• Water reuse systems are not perpetual-motion machines and will not solve the whole problem, but they will prolong the usefulness of existing water four to five times.

• The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment does not either specifically permit or prohibit “direct potable reuse,” but it has not issued guidelines. Within five years, Donala could be using 100 percent renewable water instead of water from the declining Denver Basin aquifer.

Peterson’s responses to trustees’ questions about Monument’s potential emergency water connection included:

• It would be cheaper and more cost-effective to construct an emergency water interconnection with Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District than either Triview or Donala.

• You could spend money on an emergency water interconnection you may never use, or you could spend that same money on a reuse plant.

• If you build an interconnection, I strongly encourage you to pay to put in bi-directional meters.

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Lowe said he and Petersen have talked about a regional long-term solution for renewable water, where smaller local entities could partner financial resources to build a reservoir.

See related Donala Water and Sanitation article on page 17.

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Adapted PE Program Benefits from Community Support by Evan Oehsner, Palmer Ridge High School senior

The program’s mission states, “Our goal is to provide special needs students with the opportunity to participate in school and community recreational and fitness activities regardless of their skill level, accomplished through the instruction, support, and use of adaptive equipment for successful participation in physical education programs outside of their traditional school. It now encompasses over 60 district students and offers a variety of programs over the course of the year. This year these programs include swimming, ice skating, equestrian therapy, bowling, and gymnastics.

“We hope to help students break through that fear of doing things they never thought they could,” says Skole. Beyond providing physical activity for the students, the various activities also help build important life skills for the future such as helping students become comfortable listening to other adults in the community. Julimae McDaniels began working with the program as a paraprofessional at Lewis-Palmer Elementary School in 2014. “I love watching our students succeed with other instructors. They learn outside of the classroom faster than inside the classroom,” says McDaniels. During each of the activities (that McDaniels helps with), the sees students learn teamwork, communication, and leadership skills.

Of course, none of these experiences would be possible without the financial assistance provided by community groups. Because of the support of the Tri-Lakes Women’s Club and the Monument Hill Kiwanis, the Adapted PE program has grown year after year. Skole works closely with Ron Pitt and Ted Bauman of Kiwanis, who have asked the program for years. “[Thanks to] the Kiwanis, we’re able to use many different facilities for a wide range of activities,” says Skole. Of the Women’s Club Grant Committee, Skole simply says, “They’re incredible.”

Due to the continued investments of both organizations, Adapted PE now offers ice skating.

The sessions are at the Air Force Academy and are a favorite of many of the program’s participants. They vote to continue the program with the third-grader Kade loves “ice skating because I learned this trick. I stand on one leg for five seconds.”

Teacher Spotlight: Phyllis Robinette

Phyllis Robinette, second grade teacher at Palmer Lake Elementary, has been with Lewis-Palmer School District since 2005. She taught kindergarten, first grade, and fourth grade classes before finding her passion spending time with second graders. An additional 19 years of teaching K-8 grades in various districts in Colorado round out her time in education. She received her elementary education degree from the University of Northern Colorado and began her career in Jefferson County. Phyllis received the National Board Teacher Certification in 2007 and was nominated for Colorado Teacher of the Year in 2009.

According to Phyllis, young students are excited about learning and are not afraid to take risks. During one of her recent math lessons, she explained to her students that they were already doing division whenever they determined how many cookies were available for each family member. Her example made the lights go on for her students. Phyllis loves that LPSD offers teachers flexibility, allowing them to reach students with a variety of techniques.

This fifth generation Colorado native and product of Jefferson County schools not only invests in her students, she invests in fellow teachers. Robinette serves as president of the Lewis-Palmer Education Association as well as chairperson for the Colorado Education Association and president of the Pikes Peak Education Association. Phyllis’ efforts contributed to LPEA receiving a National Endowment for the Arts grant which will be used to create a Center for Teaching Learning and Public Education. The center will help LPSD and 22 other districts with professional development.