

Train Separation in Palmer Lake



Above: On Nov. 7, a very long train of coal became separated in Palmer lake. A number of cars were left behind until the front engine stopped and waited until the last portion could be reattached. Witness Jess Neal reported, “My wife and I had just arrived at Charritos House for a little brunch and when we stepped out of the car we noticed the back part of the train slowing to a stop and the rest of it continuing for a little ways farther. It happened around 10:40 a.m. The pusher engines just cleared the County Line Road crossing so there was no problem with it being blocked. BNSF crews were there quickly attending to the problem.” *Upper photo by Jess Neal. Lower photo by John Howe.*

TLC provides Thanksgiving



Above: On Nov. 11, members of the Lewis-Palmer High School Key Club gathered at Tri-Lakes Cares to assemble enough items in each bag to prepare a complete Thanksgiving meal. These were then distributed on Nov. 21 to households who would not have had food on their tables for the holiday. Due to the generosity of the community, this was made possible through the annual Harvest of Love Food Drive organized earlier during October by the Monument Hill Kiwanis Club. Non-perishable food collection boxes were established at all schools throughout Lewis-Palmer School District 38. Students, faculty, and staff contributed over \$5,358 in cash donations and 15,208 pounds of non-perishable food items. Local businesses including Safeway, King Soopers and Walmart supplemented with perishable groceries. *Photos by Sharon Williams.*

OCN nominated for award



Above: On Nov. 7, *Our Community News (OCN)* was recognized as a nominee for 2019 Nonprofit of the Year at the Tri-Lakes Chamber’s annual dinner. Since 2001, the more than 40 *OCN* volunteers, represented by David Futey, Lisa Hatfield, and John Howe, have ensured that the over 235 editions have reached Tri-Lakes area mailboxes on the first Saturday each month. Each *OCN* issue provides unfiltered reporting on Tri-Lakes-area government meetings from town councils, school, water and fire districts, coverage on community events, a community calendar and a forum for readers through Letters to the Editor. Winners in each of the Chamber’s categories were: Nonprofit of the Year: Bethesda Gardens-Monument; Ambassador of the Year: Karen Heun; Volunteer of the Year: Lisa Hatfield; and co-recipients due to a voting tie for Businessperson of the Year: Kyle and Carrie Baker, Christian Brothers Automotive, and Steve Fisher, Heartland Payment Systems. *Photo by David Futey.*

Hatfield - volunteer of the year



Above: On Nov. 7, Lisa Hatfield was recognized as 2019 Volunteer of the Year by the Tri-Lakes Chamber at the Chamber’s annual dinner. Hatfield’s extensive list of volunteering includes: activities with Pikes Peak Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) such as staffing the El Paso County Public Health COVID-19 call center, CERT instructor for wildfire preparedness and creating videos such as CERT Wildfire Evacuation with Animals available on YouTube; Tri-Lakes United Methodist Church Emergency Preparedness Group that assists property owners with wildfire clean up and mitigation; and acting secretary for Colorado South Central Region Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster. Hatfield has also volunteered with *Our Community News* since 2012 in a variety of roles including managing editor from 2014-18 and reporter. Hatfield attributes her religious foundation and the Holy Spirit with providing her the energy to engage and support the Tri-Lakes community in so many ways. *Photo by David Futey.*