

**DONALA (Cont. from page 7)**

though anticipated development has not begun yet at the end of the first half of the year. "Everything else is pretty much where it should be, all things considered." Water sales during the past months of drought have increased substantially, but the demand is being met.

Wastewater biosolids hauling costs for the Upper Monument Creek Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility (UMCRWWTF) are rising, and these higher costs will have to be factored into the 2019 budget. Contract services expenses are front loaded and will be less for the rest of 2018, in line with the total amount budgeted. Bids for the new facility headworks screen and catwalk construction projects will be opened in August. (See [www.ocn.me/v18n6.htm#dwsd](http://www.ocn.me/v18n6.htm#dwsd), [www.ocn.me/v18n7.htm#dwsd](http://www.ocn.me/v18n7.htm#dwsd))

Planned district capital construction projects totaling \$2.6 million are starting now. The 2018 budget included tap fee revenues for 12 new golf course residential lots, but none has been built yet. Engineering expenses for the Capital Gateway project at Struthers Road and Gleneagle Drive as well as staff training expenses have been a little higher than expected, but not a matter of concern, Petersen said.

The district purchased a new additional Chevrolet Colorado pickup truck, with no trade-in, for \$28,200.

Average Donala capital-preserving investment bond interest rates have substantially increased from historic long-term recession lows of less than 1

percent. Reinvestments have resulted in General Fund investment bond interest now averaging 2.31 percent, and Debt Fund bonds are now averaging 2.37 percent. The Bond Project Fund, which is used for more liquid redemptions to make capital project invoice payments, is earning 1.74 percent currently.

**Willow Creek Ranch in severe drought**

Petersen has been presenting monthly U.S. Drought Monitor Report updates. The percentage of Southern Colorado that is in extreme and exceptional drought status continues to grow northward, with much of El Paso County in extreme drought status. U.S. Drought Monitor maps are available to all OCN readers for their download in JPG and PDF format at:

**Colorado:** <http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/CurrentMap/StateDroughtMonitor.aspx?CO>

**National:** <http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/CurrentMap.aspx>

Donala owns a renewable surface water right for a rolling average use of 280 acre-feet per year from Willow Creek Ranch, which is adjacent to Leadville. This renewable water is stored in Pueblo Reservoir, then conveyed to a Colorado Springs Utilities (CSU) water treatment plant by the Southern Delivery System for treatment. Treated CSU potable water is then delivered to the CSU-Donala interconnection at Northgate Boulevard and Struthers Road for direct distribution to Donala customers.

Petersen reported, "The ranch is the driest we've seen it." Flows from the

ranch are reduced from previous years. Most of the nearby snow on Mount Elbert and Mount Massive has melted. The ranch was under extreme Stage 2

wildfire risk at the time of this meeting, and Petersen has banned campfires on the ranch. Fire mitigation and normal summer maintenance are well under-

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**Back-to-School Checklist**



**School begins August 21.**

Check your school website for additional specifics regarding returning to school.

**All Families:**

- Infinite Campus Annual Update
- Back-to-School Night

**Middle or High School Students:**

- Processing Dates and Times
- Athletic Practices

**Elementary School Students:**

- Supply List
- Back-to-School Open House or Ice Cream Social

**LPSSD Upcoming Events**

**August 13:** 8th, 11th, 12th Grade Processing (LPMS, LPHS, PRHS), HS Sports Practices Begin

**August 14:** 7th, 9th, 10th Grade Processing (LPMS, LPHS, PRHS), Monument Academy MS Orientation

**August 15:** LPMS 7th Grade WEB Day

**August 15:** Monument Academy First Day for Students

**August 17:** PRHS New Student Orientation

**August 20:** LINK Freshmen Orientation (LPHS, PRHS), LPHS New Student Orientation, PRHS 9th Grade Parent Meeting, Elementary Back-to-School Events, Board of Education Meeting 6 p.m.

**August 21:** First Day for Students

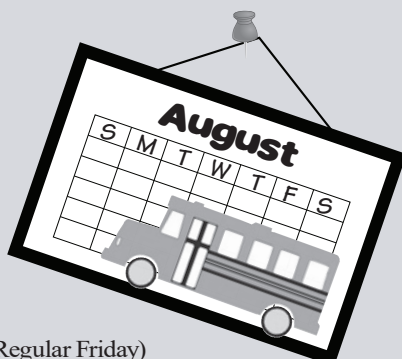
**August 24:** K-6 Assessment Day

**August 28:** PRHS Back-to-School Night

**August 29:** LPHS Back-to-School Night

**August 30:** LPMS Back-to-School Night

**August 31:** No Classes PK-12 (Monument Academy Regular Friday)



**Lewis-Palmer School District 38  
Teacher Spotlight:  
Malinda Martens**

Malinda Martens fell in love with history and teaching as a seventh grader. Her teacher at Eagleview Middle School had a way of creating a magical space in his classroom. She decided then that her classroom would be the same, a place where the rest of the world disappears for her students, where authentic U.S. history comes alive. Her eighth grade classroom at Lewis-Palmer Middle School is that magical place.



Upon earning her teaching degree, Malinda student taught at her alma mater, Eagleview. When she finished her student teaching, she knew that she wanted to be in D38. She was hired at Creekside Middle School and when it closed, she moved over to LPMS. She loves watching her students come of age, changing and growing before they head off to high school. She helps them figure out their own legacy and in doing so creates hers.

Martens regularly invites community personalities into her classroom. Lt. James Downing, the oldest living Pearl Harbor survivor (now deceased), came into her class bringing a virtual reality tour and NPR. Benny Nasser shows up each year decked out in a full Civil War uniform, but each day, Malinda is the real show. She enjoys the community coming into the classroom and seeing what teachers do every day, seeing that they genuinely care about their kids and want to help prepare them for their next steps.

Malinda spends her summer doing a different kind of entertaining. She volunteers at a local hospital in the birth center caring for the needs of newborns. Malinda is a third generation Colorado Springs native and enjoys time with her family who live in the area.