

Emergency Preparedness Training, Feb. 4



Left: In 95 percent of all emergencies, bystanders or victims provide the first immediate assistance on the scene. Do you know what to do? Citizen volunteers including Linda Lyons, left, Judy and John Rickman, Jerry and Donna Wagner, learned about "CERT" Community Emergency Response Training, free emergency preparedness training for groups

or individuals age 14-plus. Disaster preparedness, neighborhood planning, fire safety and practice with real fire extinguishers, medical treatment basics, victim assessment and triage, light search and rescue, terrorism awareness, animals in disaster, and a final tabletop disaster scenario (set in downtown Monument!) were topics covered at the 16-hour class at Tri-Lakes United Methodist Church Emergency Preparedness Group on Feb. 4, 5, and 6 (epg@tlumc.org). More classes will be offered by El Paso County beginning March 17, April 13, and a teen session during spring break. See www.epccert.org or call (719) 575-8858 to sign up. *Photo by Lisa Hatfield.*

Chili Cook-off, Feb. 6



Above: Christine Clark, left, Delinda Story, and Susan Bell served up the chili at the Palmer Lake Chili Cook-off, held Feb. 6 at the Palmer Lake Town Hall. Proceeds from the event benefit Helping Everyone Recover (HER). Through the HER free "store," those in need can begin to overcome adversity by choosing quality clothing and home goods. HER also assists community members in need of moral support. *Photo by Caryn Collette.*

TLC receives Walmart Grant, Feb. 19



Left On Feb. 19, Tri-Lakes Cares (TLC) received a \$25,000 grant from the Walmart Foundation's State Giving Program to assist with its Neighborhood Nurse Center and Medical Program, which includes doctor's

visits, diagnostic procedures, medical supplies and equipment, dental work, prescriptions, vision care and more for low-income clients. "Organizations such as Tri-Lakes Cares are essential to helping building stronger communities. They share our values and are committed to helping low-income individuals and families in need live better," said Jon Ball, Walmart market manager. Shown from left are Mike Blackmon, Walmart store manager (Monument); Haley Chapin, executive director of Tri-Lakes Cares; and Joe Dague, board member of Tri-Lakes Cares. TLC is a community-based, volunteer-supported resource center whose mission is to improve people's lives through emergency, self-sufficiency, and relief programs. TLC has served the Tri-Lakes region for 32 years, providing a food pantry, medical program, case management, housing and utility assistance, seasonal programs, and more to help people manage and overcome poverty. The Hangers to Hutches thrift shop at 245 N. Jefferson St. accepts donations of household goods, clothing, and furniture. Its income helps fund the mission of TLC and provides a resource for items that clients may need. To learn more about Walmart's giving, visit <http://giving.walmart.com/foundation>. Contact Chapin at Tri-Lakes Cares, 235 N. Jefferson St., Monument, (719) 481-4864 x101 or write to ExecutiveDirector@Tri-LakesCares.org. *Photo courtesy of Tri-Lakes Cares.*

RMMA Concert, Feb. 6



Left: Before the Feb. 6 Rocky Mountain Music Alliance (RMMA) concert, Eric Wicks set up the portable harpsicord as part of "Parish House Baroque: Of Lovers and Lasses," which also featured Elisa Wicks, Terri Moon, and Pam Chaddon. RMMA concerts are hosted at Tri-Lakes United Methodist

Church. For tickets and information about future concerts, see www.rmmaonline.org, or contact Coleen Abeyta, 630-8165, Coleen.Abeyta@gmail.com. *Photo by Lisa Hatfield.*

Red Kettle campaign record, Feb. 6



Above: Monument Hill Kiwanis members are, from left, Jim Clemens, Larry Young, Billie Healy, Dave Humbert, Richard Larson (Salvation Army), Richard Couch, Barrie Town, RF Smith, and John Snyder. Record donations for Salvation Army Neither snow, nor sleet, nor cold kept a crew of volunteers in the Tri-Lakes Region from helping the Salvation Army set a record for donations during this year's Red Kettle campaign. A check for \$45,003 was delivered to Maj. Richard Larson of the Salvation Army at the Monument Hill Kiwanis Club meeting on Feb. 6 at the Monument Hill Country Club. Giving increased by \$4,000 compared to 2014, and \$7,500 versus 2013. The club with responsibility for just three of approximately 80 Salvation Army locations in the region produces a significant portion of the annual donations by the communities, more than 12 percent of the total net proceeds from the Red Kettle campaign. *Photo courtesy of Warren Gerig.*

Water rates workshop, Feb. 22



Above: On Feb. 22, Mayor Pro-Tem Jeff Kaiser facilitated a special two-hour Board of Trustees water rates workshop with the public, and Town Manager Chris Lowe, Public Works Director Tom Tharnish and water engineer Will Koger of Forsgren Associates provided financial and technical information. Since October, the town has been trying to restructure rates for town of Monument water system customers west of I-25 so that the water enterprise fund can become solvent again after rates were allowed to stagnate for 20 years. At the workshop, local business owners and residents suggested concrete alternatives to the proposed water rates increase. Kaiser kept the conversation productive by asking each contributor, "What is your proposal?" Town staff plans to evaluate the financial impact of the specific proposals and present them on March 7 when the trustees plan to vote on the water rates increase. **Pictured above:** Rosie's Diner owner A.B. Tellez was one of the business owners who made suggestions at the workshop and was also interviewed by the KOAA News 5 crew. *Photo by Lisa Hatfield.*