
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 flying 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 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 stickers seen on his many miles traveled to music venues. Other speakers included longtime friends as record producer Dick Darnell, storyteller John Stansfield, Palmer Lake resident Roger Ward, and step-daughter 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 davidfutey@ocn.net.

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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 Pfiff 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

Pfiff 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 1 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 resolutions. (Continued on page 8)

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.