

## Rescuing the Chilean miners



By David Futey

Jeff Hart (pictured above), general manager-international operations with the Layne Christensen Co., faced a critical situation three years ago, knowing that about 2,300 feet below him were 33 trapped miners at the San Jose Mine in Copiapo, Chile. Hart, a Colorado native, described his experience, the drilling process, and rescue operation from August to October 2010 in a Nov. 7 lecture at the Western Museum of Mining & Industry (WMMI).

Hart was thousands of miles away in Afghanistan, drilling water wells for the U.S. Army and watching the news about the trapped miners, when he received word that he and his team were being called upon to assist with the rescue. All entryways into the mine had collapsed as a result of over 700 tons of rock shifting, perhaps due to recent earthquakes in Chile.

Three drills were used to reach the trapped miners, but out-of-date mine maps made pinpointing their location difficult. Contact with the miners was eventually made on the 18th day of the rescue, but efforts to enlarge the hole proved difficult.

Hart and his team arrived on the 35th day of the rescue. It took another 21 day to enlarge the initial 5-inch hole to 12 inches and then to 28 inches. The final diameter of the hole allowed for a rescue pod to be lowered and bring up the miners on day 69.

Through the efforts of Hart, his team, and Layne's Latin American affiliate Geotec, the rescue was completed two months ahead of estimates.

The replica shown of the rescue pod is on permanent display at the WMMI.

Information on upcoming events at the WMMI is at [www.wmmi.org](http://www.wmmi.org).

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## Monument Young Marines



**Above:** The Monument Unit of the Young Marines is composed of (from left, at rear) unit Adjutant Sharon Beck, Unit Commander U.S. Army Sgt. Chris Loman, Master Sgt. Rebecca Beck, Pvt. John Cerato, and unit Paymaster Deanna Rose. From left, front, are Pvt. Bryson Browning and Pfc. Rylan Wood. *Photo by Bernard Minetti.*

By Bernard Minetti

A unit of the Young Marines, a national organization that is congressionally chartered, is now operating in the Monument area. The Young Marines focus on character building, leadership, and a healthy and drug-free lifestyle for the youths who participate. The Young Marines unit is made up of boys and girls who desire to learn these traits.

If you have a child who would like to volunteer with the Young Marines, contact U.S. Army Sgt. Chris Loman, an active-duty Army volunteer and the unit commander of the Monument Unit. He

may be contacted at 719-471-3527 or 719-220-0563 for further information about participation in the Monument unit.

The Young Marine units are community-based programs lead by adult volunteers. Many of these volunteers are former, retired, active-duty, or reserve Marines who believe that the values they learned as Marines had a positive effect on them. Prior military experience is not required to become a volunteer with the Young Marines.

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## Donors and volunteers make free Thanksgiving dinner possible



**Above:** Volunteers, from left, Bob Nissen, Jeannine Engel, Terry Hayes, Marianne Black, Robin and Don Maconachy, helped serve the Community Coming Together Thanksgiving meal. *Photo by Allen Alchian.*

By Lisa Hatfield

The 2013 Community Coming Together Thanksgiving Dinner was organized by the Tri-Lakes Health Advocacy Partnership (HAP) and offered a free dinner for Tri-Lakes and Black Forest community members who were unable to enjoy a traditional Thanksgiving dinner with friends or family at home, and to local first responders who were on duty.

The event took place at Rosie's Diner on Nov. 28 and was made possible by many anonymous donors and volunteers as well as Sysco, Monument Vision Clinic, Safeway, JJ Tracks, Tri-Lakes Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center, 1st Bank, Trinity Lutheran Church, Town of Monument, Rock House Ice Cream and More, O'Malley's Pub, First National Bank, Tri-Lakes Printing, Peoples Bank, Texas Roadhouse, Integrity Bank and Trust, Village Inn, Tri-Lakes Cares, Yolanda's

Wellness and Spa, Mountain View Electric Association, the Kiwanis Club of Monument Hill, Lions Club International of Monument, Monument Motors, Monarch Merchandising, Tri-Lakes United Methodist Church, Big Opposable Thumb, Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District, Palmer Lake Volunteer Fire Department, Frank Bittinger, John Debonowski, Sue Extner, Leonard Himes, Don and Robin Moconahy, Pam Smith, Denny and Dorothy Myers, and Nikki McDonald.

For more information about HAP or to volunteer to help with next year's Community Coming Together event, businesses and individuals can visit [www.trilakeshap.org](http://www.trilakeshap.org) or call HAP at 464-6873.

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## Star Lighting Chili Dinner



**Above:** Chili was prepared and served by some of Palmer Lake's finest fire volunteers Nov. 30. From left are Courtney Dalton, Alex Donnell, Chris St. Claire, Lori Forman, and Chris Richey performed the kitchen duties. The money raised supports the maintenance of the Palmer Lake Star by the Palmer Lake Volunteer Fire Department led by Fire Chief John Vincent. *Photo by Bernard Minetti.*

## Monument Small Town Christmas



**Above (L):** Local authors Beth Groundwater and Michael Madigan signed autographs and chatted with customers Nov. 30 at the Covered Treasures Bookstore in Monument as part of Small Business Saturday, which is a part of "Three Saturdays of Holiday Fun." Events continue Dec. 7 and 14. Information can be found at [www.monumentmerchants.com](http://www.monumentmerchants.com) or by emailing [info@monumentmerchants.com](mailto:info@monumentmerchants.com). *Photo by Kate Wetterer.* **(R):** Chef Courtney, left, and patron Su Ogersby Ketchmark enjoy talking about chocolates over samples at 1492 Chocolates, one of the newest small-town stores in Monument. *Photo by Janet Sellers.*

