

## ACT II set to open mid-Jan.



**Above:** ACT II (Anew Community Thrift) is a new nonprofit thrift shop that will donate its profits to “organizations that benefit the Tri-Lakes community.” If you are decluttering your home this holiday season and have items to donate, ACT II will accept them starting in mid- to late December. The store opening is planned for mid-January. Executive Director Cara Vanderkolk, who was the manager of the Hangers to Hatches Thrift Store that operated in the same location at 245 N. Jefferson St., Monument, across from Northland Community Church (at Second Street and Jefferson), said many of Hangers’ prior volunteers have agreed to help with ACT II, but more volunteers, monetary contributions, and donations are needed. Contact Act II at [cara@mynorthlandchurch.org](mailto:cara@mynorthlandchurch.org) or 719-487-3268. *Photo by Charlie Searle.*

## Murphey at TLCA, Nov. 27



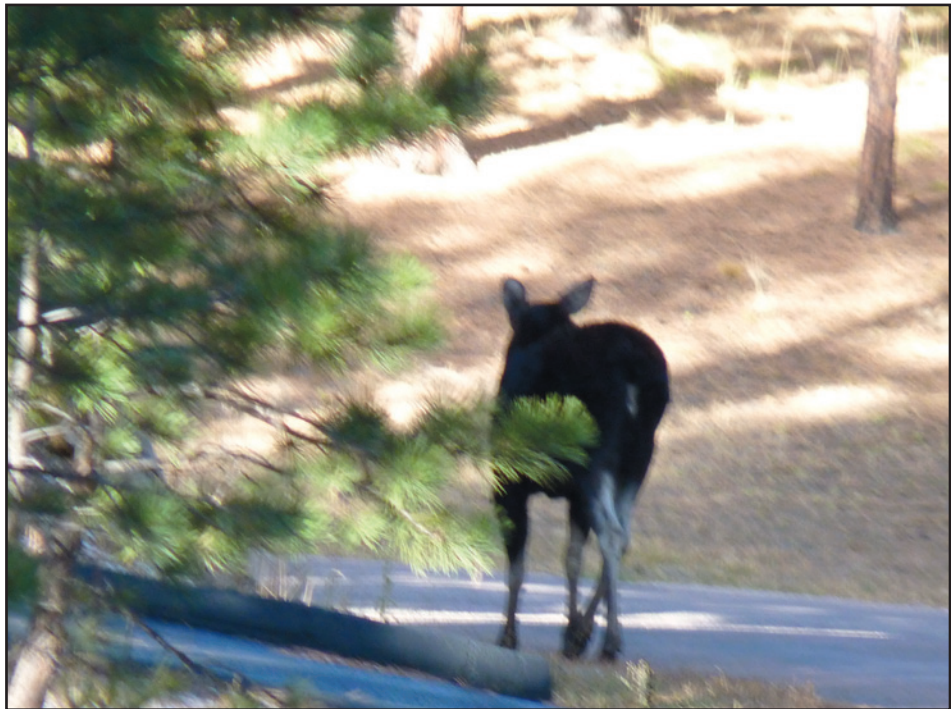
**Above:** On Nov. 27, the Tri-Lakes Center for the Arts (TLCA) hosted two sold shows by renowned singer/songwriter Michael Martin Murphey. Murphey and his band are on a five-state tour, bringing his Cowboy Christmas show to audiences for the 25th year. With a scrolling presentation of historic and modern-day photos, videos, and iconic art of the American West as a backdrop, Murphey rekindled traditions and a sense of time through his music and storytelling. He recited one of his poems about the parallels between Christmas and cowboys, talked about the tradition of the Texas Cowboy Christmas Ball, which started in 1885 and where his band will be playing this year, and spoke of the true, non-commercialized, meaning of Christmas. Information on upcoming events at the TLCA is at [www.trilakesarts.org](http://www.trilakesarts.org). *Photo by David Futey.*

## PLVFD chili supper, Nov. 26



**Above:** The Palmer Lake Volunteer Fire Department held the annual chili supper at Palmer Lake Town Hall on Nov. 26 for a crowd of hundreds of celebrators. The fun at the Town Hall included the chili supper, a car giveaway from Tri-Lakes Cares, a booth for Palmer Lake Star memorabilia, hayrides, and Santa at the gazebo on the lawn as everyone waited to find out the winner who would get to ride a fire truck up Sundance Mountain and light the Palmer Lake Star for the holiday season. **Inset:** From left in front are Sam of JJ Tracks Tire and Auto Center, car donors Bill and Paula Blair, and Kim Whisenhut, and Tri-Lakes Cares (TLC) operations manager. In the back row from left are Haley Chapin, TLC executive director, and Greg Stouffer, winner of the car. This team effort helped get the car for Stouffer, which was presented to him at the Palmer Lake Star lighting event. *Photos by Janet Sellers.*

## Moose in Woodmoor, Nov. 27



**Above:** A cow moose was spotted by residents of South and North Woodmoor on Nov. 27. Here she is, moving quickly near the intersection of Smugglers Road and Fairplay Drive. OCN is glad that the photo of this moose was taken from a safe distance. Moose are not to be trifled with. *Photo by Pamela Orcutt.*

## Letters to Our Community

*Guidelines for letters to the editor are on page 31.*  
**Disclaimer:** The opinions expressed in Letters to Our Community should not be interpreted as the views of OCN even if the letter writer is an OCN volunteer.

**Full measure of devotion**  
How do you explain Freedom of Speech? Is it a freedom to act without constraint, or selectively honoring only law or policy you like? If an athletic team is not successful, do you burn down every stadium but your own to

ensure next time your team wins? Is this a national leadership fault, or an indication of a long-term local leadership failure around our nation? “For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.” (Luke 6:38)  
Gordon Reichal ■

*Between the Covers at Covered Treasures Bookstore*

## A book is a gift that you open again and again

*By the staff at Covered Treasures*  
“I will honor Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year.”—Charles Dickens

**Bunny Slopes**  
By Claudia Rueda  
(Chronicle Books)  
\$15.99

In this interactive picture book, the reader must help Bunny stay on course as he skies down the slopes. The book brings grins and



guffaws with each turn of the page, and readers will find Claudia Rueda’s innovative book as entertaining as the twists and turns of a ski slope and as satisfying as a cozy cup of hot cocoa.

**The Christmas Story**  
By Robert Sabuda (Candlewick Press) \$35

The wonder- and awe-inspiring story of the birth of Jesus is lovingly brought to life by master paper pop-up engineer Robert Sabuda in six gorgeously imagined pop-up paper sculptures. Each scene is accompanied by a paragraph that’s carefully integrated into the background, making the text a natural partner to the exquisite art. The

Christmas Story is a visual feast, a holiday treasure to be shared year after year with the whole family.

**The Illustrated Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone**  
By J.K. Rowling (Arthur A. Levine Books) \$39.99  
J.K. Rowling’s beloved Harry Potter books are being lavishly illustrated into full-color editions with ribbon bookmarks. Illustrations are done by award-winning artist Jim Kay, with another book in the series added each year. Books 1 and 2 are currently available. As Rowling says, “Seeing Jim Kay’s illustrations moved me profoundly. I love his interpretation of Harry Potter’s world, and I feel honored and grateful that he has lent his talent