

Happy New Year! from the all-volunteer staff at



# Our Community News

Volunteers reporting on community issues in Monument, Palmer Lake, and the surrounding Tri-Lakes area

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## Local Events

See pages 26-31 for event locations and other details of these and many other local events.

- WMMI Family Day: *Geology*, Sat., Jan. 4, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
- County's Annual TreeCycle, Sat.-Sun., Jan. 4-5, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
- Fiber Art Exhibition Opening Reception at TLCA, Wed., Jan. 8, 6-8 p.m.
- NEPCO General Membership Meeting, Sat., Jan. 11, 10 a.m.-noon
- Speakeasy Casino Night Benefit for Bryson's Chase, Sat., Jan. 11, 6-10 p.m.
- Benet Hill Concert: *Parish House Baroque*, Sun., Jan. 12, 2:30-4 p.m.
- Tri-Lakes Chamber Education: *Basics of Bookkeeping*, Wed., Jan. 15, 9 a.m.
- PLHS Annual Potluck and Membership Meeting, Thu., Jan. 16, 7 p.m.
- Lewis-Palmer High School Tour, Fri., Jan. 17, 8 a.m.
- Benet Hill Film Series, "Breakfast at Ina's" & "Pickle," Fri., Jan. 17, 6:30 p.m.
- Bryan Duncan Concert at TLCA, Fri., Jan. 17, 7 p.m.
- Palmer Ridge High School Open House, Tue., Jan. 21, 6-7:30 p.m.
- Friends of Fox Run Park, Thu., Jan. 23, 5-6 p.m.
- Palmer Ridge High School Tour, Fri., Jan. 24, 1 p.m.
- Black Rose Acoustic Society: *Guardrail*, Fri., Jan. 24, 7 p.m.
- Wendy Woo w/Robin Hoch Concert at TLCA, Fri., Jan. 24, 7 p.m.
- St. Peter School Open House, Sun., Jan. 26, 12:30-2:30 p.m.
- Lewis-Palmer High School 8th Grade Open House, Wed., Jan. 29
- Palmer Lake Art Group Winter Art Show & Sale Opening Reception, Fri., Jan. 31, 6-8 p.m.

## Tri-Lakes rings the bell for the Salvation Army



**Above:** On Nov. 29, Monument Hill Kiwanis Club launched scheduling of volunteer bell ringers for the Salvation Army Red Kettle campaign in the Tri-Lakes area. A total of 702 volunteer hours were provided by members of Monument Hill Kiwanis Club, Lewis-Palmer and Palmer Ridge High School Key Clubs, Middle School Builders Club, Tri-Lakes Women's Club, Cub Scout Pack 85, Boy Scout Troop 17, Woodmen Valley Chapel, and King Soopers employees. Last year, \$50,000 was raised by the Tri-Lakes area for the Salvation Army. About 33% of total yearly donations to the Salvation Army come through the Red Kettle campaign. This money is used year-round to provide food, disaster relief, outreach to the elderly, ill and disabled, shelter and necessities for homeless, and opportunities for underprivileged children. This year's Red Kettle campaign was completed Christmas Eve, with bell ringers located at Walmart and King Soopers. Pictured from left are Tian Yu Meltzer and Griffin Greenwood of the Lewis-Palmer High School Key Club. *Photo by Sharon Williams.*

Palmer Lake Town Council, Dec. 12 and 18

## Simmering dissatisfaction brings rush of resignations

*By James Howald and Jackie Burhans*  
At its meetings in December, a number of long-standing concerns—about the future of the town's Fire Department, about the roles of Town Administrator Valerie Remington and Town Attorney Maureen Juran, and about the competence and effectiveness of the Town Council—came to a head and led to the resignations of Trustee Gary Faust, Remington, and Juran.

Despite the turmoil in the town's leadership, the council was able to pass two resolutions, the first authorizing the town to accept a donation of stock to benefit the Police Department, and the second adopting a budget for 2020. Also, the council heard suggestions from local developer Kurt Erhardt about changing direction on a controversial process required of developers who are planning projects within the town boundaries.

**Faust resigns, walks out**  
At the Dec. 12 meeting, Faust responded to feedback that had been received from some residents expressing dissatisfaction with Faust, Cressman, and Juran, arguing that he had always acted in what he believed to be the best interests of all the town's citizens while abiding by legal requirements and ad-

PALMER LAKE (Cont. on 2)

Monument Academy School Board, Dec. 9

## Board hears from bond advisor, learns about secondary school program, accepts member's resignation

*By Jackie Burhans*  
The Monument Academy (MA) School Board held a regular board meeting on Dec. 9 to hear from a municipal advisor regarding its bonds, hear an update on the curriculum for the secondary school, and accept a board member's resignation.

**Bond advisor**  
COO Christianna Herrera introduced Matt O'Meara from Choice Advisors, who is working with board President Mark McWilliams on reviewing forecasts. O'Meara described himself as a municipal financial advisor and said

he was a retired investment banker who started his company to ensure that charter schools get a fair deal and have the ability to manage to the covenants and financial arrangements that they've agreed upon. He said he had

MA (Cont. on 4)

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