

school. She stressed that a student's case manager is the individual who oversees all programs for an individual student. The general education teacher is given a summary of student IEPs with goals and accommodations specified.

When asked the impact of the proposed mill levy override on special education, Fleury said that all students would benefit from the additional funds and reminded parents that general district funds and federal funds are also instrumental in funding special education.

The Special Education Advisory Committee meets at 6:

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30 p.m. in the district's Learning Center, 146 Jefferson St. in Monument. The committee usually meets on the second Wednesday of the month. Due to conflicts with the Empty Bowl Dinner and teacher conferences, however,

the committee will meet next on Oct. 23.

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

Donald Wescott Fire Protection District board, Sept. 17 Two 2014 budgets prepared

By Lisa Hatfield

The Donald Wescott Fire Protection District board began preparations for the 2014 budget at its brief Sept. 17 meeting.

Treasurer Joyce Hartung and Fire Chief Vinny Burns were excused from the meeting.

2014 budget discussion begins

Administrative Assistant Cheryl Marshall and Assistant Chief Scott Ridings presented the first drafts of the 2014 budget for the board members to review. The staff prepared two budgets, one assuming that the mill levy override (MLO) is approved by voters and increases to 11 mills, and one assuming it stays at seven mills.

Chairman Scott Campbell explained that the district has a "net-zero balanced budget plan," since Wescott is a not-for-profit organization. "When we have a change in the expected input side or revenue, we will make an appropriate adjustment on the expenditure side to balance that out," he said.

Comments made by Ridings included:

- If the MLO measure is approved in November, the

first priority will be to hire nine new firefighters.

- If the MLO is approved, Chief Burns would get a 5 percent cost-of-living adjustment, current employees would be able move up in their salary steps, and the district would increase its wildland and fuel mitigation equipment, fuel and maintenance budget, uniforms, bunker gear for new hires, fire prevention information, and community events.
- If the MLO measure fails, no new firefighters will be hired, there will be a pay freeze and no cost-of-living increases, and training will remain at its current level.
- The district plans to continue its volunteer program regardless of what happens with the mill levy.
- The district is always reaching out for grants to supplement revenue.
- By combining Wescott's chipper with Black Forest Fire Rescue Protection District's new mini skid steer, a small bulldozer, purchased with grant money, the two districts could be "tied together" to help residents more efficiently with fuel mitigation efforts.

Chief's report

Ridings presented the chief's report in the absence of Burns, who was excused due to training commitments. Ridings' comments included:

- The main reason we are going for the mill levy override is to hire more firefighters.
- Runs were up 25 percent in August, from 146 in 2012 to 183 in 2013.
- No significant fire loss was reported in August, but the district did a lot of flood assessments.
- The Labor Day "Fill the Boot" campaign raised \$6,800 for the Muscular Dystrophy Association.
- Insurance covered the \$23,000 roof repair needed after the recent hailstorm.
- The employee review process is complete for the year.
- Wescott's Station 1 will be used as a ballot drop-off location during the Nov. 5 coordinated election.

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