

dents because it would cost \$6,000 to do so. Notice of the survey will be posted on the sign for Hidden Pond. The board is developing the survey questions and welcomes community input.

Board report highlights

- Board Director Kayla Dixon resigned from her board position as secretary and director of community outreach. Residents interested in serving should contact WIA.
- El Paso County is in a stage 2 fire ban, which means there is no outdoor smoking, no use or sale of fire-works (which are never allowed in Woodmoor),

and outdoor cooking is banned except if done on a gas or propane grill on private property

- Additional chipping days will be held in July and August and are free to Woodmoor residents. See the website for more information.
- The board takes fire danger very seriously and sees it as their prime directive to protect the community.
- The board asks that residents take their trash cans out only on trash day and take them back in as soon as the trash is collected.

The WIA Board of Directors usually meets at 7 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday of each month in the Barn at 1691 Woodmoor Drive, Monument. The next regular meeting will be on July 25.

The WIA calendar can be found at www.woodmoor.org/wia-calendar/. WIA board meeting minutes can be found at www.woodmoor.org/meeting-minutes/ once approved and posted.

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

June Weather Wrap

By Bill Kappel

June was another warm and relatively dry month. We did get more moisture than we have been seeing, but because it was June, some of that moisture was associated with severe weather, mainly large hail, at times. Overall, the month was warmer than normal by several degrees with precipitation coming in just below average.

The first two weeks of the month were generally dry, with barely any measurable precipitation occurring from the 1st through the 12th. Temperatures fluctuated between the mid-60s on the 3rd and the upper 80s from the 8th through the 10th.

A relatively unusual thunderstorm setup occurred late on the 12th through just after midnight of the 13th. During the afternoon and evening of the 12th, thunderstorms to the east of the region sent an outflow boundary into the region and up against the Front Range. An outflow boundary is an area of moist and cool air that descends from precipitation and cool air at the base of a thunderstorm and spreads out near the surface away from the originating thunderstorms. As this outflow boundary interacted with the terrain along the Front Range, it was forced upward. This extra lift helped initiate strong to severe thunderstorms starting just before midnight and continuing for a couple of hours.

Two separate areas of thunderstorms developed, one that moved over our region and the other that moved over the south side of Colorado Springs and into the Fountain area. The storms over the Black Forest region produced 1- to 2-inch hail for areas east of the

I-25 corridor then northeastward from there. The severe thunderstorms over the south side of Colorado Springs and Fountain produced hail up to the size of a baseball (3 inches). These storms produced significant damage in that region, breaking windows, roofs, and siding.

Dry and quiet weather moved back in on the 14th and 15th before another disturbance moved through. This time, however, the moisture was associated with a remnant tropical system that moved through the Gulf of California. This wave of moisture produced significant rainfall during the evening hours of the 17th, with .50 to 1.50 inches accumulating. This was exactly the type of soaking rain that we needed.

From the 18th through the 23rd, a more typical pattern set in with quiet morning and scattered afternoon thunderstorms producing brief rain showers. Then on the 24th the thunderstorms were enhanced by a shortwave (area of lift and extra instability) that moved through during the morning to early afternoon. This helped spark several rounds of thunderstorms, starting first around 12:30 p.m., then again around 3 p.m. The first round of storms produced hail up to 1.50 inches, big enough to cause damage to trees. The next round produced smaller hail and more rain. Most areas received one-half to 1 inch of rain during the day.

The remainder of the month was generally quiet. Temperatures were cooler than normal on the 25th behind a cold front, then temperatures began to rise quickly. Highs reached the mid- to upper 80s from the 26th through the 30th.

A look ahead

July can be an active weather month around the region, as the southwest monsoon season gets going. Afternoon and evening thunderstorms are a common occurrence, and when they tap into higher levels of moisture, flash flooding can result. Hot, stagnant weather can also take hold for a few days at a time, with highs hitting well into the 90s.

June 2018 Weather Statistics

Average High	80.2° (+2.8°)
100-year return frequency value max	82.5° min 66.3°
Average Low	50.1° (+5.7°)
100-year return frequency value max	50.7° min 40.2°
Highest Temperature	89°F on the 15th
Lowest Temperature	42°F on the 20th
Monthly Precipitation	1.72"
	(-0.23" 12% below normal)
100-year return frequency value max	6.94" min 0.15"
Monthly Snowfall	0.0"
	(-0.1" 100% below 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	7.73"
	(-3.27" 28% below normal)
	(the precip season is from July 1 to June 30)
Heating Degree Days	148 (+50)
Cooling Degree Days	56 (+28)

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.

