halbig

In response to public concern about school safety following a school shooting at an elementary school in Connecticut, Superintendent John Borman reported to the board Dec. 20 that plans were underway to form a Safety and Security Advisory Council for the district.

Borman said that the district had taken an extensive look at its crisis plan over the last few years. The most recent plan included providing a crisis binder at each location with detailed floor plans of the building and evacuation plans for all students and for the My Place daycare locations.

Members of the food services and facilities departments were active in formulating the crisis plan. Parent notification systems were also developed. A representative of the district's insurance carrier said at the time that it was the best plan they had seen.

Borman said that he met with Assistant Superintendent Cheryl Wangeman and the district's school resource officer (a sheriff's deputy assigned to the district) to determine how to refine and fortify the current plan.

Community leaders with skills in certain areas would be recruited and charged by the superintendent to make

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## Palmer Lake Town Council, Dec. 6

### 2013 budget, includes pay raises

By Lisa Hatfield

After a year in which the fire chief quit and the police chief was laid off, and nearly all of the full-time police officers were made part-time subcontractors with a pay cut, Palmer Lake's police and fire employees and town staff will receive a raise as part of the town's 2013 budget, officials said at the Dec. 6 Palmer Lake Town Council combined meeting and workshop.

Palmer Lake officials continued to wrestle with the complexities of a budget that operates dangerously close to breakeven at the meeting, which attracted about 25 local residents. For 2013, “If we spend every dime on the bottom line (including the reserve funds), the state is going to come in, and you're going to be unincorporated El Paso County, because we will be bankrupt,” said Town Clerk Tara Berreth after noting that property tax revenues would drop about \$106,000 for 2013.

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## El Paso County Board of County Commissioners, Dec. 20

### County delays decision on hazardous intersection

By Bernard L. Minetti and Jim Kendrick

The problem of a wall causing dangerous sight visibility problems for drivers at the entrance of Brookmoor Estates landed before the El Paso County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) at its Dec. 20 meeting. The purpose was to authorize the county attorney's office to pursue litigation against Brookmoor's homeowner's association in order to bring the property where the wall is located into compliance with countywide planned urban development (PUD) zoning restrictions. After a lengthy discussion, a motion was made to address the issue again on Feb. 19.

The hazardous intersection, Moveen Heights at Lake Woodmoor Drive, came to the forefront in the summer after an investigation into the opening of the subdivision's back gate—originally reserved for emergency vehicle use—to general residential use. Residents told the BOCC in August that the back gate needed to be open because of the unsafe sight visibility problems at that intersection.

The wall was built in 2005 by developer Michael Brennan, who sits on Brookmoor's homeowners association

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Above: Monument Police Chief Shirk displays the new Monument helicopter presented to him at the Board of Trustees meeting Dec. 3. Photo by Jim Kendrick.

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