

"A Taste of Tri-Lakes Cares"



May 8, 2019
5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Flying Horse Ranch, Larkspur



Tickets on sale now! \$25 per person (12 and older)
No tickets sold at door
www.tri-lakescares.org

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Archdale Eyecare, PC * Bear Creek Mortgage * Black Forest Salon
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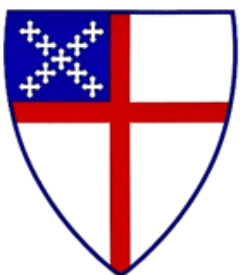
Join us for EASTER!

Holy Eucharist
8 and 10:30 a.m.

Call for **Holy Week** services

Palm Sunday Service
April 14, 10 am

St. Matthias Episcopal Church



18320 Furrow Rd.
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Water transport progress

Directors reviewed and discussed a resolution for Donala to cooperate and participate in CSU's proposed regional wastewater pipeline. The North Monument Creek Interceptor (NMCI) would be constructed from the J.D. Phillips Water Resource Reclamation Facility in Colorado Springs to the U.S Air Force Academy's proposed visitor center complex west of I-25 at the Northgate Boulevard interchange. Although this is a wastewater pipeline, many of the northern districts, including Donala, place high priority on developing infrastructure, an exchange system, or other means to receive reusable wastewater return flows. The return flows provide a renewable source of drinking water. In response to this potential benefit to NMCI participants, Donala's board adopted the NMCI and Regionalization of Water and Water Utilities resolution with the caveat that CSU's cost and return flow demands must fall within Donala's parameters.

Addressing a related water transport issue, Petersen reported that he had received the proposed settlement agreement that is part of Donala's 1041 permit request from Pueblo County. Progress on this permit brings the district close to completing a long-term contract—most likely 20 years—with Colorado Springs Utilities (CSU) to transport the Willow Creek Ranch surface water that will be stored at the Pueblo Reservoir through CSU's Southern Delivery System pipeline to the CSU-Donala interconnect at Northgate Road and on to customers via Donala's drinking water infrastructure. Currently, CSU and Donala function under an out-of-service-area arrangement that charges the

district 50 percent more than in-service-area customers. A long-term agreement has the potential to lower this cost.

Manager resuscitates ranch rules

Petersen crafted a position paper in response to a board suggestion that access to the Willow Creek Ranch be restricted to water operations only. This action would eliminate staff recreation such as camping, hunting, and other activities on the property. Petersen's position was that "restricting access to the property, in the manner suggested, will be detrimental to our facilities there." Acknowledging an awkward situation whereby an area was "not in a presentable condition" during a board tour of the ranch last fall, Petersen reinforced his commitment to monitor the property more stringently.

Anyone hunting on the property must not only be licensed to do so but sign a release and waiver and be issued a letter of authorization through Petersen. "Safety of the people hunting, as well as our neighbors, is paramount, and our restrictions reflect that," he wrote.

Without district funds to provide full-time land management, Petersen relies on good neighbor relations and his personal visits to the ranch. Neighbors have alerted Petersen to potential trespassers and blocked water flumes. He attested to the invaluable nature of these relationships.

He confirmed that all district staff show great pride in the ranch and view access as a privilege, not a right, and the previous mistakes would not be repeated.

Additional items

- The directors lauded the foresight and dedication of Chief Waste Plant Operator

Terri Ladouceur and Waste Plant Operator Thom Waite who willingly manned the Upper Monument Creek Wastewater Treatment Facility throughout the day-and-a-half-long March 13 bomb cyclone.

- The bomb cyclone cancelled the March 13 Arkansas River Basin Roundtable. Petersen and directors Ken Judd, Ed Houle, and Wayne Vandershuere plan to attend the April roundtable and conference that will be held in Pueblo.
- The district's revamped website became active in early March. Easier navigation was a priority. Board directors' photos and biographical information will be added.
- Petersen reported that he and the staff had increased financial security measures due to additional fraudulent attempts against the district.
- The board awarded the phase two Gleneagle Road water main replacement project to Beers Construction LLC for \$1.1 million, which was \$200,000 lower than the next lowest bid. The meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

The next board meeting will be held April 18 at 1:30 p.m. at the district office located at 15850 Holbein Drive, Colorado Springs. The directors meet in the district office conference room. Board meetings are normally held on the third Thursday of the month. More information is available by calling (719)488-3603 or accessing www.donala-water.org.

Jennifer Kaylor can be reached at jenniferkaylor@ocn.me.

Lewis-Palmer D-38 Board of Education, March 4 and 18

Board discusses bond issue, recognizes staff and students

By Harriet Halbig

At its March 4 special meeting, the Lewis-Palmer D-38 Board of Education confirmed the hiring of new principals for Prairie Winds Elementary School and Palmer Ridge High School. They were introduced at the March 18 regular meeting of the board.

On March 4, Secretary Mark Pfoff and Treasurer Chris Taylor reported on their work to develop the bond issue for the November election. They reported meeting with the architect, engineers, and financial advisors to create an offering that would use district reserves to avoid an increase in taxes for residential property owners. Reserves would cover the cost of converting Bear Creek Elementary back into a middle school. Avoiding an accelerated building schedule would also decrease costs.

The board assigned research into such issues as staff morale, overcrowding, history of the district, and financing. The intent is that all members of the board will have the same information with which to inform the community about the need for action.

Superintendent Karen Brofft suggested that board members attend various community meetings to speak and learn of the community's opinions.

The board selected three finalists for the position of superintendent.

Regular meeting, March 18

The board was unable to confirm the selection of a new superintendent as interviews were scratched because of the previous week's blizzard. Interviews will now be on April 2 and 3.

In her comments, Superintendent Brofft reported that the information on the cost of the modular classrooms is still not accurate. Information received from CRP Architects had underestimated the utility costs involved with installing the modular.

She also reported on proposed legislation in support of free full-day kindergarten for all. If the legislation passes, all districts must offer it. Currently, half-day kindergarten is free and full-day kindergarten requires tuition. The district would either have to offer full-day kindergar-

ten for free (and receive a full-day per pupil revenue for each student) or not offer full-day at all.

Brofft also reported that the open enrollment period had closed, with 235 applications received, 35 of them new to the district. Only siblings of those already attending district schools and families of staff were accepted, mostly at the high school level. All K through 8 positions were otherwise closed.

Treasurer Taylor commented that stopping open enrollment hurts revenue.

Pfoff and Taylor presented a report on their progress in addressing middle school overcrowding. Taylor reported that the cost of the bond can be decreased due to a change in the construction schedule from accelerated to a normal 13-month span and by covering the cost of conversion of Bear Creek back into a middle school through reserves.

In the course of their report, Pfoff and Taylor also said they responded to public comments by simplifying the wording of the bond (for example, by replacing "to include but not limited to"