



Above: Representatives of RAD (Real Alternatives to Drugs and Drinking) include, from left, Jeffrey Dunston, Liz Phillips (behind Susan Pappas), Susan Pappas, Jonathan Neptune, Brandon Pappas, and Eve Phillips. Photo by Harriet Halbig.



Above: New Monument Academy School Administrator Elizabeth Davis, left, was introduced by Superintendent Karen Brofft. Photo by Harriet Halbig.

equality.

Other actions

The board approved a resolution to notify the county of its intention to participate in the November 2017 election. Two board seats are up for election.

The board approved a resolution to advertise for nominations for two positions on the board.

Treasurer John Magerko reported on goals for the

board in the coming year. These included educating themselves and others in the school financing process, supporting the long-range planning process, improving the on-boarding process for new board members, and offering board coffees in a variety of environments, including coffee shops and homes.

The board met in executive session to discuss potential lease or sale of real property. No action was

taken.

The Lewis-Palmer D-38 Board of Education meets at 6 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month except July at the district's Learning Center at 146 Jefferson St., Monument. The next meeting will be on Aug. 17.

Harriet Halbig may be reached at harriethalbig@ocn.me.

El Paso County Sheriff's Office report

May crimes in Sheriff's District 1

The following sampling was compiled from the monthly El Paso County Sheriff's Office (EPSO) Neighborhood News. This report covers only EPSO District 1, does not list every crime reported to EPSO, and does not include criminal activity from Monument, Palmer Lake, or Colorado Springs addresses:

Animal Complaint: 22700 block Jones Rd., 18800 block Cloven Hoof Dr., 15400 block Paddington Cir.

Bomb Threat: 1800 block Woodmoor Dr.

Burglary: 1600 block Kings Cross Ln., 15600 block Falcon Ridge Ct., 800 block Caspian Ct., 1700 block Deer Creek Rd., 3300 block Mesa Top Dr.

Criminal Trespass Auto: 15200 block Jessie Dr., 2100 block Stella Dr.

Indecent Exposure: Lakefront Dr./Forest Lakes Dr.

Menacing: 18700 block I-25.

Motor Vehicle Theft: 18200 block Knollwood Blvd., 7400 block Tudor Rd.

Reckless Endangerment: Rampart Range Rd.

Theft: 14600 block Club Villa Dr., 19600 block Still River Ct.

Coffee with a Cop—July 15 from 10 a.m. to noon at Wesley Owens Coffee, 1773 Lake Woodmoor Dr. Monument. This is an opportunity for informal and friendly conversations with local law enforcement.

The Drug Enforcement Administration's (DEA) raid on a marijuana grow operation in Kings Deer on May 12 is not included in the EPSO report since it was conducted by the DEA, but for more information, see: <http://coloradosprings.com/drug-agents-raid-monument-home-seize-marijuana-plants/article/1602985>

FOR EMERGENCIES: DIAL 9-1-1

El Paso County Sheriff's Office Dispatch (non-emergency crime reporting): 390-5555

EPSO Telephone Reporting System (for minor crimes without suspect information): 520-7111

EPSO Traffic Hotline (for reporting problem areas or traffic violations): 390-5555 option 5

EPSO Tip Line (for reporting suspicious activity or the location of wanted persons): 520-7777 Always remember to report criminal activity or suspicious behavior promptly.

For more information, contact Crime Prevention Coordinator Merody Broom at 719-520-7151 or MerodyBroom@elpasoco.com.

El Paso Board of County Commissioners, June 27

Proposal for emergency services impact fee policy withdrawn

By Helen Walklett

Following discussion at its June 27 meeting, the El Paso Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) agreed to withdraw the resolution to adopt the El Paso County Fire and Emergency Services Impact Fee Policy. The item had been continued from the BOCC's June 13 meeting to allow Lori Seago, senior assistant county attorney, time to review last-minute comments from all parties.

The proposed resolution, intended to meet the statutory requirements of the 2016 state impact fee statute, would have provided a process through which fire and emergency services providers could request the imposition of an impact fee within their districts to mitigate the impact of new development on existing capital facilities. Introducing the proposed resolution at the June 27 meeting, Seago said that county staff, fire departments, and the building industry had been working on the issue for a year.

Seago said that there was still disagreement between parties, particularly regarding the point at which the fee should be levied. Kevin Walker, policy advisor at the Housing and Building Association of Colorado Springs (CSHBA), said that the industry felt the best point at which to apply the fee was at the platted lot stage when building permits are applied

for. He said a precedent existed as this is the point at which transportation impact fees are applied. Walker further stated that the fee should apply only to future platted lots.

However, fire district chiefs expressed concern at the number of already-platted lots that exist but are not yet being developed within districts. Fire Chief Chris Truty of the Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District said that growth was impacting the district and there should be some way of mitigating this. Walker said that there were 400 existing platted lots in the Tri-Lakes district, of which about 100 were being actively developed, but that each was subject to a commercial tax that benefited the fire district.

Commissioner Longinos Gonzalez Jr. said that imposing the fee at the time of permitting seemed the most broad and fair approach. Commissioner Mark Waller expressed his concerns, noting that platted, undeveloped lots already pay commercial tax rates until the permitting process takes place. He feared that all fees would ultimately be passed on to homebuyers, making homes more expensive. He said, "Our responsibility is to the citizens that live in El Paso County ... housing needs to be affordable for the people." He stated that he was at best disappointed with the effort being brought forward and thought it barely

met the statutory requirements.

Commissioner Stan VanderWerf said, "If we are going to be the first in the state [on this issue], we have to continue to take the time to make sure this is right." He noted that there was some concurrence and some agreement but that the vagueness of the state statute and the complexity of different neighborhoods made it a difficult task. VanderWerf finished by saying, "I am not necessarily opposed to the idea. I just want to make sure we do this right."

Commissioner Peggy Littleton suggested a way forward might be to talk with other counties to see what they are doing on the issue. Commissioner Gonzalez said talks with the fire chiefs and the CSHBA could move the matter forward. Seago said that some of the commissioners' concerns might be better addressed at the individual district level once a policy was in place.

After a short break, President Darryl Glenn said that, considering commissioners' concerns, there could be no affirmative motion to approve the resolution at this time. It was agreed that the item would be withdrawn and not continued to a later date.

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June Weather Wrap

By Bill Kappel

After a wet and cool past couple of months, dry and warm weather returned for June. Most of us received less than a half-inch of rainfall compared to an average of nearly 2 inches a month. Temperatures also

reached the upper 80s to low 90s on several afternoons. This resulted in a month that was significantly warmer than average and one of the drier Junes on record.

The first part of June saw temperatures that were

close to average during the first week of the month, with highs reaching into the 70s each afternoon, peaking right around 80 on the 4th. There were a few thunderstorms around on several afternoons and early evenings, typical for June. However, most of the heavy