other, nicer-looking fences. Another of Shannon’s concerns was truck traffic running through Monument and the potential for increased danger along an already dangerous road.

Commissioner Gwisdalla asked Shannon what might help the Tri-Lakes Collision auto repair shop become a better proposal for his community, and Shannon suggested something like a traffic light to prevent unnecessary traffic dangers and complications.

Three residents of the Monument Meadows Mobile Home Park also spoke, expressing concerns about the noise and increased traffic. Questions were also asked about what measures would be taken to prevent fumes from going into the mobile homes, potentially causing or exacerbating health problems.

The applicant assured these citizens that no homes should be receiving fumes from the paint, because it would contain no toxic chemicals and is strictly water based. Also, on the topic of noise control, the garage doors would be kept closed as often as possible. Commissioner Gwisdalla recommended lowering the speed limit along relevant roads, as well as enlisting the Monument police force to patrol those specific areas to prevent traffic danger.

The proposal was approved 4-3, with Commissioners Michelle Glover, Kenneth Kimple, and Daniel Ours voting against. Further conditions were added, focusing on the fence and its surrounding landscaping.

Pilot Travel Center

Drew Burrell & Co. has submitted a development application seeking approval of a zone change, preliminary/ final plat and preliminary/ final PD Site Plan for a Pilot Travel Center. Commissioner Gwisdalla opted not to participate in discussion and voting on proposals because he had an opportunity to view the project beforehand. He did, however, state that he likes the project and appreciated the care that was put into its design.

The proposed Pilot Travel Center would be adjacent to the southbound I-25 onramp on the west side of I-25, south of Baptist Road. It would be across from a Diamond Shamrock gas station on the other side of Baptist Road. The property is 11 acres, and currently zoned for Planned Industrial Development. The applicant requested that it be rezoned to Planned Development. The site would be separatized and semi-trailer trucks wouldn’t end up going the same way. The building would be built of stucco, stacked stone, and tile that looks like wood. It would all be in earth tones, aside from red accents for Pilot branding. The site would include a restaurant—likely an Arby’s or Wendy’s—a drive-through, a PJ Fresh convenience store, Dunkin Donuts, showers, overnight facilities, and a “drivers’ lounge” with seating and TVs. There would be a free-standing 60-foot sign with digital prices and focused light shining on to the sign itself. This project would create about 80 jobs, half full time and half part time, that pay

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Teacher Spotlight: Dianna Harris

In August, Dianna Harris begins her sixth year of teaching third graders at Bear Creek Elementary School. She taught in Harrison and was recognized as a distinguished teacher prior to joining Lewis-Palmer School District #38. Teaching students how to read is one of Dianna’s favorite aspects of teaching, and she relishes seeing her students overcome their obstacles. According to Dianna, helping struggling students, using repetition and movement, is one of the joys of teaching. Dianna earned her bachelor’s degree in geography, her teaching certification, and her master’s degree in curriculum and instruction from the University of Colorado in Colorado Springs. Dianna always wanted to be a teacher. Teaching is a venue that allows her to practice her mantra of being the change you want to see in the world.

The Harris family lives in Monument, and Dianna’s two sons attend Bear Creek Elementary School with her. Her husband is a landscape architect and assistant football coach at Palmer Ridge High School. Both Dianna and her husband are products of LPSD; Dianna is graduating Lewis-Palmer High School. They met after graduating from high school, introduced by mutual friends.

When her family isn’t hiking, skiing, playing guitar, football, basketball, or soccer, they emulate American Ninja Warrior, one of their favorite television shows. They love living in Monument, where their lives are very busy during high school football season. Dianna is looking forward to getting a battery-powered heated stadium cushion for the upcoming season. Dianna can often be found singing, listening to Jack Johnson, walking her golden retriever, or reading BFG by Ronald Dahl to her students, and wondering if she’ll truly enjoy being a tour guide in the Virgin Islands, her post-education dream job.