

# Happy Independence Day! from the all-volunteer staff at Our Community News

Volunteers reporting on community issues in Monument, Palmer Lake, and the surrounding Tri-Lakes area

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## Local Events

Almost all local events have been canceled, suspended, or are being conducted on-line or by conference call. See pages 28-31 for details.

The unpredictability of the COVID-19 situation presents scheduling challenges for area governance entities and other organizations. Because OCN is a monthly publication, readers should assume that information published in this issue is subject to change and event information should be confirmed a day or two before the event by calling the information number or checking the organization's website.

Dates are shown for events even though the event has been canceled or suspended. The date indicates when the event was planned to be held or when it would normally have been held.



Monument Parade July 4, 2009.  
Photo by David Futey

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## Congratulations Class of 2020!



Left: Lewis-Palmer High School held its graduation ceremony at the UHealth Park baseball stadium June 12. The graduating seniors were socially distanced on the field while their families watched from the stands. Despite these uncertain times, the class of 2020 was able to enjoy a lively ceremony with family and friends and complete their high school memories with a cheerful finish. Photos by Elena Statham.



Right: The Palmer Ridge High School class of 2020 was able to enjoy their special day with their parents, family, and friends in the UHealth Park Baseball stadium stands on June 11. Those who couldn't attend were able to watch via a live stream link online, so they could also partake in their student's graduation day. They were among the first graduates in Colorado to enjoy an in-person and live-audience graduation ceremony, all while social distancing with masks, 6 feet apart, hand sanitizer, and all. Photos by Maya Eaton.

Lewis-Palmer District 38 Board of Education, June 22

## Board approves budget, discusses back-to-school plans and distance learning

By Harriet Halbig

There were no comments received from the community for the budget hearing. Please see <https://www.ocn.me/v20n6.htm#d38> for background on this subject.

Executive Director of Financial Services David Crews presented a proposed budget for the 2020-21 school year. Districts are required to pass a budget before June 30 for the following fiscal year.

Crews stressed that all numbers are fluid at this point due to the impact of school closures and the coronavirus. Tax revenue is down due to business closures and there is a recession of unknown duration beginning now, he said.

The state received a one-time payment of \$121 million from the Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security

Act (CARES) passed in March. The district is likely to receive \$228,000 of this amount. Crews included this revenue in the budget but reminded the board of its one-time status.

As of the June 22 meeting date, the district expects to receive \$7,084 per pupil in revenue for the coming year. This is more favorable than expected.

Crews said he anticipates a total reduction of \$2 million in expenditures for the coming year but cautioned that the cost of health insurance and retirement funding will rise.

Executive Director of Learning Services Lori Benton said that her department has reduced curriculum expenditures by \$230,000 and supplies by \$60,000.

Treasurer Ron Schwarz asked about the impact of these cuts.

Benton responded that K-5 literacy programs would suffer because it is hard to fund training and resources with a reduced budget. Materials for literacy are expensive and teachers require extensive training in their use. This could provide a tipping point for those reading below grade level, especially in the third grade.

Schwarz commented that reading is fundamental to school success and that these materials must be provided if the district is to be an effective school system. He observed that 25% of students had tested below grade level in the subject, and adequate literacy training is essential to a quality education.

Benton said that the cost over two years would be \$450,000.

Schwarz proposed that funding for

D38 (Cont. on 2)

## RISKS AND BENEFITS



### CONSIDERATIONS FOR SOCIAL ACTIVITIES DURING COVID-19



### FOR ALL ACTIVITIES

- Stay home when you are sick or if you think you have been exposed.
- Wear a mask when feasible.
- Keep at least 6 feet between yourself and non-household members.
- Clean your hands frequently.



PARTIES  
REC. SPORTS  
RECEPTIONS

Some activities can run the entire risk spectrum. More people in a smaller space equals a higher risk.

Above: As the rules keep changing, and as the average age of COVID-19 infected people in Colorado drops, affecting more and more young people, here's a chart showing how to choose/weigh risks. See <https://covid19.colorado.gov/risks-benefits>.