

Marketing class, Feb. 6



Above: Amanda Blough, presenter at the Tri-Lakes Chamber of Commerce for the monthly education series on Feb. 6, explains to the group of interested entrepreneurs and local business people the history of developments in social media, advertising online, and maintaining an online presence as well as ways to access and make use of these tools to benefit their businesses. The event was sponsored by the Tri-Lakes Chamber of Commerce, Ent Business Banking, and the Pikes Peak Small Business Development Center. *Photos by Janet Sellers.*

Alpacas in Monument, Feb. 10



Above: Peter Ziek of Wild Hair Alpacas alpaca farm in Black Forest shares his wisdom and anecdotes about alpacas with guests at the Feb. 10 alpaca event at Gallery 132 in Historic Monument. He brought a mother alpaca and her cria (baby) as well as an adolescent alpaca to meet and greet the public. *Photo by Janet Sellers.*

Forest Lakes meeting, Feb. 22



Above: At least 60 residents attended a neighborhood meeting Feb. 22 to discuss a proposed residential development at the western end of Forest Lakes, bordered by the national forest, Pine Hills to the north, and Green Mountain Ranch Estates along Hay Creek to the south. People voiced their opinions about many issues, including the incompatibility of this type of development with the established rural communities immediately next door full of elk and other wildlife. The existing planned unit development site plan approved in 2002 by El Paso County identified 131 lots for Phase 2, and the 2018 proposal, which will be considered by the county Planning Commission and the Board of County Commissioners, proposes 231 single-family lots on 287 acres, including 230 acres of open space and a density of 0.8 units per acre. From left are NES Principal Andrea Barlow, Classic Homes CEO Doug Stimple, and Vice President Jim Boulton. County Development Services Department Project Manager Ramiere Fitzpatrick, who also attended the meeting, can be reached at 719-520-6302. See <http://adm.elpasoco.com/Development%20Services/Pages/PlanningCommission2017.aspx> for upcoming agendas of the Planning Commission. *Photo by Lisa Hatfield.*

CPR class, Feb. 10



Above: About a dozen people participated in the American Heart Association's Heartsaver class Feb. 10, hosted by Tri-Lakes United Methodist Church. The class included cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and Automated External Defibrillator (AED) instruction on infants, children, and adults; conscious choking response; and first aid. The full-day course provided multiple scenarios for participants to practice chest compressions and breathing, trauma response, and environmental and medical emergency response. Heartsaver classes are generally scheduled once per quarter, follow an 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. timeframe, and are listed on the church website at tlumc.org. Participants are encouraged to wear comfortable clothing due to the practice scenarios. Pictured are Irina Foster, foreground, and Alan Afuang who demonstrated to the instructor that they were using the proper breathing technique to help an infant or youth. *Photo by Jennifer Kaylor.*

Gold mining exhibit at WMMI



Above: The Western Mining Museum opened a special exhibit titled "Gold Mining in Colorado" on Feb. 15. A lecture by local author and current Colorado Mining Association President Stan Dempsey Jr. accompanied the opening. The display takes the visitor through the story of gold mining in Colorado, from the origins of gold to the story of contemporary gold mining. Visitors will also learn how prospectors were able to stake their claims. Pictured above an undated image showing 29 men who worked in Winfield S. Stratton's famous Independence Mine in Cripple Creek. Another lecture associated with the exhibit is scheduled for April 12, topic and speaker to be announced. The exhibit runs through June 9. For more information, please go to www.wmmi.org or call the museum at 719-488-0880. *Photograph by Allison Robenstein*

Winterfest, Feb. 24



Above: Visitors warm up at a bonfire as they watch the skaters in the distance test the ice and skate on the prepared ice rink in the frigid evening air Feb. 24. Palmer Lake revived Winterfest as a fundraiser for launching the summer 2018 floating dock for the lake. The Palmer Lake Parks Committee and the Palmer Lake Volunteer Fire Department held the bonfire event complete with s'mores, hot chocolate, hot dogs, games, and music. *Photo by Janet Sellers.*