

## Snapshots of Our Community

### North Pole at Tri-Lakes Craft Fair, Dec. 5



**Above:** Singers from Lewis-Palmer Middle School entertained during the craft fair. *Photo by Harriet Halbig.*

*By Harriet Halbig*

The North Pole at Tri-Lakes Craft Show sponsored by Monument Hill Kiwanis was held on Saturday, Dec. 5 at Grace Best Community Center.

Program Manager Bob Nissen said that the fair featured 69 vendors and was attended by over 1,600 individuals. Those attending donated 413 pounds of food, \$365, and two boxes of toys to benefit Tri-Lakes Cares.

The cookie walk sponsored by Tri-

Lakes United Methodist Church offered 7,000 cookies from which to select, priced by the pound to benefit local charities. Several thousand dollars were raised.

District 38 singers and musicians and other local musicians entertained during the event.

All proceeds go to fund the School District 38 granting program.

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### Handbell Concert, Dec. 12



**Above:** The Tri-Lakes Community Handbell Choir held its 14th Annual Christmas Concert, a free community concert directed by Betty Jenik. The concert consisted of the Tri-Lakes Community Handbell choir (pictured above), the Monument Community Presbyterian Handbell Choir, the Four Winds Recorder Ensemble, the Tri-Lakes United Methodist Church Brass, Sweet Harmony Women's Acapella group, and sing-along Christmas songs. The Tri-Lakes Community Handbell Choir will perform again for the Southern Colorado Handbell Concert at the Colorado Springs City Auditorium on Feb. 20. *Photo by Rebecca Burkart.*

### Cheeseman organizes service project



**Above:** On Dec. 5, Jacob Cheeseman, right, of Boy Scouts of America (BSA) Troop 17 organized an Eagle Scout service project to build feral cat feeding stations for the Humane Society of the Pikes Peak Region. Seventeen boys primarily from BSA Troop 17 along with a handful from Palmer Ridge High School National Honor Society gathered in a chilly garage and spent the day assembling kits that were created ahead of time by Cheeseman and his uncle. After nailing together the feeding stations, the boys then primed them so that they could be painted and delivered to the Humane Society on Dec. 18 for distribution to community cat colonies where they are used to feed feral cats and to attract them so they can be vaccinated and spayed or neutered. Jasper Howald is at left. *Photo by Jackie Burhans.*

### Yule Log Potluck Dinner, Dec. 8



Community members gathered for the annual Yule Log Potluck dinner Dec. 8 at the Palmer Lake Town Hall for a night of preparations for the Yule Log festivities to follow that weekend. The night began with a potluck dinner. Next, the group split up into groups to make the traditional Yule Log pins. **Above:** From right, Ryder Voelker, Cavan Porter, Kyah Voelker, and Kurt Voelker work on carving notches in the sticks for the bow tying. *Photos by Molly Porter. Captions by Audrey Burkart.*

### Yule Log Hunt, Dec. 13



**Above:** Josh Porter, the Cutter of the Log, and Sara Lundeen Plott, the finder of this year's Yule Log, work together to cut the Yule Log in half. One half of the log was burned as this year's Yule Log while the other half is saved for next year's kindling log. *Photos by Molly Porter. Captions by Audrey Burkart.*

### Santa on Patrol, Dec. 19



**Above:** Santa with Blake Cossaboom during Santa on Patrol. Police Chief Jake Shirk thanked the Tri-Lakes residents, Tri-Lakes Chamber of Commerce, and Walmart who collected and donated toys and money so that hundreds of local children in need could personally receive a gift from Santa on Patrol on Dec. 19, the Saturday before Christmas. Shirk started this program in 1993 in Aurora when the shopping malls received death threats against Santa. Now he and the Monument Police and several local fire departments help this "hidden segment of our society" right here in our own community. He said so many donations were made this year that he had extra gifts to give to Tri-Lakes Cares, and he appreciates how the community stepped forward. *Photos by Shauna Arrington of Arrington Photography.*