

A Fowl Day, Apr. 21



Above: April 21 was a bitterly cold and windy day in the Tri-Lakes area. At Palmer Lake, only a few ducks could be seen at the lake braving the weather at mid-day. Temperatures were expected to rise into the 70s by the next weekend. *Photo by David Futey.*

Operation Gratitude, Apr. 23



Above: Since 2003, Operation Gratitude's mission has been to forge strong bonds between Americans and their military and first responder heroes through volunteer service projects, acts of gratitude, and meaningful engagements in communities nationwide. In April, first responders from Palmer Lake police and fire were given care packages and letters from Operation Gratitude to thank the men and women who diligently and respectfully serve the residents of Palmer Lake. Thank you, Operation Gratitude, for your acknowledgement of our esteemed first responders. From left are Officer D, Officer Emily, and Chief Jason Vanderpool of the Palmer Lake Police Department. *Photo courtesy of Samantha Holmes.*

Fox Farm History, Apr. 24



Above: On April 24, Southwinds Fine Art hosted Friends of Fox Run Park for a presentation about the history of fox farms of the 1930s and '40s of northern El Paso County. Historian and teacher Julie Haverluk shared a collection of fox furs and fashion of days gone by with a talk about several farms from Palmer Lake to Rampart Range Road. There was at one time a fox farm in Fox Run Regional Park and several others within minutes of the Tri-Lakes area. A booming business for the farmers only lasted during the first half of the century and gave way to more modern thinking regarding the fur business. *Photo by Zoe O'Donnell.*

Earth Day at Fox Run Park, Apr. 22



Above: Members of Friends of Fox Run Park celebrated Earth Day 2021 by transplanting trees from patches of ponderosa pine seedlings on the floor of the forest, known as dog hair in forestry terms, to bare spots on the Roller Coaster Trailhead. County park employees provided the tools and approved the moving of the trees. For more information on volunteer projects, including trail building and preservation coming soon in the park, please contact friendsoffoxrunpark@gmail.com. *Photo by Marlene Brown.*

TLC Boot Barn Fundraiser, Apr. 23



Above: Over \$5,000 was raised for Tri-Lakes Cares April 23 at the Boot Barn Concert Hall where Ashtonz and WireWood Station performed. The crowd was happy and the music was resounding. Everyone was ready for a party when the bands hit the stage. Both bands have made the list of "Best of Colorado Springs." Pictured are supporters who helped underwrite the concert. For more information, see tri-lakescares.org. *Photo by Marlene Brown.*

Reynolds Ranch House, Apr. 24

Right: On April 24, the Western Museum of Mining & Industry (WMMI) opened the renovated Reynolds Ranch House to museum members. Pictured (L to R) are Museum Curator Richard Sauers, former WMMI employee Casey Pearce, and WMMI volunteer Betty Chastain. They are in the newly renovated living room of the museum's Reynolds Ranch House. The Queen Anne-style house was built in the 1890s by Joseph and Sarah Reynolds near what was the town of Husted. Sauers provided visitors with information about the house, the four-year renovation process, and plans that include furnishing the house and erecting a gazebo. Eric Swanson of Wells & West General Contractors was the project manager for the renovation's three phases: the basement and foundation, exterior, and interior. Swanson said it was "fabulous to be a part of the renovation process. The museum's persistence in keeping public interest and fundraising were the difficult parts of the project." The renovation, which cost over \$500,000, was funded by the State Historical Fund, grants and donations by museum members, Questers, and capital campaigns. *Photo by David Futey.*

