

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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Free



Local Events

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

Monument Hill Kiwanis Club's 10th Annual North Pole at Tri-Lakes Arts and Crafts Fair & Tri-Lakes United Methodist Church Cookie Walk, Sat., Dec. 5, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.

Small Town Christmas, Sat., Dec. 5, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Monument Tree Lighting Festivities & Ceremony, Sat., Dec. 5, 4:30-6 p.m.

Palmer Lake Yule Log Pot Luck Dinner, Tue., Dec. 8, 6 p.m.

Foot Care Clinic, Wed., Dec. 9

An ASHTōNZ Christmas at Tri-Lakes Center for the Arts, Fri., Dec. 11, 7 p.m.

Annual Handbell Christmas Concert, Sat., Dec. 12, 7 p.m.

Annual Palmer Lake Yule Log Hunt, Sun., Dec. 13, 1 p.m.

Tri-Lakes Land Use Committee Meeting, Mon., Dec. 14, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Christmas Concert at Tri-Lakes Center for the Arts (TLCA), Fri., Dec. 18, 7 p.m.

Tri-Lakes Music Association (TLMA) Annual Choir and Orchestra Concert, "The Glory of Christmas: Experience the Season," Fri.-Sun., Dec. 18-20

Monument Hill Farmers Market Winter Indoor Market, Sat., Dec. 19, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Wescott Fire Department Santa Patrol, Sat., Dec. 19, 10 a.m.

2015 Monument 'ery' Tour, Sat., Dec. 19, 11 a.m.-9 p.m.

Monument Library: AARP Smart Driver Course, Sat., Dec. 19, 12:45-5:15 p.m.

Tri-Lakes Community Youth Ballet presents *An American Nutcracker Ballet*, Sat., Dec. 19, 1:30 and 4:30 p.m.

Wescott FPD chipping Christmas Trees, Sat., Jan 2 & Sat., Jan 9, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Western Museum of Mining and Industry (WMMI) Family Exploration Day: Geology, Sat., Jan 2, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. ■

In this issue

D-38 News 1-7, 25
Palmer Lake News 1, 8-9
Monument News 10-16
Water & San District News 16-19
Fire District News 20-21
County & HOA News 21
Weather 21-22
Books, Library, History, Arts 22-24
Snapshots 25-26
Our Community Notices 27-29
Our Community Calendar 29-31
OCN Information 8, 26, 28, 31

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Above: Chuck Pyle performs at the Tri-Lakes Music Festival sponsored by the Tri-Lakes Center for the Arts in 2013. Photo by David Futey. See page 25 for photos from the memorial service held Nov. 14.

Memorial service held for the Zen Cowboy

By David Futey

On Nov. 14, the Tri-Lakes community and others from around the country paid tribute to Palmer Lake resident and renowned musician Chuck Pyle at a memorial service at the Tri-Lakes Center for the Arts. Pyle, known as the Zen Cowboy, passed away at age 70 on Nov. 6 while fly fishing at Palmer Lake.

Pyle's music career spanned 40 years. He was well known throughout the music industry for his finger picking style but more so for his song writing, which filled the listener with imagery of the American West, Colorado, and life. Artists such as John Denver, Jerry Jeff Walker, Suzy Bogguss and the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band among

others performed his songs.

The memorial service was officiated by his son Keegan Pyle who spoke of his father's talents, interest in accumulating T-shirts, and ability to memorize bumper stickers seen on his many miles traveled to music venues. Other speakers included longtime friends as record producer Dik Darnell, storyteller John Stansfield, Palmer Lake resident Roger Ward, and stepdaughter Molly Watson.

Donations in Chuck's memory can be made to the Chuck Pyle Memorial Fund, PO Box 726, Palmer Lake, CO 80133.

David Futey can be reached at david-futey@ocn.me.

Lewis-Palmer D-38 Board of Education, Nov. 19

Board organizes for new term, discusses technology and academic standards

By Harriet Halbig

The Board of Education of the Lewis-Palmer D-38 school district elected new officers, recognized scholars and teachers, and received several updates at this first meeting following the November election.

Election of officers

Following the administration of oaths of office and the signing of affidavits of confidentiality, the board elected to retain Mark Pfoff as president, Sheri Hawkins as vice president, John Magerko as treasurer, and Matthew Clawson as secretary. New member Sarah Sampayo will serve as director.

Board members' comments

Pfoff said that he had taught a self-defense class about Internet use and recognized the Lewis-Palmer girls volleyball team for their runner-up standing in the state.

Clawson welcomed Sampayo to the board and mentioned her experience in working with the Legislature. He recognized Palmer Lake Elementary School for being named a Title I School of Excellence, one of 100 in the country.

Magerko reported that the Colorado Association of School Boards had a conference in the fall and generated resolu-

(Continued on page 2)

Palmer Lake Town Council, Nov. 12

2016 budget includes \$1 million increase from grants

By James Howald

With Fire Trustee Rich Kuehster acting as mayor pro tem, the Palmer Lake Town Council met Nov. 12 to approve the 2016 budget, to adjust water rates, to address several real-estate related matters, and to discuss grant proposals to fund a town manager position and pave a portion of Douglas Avenue.

Board adopts 2016 budget with \$1 million in new grants; appropriates funds

Acting Town Administrator Kathy Green-Sinnard explained to the board that the budget process involves three steps: first, an ordinance to approve the budget, second, an ordinance that appropriates the needed funds, and finally a resolution certifying the mill levy increase passed in the election on Nov. 3.

Parks and Recreation Trustee Paul Banta pointed out that the proposed budget for 2016 included a \$1 million increase in both revenues and expenditures. The budget consists of three funds, he said: the general fund, the water fund, and the conservation trust. The general fund for 2016 was receiving a "huge bump" in revenue due to new grants, Banta said. The Roads Department received a grant

(Continued on page 8)

Oliver! presented at PRHS



Above: Ben Capp as Fagin in The Bear Necessities Theatre Company's presentation of a steampunk-themed version of *Oliver!* on Nov. 5-7 at Palmer Ridge High School. Word has it that Capp learned to play the violin for this scene. Photo by Jackie Burhans. See page 25 for additional photos from the show.