

we were dry and mild along the Palmer Divide, it was much worse as you progress farther south toward New Mexico.

The month started with some favorable weather, as cool, cloudy, and moist conditions were in place on the 2nd and the 3rd. Upslope flow allowed areas of fog and drizzle to form, along with rain and snow showers at times. The cloudy conditions also held temperatures down, with high ranging from the 60s on the 1st to the upper 50s on the 2nd and low 40s on the 3rd. During the period, much needed moisture accumulated, with anywhere from a half to 2 inches of precipitation.

Unfortunately, after this storm departed, dry and mild conditions moved in for the next week and half. High temperatures rebounded in the 70s and touched the low 80s on the 10th. Plenty of sunshine returned as well, with no measurable precipitation from the 4th through the 12th.

A late, spring-like pattern began to affect the region starting on the 13th, when morning sunshine gave way to afternoon thunderstorms and brief rain showers. This pattern repeated for the next two days. Quiet and mild conditions then returned from the 16th through the 17th, with highs again touching the low 80s on the 17th. Cooler conditions arrived on the

19th, with upslope flow returning fog, low clouds, and showers to the area from the 18th through the 20th. Unfortunately, again less than a half-inch of rain accumulated.

Mainly dry weather returned for the remainder of the month, with temperatures warming to around record levels over the start of Memorial Day weekend. Highs were in the 70s from the 20th through the 24th, then low to mid-80s from the 25th through the 27th. Finally, on Memorial Day weekend, morning low clouds helped to keep temperatures down and added enough moisture to allow thunderstorms to develop that afternoon. Unfortunately, these were fast-moving storms, so most areas didn't receive significant rainfall. The exception was the Palmer Lake area, where up to a half inch accumulated.

Typical late May weather stuck around for the last few days of the month, with quiet morning weather giving way to afternoon cloud and scattered thunderstorms on the 30th and mainly sunny and warm weather on the 31st.

A look ahead

By June we can usually say goodbye to our chance of snowfall but hello to frequent afternoon and evening thunderstorms. Most of the time we can expect

warm, sunny days with afternoon and evening thunderstorms.

May 2018 Weather Statistics

Average High	71.6° (+4.5°)
100-year return frequency value max	75.7° min 57.9°
Average Low	42.9° (+4.6°)
100-year return frequency value max	43.2° min 32.5°
Highest Temperature	85°F on the 26th
Lowest Temperature	32°F on the 3rd
Monthly Precipitation	1.11"
	(-1.53" 25% above normal)
100-year return frequency value max	6.94" min 0.15"
Monthly Snowfall	0.5"
	(-5.2" 60% above normal)
Season to Date Snow	59.7"
	(-62.7" 52% below normal)
	(the snow season is from July 1 to June 30)
Season to Date Precip	6.01"
	(-3.06" 44% below normal)
	(the precip season is from July 1 to June 30)
Heating Degree Days	240 (-186)
Cooling Degree Days	0

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

Letters to Our Community

Guidelines for letters to the editor are on page 31.

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

To Charles Ashford

I just read your Letter to Our Community, "To Paul Lundeen," regarding his proposal to "jail" those who "exercise their First Amendment rights" regarding their employment. You seem to know a lot about the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights. Perhaps you could help me understand some things about them.

The U.S. Constitution is a federal law, yet Paul Lundeen is a state representative, so wouldn't it be more appropriate to judge him against the state Constitution, which has lots to say about education. I'm sorry, but where in the federal Constitution is education directly addressed?

Many schoolteachers, at the behest of their labor

union, abandoned their students and classrooms to go protest in Denver the other day. Teachers are public employees, with a trust we give them: our very children. Two entire school districts had to shut down in El Paso County as a result of the teacher walkout. Do they actually have a First Amendment right to do that?

We are a nation of laws, and every law must have an enforcement mechanism to be meaningful. So why are we surprised that a suggested law to keep teachers where they should be would have jail time associated with it?

Here's an idea: If low teacher salaries are their gripe, why don't they go through the proper channels that already exist for education funding? The state Constitution has created an inviolate public school fund. And who has the authority to administer those funds? You guessed it, the state General Assembly, of which Rep. Lundeen is a member. So wouldn't it be more effective to entreat the very accessible Rep. Lundeen instead of acting like children and walking out or pillorying him in the newspaper?

In a word (or two): Grow up.

Miles Dahlby

The big board coverup

We lost a remarkable leader on our school board. As her resignation reveals, Sarah Sampayo couldn't continue serving on a board that willingly violates law and acts deceitfully and abusively.

