

WESCOTT FPD
(Cont. from page 7)

ments are fairly presented in all material respects," and the auditors "issued an unmodified or clean opinion." Cash increased while fire, emergency medical services, administrative and personnel expenses decreased due to saving measures initiated before the November 2017 mill levy election. Property tax and special ownership tax revenue increased. Wildland revenue and grant funds added \$196,000 and \$16,000, respectively, to revenue. Sistare acknowledged that Administrative Assistant Stacey Popovich's status as "a one-woman shop" with regard to the district's financial accounting creates less than ideal segregation of duties, but the situation is common in organizations the size of Wescott.

The board voted to approve the 2017 audit as presented. The 2017 audit report and previous year audits are available online at <http://wescottfire.org/wp-con->

tent/uploads/2018/06/2017-Annual_Audit.pdf

Finance report generates questions, budget work session
Popovich reported that the district's combined bank balances increased by \$275,850 to \$1.6 million. During the financial review, Director Gary Rusnak questioned the accounting of treasurer's fees for the tax revenue and the board approved new engine with an estimated cost of \$150,000. Popovich explained that tax revenue received from the El Paso County Assessor's Office is net of treasurer's fees—the fees are deducted from the revenue paid from the county to Wescott and never part of the revenue—thus they are not reflected in Wescott's financial statements. The treasurer's fees listed in the budget refer to those associated with the district's bank loan. Popovich committed to review her records for the \$150,000 engine purchase and make appropriate adjustments. Consequently,

May financials will be re-presented for approval at the July board meeting.

Rusnak expressed discomfort with the budget's presentation, additional personnel expenses, and treatment of

reserves. Ridings suggested scheduling a public budget work session. The directors and staff agreed and resolved to have the work session prior to the July board meeting.

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Above: From left, Donald Wescott Fire Protection District Directors Gary Rusnak, Larry Schwarz, and Mark Gunderman review the May 2018 financial statements at the June 20 board meeting. A public work session will be scheduled to provide the directors clarity on the district's internal financial controls and budgetary reconciliation. *Photo by Jennifer Kaylor.*

Trina Shook, RN
Aesthetic Nurse Consultant

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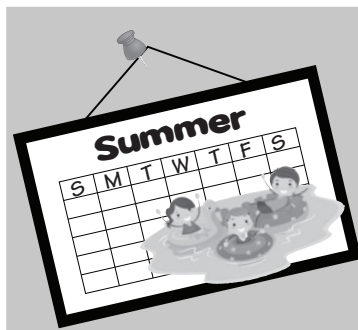
Lewis-Palmer School District #38
Teacher Spotlight:
Deb Hulting



As a kindergarten teacher at Monument Academy, Deb Hulting appreciates how invested her parents are in their children's education. Born and raised in Baltimore, Maryland, she earned her bachelor's degree in elementary education and special education from Loyola of Maryland and taught in the area's schools.

In 2007, Hulting and her family moved to Colorado and chose Monument because of the great schools and incredible school district. Deb stayed home raising her kids for a few years, but this self-proclaimed "science nerd" missed being in the classroom. Her favorite parts of teaching are figuring out how kids learn and meeting their needs in an inclusive environment. She loves kindergarten because her kiddos are learning how to be students, and she is learning their motivations for learning and establishing connections that will benefit them throughout their education years.

Deb uses a variety of props and songs to help her students remember important concepts. She utilizes some sign language to help her students learn the Pledge of Allegiance. She wants all her students to feel safe and loved. She knows that this is important to parents as well. She identifies with this as she is the parent of three students in the district. Deb loves that Lewis-Palmer School District 38 focuses on the classroom, the students, and the small-town feel of Monument.



LPSD Upcoming Events

- July 4:** District Closed
- July 4:** Palmer Lake July 4th Fun Run, 7 a.m., Palmer Lake
- August 20:** Board of Education Meeting, 6 p.m.
- August 21:** First Day of School

Students Access Outdoor Education in the Summer

By Jonathan Silva, Palmer Ridge High School Student

Lewis-Palmer School District 38's summer school program commenced at Palmer Ridge High School in June. "We are full this year, which is good," said Kim Sandoval, a Palmer Ridge assistant principal overseeing summer school. The courses include online learning, according to Sandoval who says, "This year, all of our [summer school] classes are running online with teachers' support. We call that a blended learning effect."



Photo by Jonathan Silva

In addition to traditional English and math offerings, one of the highlights of the summer school program is the Outdoor Education course run by Gregory Long who teaches at both D38 high schools during the school year. "I started doing Outdoor Education in 2006 as part of the Options 38 program. We added it to summer school last year," said Long. Students in Outdoor Education participate in yoga,



Photo by Brennan Rapaport

hiking, biking, and rock climbing. "My favorite was the hikes, the scenery was amazing," said Brennan Rapaport, Lewis-Palmer High School sophomore. "My favorite was the waterfall we hiked to on Thursday [June 7], it was beautiful."

"I signed up for [Outdoor Ed.] because a lot of my friends were doing it, and it was my last PE credit, so I figured I might as well just finish it off," said Leah Dunphey, Palmer Ridge senior. "I'd recommend the course because it's quick and much more fun than a whole semester of running or sports indoors. I wouldn't recommend it to kids who aren't very outdoorsy or dislike hiking and fast-paced outdoor activities, but if you like those things, it's great."