

of individuals declined a job offer due to salary levels.

D38 will participate prominently in the July 4 festivities sponsored by Monument Hill Kiwanis, with teachers serving as grand marshals and a family-oriented event at Big Red after the parade.

District staff is developing wording for a brochure in support of a potential ballot issue this November.

Somers congratulated Alec Falk of Palmer Ridge High School as state champion in discus. The Palmer Ridge men's track team placed 11<sup>th</sup> and the women's team placed 17<sup>th</sup> in the state.

The board recognized Christy Milks for her service as co-chair of the District Accountability Advisory Committee (DAAC).

DAAC update

Milks reported on the activities of DAAC over the past year.

The committee is mandated by the state. Activities include review and input on district budget matters, the teacher evaluation process, school assessments, and reports from two subcommittees, the Special Education Advisory Committee and the Gifted Education Leadership Team.

Milks said that she thinks DAAC is a very productive committee as it consists of parents, teachers and administrators from each school. There is also a board liaison, Tiffiney Upchurch, and an administration liaison, Michael Brom. She said that participating has taught her a great deal about the workings of the district.

Milks wishes there were a way to increase community involvement in the committee and suggested that a name change and advertising of the meetings could help. A suggested name would be Elevate and Engage. At present, Harriet Halbig is the community participant, covering the committee's activities for Our Community News.

Plans are in place for an additional subcommittee, potentially to include the Financial Advisory Committee and a Wellness Committee.

Annexation discussion

There was a brief discussion about the potential for annexation of the schools into the Town of Monument.

Originally part of the consent agenda, the board discussed the ramifications of this action. Currently only one of the schools, Bear Creek Elementary, is in the Town of Monument. In the wake of a

recent tax increase to benefit the Monument Police Department, it was thought that annexing Palmer Ridge High School and Lewis-Palmer High School into the town could improve response time in the case of an emergency.

Chief of Safety and Security Dennis Coates commented that the current school resource officers from the Sheriff's Office provide sufficient safety at this time and therefore a decision can be

postponed. The board voted to table the motion for now.

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The Lewis-Palmer D38 Board of Education meets at 6 p.m. on the third Monday of each month, except July, in the district's learning center, 146 Jefferson St. Monument.

Harriet Halbig may be reached at harriethalbig@ocn.me.



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PALMER LAKE (Cont. from 1)

the availability of renewable surface water to consumers in the northern part of El Paso County.

Shaffer said the Denver Basin aquifers, which supply most of the groundwater used by residents of El Paso County, are depleting. The cost of pumping water from them is increasing, and it will eventually become cost-prohibitive to use groundwater from aquifers.

Shaffer explained that the Loop Project would address these issues by diverting water from Fountain Creek at the Chilcott Ditch, near the town of Fountain, treating that water and then conveying it to customers in the northern part of the county through pipelines, some of which exist and some of which will need to be built. The water diverted is the treated output from wastewater plants in the northern part of the county. He described the Loop Project as a "treatment and transfer" effort.

Shaffer said the Loop Project took a regionalized approach to water and would allow participating water districts to work together in new ways. He discussed the possibility of regionalized well management, an approach that would let districts temporarily take wells out of production to allow the aquifer to recharge.

Shaffer told the board the original cost estimate for the project was \$134 million, but after a detailed engineering study by Forsgren Associates Inc., the current estimate was \$192 million.

Tharnish discussed how Palmer Lake might connect to the Loop Project infrastructure. He explained that Monument, which plans to participate in the project, is planning to build a \$2 million storage tank in the Red Rocks Ranch neighborhood. This would provide a connection point for Palmer Lake, should the town decide to participate.

Conditional use granted for mixed-use workshop

At the June 23 meeting, a public hearing was held to debate granting a conditional use permit to Kurt Ehrhardt, the owner of a property just north of the Tri-Lakes Center for the Arts. Ehrhardt said the proposed project would include a metal and wood crafting shop and mixed residential and commercial uses elsewhere on the property. Town Administrator Dawn Collins said a conditional use permit was required due to the mixed uses Ehrhardt was proposing.

The designer of the crafting shop, who identified himself only as Josh, said the shop would fabricate one-of-a-kind wood and steel components for the interiors of homes and offices. He said he expected the construction of the shop to take two or three years and said he would not move forward with the project if the conditional use permit was not granted.

A resident who lives near the property asked why the permit was requested before the design for the shop was complete. He asked the board to collect more information before granting the permit.

Resident Jacob Benton asked if the conditional use permit would remain with the property if the workshop project was not completed, and Collins answered that it would.

After the public hearing ended, the board voted on Resolution 37-2022, which grants the conditional use permit. The resolution passed, with Mayor Bill Bush and Trustees Darin Dawson, Jessica Farr, Samantha Padgett, and Karen Stuth voting yes. Trustees Nicole Currier and Glant Havenar voted no.

Conditional use granted for short-term rental

A public hearing was held at the June 9 meeting to consider a request from Emi-

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