Sarah Sampayo, thank you for your selfless service to our children, schools, and community. You exemplified honest, professional, transparent, moral leadership, and you offered our community hope that our school board could be trusted again. You tirelessly fought for what is best for children. Your professional skills and experience, character, and your service on PTO, BAAC, DAAC, and the school board were invaluable. You advocated before the state for local control and against Common Core, helped secure children's data privacy and regulate surveys administered to minors, pushed for parental consent on the Healthy Kids Colorado Survey, supported school choice, helped increase teacher salaries, protected taxpayer dollars, provided public access to supporting documents/agendas prior to board meetings, and helped include all student athletes in National Signing Day. You valued differing viewpoints and suggested collaborative strategies. You genuinely listened to parents, teachers, and community members, and you brought transparency to the board—all without compromising your character, and despite being disrespected and harassed.

D38 board, you've been asked to release executive session recordings from 1/18/18 and 1/30/18. Sampayo's minutes from these meetings were manipulated and changed by someone before public disclosure. Alleged law violation and emotional abuse occurred in these sessions. The state board confirms that you can vote to release the tapes, providing transparency and settling conflicting claims of what happened behind those "closed doors." Why do three of you still refuse their release?

How long must we tolerate a board that prioritizes protecting private interests, even at the cost of truth and ethics? Let's get more leaders like Sampayo

at the helm.

Cheryl Darnell

Aliorum De Awards

One of the most memorable and impressive evenings ever to take place at Big Red occurred on April 24, 2018, when D38 recognized the Aliorum De Award winners. The Aliorum De Award recognized individuals that had gone the extra mile to support students with disabilities. These individuals were school staff, students, and community members. The award truly honors acts of kindness, goodwill, hard work, success and charity towards individuals. There were numerous stories shared expressing gratitude from parents, students, and teachers. It was very heartwarming to learn of support and love shown to families caring for those with disabilities. The undeniable and selfless gift to reach out to those in need truly exemplified benevolent character. We were reminiscing about the many years our children have been in this district and felt that no other more significant event has ever occurred at Big Red. The number of students recognized for selfless giving was truly impressive. Teachers, students, and community members worked hard to support those overcoming challenges and resulted in bringing forth many miracles.

Tiffney Upchurch, D38 school board member, helped to promote and was on the selection committee for the award nominations. The SEAC along with others created an evening to forever cherish and remember. We personally recognized Aileen Finnegan, principle of PWES for her ability to always exemplify charity towards all that enter through the doors of the elementary school. Many others, such as PWES teacher Jennifer Rowedder and Dr. Brick of Erikson Pediatric Dentistry and Orthodontics, were honored. We would like to publicly thank the Special Education Advisory Committee, Michelle Nay, and Rick Frampton for overseeing such a memorable evening.

Frank and Tammy John

High school physical education

D38 requires physical education credits for high school graduation. In August of 2015, I asked the school board to create a policy allowing competitive athletes to count their training time in their sport to be substituted for the required PE credits (via a training log signed by their coach).

My rationale was: 1. According to the Colorado Department of Education, PE is not mandated at any grade level. The decision is completely up to local districts. 2. D38 gives credit for a "walking" class (the final consists of walking from LP to Walmart, buying a snack, and then walking back). 3. D38 gives credit for an "online" PE class through BYU for \$150. 4. The basic reason for PE is to ensure kids live a healthy, active lifestyle. 5. Competitive athletes put in more hours of activity than their peers in PE classes. 6. Overtraining can lead to injury. 7. Teenagers require more sleep. 8. By allowing competitive athletes to receive credit for their sport instead of requiring them to take PE, they would have more time available for academics, training, and sleep.

To date, there is still no policy on this matter to be found in D38. I hereby request publicly, once more,

WWSD Board Approves Compressed Schedule Pilot Project



On May 17, 2018, The Board of Directors of the Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District No. 1 approved a pilot project that will require District employees to work a compressed workweek schedule consisting of four (4) ten-hour work days. The pilot project is focused on maintaining customer service and exploring the potential workforce advantages of the compressed schedule. It is believed that the District may see increased employee morale, increased productivity and an overall increase in worker job satisfaction which could lead to reduced absenteeism and employee turnover without increasing costs or negatively impacting customer service.

"The District has always prided itself in providing excellent customer service while distinguishing itself within the industry as a leader in attracting, recruiting and retaining a highly motivated and skilled workforce, however in today's increasingly competitive work environment and with each new generation of workers entering the workforce, more pressure is being applied on employers to provide a much broader and more robust set of employee policies, work schedules and benefits in order to attract and retain high caliber employees," said District Manager Jessie Shaffer.

Important dates for the Pilot Project are:

- Beginning **June 21, 2018**, District Offices will be open **Monday through Thursday, 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.** Please note the office will be closed Friday, June 22 and every Friday through the end of the pilot program.
- The pilot program will continue through **October 17, 2018**.