

## LEOs sort eyeglass donations



**Above:** Members of the El Paso County Tri-Lakes Lions LEO Youth Community Service club gathered Super Bowl Sunday, Feb. 7, to sort, count, and categorize eyeglasses donations from area residents. A total of 196 eyeglasses, miscellaneous vision products, and 298 hard and soft eyeglass cases were contributed. They filled 10 boxes, which were loaded into local Lions Club President Jim Naylor's SUV for shipping to Lions International. Front row, from left are Juliana Strickling, Hannah Hermann, Kamdyn Hinderberger, Deirdra Tighe, Olivia Tighe, and Adelyne Thompson. Back row, from left are Tri-Lakes Lions Club President Jim Naylor and LEO Coordinator Gerry Hinderberger. *Photo by Gordon Reichal.*

## Today I Choose to be Happy

**Right:** A timely inspirational message on a random painted rock brings joy to new year hikers and bikers in Monument. Often these decorative rocks of varying size are spotted in many locations, around lamp posts, placed up in a tree at the dog park, throughout the Tri-Lakes area and at Fox Run Regional Park. Painted rocks in unexpected places always bring smiles and an extra "uplift" to the day! *Photo by Natalie Barszcz.*



## Plane rides the train, Feb. 13



**Above:** I looked to the train tracks above Dirty Woman Park on Feb. 13 to see a normal cargo of what I thought was a windmill blade atop the flat car. Then I realized it was very unusual, because it was painted green. After a couple of minutes, I saw the windows along the side of the fuselage and for the first time after 15 years watching from my window, I witnessed the body of an airplane being transported via train. *Photo by John Howe.*

## Winter watering, Feb. 19



**Above:** Tia Mayer of Monument, a volunteer for the town, piled snow around the trees and plants in the garden in front of the Chamber of Commerce Community Meeting House on Highway 105 on Feb.19. Winter watering is important in Colorado because of drought and wind. Since you can't use a hose when the ground is frozen, snow is a good substitute. *Photo by Michael Weinfeld.*

## Mystery and suspense in Monument



**Above:** On Feb. 20, local author Diane Campbell, seated, visited Covered Treasures Bookstore in Monument to tell readers about her first book, *Point Blank*, which won first place in the Genesis award in the mystery/suspense/thriller genre. *Photo by Lisa Hatfield.*

## Virtual wine tasting fund raiser



**Above:** Virtual wine tasting: where you can attend virtually by Zoom and sample Colorado wines. Theresa Odello, recreation coordinator, El Paso County Recreation and Cultural Services, delivered the wines contactless to the participants from The Wine Seller, which co-sponsored the event along with the UVA Wine Bar. Proceeds from the event went to El Paso County Nature Centers, a 501C3 organization. Residents of northern El Paso County look forward to a new nature center opening in their part of the county. For more information regarding the new nature center, go to <https://communityservices.elpasoco.com/el-paso-county-northern-nature-center/>. *Photo by Marlene Brown.*

## PLFD wildfire training, Feb. 20



**Above:** Palmer Lake Fire Department's B Shift trained with the S-131 course from the National Wildfire Coordinating Group on February 20. Assistant Chief John Vincent, not shown, and Capt. Weston Oesterreich, standing, emphasized a point here about the qualities of a good fire lookout, whose job is the most important one on the wildfire. This firefighter is the communication link with the outside world during a wildland fire and must pay close attention to fire potential, fuel (vegetation) distribution, weather conditions, safety zones, and alternative escape routes for firefighters. The most important goal is not to save buildings but for everyone to come home safely at the end of the day. *Photo by Lisa Hatfield.*