

Decor by Diane
Interior Painting
 No job too small. Over 30 years experience.
 Decorbydm@aol.com or (719) 491-6852

Cyndee Henson
 719-439-1493

Happy Tails
 Dog Walker &
 Pet Sitting Service
 Insured • Bonded • PSI Member
 + CPR Certified

HANDCRAFTED CONSTRUCTION INC.
 Premier Custom Home Builder
 Custom Homes • Garages & Barns
 24 years experience in El Paso & Douglas Counties
 Licensed & Insured
 (719) 440-2873 or (719) 481-6170
 handcraftedinc@aol.com www.handcraftedinc.com

NEED WELDING?
 All types of welding and cutting/
 fabrication. In shop or in the field.
 28 Years Experience • Insured
 www.sharpestcut.com
Sharpest Cut 719-491-4811

Beginner to Intermediate 719-650-8877
 25+ Years Experience Adults Welcome

Susan Humphreys
 Piano Teacher

Harmony Piano Studio
 susan.lohr54@gmail.com

It's a Pane Window Cleaning

✓ Windows ✓ Screens
 ✓ Tracks
 Very Customizable
 Free Estimates

Ryan Schutz (719) 337- 4225

the Y FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT® FOR HEALTHY LIVING FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

FALL YOUTH SPORTS

REGISTER TODAY FOR
 Flag Football • Volleyball • Soccer
 Starting in August

REGISTRATION COMING SOON
 Basketball
 Starting in October

ppymca.org/youth-sports

Financial assistance is available.
 No contracts.



Above: On July 16, the Monument Academy School Board met in person at Monument Town Hall with additional attendees dialing in via Zoom. Audience chairs were placed at least six feet apart. From left are Chris Dole, Ryan Graham, Susan Bird, Melanie Strop, Megghan St. Aubyn, and Misty McCuen. **Below:** Newly-elected MA board President Melanie Strop reads the oath of office to Misty McCuen with Ryan Graham looking on. *Photo by Jackie Burhans.*



Above: Newly-elected MA board President Melanie Strop reads the oath of office to Misty McCuen with Ryan Graham looking on. *Photo by Jackie Burhans.*

but it became much more work. He noted that he and Molsen did not get a clean handoff and they wanted to transfer the vision for the school and answer any questions. He benefited from meeting with the principals after the former executive director and chief academic officer left to figure out what gaps needed to be filled. The principals discussed the school philosophy and vision of what MA teaches, which is described as a "classical education."

Additional discussion covered speaking with one voice as a board, following sunshine laws about announcing meetings with more than two board members, making policies rather than micromanaging, and teacher representation. They noted that the board only has one employee: the COO. Herrera talked about working effectively with the board during meetings, asking that they send their questions in advance so she and the staff could be prepared. The board discussed organizational positions and the various committees and made arrangements for new members to pick up a board orientation guide.

At the July 16 regular meeting, the board elected the following organizational and committee positions:

- Melanie Strop, President
- Megghan St. Aubyn, Vice President and Communications Committee
- Susan Byrd, Secretary and Curriculum Committee

NEED DRIVEWAY WORK?
 Driveway construction & repair, road base,
 recycled concrete, asphalt & gravel
 28 Years Experience • Insured
 www.sharpestcut.com
Sharpest Cut 719-491-4811

Sew-In-Tune Sewing machine service, repair, and sales. Fabric, notions, and more. Classes.
The love of sewing is our common thread.
 www.sewintuneservicing.com 719-203-5642

- ◆ New Location. New classroom.
- ◆ More fabric and supplies.
- ◆ Continuing excellent sewing machine service and repair.
- ◆ Check out scheduled classes and events in shop, on Facebook, or on our website.
- ◆ Join us for open sews and prep and finishing school for help on your projects.
- ◆ Schedule a private class for your group.
- ◆ Classroom also available for rent.

- Ryan Graham, Treasurer and Resource Development Committee
- Chris Dole, School Accountability and Advisory Committee
- Misty McCuen, Member At-Large

School reopening

COO Herrera reported that the school has been evaluating the effect of COVID-19 during the spring and formulating a plan for next year with various educational options and taking into account the governor's directives. She has been working with the D38 team, six other districts, and a national consulting firm on detail plans.

Herrera noted that there is a lot of concern about opening due to new cases of COVID-19 and said that MA holds student safety as paramount. MA recently allowed students to begin practicing sports while adhering to CDC guidelines, which gave insight into what fall might look like with social distancing, sanitation, temperature, and wellness checks. She said MA will be guided by expert medical advice and government guidelines. She noted that not all activities would be immediately available but would be scheduled in small groups with a phased approach.

She noted that there is new information daily, the situation is constantly changing, and there is not a lot of data on student groups since they haven't been in school since March. MA must adhere to mandates but where a guideline is a recommendation, can decide for itself what school will look like.

Herrera said the finalized plan would be presented to the MA board and voted on by the end of July or beginning of August. MA will wait until the district first evaluates and votes on their plan and then will see where MA aligns or does not. She indicated that the current plans are subject to revision based on information received on an hourly basis at times.

She reviewed a broad outline for starting in the fall, noting that MA's philosophy of education emphasizes interaction but felt like parents need to make decisions based on their family situation. MA has put out its own survey and participated in a broader D38 survey. Based on the communication Herrera is receiving, she is seeing changes from earlier responses where some parents are less comfortable with sending their kids back.

MA hopes to offer both classroom and virtual classroom access so students can be at home and see what is happening in the classroom. MA also hopes to offer fluidity so that students can step back into the classroom or self-quarantine as needed. She noted that some parents object to having kids on a device for instruction, so MA will allow parent cohort groups where parents can give instruction with teacher support. This is something that could work for homebound students in general.

Herrera noted that the board will need to approve a new policy for the employee handbook because of changing protocols around qualifications for teachers to stay at home. She noted that a teacher may need to stay home and still provide instruction with the help of a paraprofessional or substitute teacher in the classroom but expressed concern that substitute positions might be hard to fill. There is a technology team to support, train and troubleshoot as needed.

She thanked the facilities team for its work removing carpet and sealing floors as well as spending extra time doing sanitation. She said that MA has ordered 10,000 masks, face shields, and sanitation equipment. Herrera said that MA is also ordering washable masks with the MA logo and has instituted a light system to kill bacteria in the HVAC system. They have installed devices for temperature taking for large groups entering the school, noting that MA

Woodmoor Handyman
 Remodels • Electrical • Plumbing
 No job too small
 Call for an estimate today!
 (719) 640-5751 (office)
 (719) 650-7252 (cell)
 1-719-568-2957 (cell)