

Season to Date Snow **136.9"** (-14.1", 54% below normal)
 (the snow season is from July 1 to June 30)

Season to Date Precip. **5.96"** (-0.38", 5% below normal)
 (the precip season is from July 1 to June 30)

Heating Degree Days **647** (-45)

Cooling Degree Days **0**
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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.

D38: What is the truth?

I have continued to attend D-38 and Monument Academy School Board meetings. I also recently attended a meeting regarding growth in Monument. The data presented was from both the Northern El Paso County Coalition of Community Associations (NEPCO's Land

Use Committee has been doing in-depth reviews of county planning proposals such as rezoning or new development plans since its formation in 2000), and Neustar, which is basically a business that processes data to make it meaningful to their clients. Having been through the growth in Castle Rock over the past 20 years, I am not surprised by the information.

Approximately 40 developments have already been approved by the Town of Monument. Many of the developments include apartments and townhouses. North of the YMCA, for example, is a development for 150 homes, 170 townhomes, and 300 multi-family units. Three developments west of I-25 include

961 homes, 54 duplexes, and 77 townhomes. The estimates are that the Town of Monument will gain nearly 5,000 homes and 15,000 new residents in the next five to eight years. The estimates for D38 are that the number of students will double in the next five to eight years from 6,000 to 12,000. Unfortunately, those citizens who are screaming the loudest that D38 does not need more schools were not at the meeting. Apparently, they aren't interested in factual information. I am. I saw the growth in Castle Rock. It can, and will, happen here.

Terry Miller

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Between the Covers at Covered Treasures Bookstore

Gardening and wildflower season is here!

By the staff at Covered Treasures

"If you have a garden and a library, you have everything you need."—Marcus Tullius Cicero

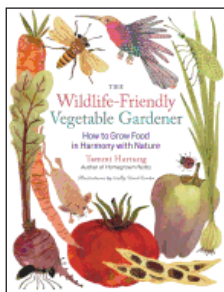
"Gardens are a form of autobiography."—Sydney Eddison

For Mother's Day, give Mom books exploring Colorado's beautiful wildflowers and all the information needed to grow vegetables and flowers in Colorado.

The Wildlife-Friendly Vegetable Gardener: How to Grow Food in Harmony with Nature

By Tammi Hartung (Storey Publishing), \$16.95

This is a guide to creating harmony between the vegetable garden and the wildlife that consider it part of their habitat. It explains how to start with a healthy garden, create beneficial relationships through thoughtful planting, attract beneficial insects, pollinators, and butterflies, and to purposefully create habitats for wildlife with strategies to help garden and wildlife peacefully coexist, including blocking access to unwelcome guests. The Hartungs own Desert Canyon Farm in Colorado, which has been certified organic since 1996.



The Colorado Gardener's Companion

By Jodi Torpey (Globe Pequot), \$16.95

This easy-to-understand guide will help you cultivate bountiful vegetables, abundant flowers, and lush lawns in Colorado. You will learn: what's in your Colorado soil and how to improve it; how to take advantage of the state's semiarid climate; techniques to maximize the short growing season; the best high-performance plant varieties for your climate; how to landscape to conserve water; ways to deal with

the challenges of Colorado's wild weather; and local sources of hands-on assistance with gardening questions. Torpey is a Colorado native and award-winning master gardener.

Timber Press Guide to Vegetable Gardening in the Mountain States

By Mary Ann Newcomer (Timber Press), \$19.95

Growing vegetables requires regionally specific information regarding what to plant, when to plant it, and when to harvest by climate, weather, and first frost. Monthly planting guides show exactly what you can do in the garden from January through December. The skill sets go beyond the basics with tutorials on seed saving, worm bins, and more.

Gardening for a Lifetime: How to Garden Wiser as You Grow Older (Revised)

By Sydney Eddison (Timber Press), \$14.95

Spend your time in the garden as the joyful activity it was meant to be. National Garden Club's Award of Excellence winner Sydney Eddison draws on her own 40 years of gardening to provide a practical and encouraging roadmap for scaling back while keeping up with the gardening activities that each gardener loves most.

