

- Water reuse systems are not perpetual-motion machines and will not solve the whole problem, but they will prolong usefulness of existing water four to five times.
- The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment does not either specifically permit or prohibit “direct potable reuse,” so it doesn’t have a rule written about it yet. For now, Donala plans to do “indirect potable reuse,” which does have defined rules.
- Within five years, Donala could be using 100 percent renewable water instead of water from the declining Denver Basin aquifer.

Peterson’s responses to trustees’ questions about Monument’s potential emergency water connection included:

- It would be closer and more cost-effective to construct an emergency water interconnection with Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District than with either Triview or Donala.
- You could spend money on an emergency water interconnection you may never use, or you could spend that same money on a reuse plant.
- If you build an interconnection, I strongly encourage you to pay to put in bi-directional meters.

Lowe said he and Petersen have talked about a regional long-term solution for renewable water, where smaller local entities could partner financial resources to build a reservoir.

See related Donala Water and Sanitation article on page 17.

**Town manager review process continues**

Mayor Jeff Kaiser said the board still had not executed the review of the town manager it had promised in December, so Lowe had been with the town 18 months

and still had not had a raise. Kaiser said the 2017 budget had allocated money for raises, but it was required by the board to approve Lowe’s raise, and his contract says he should have been reviewed every six months. “But in 18 months, we have done zero,” Kaiser said.

Trustee Dennis Murphy reminded the trustees that the group had also agreed to have a dialogue with Lowe about his strategies, goals, and “what to talk about a year for now when we review 2017,” but that had also gotten sidelined.

They voted unanimously for Lowe’s raise to take effect retroactively as of Jan. 1, and they also reached consensus that the objectives conversation needed to continue soon.

**No-go for GOCO parks improvements grant**

Mayor Pro-Tem Don Wilson asked if Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) grants might be available to help the town purchase open

space. Lowe said “we could try,” but he was “not a big fan of GOCO right now,” because the town did not win the \$350,000 GOCO grant it had applied for in December to help with its hoped-for parks improvements. Lowe said the GOCO review was inaccurate

and “did not pay attention to the full scope of the town’s application.” See [www.ocn.me/v17n1.htm#mbot](http://www.ocn.me/v17n1.htm#mbot).

**Triview comments**

Trustee Kelly Elliott, who is a Triview resident, asked when Triview would be pre-



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**Adapted PE Program Benefits from Community Support**

by Evan Ochsner, Palmer Ridge High School senior

Swimming, floating, and splashing their way through a Thursday afternoon are six D38 elementary schoolers. No, they didn’t skip school. They are taking part in Lewis-Palmer School District’s Adapted PE program.

The program’s mission states, “Our goal is to provide special needs students with the opportunity to participate in school and community recreational and fitness activities regardless of their skill level, accomplished through the instruction, support, and use of adaptive equipment for successful experiences. This encourages individual independence and leads to appropriate active and healthy lifestyles.” Founded in 2003 by Dena Sikole, Adapted PE provides K-12 special education students with physical education programs outside those in traditional schools. It now encompasses over 60 district students and offers a variety of programs over the course of the year. This year these programs include swimming, ice skating, equine therapy, bowling, and gymnastics.

“We hope to help students break through that fear of doing things they never thought they could,” says Sikole. Beyond providing physical activity for the students, the various activities help build important life skills for the future such as helping students become comfortable listening to other adults in the community. Julianne McDaniel began working with the program as a paraprofessional at Lewis-Palmer Elementary in 2014. “I love watching our students succeed with other instructors. They learn outside of the classroom faster than inside the classroom,” says McDaniel. During each of the activities that McDaniel helps with, she sees students learn teamwork, communication, and listening skills.

Of course, none of these experiences would be possible without the financial assistance provided by community groups. Because of the support of the Tri-Lakes Women’s Club and the Monument Hill Kiwanis, the Adapted PE program has grown year after year. Sikole works closely with Ron Pitt and Ted Bauman of Kiwanis, who have aided

the program for years. “[Thanks to] the Kiwanis, we’re able to use many different facilities for a wide range of activities,” says Sikole. Of the Women’s Club Grant Committee, Sikole simply says, “They’re incredible.”

Due to the continued investments of both organizations, Adapted PE now offers ice skating. The sessions are at the Air Force Academy and are a favorite of many of the program’s participants. Now in his second year with the program, third-grader Kade loves “ice skating because I learned this trick. I stand on one leg for five seconds.”



**LPSD Upcoming Events**

- May 1:** Student Wellness Community Event, TL YMCA, 6:00 p.m.
- May 18:** Monthly Board of Education Meeting, 6:00 p.m.
- May 19:** Last Day of Classes for Students
- May 22:** Graduations, Broadmoor World Arena  
Lewis-Palmer High School 2:30 p.m.  
Palmer Ridge High School 6:00 p.m.
- May 29:** Memorial Day – District Closed

**Teacher Spotlight: Phyllis Robinette**



Phyllis Robinette, second grade teacher at Palmer Lake Elementary, has been with Lewis-Palmer School District since 2005. She taught kindergarten, first grade, and fourth grade classes before finding her passion spending time with second graders. An additional 19 years of teaching K-8 grades in various districts in Colorado round out her time in education. She received her elementary education degree from the University of Northern Colorado and began her career in Jefferson County. Phyllis received the National Board Teacher Certification in 2007 and was nominated for Colorado Teacher of the Year in 2009.

According to Phyllis, young students are excited about learning and are not afraid to take risks. During one of her recent math lessons, she explained to her students that they were already doing division whenever they determined how many cookies were available for each family member. Her applicable example made the lights go on for her students. Phyllis loves that LPSD offers teachers flexibility, allowing them to reach students with a variety of techniques.

This fifth generation Colorado native and product of Jefferson County schools not only invests in her students, she invests in fellow teachers. Robinette serves as president of the Lewis-Palmer Education Association as well as chairperson for the Colorado Education Association and president of the Pikes Peak Education Association. Phyllis’ efforts contributed to LPEA receiving a National Endowment for the Arts grant which will be used to create a Center for Teaching Learning and Public Education. The center will help LPSD and 22 other districts with professional development.