

Monument Tree Lighting, Dec. 4



Above:A huge crowd attended the annual tree lighting at Limbach Park in Monument on Dec. 4. Thousands of lights covered the many trees in the park and were even draped on the stage from top to bottom. **Below:** Santa and Mrs. Claus arrived on a fire engine from the Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District. They made their way to the stage where they greeted children and heard their Christmas wishes. *Photo by Creighton A. Smith.*



Drought Continues, Dec. 12



Above: On Dec. 12, Bristlecone Lake and the surrounding area exemplified the continuing effects of drought in the Tri-Lakes area and elsewhere on the Front Range. *Photo by David Futey.*

Tip-A-Cop, Dec. 9

Right:The Monument Texas Roadhouse participated in Tip-A-Cop on Dec. 9, as local officers from the Monument and Palmer Lake Police Departments and El Paso County Sheriff's Office waited on tables to raise money for the Special Olympics. Special Olympians worked alongside the officers collecting tips and helping out. To donate, go to specialolympics-co.org. *Photo by Marlene Brown.*



Ornament Party, Dec. 11



Above: On Dec. 11, Palmer Ridge Honor Society students helped the Friends of Fox Run Park make a merry holiday ornament party with the community at large in the warming hut near the ponds at Fox Run Regional Park. The ornaments were made from "wood cookies," or slices of tree branches of fire mitigation "dog hair" (trees or wood that could be a potential fire hazard) of the area's ponderosa pines, and serve as a happy reminder to honor the park, trees, and the importance of fire mitigation efforts in our area. *Photo by Janet Sellers.*

TLMA Benefit Concert, Dec. 18



Above: During the first half of the Tri-Lakes Music Association (TLMA) Christmas program on Dec. 18, vocal and instrumental solos, duets and ensembles performed excellent renditions of familiar Christmas songs. After the intermission, the full choir and orchestra, led by Rose Dunphey and Matt Manning, accompanied Dr. Heidi

Petak's narration of *The Christmas Story* from the Bible. This music program is held annually to raise money for Tri-Lakes Cares. CDs are available and donations can be made through the TLMA website at www.trilakesmusic.org. *Photo by Steve Pate.*