D38 empire building at taxpayer expense

District 38 leaders have spent two years misleading the public to present a picture of a burgeoning student population that requires not one, but two new school buildings. While it's true that new home construction is adding students to our district, we're actually crawling out of a major student population collapse that hit years ago and left plenty of empty space in D38 schools.

To disguise the abundance of space, D38 has engaged in a parade of schemes that work against taxpayer interests: advertising in movie theaters to attract non-resident choice-in students. Running a district-wide preschool program that taxpayers are not required to provide. Closing Grace Best Elementary down and neglecting it so that administrators can later claim its 650-student capacity doesn't count because it "isn't worth" renovating and reopening.

Contrast that with Monument Academy Charter School, our area's parent-controlled, anti-Common Core public school. MA genuinely needs another building to serve its waiting list of 200-plus K-8 kids and provide a high school for its current student body to attend. Its proposed school building would hold 900-plus students, and cost taxpayers \$7 million.

D38 has no waiting list. But it plans to ask voters for \$30 million to build a 650-student elementary school and change Bear Creek back into a middle school, while

refusing to include MA's fraction-of-the-cost school in the D38 bond. Eleven-year board member Mark Pfoff, visibly angered this month by the suggestion that Monument Academy would share in D38's construction bond, retorted—incredibly—that "bonds are needs driven."

Why are voters even being asked to hand D38 \$30 million to take care of 650 students when they can hand MA \$7 million to take care of 900? D38 needs to stop working against taxpayer interests and help MA build its school.

Name withheld by request

I vote for Ross Meyer

I read Ross Meyer's Letter to the Editor in the June 2 edition of OCN. My response and suggestion are that his letter (*Have we become part of the problem?*) should be published regularly and be required reading by all citizens. He has managed to accurately capture the essence of many of our public issues in but a few well-written, cogent words. If Ross is running for office, any office, I would vote for him, regardless of party affiliation; if not, he should take solace in knowing he has a fan base. Bravo and thank you for your positive approach to the overwhelming divisiveness!

Laura Kronick

Editor's note: Ross Meyer is assistant managing editor of OCN.

CU regent candidate Wolusky talks tuition

I just finished a wonderful half marathon starting in Monument and Palmer Lake along the Santa Fe Trail

through fields with mountain flowers, craggy mountain overlooks, all on a beautiful Saturday morning! It was a great visit with my neighbors here and a reminder of how running for office is connected with those you represent, if it is to be meaningful and effective.

I am running for University of Colorado regent for our area. The Board of Regents is the group that oversees the operations of the University of Colorado system, including the local campus of UCCS. Sadly, this "Board of Directors" has done nothing to reverse the crushing burden of tuition on our families, the primary reason people can't go to any of the University of Colorado campuses.

New leadership is necessary, or nothing will change.

As a father with four daughters and a grandson, I know all too well one of the biggest reasons our children cannot attend these universities is the high cost of tuition and fees. Those of you who attended college in Colorado years ago and who have talked to me recently invariably relate the great education they had in the CU system and the reasonable cost of that education in those days.

As a college professor for the past 25 years, I naturally did some research and confirmed that in the 1970s, Colorado paid 70 percent of the cost of higher education, with students and their families paying 30 percent. This has totally reversed to the extent that a UCCS student pays 73 percent of the cost, with 7 percent coming from donations and only 20 percent from the state!

I am running for CU regent to fix this.

Thank you so much for the wonderful run this weekend!

Dr. G. Anthony Wolusky,
Candidate for CU regent, District 5 ■

Between the Covers at Covered Treasures Bookstore

Celebrate 25 years!

By the staff at Covered Treasures

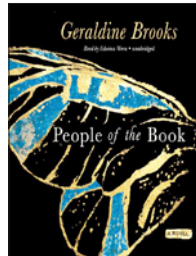
Covered Treasures opened its doors 25 years ago this month. The staff got together and selected their favorite books from these 25 years. Perhaps there's one you haven't read or a favorite you'd like to revisit.

People of the Book

By Geraldine Brooks (Penguin), \$17

Hanna Heath, an Australian rare-book expert, is of-

fered the job of a lifetime: analysis and conservation of the famous *Sarajevo Haggadah*, which was rescued during the Bosnian war. When Hanna discovers a series of tiny artifacts in the ancient book's binding, she begins to unlock its mysteries.



The Rosie Project

By Graeme Simsion (Simon and Schuster), \$15.99

Don Tillman embarks upon The Wife Project to find himself the perfect wife. Then he meets Rosie, who is everything he's not looking for in a wife. An unlikely relationship blooms, forcing the scientifically minded geneticist to confront the spontaneous whirlwind that is Rosie, and the realization that love is not always what looks good on paper.