

Our Community News

Volunteers reporting on community issues in Monument, Palmer Lake, and the surrounding Tri-Lakes area



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Read, download, and search all the OCN back issues at www.ocn.me.

Safer at Home

For up to date information on this changing situation, see <https://covid19.colorado.gov/blog/safer-at-home>. The goal is still for the general public to stay home unless it's absolutely necessary to go out. Certain businesses may open now but with strict precautions. It's a new level of safety that still includes keeping your distance, wearing a mask when in public, and limiting size of gatherings to less than ten people. The El Paso County Public Health Department still wants you to be Safer at Home.

For daily Colorado COVID-19 updates and other information, see <https://covid19.colorado.gov/case-data>. El Paso County's data is at www.elpasocountyhealth.org/services/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19.

Community resources: dial 2-1-1 or visit 211Colorado.org and www.elpasocountyhealth.org/community-resources-0. Health info: 719-575-8888.

Local Events

Almost all local events have been canceled, suspended, or are being conducted on-line or by conference call. See pages 27-31 for details.

The unpredictability of the COVID-19 situation presents scheduling challenges for area governance entities and other organizations. Because OCN is a monthly publication, readers should assume that information published in this issue is subject to change and event information should be confirmed a day or two before the event by calling the information number or checking the organization's website.

Dates are shown for events even though the event has been canceled or suspended. The date indicates when the event was planned to be held or when it would normally have been held.

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Local sixth-grader makes ear protectors



Left: Andrew Deeds, a sixth-grade student at Lewis-Palmer Elementary and Boy Scout with Troop 8, has been using his quarantine time to create 3D-printed ear protectors for essential personnel in El Paso County and elsewhere. He has donated over 900 ear savers to local hospitals and people who find the face mask elastic uncomfortable. Some days he has his printers going 18 hours a day to keep up with the requests. His favorite job was making them for the Pikes Peak YMCA to help its staff and kids in childcare. For that order, he modified the design of the protectors to fit children, too. Andrew says this has been a great opportunity for him to learn about taking orders, creating the product, delivering, and maintaining his printers. *Photo by Marcy Deeds.*

Lewis-Palmer District 38 Board of Education, April 21

In-person classes canceled for the remainder of the year; graduation plans in progress

By Harriet Halbig

In keeping with an order from Gov. Jared Polis, all in-person classes for Lewis-Palmer District 38 have been canceled for the remainder of the school year. Distance learning began on March 31. The last day of school is May 22.

Superintendent K.C. Somers praised teachers and administrators for their hard work under these unprecedented circumstances. Teachers are keeping in touch with their students, sometimes sending notes or emails to ease students' apprehension about learning in this way.

Somers also said that staff at the administration building has been working many extra hours to see that the district continues to operate. Deadlines for completing the budget for the

upcoming year and various reports to the state Department of Education have not changed.

Somers also said that some employees in the ground and maintenance areas are continuing to maintain district properties and ensure that they are secure.

Free meals from the Nutritional Department are being distributed at Lewis-Palmer High School (LPHS) and Palmer Lake Elementary School on Monday through Friday from 11 to noon. Each package includes one lunch and one breakfast. Anyone age 18 and under is eligible to receive these meals. LPHS has been distributing 150 to 200 per day and Palmer Lake Elementary has been distributing about 75 per day. This service will continue

D38 (Cont. on 2)



Above: Verena Parsons, left, and Rose Marie McEntyre of Lewis-Palmer District 38 Nutritional Services distributed meals at Lewis-Palmer High School. Meals are being distributed from 11 to noon Monday through Friday at Lewis-Palmer High School and Palmer Lake Elementary School through the end of May. All individuals 18 and younger are eligible to receive these meals. *Photo by Harriet Halbig.*

MA School Board, April 9

Board reviews eLearning, construction

By Jackie Burhans

The Monument Academy (MA) School Board held its regular board meeting on April 9 online to review eLearning, other impacts of the pandemic, and construction updates.

Members of the public who requested an invitation were sent information on how to join via Zoom and were encouraged to send questions or comments to the board via email. Despite some technical difficulties, 27 people attended the meeting.

eLearning update and long-term plans

Elementary Principal Charlie Richardson gave kudos to the teachers, technology team, instructional coaches, and everyone involved with eLearning. While there have been hiccups, he felt the school has done a phenomenal job and has heard positive feedback from parents.

Middle School Principal Julie Seymour joined in thanking the staff, teachers, and administration for stepping up with the behind-the-scenes work. She noted that the administration had arranged for families who needed technology and hotspots to pick them up at the school. She noted that many teachers worked through spring break to prepare for eLearning and that there have been many meetings with teams to share information.

At the end of the first week, she put out a survey to get feedback from middle school families who had a

MA (Cont. on 5)