

# Happy Holidays! 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 #154 — Volume 13 Number 12 — Saturday, December 7, 2013

Free

## Local Events

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

**Santa's Visit in Wescott Fire District,**  
Sat., Dec. 7, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

**Monument's Small Town Christmas,**  
Sat., Dec. 7, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

**Christmas Bazaar for Monument Cops  
For Kids,** Sat., Dec 7, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

**Homemade Cookie Sale,** Sat., Dec. 7, 10  
a.m.-2 p.m.

**Town of Monument Tree Lighting &  
Coat Collection,** Sat., Dec. 7, 5 p.m.

**Kiwanis' 8<sup>th</sup> Annual North Pole at Tri-  
Lakes Arts and Crafts Fair,** Sat.-Sun,  
Dec. 7-8, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

**Christmas Cantata,** Sun., Dec. 8, 10 a.m.

**Annual Palmer Lake Yule Log Hunt,**  
Sun., Dec. 8, 1 p.m.

**Josh Maxey, World Guitarist: Jazz on  
Ice at Tri-Lakes Center for the Arts,**  
Thu., Dec. 12, 7 p.m.

**Monument's Small Town Christmas,**  
Sat., Dec. 14, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

**Christmas Bazaar for Monument Cops  
For Kids,** Sat., Dec 14, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

**12<sup>th</sup> Annual Tri-Lakes Community  
Christmas Handbell Concert,** Sat.,  
Dec. 14, 7 p.m.

**Children's Christmas Pageant,** Sun.,  
Dec. 15, 10 a.m.

**Gleneagle Festival of Lights Hayride &  
Caroling with Holy Trinity Anglican  
Church,** Sun., Dec. 15, 5-8 p.m.

**Candlelight Vigil to Celebrate the Life  
of Peggy Rima, Owner of Finders  
Keepers,** Sun., Dec. 15, 5:30 p.m.

**Chuck Pyle Family Christmas Show  
& CD Release Party at Tri-Lakes  
Center for the Arts,** Fri., Dec. 20, 6-8  
p.m.

**Tri-Lakes Music Association Annual  
Holiday Concert: The Hope of  
Christmas,** Fri.-Sat., Dec. 20-21, 7  
p.m.; & Sun., Dec. 22, 2 p.m. ■

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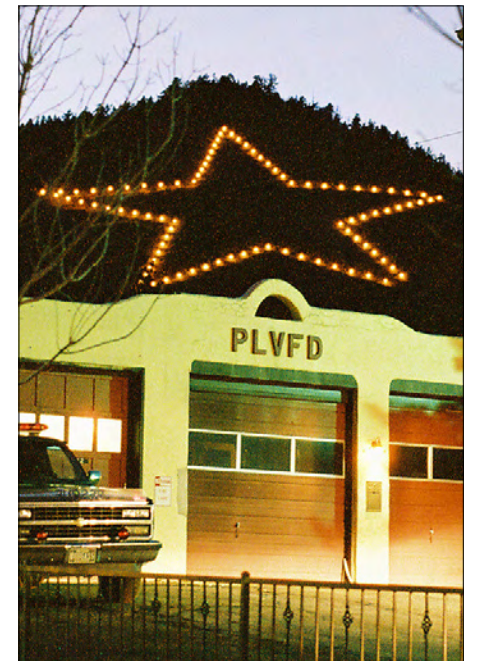
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**Above:** Susan Bichel, center, lights the Palmer Lake Star on Nov. 30 to begin the 2013 Christmas season. Also pictured are Susan's husband Wayne, left, and fire volunteer Abby Vierling. *Photo by Bernard Minetti. Photo on the right of the star from 2005 by Jim Kendrick.* For an additional photo of the festivities surrounding the lighting of the star see page 26.



## Lewis-Palmer D-38 Board Education, Nov. 14 and 21

# Superintendent resigns; search begins

By Harriet Halbig

Lewis-Palmer District 38 Superintendent John Borman announced his resignation at a special meeting of the board on Nov. 14. His final day will be Dec. 31.

Borman said that he has enjoyed his career in education and intends to continue to be active in district affairs after beginning work in a new field.

Borman has been with the district for over six years, first as principal of Lewis-Palmer High School and as superintendent since 2011.

The board discussed the process of seeking a new superintendent and decided to use the Colorado Association of School Boards (CASB) to administer the process. CASB was instrumental in the 2011 search.

Board Vice President John Mann said that the board sees an advantage to seeking a replacement in Colorado due to the state's recent and upcoming changes in the teacher assessment process and student assessments.

The board passed a resolution to accept the services of former Superintendent Ted Bauman to serve as interim superintendent from the time of Borman's departure through the rest of the school year. It is hoped that a new superintendent can be selected by March and participate in hiring and budget decisions going into the 2014-15 school year.

Bauman served as school superintendent from 1998 through 2003 and as interim superintendent from August 2010 until Borman's tenure began in 2011. He is very active in many community organizations and has been active in district affairs.

The board discussed the process of appointing a new board member to replace Dr. Jeffery Ferguson, who has retired. No one ran as his replacement during the November election.

Ferguson's district encompasses the Palmer Lake area, and the new member must also represent that area. The state re-

quires that the board interview candidates and vote to choose one to appoint to the position.

A public notice seeking applications for the open seat will be published. The board will meet in mid-December to interview applicants following a Dec. 11 application deadline.

The new member of the board will be a director. The remainder of the board for this year will be Mark Pfoff, president; John Mann, vice president; newly re-elected John Magerko, treasurer; and Robb Pike, secretary.

The board presented former President Jeffery Ferguson with a plaque and Broadmoor gift certificate in recognition of his long service to the district. Ferguson served on the board for over 20 years, 10 of them as president. He has received the McGuffey award from the Colorado Association of School Boards twice during that time.

In his comments, Ferguson said that he was blessed to have served the district and is especially proud of the academic and athletic excellence achieved, with several schools chosen as John Irwin Schools of Excellence, accreditation with distinction, and placement on the AP Honor Roll for a fourth year.

The AP honor roll is national recognition of districts that expand their advanced placement offerings while maintaining high achievement levels. Lewis-Palmer is the only district in the state to have been on the honor roll four consecutive years and the only district in El Paso County to receive the honor this year.

It was later stated that Lewis-Palmer is one of only 14 districts in the nation to be on the honor roll for four consecutive years.

### Fund balance controversy

Mann and Assistant Superintendent Cheryl Wangeman presented a discussion of fund balancing and liability planning for the district.

A number of individuals have criticized the district for the size of its fund balance while at the same time seeking support through a mill levy override. Two of them, Sandra Maurer and Scott Bonser, read letters during the citizen comments section of the meeting, seeking Wangeman's resignation due to lack of leadership. Pfoff stated that the Board of Education is not the hiring agent for the district and therefore such comments were not appropriate in this setting.

(Continued on page 2)



**Above:** Dr. Jeffery Ferguson, second from right, is honored by fellow board members, from left, John Mann, John Magerko, Mark Pfoff, and Robb Pike upon his retirement following over 20 years of service on the Lewis-Palmer District 38 Board of Education. *Photo by Harriet Halbig.*