

Legislative update

Board of Education liaison Tiffiney Upchurch reported that the state Joint Budget Committee has approved a preliminary budget, and the district seems to be doing well due to conservative planning. The district will prepare budget forecasts on a campusby-campus basis.

There has been no news on administration of standardized tests. To receive federal funding, the state must receive a waiver to not administer them.

Chief Academic Officer Lori Benton said the district is preparing as though the tests will be administered in April.

Communication update

Public Information Officer Julie Stephen spoke about the goals of her department, which include promoting two-way communication with families and the

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community, distribution of timely and accurate information, and keeping the district website updated and easy to use.

Digital Communication Specialist Rachael Wardwell was thanked for her crafting of the district face on social media outlets including Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

The district will send out a new mailer in the next few weeks in the form of an oversized postcard. This will go to all residents of the district whether or not they are involved with the schools. It will detail information on such subjects as community partnerships, deferred maintenance, and progress on the Grace Best Master Plan.

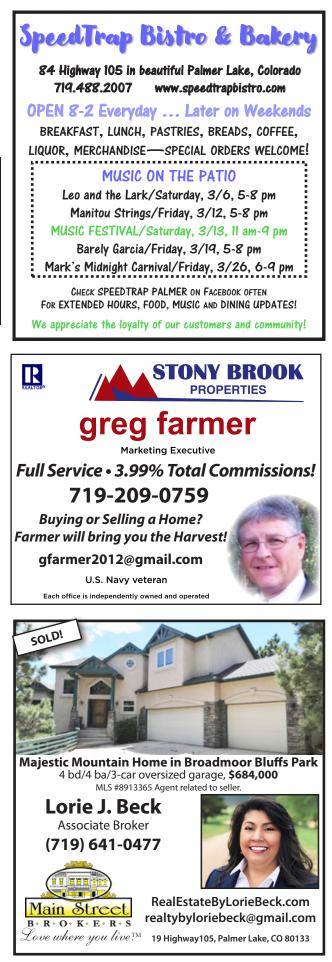
Stephen said her department sends updates to families throughout the year and adds families to



the list as they exhibit interest in the district.

The department uses text or phone calls for important messages and stresses the importance of keeping email addresses and phone numbers up to date.

Every student now has an email address as well, so direct communication is eased.





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