

the 1982 Gallagher Amendment, which froze the non-residential tax assessment rate at 29 percent and said residential assessment rates have to be adjusted periodically to maintain a 55-45 proportion between commercial and residential revenue. The state can lower that rate, but another complication is that if the residential tax rate ever needed to increase to maintain the required ratio, TABOR would require that to be approved by voters statewide.

OCN has also calculated total taxes paid to TLMFPD using a \$300,000 home value example with four sets of assumptions:

- If mill levy remained at 11.5 mills and the tax assessment rate stayed at 7.96 percent, \$300,000 x .0796 x .0115 = total \$274.62 per year (\$22.89 per month)
- If mill levy increased by 6.9 mills to 18.4 mills and tax assessment rates stayed at 7.96 percent, \$300,000 x .0796 x .0184 = total \$439.39 per year (\$36.61 per month)
- If mill levy remained at 11.5 mills and tax assessment rates dropped to 7.2 percent, \$300,000 x .072 x .0115 = total \$248.40 per year (\$20.70 per month)
- If mill levy increased by 6.9 mills to 18.4 mills and tax assessment rates dropped to 7.2 percent, \$300,000 x .072 x .0184 = total \$397.44 per year (\$33.12 per month)

Truty said June 13 would be the last meeting of the citizens' task force, and at that point it would get the survey results and make its recommendation to the board about whether or not to go ahead with a mill levy increase ballot

measure this fall. The board will then make its decision at the June 28 or July 26 board meeting.

BOCC still considering impact fees

Colorado HB 16-1088 authorized fire protection districts to impose impact fees on new development with the consent of local governments. The town of Monument has already voted to allow TLMFPD to collect those fees. See www.ocn.me/v16n9.htm#tlmfpd, www.ocn.me/v17n4.htm#tlmfpd.

Truty said that on May 30, the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) would consider a resolution generally supporting the concept of fire districts assessing impact fees in the unincorporated areas of the county. If that were approved, then on June 6, TLMFPD itself would be put on the BOCC's agenda and have a chance to present the intergovern-

mental agreement (IGA) signed by the TLMFPD Board of Directors and the results of the 2016 study by BBC Research & Consulting showing the reasons the district needs to assess such fees on new development.

The directors voted unanimously to accept the IGA proposed by the BOCC for fire district collection of impact fees.

Chief's report

Other items reported by Truty, Trost, and



Purple Mountain Jewelry
SERVING MONUMENT, CO SINCE 1999

We specialize in:
Custom Design (CAD/CAM) & fabrication
Unique, one-of-a-kind pieces created in our Monument studio
Repairs and ring sizing
Bridal- Watch batteries - Appraisals
Heirloom restoration and redesign.
Experience our "one-of-a-kindness".

Purple Mountain Jewelry is Monument's **ONLY** fine jeweler and is located in Historic Downtown Monument, Colorado, 47 Third Street, Unit C Monument, Colorado 80132 **487-0444** www.PurpleMountainJewelry.com

Paid Advertisement



MONUMENTAL microderm & Aesthetics
at the loft
Trina Shook, RN
Aesthetic Nurse Consultant
monumentalmicroderm.com

June Specials

"Botox, Boys, & Beer"

- Saturday, June 24th Botox Event 10am to 2pm. Botox \$10/unit. Bring your boys (or a friend new to Botox) for a FREE consultation & you will both be entered to win up to \$1000 in FREE treatments.
- Kybella Package \$1800 for a series of 2 to 3 treatments (\$600 savings)

4 Highway 105 in Palmer Lake (above Bella Panini) 719.271.0999



One Man & a Little Lady Cleaning Services

FREE ESTIMATES Because we're not new, We know what to do!

