

and contributions to the district. These contributions included scholarships, senior services, and use of facilities for students.

**Student recognition**

The board recognized a number of student groups for their accomplishments.

- The Lewis-Palmer Elementary School Rubik's Cube

Team was introduced by Gifted Education facilitator Maria Johnson. The K-5 team placed second and the sixth grade team placed eighth in tournament competition.

- The Lewis-Palmer High School Women's Soccer Team was runner-up in state 4-A competition.

The Palmer Ridge High School Men's Track Team won the state 4-A championship by the largest margin in 4-A history.

- Nicole Montgomery of Lewis-Palmer High School won three individual titles at the 4-A tournament and she and her teammates on the 800 meter medley event set

a new state record. The board approved a list of routine matters such as minutes of earlier meetings and lists of employees and substitutes, wage schedules, and contracts.

The board entered executive session at 9 p.m. and conducted no further business before adjournment.

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The Board of Education of Lewis-Palmer D-38 meets at 6 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month in the district's Learning Center, 146 Jefferson St., Monument. The next meeting will be on June 18.

Harriet Halbig may be reached at [harriethalbig@ocn.me](mailto:harriethalbig@ocn.me).

## Rain barrel bill dies in state Senate

By Allison Colburn

In May, the state Senate killed a bill that would allow Colorado residents to collect rainwater. Scheduled last on the Senate debate calendar, House Bill 15-1259 did not get taken up for discussion on Tuesday, May 5. Because May 6 was the last day of the session and bills cannot be both debated on and voted on in

the same day, the bill essentially died.

Colorado is currently the only state that does not allow its residents to collect rainwater. HB 15-1259 would have allowed single- or multi-family residences (with four or fewer units) to collect rainwater from a rooftop as long as a maximum of two rain barrels with a combined storage

of 100 gallons or less were used. The collected water could then be used on the residential property for gardening and irrigation purposes. The bill still would have banned the use of collected precipitation for drinking or indoor household purposes.

Opponents of the bill argue that rain barrels violate water rights laws, because this water

runs off into groundwater and surface water. Rain barrel supporters, on the other hand, contend that the barrels save water and decrease the demand for treated tap water.

The outcome of May 5's session does not, of course, prevent another rain barrel bill from reaching the Senate floor in the future. Although the bill has

died, it may not mean the debate is over.

Allison Colburn can be reached at [allisoncolburn@ocn.me](mailto:allisoncolburn@ocn.me).

If you would like to report on meetings like this one for Our Community News, contact Lisa or Bob at [editor@ocn.me](mailto:editor@ocn.me) and we will train you.

NEPCO, May 9

## Area water issues

By Larry Oliver, NEPCO president Kip Petersen, vice president of the Pikes Peak Regional Water Authority and general manager of the Donala Water and Sanitation District, spoke about current and future water concerns at the Northern El Paso County Coalition of Community Associations (NEPCO) general membership meeting on May 9.

Petersen stated that of the 655,000 residents of El Paso County, Colorado Springs Utilities (CSU) serves 450,000. More than 25 special districts/metro districts provide service to the balance of the population.

On renewable vs. non-renewable water sources, Petersen explained that renewable sources are able to recharge after water is withdrawn, usually by snow melt and rainfall. These include lakes, streams, and alluvial wells. Almost all of CSU's water is renewable, with a widespread system of lakes, reservoirs, and pipelines. Non-renewable sources are deeper aquifer waters and are not replaced once used. He said that 75 percent of Donala's water is considered non-renewable, and that the majority of the districts in El Paso County are heavily dependent upon this type of water.

Petersen stated that all Denver aquifers are considered non-renewable, and that a majority of the growth on the Front Range was built off of Denver aquifers. He said the larger/older Front-Range cities were built on rivers because

the acquisition of water rights in the 1800s was much easier. Colorado Springs is the largest city in the U.S. that is not located by a river or an ocean.

He also stated that by 2000 it was recognized that this is a regional/statewide issue. Various studies, working groups, etc. were established to identify solutions. The Pikes Peak Regional Water Authority is one of these groups. He said by 2050, it is estimated that there will not be enough water to service the existing, and anticipated, population in Colorado.

Petersen said that in the future, there will be increased competition for limited amounts of water. Government agencies and special districts/metro districts are working to solve the problem. Actions include:

- Donala is currently looking to increase renewable water from 30 percent to at least 75 percent within the next 10 years. The deep water aquifers will be used for drought relief.
- The state of Colorado is developing a Statewide Water Plan, attempting to address "the gap." Projections indicate that the state's population will double by the year 2050. "The gap" is the water shortage to absorb the new population.
- Pikes Peak Water Authority is studying how to create an infrastructure system that can connect the multiple water providers, providing means

to cooperatively deliver water from various sources throughout El Paso County.

- Colorado Springs Utilities is changing its perspective on cooperative services.
- Donala, Woodmoor, and Monument water districts have completed an analysis on developing a potable reuse water supply for the three communities.
- Donala, along with Cherokee Metro (which replaced Woodmoor), is participating in a study with a coalition of Wyoming and Colorado water providers to determine the feasibility of bringing water to the Front Range from southwestern Wyoming and the Green River. It is physically feasible but expensive. A pipeline would be 400 miles of 66-inch pipe, cost 2.67 billion, and take 20 years to complete. □

Woodmoor Improvement Association Board, May 27

## County to repair Misty Acres drainage issues

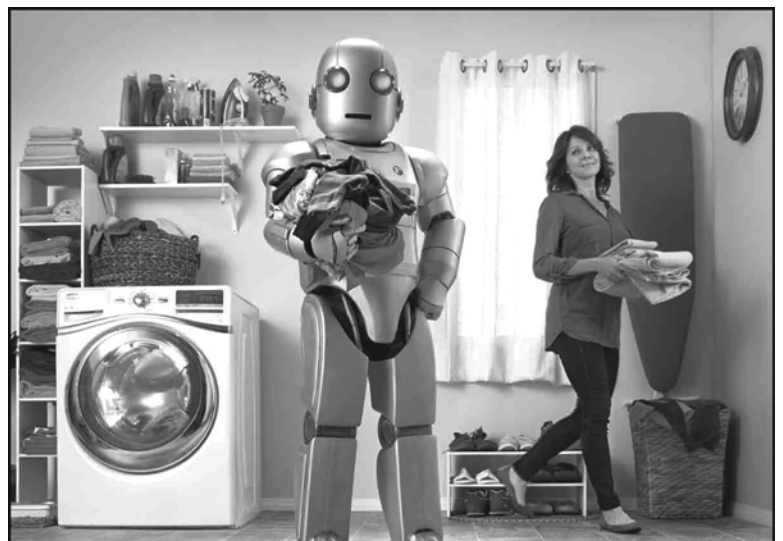
By Jackie Burhans

On May 27, the Woodmoor Improvement Association (WIA) board shared information on projects that affect our area from the El Paso County Highway Advisory Commission, saw its first report from the new director of Community Outreach, and discussed the upcoming Dunes de-

velopment. Director of Common Areas Alan Basset was absent.


### Misty Acres bankruptcy leaves work for county

Jim Hale, WIA president, attended the Highway Advisory Commission (HAC) meeting and reported that they discussed a five-year plan to replace 53



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