

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 #155 — Volume 14 Number 1 — Saturday, January 4, 2014

Free

Local Events

See pages 23-27 for details of these and many other local events.

Christmas Tree Recycling, Fri.-Sun., Jan. 4-8 and Jan. 11-12, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Annual TLCA Members Meeting, Tue., Jan 7, 6 p.m.

HAP-py Feet Foot Care Clinic, Wed., Jan. 8.

Lord Science Universal Exhibit Opening Reception at Tri-Lakes Center for the Arts, Fri., Jan 10, 6-8 p.m.

Black Rose Acoustic Society Open Stage headlined by Chuck Pyle, Fri., Jan. 10, 7 p.m.

Western Museum of Mining & Industry (WMMI) Family Exploration Day: Geology, Sat., Jan. 11, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

El Paso County Hazardous Materials & Recycling Collection Facility, Sat., Jan. 11, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

NEPCO Meeting, Sat., Jan. 11, 10 a.m.-noon

Palmer Lake Town Council Special Public Meeting: Palmer Lake Volunteer Fire Department, Sat., Jan. 18, 9-11 a.m.

Paula Cole Concert at Tri-Lakes Center for the Arts, Thu., Jan. 16, 7 p.m.

Palmer Lake Historical Society: Annual Pot Luck Dinner and Membership Meeting, Thu., Jan. 16, 6:30 p.m.

Rocky Mountain Music Alliance (RMMA) Free Concert: Aeolus String Quartet, Sun., Jan. 19, 3 p.m., lecture on concert music at 2:30 p.m.

Tri-Lakes Cares Blood Drive, Tue., Jan. 21, 3-7 p.m.

Black Rose Acoustic Society Open Stage headlined by Moors and McCumber, Fri., Jan. 24, 7 p.m.

Heartsaver CPR/First Aid Class, Sat., Jan. 25, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

30 Years of Love Benefit Concert featuring Colorado's own FireFall, Sun., Feb. 16, 3-7 p.m. ■



Above: Members of the State Champion Lewis-Palmer High School Girls Volleyball team are, left to right, Coach Susan Odenbaugh, Carson Nicodemus, Haley McCurley, Abigail Bartalo, Lydia Bartalo, Nicole Montgomery, Elizabeth Reich, and Alexa Smith. Coach Odenbaugh said that many other teams complimented the Lewis-Palmer girls on their sportsmanship and personalities in addition to their athletic skill. *Photo by Harriet Halbig.*

Lewis-Palmer D-38 Board of Education, Dec. 9 and 19

Board prepares for superintendent search, appoints Hawkins to fill board vacancy

By Harriet Halbig

The Lewis-Palmer District 38 Board of Education held a special meeting on Dec. 9 to formalize its agreement with the Colorado Association of School Boards (CASB) to administer a search for a new superintendent to replace John Borman following his departure on Dec. 31.

Former Superintendent Ted Bauman will serve in an interim capacity.

CASB representative Bob Cito attended the meeting and explained his plans for the search. Cito had conducted the search that resulted in Borman's appointment.

Cito said that the contract between the district and CASB would be the same as the previous one and that much of the background investigation regarding the

community would not be necessary due to the short time elapsed. The fee of \$12,000 is based on the size of the district, and expenses will not exceed \$2,000. Cito said that the expenses were far less in the former search.

The board voted to retain CASB to administer the search procedure.

Cito said it was not necessary to publish an advertisement soliciting candidates before Christmas. He said that if the ad were published immediately after the holidays, a candidate could still be found by March.

He proposed a publication date of Jan. 6 with an application deadline of the first week in February. This would allow time for background checks before interviews at the end of February or early March.

Cito said that he would like to discuss the content of a brochure for candidates with the board, principals, and members of the community before its publication.

Cito said that, due to the improvement in the housing market, there may be more candidates this time than last.

Cito commented that his goal would be to select a candidate who would stay for at least five years. He said that being a leader in public life is more difficult than it once was and that it can also take a toll on the candidate's family. It is critical that a superintendent be visible and accessible to his or her constituents.

The names of the applicants will remain confidential until the finalists are selected. Following background checks

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Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District, Dec. 4

Average \$8,000 raises approved for five top positions

By Bernard Minetti

Fire Chief Chris Truty, who has been chief fire administrator for eight months, asked the Tri-Lakes Monument Fire District (TLMFPD) board on Dec. 4 for an average \$8,000 pay raise for the top five district administrative positions, including his own. The other four positions, as named by board President Jake Shirk, are deputy chief and the three battalion chiefs. Currently, there is no deputy chief, and two of the battalion chief positions are temporary.

In response to a question from the board for clarification of the numbers

in this request, Truty stated, "If we just raised everybody up \$8,000, that would be just basically five people so it would be a \$50,000 increase, and it's not in the budget right now."

Background: On Nov. 6, 2012, voters overwhelmingly approved a mill levy increase from 8.5 to 11.5 mills. Campaign materials as well as spokespeople from the district noted that a "yes" vote would keep fire Station 3 open, allow the district to accept a federal SAFER grant, maintain current ISO staffing as well as hire and/or train two more paramedic/firefighter positions, and restore operational reserves

and vehicle and fire station maintenance funding.

A "no" vote reportedly could have triggered a station closing and layoffs. The measure would also provide a temporary bridge to make up for lost revenue due to decreased property values. Pay raises of this magnitude were not mentioned as part of the mill levy increase.

In a memo to the board dated Oct. 4, 2013 and posted online at www.trilakesfire.com/BudgetDocs/2014%20Budget%20Memo.pdf, Truty indicated that the staff received no raises in 2013,

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