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The next meeting will be held at 1:30 p.m. on Sept. 20 at the Donala office, 15850 Holbein Drive. Meetings are

normally held at 1:30 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month; however, no meeting will be held in November 2012, and the December 2012 meeting will be held Dec.

6. Information: 488-3603.

The district's website is at [www.donalawater.org](http://www.donalawater.org). Jim Kendrick can be reached at [jimkendrick@ocn.me](mailto:jimkendrick@ocn.me).

Lewis-Palmer D-38 Board of Education, Aug. 16

# School year begins on positive note

By Harriet Halbig

Members of the Lewis-Palmer School District Board of Education were advised Aug. 16 that the district is in a good position as it begins the 2012-13 school year.

Superintendent John Borman reported that the 2012-13 budget was based on 60 more students than on Oct. 1, 2011. The enrollment figure remains fluid over the first few weeks of the school year as officials wait to see whether all students from the previous year return. He said it's likely that projections will be met or exceeded by Oct. 1, when the official count of students is made.

The Home School Enrichment Academy had an enrollment of 37 at the time of the meeting, easily exceeding the goal of 25. Borman said that he anticipates an increase in enrollment after school starts and homeschool families are able to observe the academy in action. He praised the teachers and others who researched and created the curriculum and promoted the program to homeschool families in the district.

Assistant Superintendent Cheryl Wangeman reported that various elements of the district show a strong standing as the school year begins. Fundraising efforts on the elementary and secondary levels were very successful entering the school year. The My Place Child Care Center, created to break even financially, showed a profit.

The food service department made a modest profit during the past year, and this revenue will be used to replace much worn equipment.

Enrollment at Monument Academy has met its target for 2012-13.

A number of capital projects were completed over the summer, including a new roof for Lewis-Palmer Middle School, a new boiler for Lewis-Palmer High School, carpeting for Palmer Lake Elementary school, and various improvements to parking lots and sidewalks at other locations. In addition, there have been purchases of software and computers.

Wangeman reported that there was one emergency repair to replace a ruptured freshwater main to the administration building. She said that improvement was anticipated, but had been postponed due to budget constraints over the past few years. The repair was postponed because its failure would not impact students. She acknowledged that the repair would have cost less had it been completed before the break.

Wangeman and Borman both stressed that the district is about \$3 million behind in expenditures for capital improvements on such things as technology and the replacement of buses, relying primarily on \$350,000 per

year in cash in lieu of land payments for most improvements. These payments come from developers who are required to set aside land for the construction of new schools within their developments. When new schools are not required, the district receives a cash payment instead. Due to increased development in the past several months, additional funding may soon be available from this source.

Wangeman said that this new development activity may result in increased enrollment in the next year or so.

### District 38 and the Waldo Canyon Fire

Borman reported on the district's response to the fire emergency in late June and early July.

When the part of the district west of the interstate was put on pre-evacuation, all of the records and vehicles

belonging to the district were moved across the highway to Bear Creek Elementary. Borman praised the staff for its calm and speedy response to the emergency, especially in that the administrative offices were moved to another

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## How to avoid being forced to work forever because of the economic meltdown

By Jim Leaser

The effects of the recent economic Tsunami of too much debt, risk-taking and out-of-control spending that caused the Great Recession are continuing to exact their pound of flesh from many hard-working Americans. Many baby boomers have been crushed... losing huge chunks of their retirement savings. How are you weathering this economic storm and how prepared are you for the road ahead? If you are waiting for things to return to "normal." I wouldn't hold your breath hoping for that to happen.

This has been one of the craziest times in the economic history of our country and the world. The stock market has broken records for the biggest up and down days. The banks are being bailed out and propped up by the government. General Motors, one of America's iconic companies, was rescued from the brink of going out of business by the American taxpayer. And yes, many retirees, and people who were planning on retiring soon, have taken HUGE hits on their retirement savings.

Now, many of us are facing the harsh reality of extending our time in the workforce just to pay the bills and put more away for the future. With so many businesses having major layoffs supporting high unemployment rates, just keeping a job may be more challenging than ever before.

### Will you be forced to work longer than your parents did?

No matter what age you are now, with all that is going on in the world today, you have to be concerned about your economic future. You may be thinking about whether or not you will have enough money to last you during your retirement years. And with the way the stock market has been rising and plunging lately...you may have even experienced great losses to your retirement savings.

As a matter of fact, many people, on the edge of retirement have lost as much as 45 to 50 percent of their retirement savings with the recent turmoil in the markets.

### So, what will your savings really be worth?

Inflation is an evil villain that every American should be deeply concerned about. With the cost of virtually everything from food to fuel rising faster than incomes, you have to wonder...how long will your money really last? What kind of lifestyle will your savings provide for you during your retirement years? Stories are already popping up about retirees cutting and not buying their necessary medication, and believe it or not, there are even rumors of seniors eating cat food just to survive.

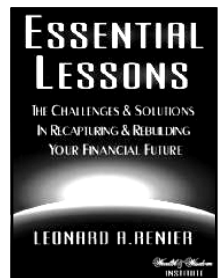
### How prepared are you?

There are many obstacles you may face that have the potential to wipe out your retirement savings. How would you survive a severe illness, premature death, or investment losses financially speaking? With a little planning and a better understanding of the rules of the

game, your retirement years can still be golden. As Benjamin Franklin once said about getting rid of your worries, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."

### Free book paves your path to a stress-free retirement!

With the advice given in the book, *Essential Lessons*, you'll discover ways to insulate yourself, and your money, from the potential troubles you may face in the years to come. And for a limited time, you can get this book absolutely FREE! In this book, you will learn how money works so you can prepare to weather future economic storms. Remember, knowledge could be the power you need to help protect your family from potential and unknown future misfortune.



### Limited free books available...

### Here's how to get yours

This free book, *Essential Lessons*, has been thoughtfully crafted to show you how to think and survive in a tough economy. While reading this book, you will be shocked to realize that there are many financial pitfalls that exist in the world of finance and retirement today.

Some snafus are government-imposed, while others may come from negligence or mistakes from trusted advisors. But regardless, this book shines the light on some of the dangers that lurk in the dark, giving you the tools and knowledge to make the proper plans to protect yourself and your family.

It is written in plain English so you don't have to be a lawyer to comprehend it. The stories and examples throughout the book leave you with a clear understanding of what could go wrong in the future and how you could avoid a great deal of suffering.

There are so many financial pitfalls that can spoil your retirement and potentially send you to the poor house! As you breeze through this book, you will have a better idea of where you are financially.

If you are not where you want to be, this book will help show you options to get you where you want to go quickly and efficiently. You will also discover simple solutions to grow your money so you can avoid being forced to extend your working years!

To receive your free copy of this eye-opening book, just call our automated hotline now at **719.785.3104**. And the best thing is there's no one on the telephone to hassle you.

One caveat. The supply of these books is limited...and strictly given out on a first-come, first-served basis. So it's best to call now while supplies last.

*The preceding article is an advertisement seeking to make consumers aware of economic trends that could affect their financial futures.*



### National Alpaca Farm Days

Sept. 29-30, 10am-3pm

Want to learn more about alpacas? Looking for those special holiday gifts? Come see the alpacas and visit our farm store. There will be weaving and spinning demonstrations.

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