Family Owned & Operated Since 1996

Homes • Move-Outs • Move-Ins • Weekly • Bi-Monthly
Monthly • Quarterly Deep Cleaning

ROCKY FORRY Pgr: 719-386-1814 **719 495-1798** **SHARON FORRY** Pgr: 719-386-9117

Student Work Experiences Supplement Classroom Learning

by Evan Ochsner, Palmer Ridge High School senior

While many Lewis-Palmer District 38 students will pick up summer jobs as the school year comes to a close, a handful of students tackle the task of maintaining a job during the school year. This can be a precarious balance, but the students who manage to pull it off find it rewarding.

One such student is Carter Larsen, a junior currently enrolled in the Options 38 program. Along with his studies, Larsen works 12-14 hours a week at La Casa Fiesta. The Options program has "helped me get my credits and get the help that I need in order to graduate. This program also allows me to get a credit for my job and balance my school work with my job," says Larsen.

Though the program ends this year as the District

moves to a blended learning alternative, new offerings will also incorporate the flexibility provided by the Options program.

Students with jobs gain impactful real world experience alongside the traditional classroom experience. In this way, having a job is an extremely beneficial learning experience. "I think that having any kind of job, including a job in the food industry, is beneficial because you get to work and interact with many people," says Larsen. "You also learn what it's like to be an adult and have responsibilities, and you can experience things outside of school that they would never teach you in school." Anna Schnelbach, a graduating senior at Palmer Ridge, worked 12 hours a week during the school year as a data entry clerk for Sterisil in Palmer Lake. Schnelbach had an afternoon

off-period that allowed her to work a 1-5 p.m. shift every other day. During the summer, Schnelbach will work 20 hours a week.

Like Larsen and other students with jobs, Schnelbach had to find the balance that allowed her to complete a challenging course load at school alongside a part-time position. Ultimately, the challenges of this balancing act proved rewarding for Schnelbach. "I definitely think the skills I learned from my job will be very applicable to my future career," she says. "I work in a very professional environment and being a teenager in that environment has really taught me how to communicate on a professional level. The experience I've gained with writing emails, creating sales orders and accounts, and talking on the phone helped me to develop skills."



LPSD Upcoming Events

- June 3** Tri-Lakes Lions Club Kids Fishing Derby, 8:00-11:00 a.m., Palmer Lake
- June 8** LPSD's Home School Enrichment Academy Open House, 1:00-3:00 p.m., 66 N. Jefferson Street
- June 15** Monthly School Board Meeting, 6:00 p.m., Admin Building Learning Center
- July 4** District Closed
- July 4** 35th Annual Palmer Lake July 4th Fun Run, 7:00 a.m., Palmer Lake
- August 16** First Day of Classes

Teacher Spotlight: Amy Owens



Amy Owens, third grade teacher at Kilmer Elementary, has been with Lewis-Palmer School District for 17 years. Her teaching career spans over 25 years with time spent in Aurora and Elizabeth before coming to LPSD. Her resume includes teaching kindergarten, first, second, and third grades, and she will be adding fifth grade to the list next year.

After completing her elementary education degree at UNC, she received her MA and principal certification from the University of Phoenix. This Wasson graduate returned to the Springs area to be closer to family. All three of her sons attended Kilmer. Both of her LPHS graduates played basketball, and the third will attend LPHS next year.

Amy loves seeing the students in her classes grow up and enjoys that opportunity as she lives in the community. She loves the LPSD tradition of allowing staff members to read their child's name at high school graduation. In her classroom, she works to make each moment count striving for the gratifying "ah ha" with each child. She appreciates that LPSD encourages alternate avenues to learning, allowing her to reach all her kiddos. Her students bring their own mugs to school for tea and hot cocoa and are encouraged to enjoy relaxed conversations without distractions.

When not in the classroom, Owens can be found watching basketball (she correctly predicted North Carolina winning the NCAA tournament in early March), reading, improving her golf game, hiking, or playing tennis. Amy would love to go to the Masters one day and hopes to see her favorite players (Rory McIlroy, Jordan Spieth, and Sergio Garcia). Pebble Beach is also on her bucket list.