

es Wild Casino Rentals, Plato's Closet, Qdoba, Rocky Mountain Car Wash, Shuman family, Smiley family, Taekwondo Center Monument, Tri-Lakes Printing, and Walmart.

Additionally, we partnered with the Air Force Academy, which provided 15 cadets to help

with the games that evening. This was truly a community-sponsored event, thanks to everyone who made it happen!

Karen Shuman and Deanna Smiley

LPHS After Prom co-chairs

Kiwanis Club accepting grant requests

The Monument Hill Foundation is the granting arm of the Monument Hill Kiwanis Club. Its mission is to serve as a resource for the club in providing financial support to the Tri-Lakes community of northern El Paso County and its youth. For the 2013-14 year, the foundation has given out \$40,000 to 28 community organizations through our annual granting program.

Grants will be on an annual "call" basis. That is, requests for grants may be made by interested parties starting May 15, and they will be due by June 30. The requests received as a result of this call will be evaluated, and requestors will be notified privately of the results pertaining to their requests. Those the foundation are able to support financially will receive the funds as requested and as they become available.

Grant recipients of these funds have included District 38 special needs children, Pikes Peak Library District, the Rocky Mountain Youth Leadership Conference and the Emily Griffith Center, to name just a few.

If you are interested in requesting a grant, please see our website: www.monumenthillfoundation.org.

Along with more details regarding our granting program, a grant request form is available online at the granting page on the site. It can be completed on the requestor's computer and the completed form, along with supporting information, can be submitted electronically to the Foundation Granting Committee.

Scott Ross
*Director of Granting
Monument Hill Foundation*

Reason needed for memorial park

This is in response to the letter Kim Makower, consulting geologist, had printed May 3, 2014 concerning Makower's land. The complicated complaints he printed against the Town of Palmer Lake

against his attempt to donate land are too complicated for me to understand. However, there is a question of why the Town of Palmer Lake should honor his and Willan's request that the land be dedicated as Jamie Willan Memorial Park.

My heart goes out to all parents who lose a child, and only they know how that feels and what pain they go through. The Willans have a beautiful memorial to their son in front of their home as is their right. My request is that both Makower and Willan list all the accomplishments that Jamie Willan has done to benefit and improve the Town of Palmer Lake, earning his right to have a memorial park named for him. With all due respect, all residents of the town should be made aware of this list and entitled to have a vote on this matter.

Donna Jean Wagner
Palmer Lake

Getting educated about Common Core

In August 2010, the Colorado Department of Education adopted Common Core State Standards. These standards were mandated as a state statute in 2012. Sadly, there remain too many unanswered questions about funding, assessments, curriculum, data mining, and much more. On May 5, 2014, in an ongoing effort to educate citizens about current public school education concerns, Direction 38! sponsored a Public School Education Forum: "Common Core, The Good, The Bad, The Unknown." Paul Lundeen, Colorado's state Board of Education chairman, together with Mark Hyatt, former director of Colorado's Charter School Institute, expertly led the discussion. Dedicated and articulate School District 38 moms Traci Burnett and Mary Senour served as panelists to deliver parental concerns, while professional educators, School District 11 math teacher Tena Logan and The Classical Academy's senior administrator Wes Jolly, offered their unique perspectives. A special shout out goes to our gracious host, School District 20's Nancy Pinchock, at Antelope Trails Elementary School.

Parents, grandparents, public school employees, public servants, and others—community members from a variety of local school districts—asked challenging questions. As conversations on Common Core are happening in grocery aisles and at water coolers across our state, a community discussion of this important issue was timely and extremely valuable. Thanks to all who participated in this successful event, including our many volunteers. Now is the time to get educated on Common Core! To learn more, please visit Direction 38!'s website at: lpd38.wordpress.com

Ana Konduris
Direction 38!

Another successful school year

We just concluded another school year. I hope everyone has a fun summer and our staff gets a chance to relax and regenerate. I want to thank Ted Bauman for helping out the district. This is the second time in eight years we've hired a new superintendent, and Ted has stepped in both times to be our interim superintendent. His leadership has been invaluable and his passion for education inspirational. Thanks, Ted and get back to your well-deserved retirement.

I also want to say good luck to all our 2014 graduates; it was an honor to be part of both graduation ceremonies.

I'm happy to report the school board voted unanimously to payoff our General Fund debt this summer. We hope to save the district over \$400,000. Since 2007, District 38 has basically eliminated all long-term operational debt, almost doubled the district's reserves, and refinanced multiple building bonds, lowering our community's taxes by over \$3 million. All of this during a recession and we continue to receive the highest accreditation from the state for student achievement.

So, have a relaxing summer, spend time with your families, and we look forward to seeing your kids this fall.

Mark Pfoff
D-38 School Board president

More taxes for District 38 without oversight

Last November our D-38 school board tried once again to increase our property taxes. With an unprecedented voter turnout, the people defeated D38's mill levy override for the third time in a row. The people spoke out. Now, I don't think I would object to more money for the schools if they really needed the money, but they say they have a tremendous amount in the reserve account. I just wonder why we can't have a true audit of the district's expenses, their reserves, and even the facilities. The audits they are doing now are inadequate. Why not a full forensic audit? And how about more transparency and fewer closed-door meetings? Maybe we could start to rebuild some of the trust we have lost with our current school board.

Soon the district will be trying to get more money from the taxpayers. They will be asking for a bond issue to build another elementary school, and if we have a proper audit I think we will find we have plenty of space by using the facilities we currently have. It may require moving some of the schoolchildren to utilize other buildings. The sad thing is, our children are being cheated because the misguided school board uses money to pay for frivolous things other than looking for ways to save money so that needed teachers can be hired.

Ernest Biggs □



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- Serranos Coffee Company
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- Broken Bones Smokin' Pit
- Costco
- Domino's Pizza
- Freddy's Frozen Custard & Steakburgers
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- King Soopers
- Kum & Go
- Vitamin Cottage/Natural Grocers
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