



Above: At the May 18 Monument Board of Trustees meeting, honeybee protection and noxious weed management were the main topics of discussion. Shown from left are Colorado State University entomologist Whitney Cranshaw, Extension Specialist and program manager for the Colorado Environmental Pesticide Education Program Thia Walker, and State Weed Coordinator for the Colorado Department of Agriculture Steve Ryder. *Photo by Lisa Hatfield.*

website at www.ocn.me. Some examples include: www.ocn.me/v13n8%2022.pdf , www.ocn.me/v15n4.htm#hang.

Local residents, including beekeepers Rick and Leah Squires, Larry Marine, Terri Watson, and Phyllis Head, had numerous comments, including:

- Seventy percent of our food is pollinated by honeybees, and we need to protect them.
- I specifically asked for communication from the town for pre-notification about spraying near Monument Lake Road, but it did not happen.
- It sounds like the town's communi-

cation has been more reactive than proactive.

- When poison hemlock is being eradicated, is anything being planted in its place?

Volunteers in Palmer Lake using shovels have removed three tons of weeds to date, including myrtle spurge, poison hemlock, and knapweed. They need more help this year. See www.ocn.me/v14n11.htm#hang for information.

Williams said she is developing an integrated pest management plan now and is mapping the weeds. The town is trying to contain poison hemlock and leafy spurge using mechanical, biological, and herbicidal means. The town is a member of Colorado Weed Management Association, she said.

Walk, bike, connect

Rachel Beck, Policy and Communications Manager at Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments (PPACG), told the trustees about the Pikes Peak Non-motorized Transportation System Plan. The goal is to establish a continuous and coordinated regional non-motorized transportation network to increase bicycling and walking.

The focus is on connectivity between trails and improving access to information/maps. The Front Range Trail is the spine of the network, and the project is working on adding east-west connectivity.

Beck said that bicycling tourism contributes about \$28 million in direct economic impact to the local economy each year. She said 2.5 million auto trips are made every day in Pikes Peak region, and the 20 percent that are less than five miles would be great for local cyclists.

See www.walkbikeconnect.org to identify an unsafe trail or a needed con-

nection and also to tell PPACG what is going right. Beck can be reached at 719-471-7080 x139 or at travel@ppacg.org. To learn about upcoming opportunities for input, see www.ppacg.org.

YMCA funding discussion

According to the approved board meeting

minutes from May 4, the trustees heard a presentation from the YMCA asking for funding from the board for expansion of the current facility, hoping for \$25,000 to \$50,000 a year for five years. The trustees asked many questions of the YMCA presenters that night, but Town Manager and



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**Lewis-Palmer School District #38
SCHOOL NEWS**

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2015 Options 38 Art Show



Lewis-Palmer High School again hosted the Options 38 Art Show on May 8, an annual event since 2007. This event highlighted not only student artwork but the Options program as a whole. Options 38 provides a select group of students a different education pathway. The same types of classes are offered in Lewis-Palmer School District's Options program as are offered at Lewis-Palmer High School and Palmer Ridge High School. The key difference is class sizes and structure. This district alternative program boasts

three dynamic teachers and over 50 students, each with various needs that are being met en route to graduation. Upon graduation, an Options student earns a coveted Lewis-Palmer School District diploma. Many Options graduates attend 4-year colleges, some attend local community colleges, and others go directly into the work force.

Greg Long, Options 38 department chair and one of the original committee members who developed the program, shares that, "The program started with two teachers." Standing in the center of the Multi-Purpose Room at LPHS, surrounded by students, parents, and dynamic displays of art, Greg remembers, "The number of drawings left on my tables at the end of each day [made it] clear that we needed an art teacher." Brian Barkey filled this role and is now serving his 9th year with Options 38. Brian Barkey explains, "The Options 38 Art Show is something that we all look forward to from day one of each year."

Over 200 pieces of student artwork were on display this year, about 75 more than last year. Branden Crum, a senior in the program, had a full wall of his spray-painted landscape art in the show. From a distance, his work looks like NASA photos. His work was a favorite at this year's show with students gazing up at a planetarium-like display. "I saw these guys doing this in Vegas when I was there. I was really drawn to it," recounts Branden. Junior Savannah Vail has a fantastic eye for color and uses a loose, explosive color technique. Barkey says, "I think we made the decision to give her an entire wall in October. She has a massive volume of work completed, and she'll end up with a huge portfolio to show. I think that's a benefit of being in our program, having work showcased like this each year."

Of the Options 38 Art Show, Barkey says, "It's a great showcase for our students. It is a great example of how creativity needs to be nurtured, especially in non-traditional educational settings. Everyone learns differently, and sometimes, students just need an outlet."

**Palmer Ridge Students
Organize Unified Prom**

Abby Bogdovitz, Palmer Ridge High School Student Council Philanthropic Committee Chair, had an idea, so she recruited Holly Knutsen, Johnathan Neptune, Abby DeNardis, Kat Nelson, and Kristin Hancock to assist her in planning a Unified Prom. These classmates worked with Brandy Doan, Significant Support Needs Special Education Teacher, to organize this event. These student council students began showing up every other day playing board games and hanging out in order to build friendships. What began as some quiet gaming quickly turned into music, spirited challenges, and raucous laughter. Abby arranged everything from obtaining permission to use the building, arranging take out Chinese food, decorating the classroom, setting up a picture booth photo session, and bringing entertainment. On the big night, April 25, Abby and the student council had everything organized and ready. When the entourage arrived at the prom, this combined group scattered, bouncing from food to game tables to dancing.

Since Unified Prom, Abby and her crew continued to visit Ms. Doan's classroom every other day in order to hang out with their new friends. Ms. Doan's students love seeing their new friends and wait anxiously for them to arrive. When it is time for them to leave, Ms. Doan hears a room full of grunts and sighs. She imagines these sighs mean, "Really Ms. Brandy, can't they stay?" Abby and the student council formed genuine friendships with these students and created an unforgettable night. Abby claims she has learned the best Jenga strategies from her new friends. With grace and dignity, these students took time out of their busy teenager schedule in order to include students who need a bit of extra support. A night of typical teenage laughter, silliness, and fun resulted for students who don't always have typical teenage experiences.



Johnathan Neptune, Abigail Bogdovitz, Abby DeNardis, and Holly Knutsen