

Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection Santa on Patrol Dec. 20

Santa teamed up with the Monument Police Department, Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Department, and Palmer Lake Volunteer Fire Department on Saturday, Dec. 20 to deliver gifts to children in the Tri-Lakes area. Residents and businesses, including teachers at Bear Creek Elementary, Walmart, the Monument Town Council, and hundreds of anonymous givers, donated toys and bikes to the drop boxes around town. Palmer Ridge High School students made hundreds of small wooden-wheeled toys that were handed out by Santa and Mrs. Claus and their first-responder elves. Monument Police Chief Jake Shirk said the look on parents' and kids' faces "really cheers us up." Santa on Patrol "spreads joy for a lot of children in our own community. ... We have a huge need within our community for these toys," he said. Santa also patrolled the Donald Wescott Fire Protection District on Dec. 6. *Photos by Lisa Hatfield.*



Above: Santa and Mrs. Claus



Above: Monument Police Explorers helped Santa distribute toys.



Above: Santa distributed about 18 new bikes to children in the Tri-Lakes area.



Left and Right: This little boy received, and could barely carry, one of hundreds of toys Santa handed out while On Patrol.



Western Museum of Mining and Industry Family Exploration Day, Jan. 3



Above: On Jan. 3, the Western Museum of Mining and Industry (WMMI) held its Family Exploration Day on Geology. Kids and adults piled into the museum to learn about Colorado's mineral and mining heritage. The museum held fun and educational activities, guided tours, hands-on mineral identification, and even "Keep what you find gold panning." The event was made possible through the conjoined efforts of WMMI, Florissant Fossil Beds, Pilot Mining, Bricks-4-kids, and many others. Depicted here, Ken "Sarge" Aron explains the machinery that early Western miners used to a group on a guided tour. WMMI hosts frequent events and tours and can be contacted at 719-488-0880. A list of events and information about the museum can be found on its website, www.wmmi.org. *Photos by Allison Colburn.*

Support Our Community! Shop Tri-Lakes.