Meet the Natives: A Field Guide to Rocky Mountain Wildflowers, Trees, and Shrubs (Revised and Updated)

By M. Walter Pesman and Dan Johnson (Bower House), \$26

This must-have for hikers and nature lovers has been revised and updated. This edition features full color photography, contains information on over 400 plants, and is organized by color for easy identification.

Wildflowers of the Rocky Mountain Region

By Denver Botanical Gardens (Timber Press), \$27.95

Featuring more than 1,245 stunning color photographs, this comprehensive field guide is the must-

have portable reference for the wildflowers of the Rocky Mountain region. It covers the entire Rocky Mountain range from Canada south to New Mexico, separated into Northern Rockies, Middle Rockies, and Southern Rockies. Organized by flower color and petal count, it includes perennials, annuals, biennials, vines, shrubs, and subshrubs, both native and non-native.

Vital Tonics & Soothing Teas: Traditional and Modern Remedies

By Rachel de Thample (Kyle Books), \$16.95

Tonics and teas have long been hailed as remedies for all manner of ailments and illnesses, and for their amazing health benefits. This book brings together more than 40 recipes for such drinks created with the aid of a nutritional therapist, and using easily available, natural ingredients. These are apple-a-day non-alcoholic drinks that generations have been relying upon to give the body a healthy boost.

The Homesteader's Herbal Companion: The Ultimate Guide to Growing, Preserving, and Using Herbs

By Amy K. Fewell (Lyons Press), \$24.95

Featuring an array of beautiful photos, recipes, and easy to read terminology, this book takes readers through the basics of herbalism, including the different types of herbs and their uses. It also breaks down how herbs are used in tinctures, salves, essential oils, and infused oils. You'll learn how to efficiently incorporate herbs into your lifestyle, creating your own herbal remedy cabinet.

"Wildflowers are the stuff of my heart."—Lady Bird Johnson

Until next month, happy reading.

The Covered Treasures staff can be reached at books@ocn.me.

April Library Events

A Tea for All Ages and Kusogea Nobi Drum Ensemble among May's programs

By Harriet Halbig

The Monument and Palmer Lake Libraries will offer a variety of programs including a *Tea for All Ages* in Palmer Lake and a program by the *Kusogea Nobi Drum Ensemble* during May. As the school year ends, there will also be several programs for teens.

Children's programs

Regularly occurring children's programs include *Story Time* at 10:30 and 11:15 each Tuesday for children 3 and up, *Toddler Time* for 1- and 2-year-olds each Thursday at 9:30 and 10:30, *Book Break* (a short read-aloud session for preschoolers) on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 10:30 to 11, and *Paws to Read* (children reading to dogs) on Monday and Wednesday from 4 to 5.

The *Kusogea Nobi Drum Ensemble* will present a program from 2:30 to 3:30 on Saturday, May 11. The

ensemble, in its 26th year, will present a journey of drums, song, and movement from Africa to the Americas and back to Africa. Bob Hall and Chelle Gifford provide an interactive experience for all ages.

Family programs

Join us as we color themed coloring sheets at a variety of skill levels during *Coloring for Everyone* on Friday, May 10 from 4 to 5:30. Coloring tools are provided.

All Ages Knitting meets in the study room each Wednesday from 3 to 5. Practice materials are provided or bring your own project.

Join the Tri-Lakes Friends of the Library at the Palmer Lake Town Hall for a *Tea for all Ages*. Everyone from age 5 to 99 is invited to attend this tea. Please wear your Sunday best (hats optional) and bring your own unique tea cup. There will be treats and activities for all ages. Registration is required at the Monument

or Palmer Lake Library.

Lego Build will meet from 10 to 11:30 on Saturday, May 18. Take advantage of our large Lego collection and build to your heart's content.

Teen and Tween programs

See above for descriptions of *Coloring for Everyone*, *All Ages Knitting*, and *Lego Build*.

Members of the *Palmer Lake Art Group* will offer free beginning/intermediate drawing classes on Thursday, May 2 and 16. Bring your own paper, but pencils and erasers will be provided. These classes are for ages 16 and up. Registration required.

The *Teen Creative Writing Group* will meet in the study room from 6 to 7:30 on Tuesday, May 7. This group for those 12 to 18 meets to share ideas, do writing exercises, and enjoy snacks. No registration required.