

Red Kettle Campaign



Above: During the holiday season, shoppers have experienced dedicated bell ringers at business entrances for the Salvation Army Holiday Red Kettle Campaign. This annual fund-raising effort benefits Pikes Peak-area households in need of food, shelter, and other basic necessities. The need for these essentials has been even greater during the COVID-19 pandemic. Traditionally, individuals and families have benefited through the strong spirit of giving in the Tri-Lakes area. Again, our community has exemplified their generosity during these challenging times. On Dec. 21, Salvation Army bell ringer John Howe greets a Red Kettle donor. *Photo by Sharon Williams*

Stars



Above: A photo taken Dec. 21 by Wendy Unwin-Watson showing the “Christmas Star” conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn and the Palmer Lake star.

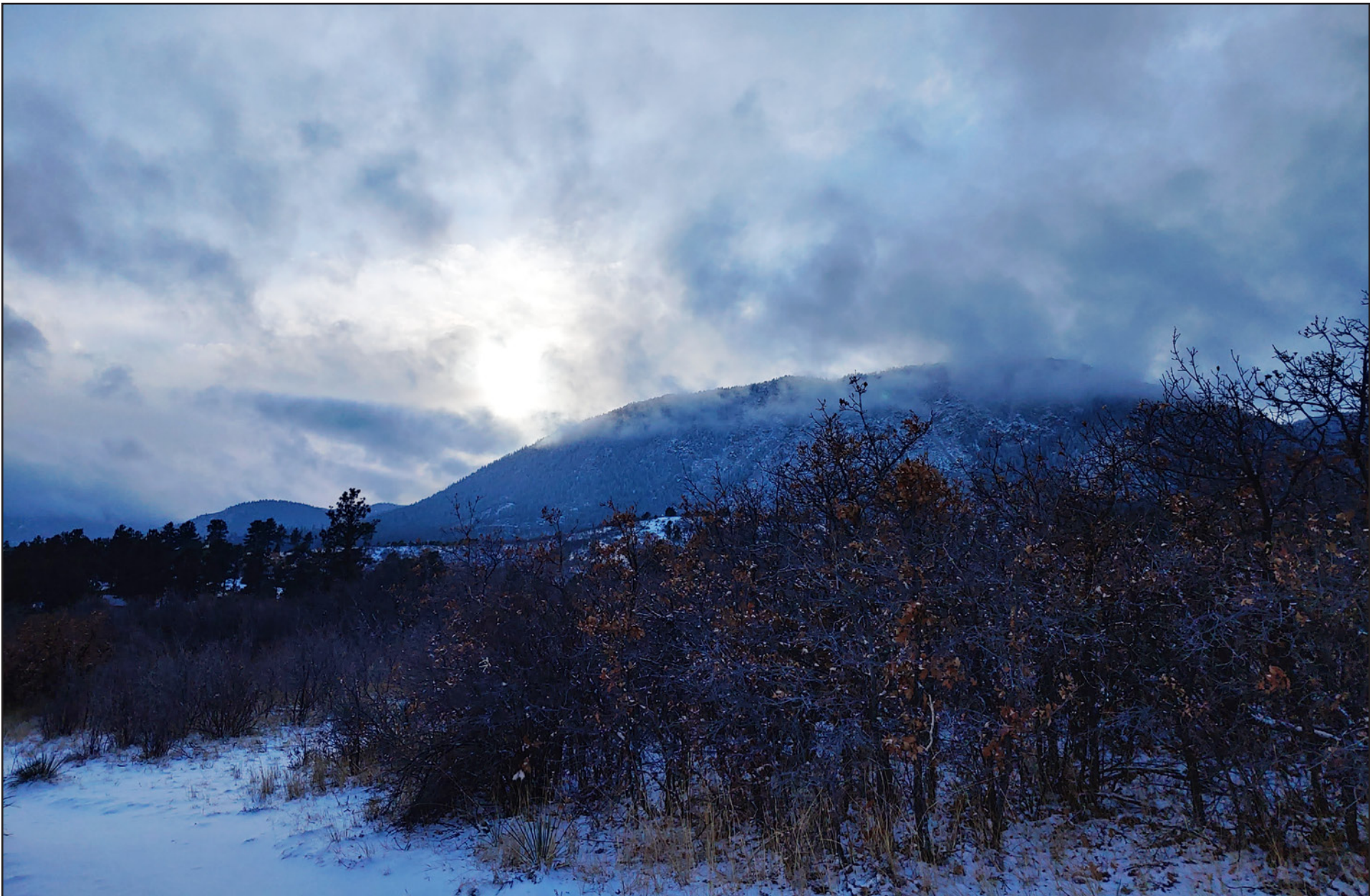
Holiday Lights



Above: In December, this yard in historic downtown Monument lit up the dark nights with 25 deer decorations ... and one real guard dog. **Right:** These homeowners on East Caribou Drive chose a vintage red truck with a Christmas tree in the back to celebrate the season and cheer up neighbors. Below: One home in Arrowwood III illuminated dozens of Christmas decorations on Dec. 23 including Santa and his sleigh, Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer and the Abominable snowman, Santa driving a railroad train, The Grinch and his dog Max, Olaf the Snowman and Sven the Reindeer from Frozen, and a variety of other snowmen and elves. *Photos by Lisa Hatfield.*



OCN photo contest winners



Above: “Moon-like sunset” - This photo was taken during a December late afternoon snow squall. Dark storm clouds were rapidly flying across the sun as

it was setting over Mount Herman. Upon viewing the photograph initially, people thought it was the moon late at night. *Photo by Sharon Williams.*