

Church at Woodmoor, Dec. 11



**Above:** On Dec. 11, the Church of Woodmoor hosted a dinner to present a \$1,500 donation to Tri-Lakes Cares (TLC) Executive Director Hailey Chapin. Chapin spoke to those gathered about the ways in which TLC helps people in the community. Afterward, church members prepared goody bags for its annual celebration of Tri-Lakes Cares Appreciation Day, which was held Dec. 16. Pictured above from left are Pastor Ellen Fenter, Chapin, Parish Council Chair Noelle Berry, and Outreach Committee Chair Bob Fenton. Photo courtesy of Church of Woodmoor. Below, “Cookies with Santa,” organized by Jerry and Meg Solomon, was held Dec. 14 to offer a sensory friendly environment for children who need a space free from crowds, additional noises, and stressors. Meg Solomon stated, “We were honored to be a part of some kids’ first pictures with Santa because they felt safe and comfortable. We are hoping to make this an annual event.” Twelve children from the Tri-Lakes area participated. **Pictured at right,** Vivien Feighery spends quiet time with Santa. Photo by Bob Smith.



VFW honors veterans, Dec. 14



**Above:** On Dec. 14, the local VFW post joined the National Wreaths Across America Day event. Every branch of military service had a representative place a wreath on a stand followed by everyone joining in the pledge of allegiance. Then, family members and attendees were invited to take wreaths to place at the 115 veteran gravesites at Monument Cemetery. Photo by John Howe.

Friends of Fox Run Park, Dec. 14



**Above:** On Dec. 14, the Friends of Fox Run Park held a “tree slice” ornament-making party at the warming hut near the frozen lakes in the park. The public was invited, and dog walkers and others dropped in while visiting the park, including these enthusiastic hikers and friends. Caption by Janet Sellers. Photo courtesy of T. McKinsey Morgan, Friends of Fox Run Park.

Presents for Patriots, Dec. 14



**Above:** Local Girl Scout Ambassador Olivia Tighe of Troop 3661 recruited sponsorships and volunteers to support kids of military families who will miss deployed loved ones during the holidays. A Dec. 14 celebration was packed with pizza and other kid-friendly foods, a craft table, a raffle, and gifts presented by Santa. Tighe expressed that she had experienced many holidays without her dad and developed this project to work toward her Girl Scout Gold Award as well as reach out to local military kids. She created a calendar of events to give families yearlong activity ideas and, especially for new families, help them assimilate more seamlessly into the community. Pictured are Santa with the Cortner family, Alek, Kelley, and mom Dawn, who will celebrate Christmas without dad Jay, who is deployed in Germany. Photo by Jennifer Kaylor.

Santa on Patrol, Dec. 14 & 21



**Above (left):** Santa went on patrol Dec. 21 to deliver presents to children in Gleagle and surrounding areas. Accompanied here by Wescott fire station staff, Santa and his helpers took toys to children amid blaring sirens and much happy excitement. Photo by Janet Sellers.



**Above (right):** From left, Elsa from *Frozen* and Emergency Incident Support volunteer Sonia Aitken greet Kevine Corado with a high five at the Santa on Patrol

event on Dec. 14 in Monument. The annual tradition of distributing toys to local disadvantaged children continued with the efforts of Monument and Palmer Lake Police Department staff, the El Paso County Sheriff’s Office, Toys for Tots, Shield 616, the Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Department, and the thousands of donated gifts from local residents. Emergency Incident Support provided hot chocolate and candy canes at every stop. Photo by Natalie Barszcz.