

Monumental Impact



Above: A new nonprofit in the Tri-Lakes area, Monumental Impact, has been busy collaborating with D38's Bearbotics robotics team to complete its Phase I changes to the East Rooms of the Grace Best Facility. The space will be used by Bearbotics and can also be used by local businesses to provide student project experiences in engineering, technology, and entrepreneurship. Students can also receive mentorship through a new Career Pathways Explorer program. **Above:** From left, Palmer Ridge High School students Cameron Hinkle and Dane VanDenHoek gave a fresh set of paint to the Bearbotics' new "Bear Cave" in the East Rooms on Oct. 16. **Below left:** When Palmer Ridge High School went to distance-learning-mode only, Bearbotics coaches, mentors, and adult volunteers used the community room on Nov. 16 to sort items for distribution to those who supported the team during their Butter Braids fundraiser. From left are Jeanette Breton, Noreen Griffin, Matt Middleton, Ben Griffin, and Dana Glass. **Below right:** On Oct. 20, Bearbotics team member James Balaraman worked on a Raspberry Pi conferencing option to provide connectivity to remote team members. *Photos by Bearbotics Coach Mike Hinkle.*



Bell ringing kicks off



Above: Saturday, Nov. 28, was kick-off day for Salvation Army bell ringing at King Soopers and Walmart Monument locations. This holiday fund-raising effort benefits Pikes Peak-area households in need of food, shelter, and other basic necessities. Ringing is on a limited schedule Saturdays, Sundays, Wednesdays, and Christmas Eve, with hours from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monument Hill Kiwanis Club serves as the sponsoring organizer of bell-ringing volunteers, which include members from Kiwanis, the Palmer Ridge and Lewis-Palmer High School Key Clubs, Tri-Lakes Women's Club, Woodmen Valley Chapel, and Boy Scout Troop 17. All COVID-19 protocols will be observed. This year, donations can also be made online for the Salvation Army Virtual Red Kettle program using website <https://salarmy.us/COSpringsMHKcKettle>, Apple Pay, or Google Pay. Inset photo is Ron Mangiarelli, Kiwanis member Salvation Army project manager. *Photo by Sharon Williams.*

Chili Supper supports PL star



Above: Every year since 1935, excluding the years during WWII, the Star lighting has been a holiday tradition in Palmer Lake. On Saturday, Nov. 28, instead of friends and neighbors gathering in the Town Hall to enjoy chili or mac and cheese prepared by the Palmer Lake Fire Department, the meals were hand-delivered to vehicles driving by the fire station. A steady flow of vehicles made their way through the event with all involved using face masks, and the chili was sold out by 6:30 p.m. This year's winner of the drawing to ride the fire truck up to light the Star at 7 p.m. sharp was Anika Pgoar. The Star is maintained by the PLFD and volunteers. The approximately 300 tickets sold for the Chili Supper this year provide funds for supplies and repairs to the Star. *Photo by Steve Pate.*



Christmas spirit in Tri-Lakes



Above: Christmas lights adorn the trees along Second Street as one comes west from the freeway into Historic Downtown. The Parks and Open Space Division of the Monument Public Works Department is responsible for these decorations. *Photo by John Howe.*



Above: Again this year, School District 38 has adorned the administration building, aka Big Red, with a beautiful lighted tree on the north wall. *Photo by John Howe.*

Right: Christmas lights have started to light up our nights in the Tri-Lakes area. I'm grateful we no longer light our trees with candles glued to the tree branches with melted wax and can use electric light-emitting diodes instead. The effect is still breathtaking but a lot safer. *Photo by Lisa Hatfield.*

