

the fourth Wednesday of each month in the Barn at 1691 Woodmoor Drive, Monument. The next regular meeting will be on Oct. 24.

The WIA calendar can be found at <https://www.woodmoor.org/wia-calendar/>. WIA board meeting minutes can be found at <https://www.woodmoor.org/meet->

ing-minutes/ once approved and posted.

Jackie Burhans can be reached at jackieburhans@ocn.me.

September Weather Wrap

By Bill Kappel

September was dry and mild, with precipitation only about half of normal and temperatures well above normal. Unfortunately, we were not able to keep up the trend of relatively wet weather that occurred from June through August. Let's hope we get a return to cool and wet weather moving through the rest of fall and into winter.

The first week of September was cool and unsettled but unfortunately was an anomaly compared to most of the rest of the month. Temperatures were at or below normal each day from the 1st through the 7th. Each day except the 4th received some rainfall. The heaviest rain occurred on the 5th, when just over a half-inch accumulated in some areas.

However, the pattern changed quickly over the next few days as a strong ridge of high pressure moved over the region. Temperatures responded by warming into the 70s on the 8th and 9th, then mid- to upper 80s from the 10th through the 19th. During this period, several daily record high temperatures were set across the region. Highs peaked on the 18th, reaching the upper 80s. With the high pressure firmly in control of the weather, the air mass dried out significantly. This resulted in clear skies through the region and just a few afternoon clouds.

A weak system affected the region starting on the evening of the 19th and brought a brief cool down and

some rain showers to the area on the 20th and 21st. This also allowed overnight lows to fall into the upper 30s and low 40s. Temperatures jumped back into the low 80s on the 22nd and 23rd before returning to below-normal levels for the next week. After some rain showers on the 24th, cooler conditions stuck around through the 28th. High temperatures were in the 60s from the 24th through the 26th, then touched the low 70s on the 27th before holding in the 50s on the 28th. Overnight lows were consistently in the 30s during this period, just touching the freezing mark on a couple of mornings in the colder low-lying spots. The cooler temperatures and easterly winds also allowed areas of low clouds and fog to form on several days, making things feel a lot more like fall.

Strong high pressure again returned to end the month, with sunny days returning on the 29th and 30th and temperatures jumping back to well above normal levels in the mid- to upper 70s each afternoon.

A look ahead

October can be an active weather month for the Tri-Lakes region with our first snowy conditions often experienced during the month. Most years, we seem to get a good snowfall around Halloween, and after a warm and dry September, we could use a wet and cold storm this year. Snow can be heavy at times during any part of October as when over 20 inches fell October 9-10 in 2005, and 2006 saw over 24 inches of snow fall in less than 24

hours on Oct. 26. Of course, the big storm some of us remember occurred around during October 1997, when nearly 4 feet of snow and blizzard conditions shut everything down for several days. But we are just as likely to get mild and sunny conditions, so enjoy those sunny days when you can.

September 2018 Weather Statistics

Average High	75.8° (+3.9)
100-year return frequency value max	77.5° min 63.5°
Average Low	46.8° (+5.6)
100-year return frequency value max	46.7° min 36.1°
Monthly Precipitation	0.72" (-1.08")
100-year return frequency value max	4.34" min 0.40"
Monthly Snowfall	0.0" (-0.5")
Highest Temperature	88° on the 18th
Lowest Temperature	34° on the 25th, 28th
Season to Date Snow	0.0"
	(-0.5", 100% below normal)
	(the snow season is from July 1 to June 30)
Season to Date Precip.	15.48"
	(-6.81", 30% below normal)
	(the precip season is from October 1 to September 30)
Heating Degree Days	147 (-102)
Cooling Degree Days	37 (+31)

Bill Kappel is a meteorologist and Tri-Lakes resident. He can be reached at billkappel@ocn.me.

Letters to Our Community

Guidelines for letters are on page 31.

Disclaimer: The information and opinions expressed in Letters to Our Community are the responsibility of the letter writers and should not be interpreted as the views of OCN even if the letter writer is an OCN volunteer.

Vote yes on Palmer Lake 2B

I have been attending Palmer Lake Town Council meetings, committee meetings, and fundraisers for about two years now. As a resident, I am terrified for the future of our "Almost Heaven" Palmer Lake.

In each meeting, the conclusion to our drainage issue, enforcement issue, and lack of leadership is the lack of funds to make anything better. It really all comes down to the money!

As part of the Palmer Lake Parks Committee, I know that we as a town need a lot more money. We do not have any means of bringing in the kind of revenue we need with businesses we have now!

I attended the "Calm the Fear" of Legalizing Recreational Marijuana meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 18, at Palmer Lake Wellness to get the information from the horse's mouth.

The marijuana industry is new and booming right now! If we allow both Alpine Essentials and Palmer Lake Wellness the opportunity to sell recreational MJ, we will have the third and fourth businesses in El Paso County. I asked how much tax revenue they really thought they could bring to the town in a year, and they are estimating up to \$4 million. I was stunned and I started making a mental note of all the improvements we can make to our hometown—paved roads, good drainage, new fire department, etc. etc.! And each business plans to bring in 25 new jobs within the first year!

The mayor of Manitou Springs said that legalizing recreational MJ has been great for Manitou. The tax revenue has allowed them to work on flood mitigation projects, roads, and so many other town improvements!

