

D38 (Cont. from 14)

tinue to the international level in Atlanta, and John Clawson who is serving on the state level leadership team.

Lewis-Palmer High School science teacher and HOSA faculty advisor Monica Tupper introduced delegates to the HOSA State Leadership Conference. Twelve delegates attended in 15 health-care-related events. All 12 placed in the top 10 of at least one event, and six delegates placed in the top three of their events. Those who place in the top three advance to the international conference to be held in Nashville, Tenn., in late June.

Those who qualified for the international conference are: Annabelle Hall and Abby Klapp, who placed first in First Aid/CPR; Camryn Pivarnik and Rachael Foote, who placed third in Health Education; Camryn Pivarnik, who took third in Job-Seeking Skills; and Amelia Solan and Jean Earnst, who took second place in Community Emergency Response Training.

On March 5, Rep. Doug Lamborn announced seven service academy nominees for the class of 2026. These are Benjamin Carlander, Reagan Hitzler, Caden Chau, Alan Davis, Collin McWhorter, James Baumert, and Griffin Greenwood.

Grant discussions

Grants received and applied for were discussed during the meeting.

Executive Director of Student Services Rick Frampton announced the receipt of a grant for \$98,100 to make possible the expansion of the district's nursing staff for 18 months. Frampton said that this grant will make it possible to sustain the level of staffing achieved during the pandemic.

Later in the meeting, board Vice President Theresa Phillips and Career and Technical Education Coordinator Jess McAllister requested that the board support an application for a School Counselor Corps Grant from the Colorado Department of Education (CDE). This grant would fund an additional three counselors, one at each high school and one at the middle school. The \$700,000 grant



Above: Monica Tupper, Lewis-Palmer High School science teacher and HOSA faculty advisor, said 12 students attended the state leadership conference for future health professionals in 15 healthcare-related events. All 12 placed in the top 10, with six advancing to the international conference to be held in Nashville. Jane Earnst and Amelia Solan placed second for Community Emergency Response Training (CERT). *Photo by Jackie Burhans.*

would be applied over four years, the first of which is a planning period and the following three would fund three full-time staff.

The grant is being requested to allow the current counseling staff to continue its emphasis on social-emotional wellness and other general needs. The additional counselor can support the Individual Career Academic Plan program (ICAP), which creates a plan for each student and monitors progress on an annual basis.

Phillips said that the American School Counseling Association recommends a ratio of one counselor for each 250 students. At present the district has one counselor for each 327 students.

The district is permitted to submit five letters in support of the application. There are two from teachers and two from principals. Phillips requested that the board submit a fifth letter and offered a draft of this letter. The board agreed to review the letter and that board President Chris Taylor should sign it on behalf of the board.

Budget discussion

Chief Financial Officer Kitte Overton and Chief Human Resources Officer Kristen Steuber discussed the board's budget calendar and efforts to improve compensation for staff.

Overton reviewed the calendar and which aspects of the budget process will be addressed each month until the final approval of the proposed budget at the board's May meeting.

Steuber reported that focus groups are being formed to discuss compensation, and administrator contracts will be finalized in the coming week. The focus groups will be divided by type of employee.

Overton also reported that the Balancing Act software is being finalized for public use. This software displays the current budget and allows members of the public to alter the priorities to favor different aspects of district activity. New additions will include explanations of funding required by state and federal law such as food service, transportation, and exceptional student services.

Other discussions regarding budget included investigating various sources of health insurance and monitoring the effect of the Schneider Electric energy program on the actual cost of energy in the district.

Overton said that as a member of a consortium of districts, the district is minimizing the cost of health insurance. The consortium seeks several estimates each year. The district offers coverage from both Kaiser and United Healthcare.

Energy bills from the district are submitted to Schneider Electric, which monitors progress.

Policy discussion

The board heard a first reading of a set of policies involving Title IX guarantees against discrimination on the basis of sex and other factors and reporting and processing of sexual harassment claims. The board will vote on the policies at its April meeting.

The Lewis-Palmer Board of Education meets at 6 p.m. on the third Monday of each month at the learning center, 146 S. Jefferson St., Monument. The next meeting will be on April 18.

Harriet Halbig may be reached at harriethalbig@ocn.me.

Donald Wescott Fire Protection District, March 15

Volunteer Pension Fund closed; May election cancelled

By Natalie Barszcz

At the Donald Wescott Fire Protection District (DWFPD) meeting on March 15, the board closed the Volunteer Pension Fund, cancelled the May election, discussed rebranding the combined district, and received multiple updates. The board held an executive session to discuss the intergovernmental agreement with Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District (TLMFPD).

Volunteer Pension Fund closed

District counsel Emily Powell said the following:

- Former Interim Fire Chief Warren Jones functionally wound down the volunteer firefighter program in December 2021, and the district no longer has volunteers.
- The Volunteer Pension Fund is well funded, and the volunteers still vested in the pension fund, and those who are still eligible, will continue to receive funds, but it will be closed to new members.
- Powell requested the closure of the DWFPD Volunteer Pension Fund effective March 15 and said the volunteer pension fund as a retention tool had been waning.

The board unanimously approved the resolution to close the DWFPD Volunteer Pension Fund.

Election update

Fire Chief Andy Kovacs said the district did not receive more than two candidates for the board of directors' election. He requested the board declare incumbent Chairman Mark Gunderman and new Director Michael Forsythe elected for three-year terms and cancel the May election. Forsythe will



WOODMEN
MONUMENT CAMPUS

Bear Creek Elementary
1330 Creekside Drive

Friend
King
Lamb
Lord

www.woodmenvalley.org/easter

"We invite you to spend Easter with your neighbors as we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Enjoy the benefits of an Easter celebration, just a short walk or drive away from your home."

The Monument Campus of Woodmen Valley Chapel is conveniently located in Bear Creek Elementary School at 1330 Creekside Drive.

Services:
Good Friday - 4/15 at 7pm
Saturday - 4/16 at 6pm
Sunday - 4/17 at 8am, 10am, and 12pm
(Services will run about 1 hour and 15 minutes.)

Kids activities (birth - kindergarten) are available at every service or have the family attend the services together. A program for kids and adults with special needs at the 8am service on Sunday.