

Snapshots of Our Community

TreeCycle, Jan. 2



**Above:** Lewis-Palmer High School student Reese Thornton and his mother, Kelly Thornton, help raise money for the lacrosse sports team working at Treecycle again this year. The team took in over 1,200 Christmas trees from area residents, and with the suggested donation of \$5 a tree, raised \$6,284 at the Baptist Road location. Steve Czarnecki, executive director, Colorado Springs Youth Sports (a 501C3 charitable nonprofit organization) reported that a record \$25,000 was raised county-wide. For more information, Czarnecki can be reached at [steve@csyouthports.org](mailto:steve@csyouthports.org). Cash donations are still being accepted at [www.givebutter.com/tree](http://www.givebutter.com/tree). *Photo by Marlene Brown.*

Red Kettle donations, Jan. 14



**Above:** On Jan. 14, Monument Hill Kiwanis Club (MHKC), presented a \$35,889 check to The Salvation Army Colorado Springs Corps (SA). Although COVID limited the number of bell ringing days and available ringers, the check represents a two-fold increase in the generosity of the Tri-Lakes citizenry. MHKC volunteers rang the bell at Monument Walmart and King Soopers, assisted by volunteers from Kiwanis Key Clubs from Lewis-Palmer and Palmer Ridge High Schools, Scout Troop 17, Woodmen Valley Chapel, Tri-Lakes Women's Club, and others. Donations benefit Salvation Army programs throughout El Paso County. From left are LaShan Harrison, SA Corps assistant and kettle coordinator; Captains Doug and Betzy Hanson, SA Corps Command; Jack Fry, MHKC president; Ron Mangiarelli, MHKC Red Kettle project manager; and Max Williams, MHKC director, Service Leadership Programs. *Photo by Sharon Williams.*

Devon's Dog Park



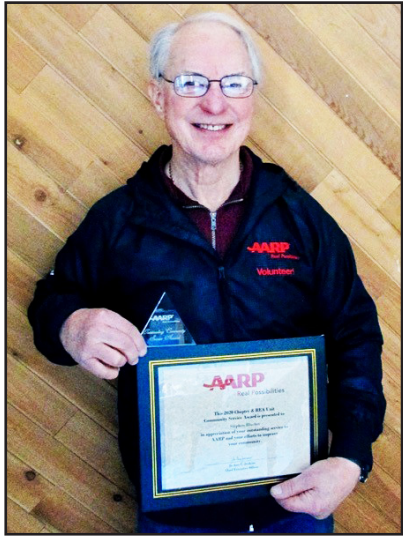
**Above:** Devon's Dog Park was established by Devon Theune in 2008 to earn her Girl Scout Gold Award, in cooperation with the Douglas County Division of Open Space. She said, "I hope to be the kind of person my dog thinks I am." The 15-acre fenced park makes a 2/3-mile loop and shares a parking lot with the Greenland Open Space Trailhead at 1532 Noe Road, Larkspur. Containers at the gates provide a convenient place for people to clean up after their dogs, which is vital for keeping E. coli out of the watershed. No water, shade, or separate area for small dogs is provided, but there is a separate dog agility playground with a tunnel, ramps, and other obstacles for well-trained dogs to maneuver. *Photo by Lisa Hatfield.*

Vaccine at JCSL, Jan. 11



**Left:** On Jan. 11, Walgreens pharmacy visited Jackson Creek Senior Living as planned to administer the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine to staff and residents who wanted it. Administrator Dena Mackey receives the shot from Leslie Mattorano, PharmD. The second shot will be administered on Feb. 1. *Photo by the staff at JCSL. Caption by John Howe.*

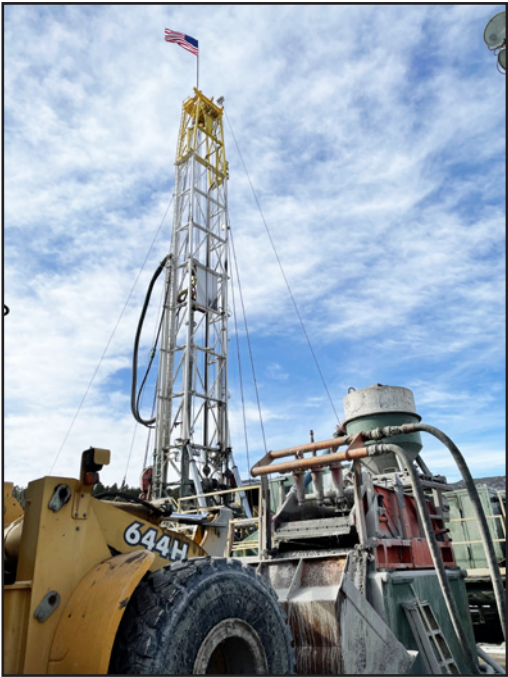
Blucher honored, Jan. 15



**Left:** Stephen Blucher of Colorado Springs received the annual AARP Chapter and Retired Educators Association (REA) Unit Community Service Award for 2020 on Jan. 15. The award is based on his 2019 activities, but the presentation was delayed because of COVID-19. Among the many things Blucher was honored for is his 22 years as an AARP Driver Safety Instructor. He instructed 303 students in 2019 alone. He also helped with the AARP Chapter 1100 free shredding event last June, part of his extensive support of the Black Forest chapter. *Photos provided by Stanley Beckner.*

New Monument well, Jan. 19

**Right:** And then there were 10. Drilling of Well 10 finished Jan. 19. Monument's newest well is adjacent to water treatment plant 4/5 on North Monument Lake Road. Assistant Public Works Director Stephen Sheffield says they anticipate the well will provide "anywhere from 200-300 gallons per minute" once it's operating in "early to mid-summer." He says the well was drilled into the Arapahoe aquifer at about 1,700 feet deep. There's still more work to do, including equipping the well with pipe, a pump, and motor. Sheffield says they're waiting on the design process for treating the water, which has to be approved by Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. *Photo by Michael Weinfeld.*



Baker: Business Person of the Year

**Right:** Christian Brothers Automotive has earned the title of 2020 Business Person of the Year. The award is presented by the Tri-Lakes Chamber of Commerce. It's based on the year's accomplishments, employee development, customer service, community involvement, volunteerism, and social responsibility. There was a tie for the award. Christian Brothers owners Kyle, left, and Carrie Baker shared it with Steve Fisher of Heartland Payment Systems. Kyle Baker said he's "humbled" to get the award, which he said "carries an immense amount of meaning to us." *Photo provided by Jessica Tcholakov.*