This industry is growing quickly, and we as a town can benefit immensely from this revenue and job creation. Vote yes on 2B!

Jess Farr

Vote no on 4B

Lewis-Palmer School District 38 has a 20-year bond (4B) on November's ballot for \$36.5 million. Taxpayers' annual payments will be interest-only for the first 11 years, but those payments will triple in years 12 to 20 when taxpayers have to start paying down the principle as well. The total payback amount will be \$66 million. No one does interest-only loans for their personal residences. They are expensive, not fiscally responsible, and cost inordinately more than a traditional loan, which has the same payment throughout the life of the loan at a fixed interest rate.

A school bond with the credit rating D38 has should have a fixed rate of 3.5 percent for 20 years, with repayment costing only \$50 million—not \$66 million. Instead, we're being forced into something on the level of a pawnshop loan. Why is D38 forcing taxpayers to hand over an extra \$15 million? Taxpayers don't want their money going to rich Wall Street firms and other bond in-

vestors. They want it to go to teachers.

Vote no and send a message that until D38 begins to enrich teachers instead of bond investors, taxpayers will not give them more money. A community of taxpayers who are as responsible with their personal finances as we are is entitled to something better than a pawnshop loan.

Derek Araje

Editor's Note: The D38 Board of Education has not yet decided the bond repayment terms. Interested readers should contact the school board or attend school board meetings and the DAAC forum on Oct. 11 for more information.

Supporting the D38 bond and MLO as an empty nester

When I arrived in 1992, my real estate agent proudly extolled our great school district. I noted I didn't have kids nor any plans. She explained it was good for our property value, which I liked. Six years later, we welcomed our son to the family and remembered what we heard when it was time to enroll him. We soon learned how lucky we were to have landed in D38. We were impressed with the academics, electives, and extracurriculars he experienced with dedicated, highly qualified teachers, counselors, staff, board, and parent volunteers. His education at LPES, LPMS, and PRHS prepared him well to go to and succeed at a highly selective university.

I have always supported public education from the time I started working and paying taxes. I have voted for bonds when schools were needed and MLOs to pay for operational expenses long before I even considered having a child who would benefit and will continue to do so long after his graduation. I would have been happy to support the district had I never had any kids who went to school here.

While I do appreciate the impact on my property values, I also appreciate how having a great school district gives us pride and a sense of community. I value the importance of a top-notch education being available to all the kids in the district regardless of where they live or what their economic circumstances are. I know that they will be the future leaders in our country, our state, and even our community. I am proud to support our district by voting yes on the upcoming MLO (4A) and bond (4B) and look forward to seeing our strong community support for strong schools!

Jackie Burhans

It's all about the kids

My family and I moved to District 38 eight years ago so that our children could have the benefits of attending one of the highest-performing school districts in the state. One of our children recently graduated and I have three children currently attending D38 schools.

Monument is a wonderful community that we enjoy. It attracts new development and there are currently hundreds of homes under construction in developments that will accommodate thousands of homes. Unfortunately, the number of schools has not kept up with the growth. Our current schools are at capacity, and we need a new elementary school. 4A and 4B will allow us to ex-

pand our capacity and obtain a new elementary school.

As a parent of children attending D38 schools, I feel strongly that increasing the security of our children and staff at the schools is of paramount importance. 4A and 4B will allow us to increase the level of security the schools currently practice and ensure that our children, their teachers, and staff are safer.

I support 4A and 4B because good schools result in a good community and everyone benefits from a good community.

Matthew C. Clawson

President, D38 Board of Education

Actions speak louder ...

My family lives within a budget and expects our elected officials to spend our tax dollars wisely. When I see the school board awarding the superintendent a \$60,000 signing bonus to renew a contract that still had another year left (BOE meeting 4/19/2018), a \$255,000 annual public relations budget used for advertising to attract out-of-district students (2018-19 budget), money to outsource technology services when D38 has nine employees in its technology department, various consulting fees on the check register, taxpayer money spent for lobbying groups, etc., I have to question if the district is being fiscally responsible with our current tax dollars.

Soon, they will ask us for more money because "It's all about the kids." There's no doubt that we all want our kids to be safe. It would be great for our district leaders and the lobbyists we are already funding to lobby local politicians for "school zone" signs for traffic control to be put in on 105 near Monument Academy or stand up against a former hotel being turned into an alcohol and drug rehab center within walking distance of four schools, a library, and a brewery. Or, maybe they could allow competitive athletes to count their training hours for the district required high school PE credits (since PE is not mandated in Colorado).

Until I see evidence of wise spending and a more genuine focus on "the kids," all I am willing to give for now is my 2 cents. It all comes down to a little thing called trust.

Amy McKenzie

Support our great schools

Growth in our area is overwhelming; forecasts indicate this will continue. All of our elementary schools and middle school are at or near capacity. Public schools cannot turn away students, so the math is simple; build a new school or classroom sizes increase. The secret about our awesome community is out. Families are moving here in record numbers. There is plenty of land to develop so growth is inevitable. We can stick our heads in the sand and deny it or we can get out in front and manage it.

D38 is in desperate need of a new school to manage our growth. This bond will allow us to build a new elementary school, go back to two middle schools, and construct much-needed security upgrades at all our buildings.

Also included on the ballot is an MLO to hire additional safety and security personnel. Unfortunately, times are changing and we need to provide more secu-