

gion as the Southwest Monsoon season gets going. Afternoon and evening thunderstorms are a common occurrence, and when they can tap into higher levels of moisture, flash flooding can result. Hot, stagnant weather can also take hold for a few days at time, with highs hitting well into the 90s.

June 2019 Weather Statistics

Average High **72.5°** (-4.9°)
100-year return frequency value max **82.5°** min **66.3°**

Average Low **44.0°** (-0.4°)
100-year return frequency value max **50.7°** min **40.2°**
Highest Temperature **89°F on the 28th**
Lowest Temperature **36°F on the 9th, 23rd**
Monthly Precipitation **2.42"**
(+0.47" 10% above 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 **163.1"**

(+40.6" 25% above normal)
(the snow season is from July 1 to June 30)
Season to Date Precip **11.65"**
(+0.63" 5% above normal)
(the precip season is from July 1 to June 30)
Heating Degree Days **215** (+120)
Cooling Degree Days **16** (-12)
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.

Stop wasting money

About six months ago, D38's School Board approved six modular buildings at a cost of \$708,000. Two of them were for the middle school, but the rest were to be installed at the elementary schools so that D38 could continue providing preschool (which taxpayers aren't even required to provide).

Why should taxpayers pay to provide site-based preschool? Last year a fact-finding committee that included a board member and the early learning program director formally recommended that D38 should centralize preschool. After the bond failed, however, the elementary school principals were trotted out at a board meeting to say it's important to host site-based preschool at the elementary schools. Bear in mind that currently two of the five elementary schools do not even have any preschool at their location and these moduls won't add any, so really how important could site-based preschool be?

Even worse, administrators came out and announced that the moduls were now going to cost \$1.2 million instead of the \$708,000 that the board agreed to six months earlier. And that's for only five moduls, not the original six. Did you know that D38 has four moduls that they actually own sitting at the administration building that are not being used? Why would D38 lease five new moduls when they already own four? Is this just to provide parents the convenience of site-based preschool?

There is a pattern here. The district already owns a school in the center of town that it doesn't want to use, and instead expects \$30 million from taxpayers to build a new school. Remember this the next time D38 district boosters complain that the community doesn't care about kids and teachers. Teachers and students lose when money is wasted.

Resources

- www.ocn.me/v19n2.htm#d38
- <https://go.boarddocs.com/co/lewispalmer/Board.nsf/files/B7KU576FE5C5>, choose dec 2018 mid-term facilities plan 12 14 final.pdf
- <https://go.boarddocs.com/co/lewispalmer/Board.nsf/files/B7KVS778B394>, choose Bond Debt Structure - Audit Committee Recommendation- HTS Edits.pdf
- <https://go.boarddocs.com/co/lewispalmer/Board.nsf/files/B7LRLA6A2425>, choose Options - Create Your Own.pdf

<https://go.boarddocs.com/co/lewispalmer/Board.nsf/files/BCT3QD07F4F4>, choose Modular budgets - Phipps, CRP and manufacturer actual costs (1).pdf

Derek Araje

Options facing the Palmer Lake Fire Department

What are the options facing the Palmer Lake Fire Department?

Option 1: Do nothing.

Our current fire department is woefully unsafe and no longer adequate for our residents' needs. We also don't have an ambulance in town. No increase in our taxes.

Option 2: Join Tri-Lakes Monument Fire District and dissolve Palmer Lake Fire Department

Con:

- Tri-Lakes has three fire stations for a 52.1-square-mile coverage.
- One station for every 17.3 square miles.
- 45 firefighters for 33,000 residents.
- Palmer Lake proposes 14 firefighters for 2,500 residents.
- PLFD covers 4½ square miles.
- TLMFD 23% of structures in Palmer Lake are 1½ miles away.
- PLFD 71% of the structures in Palmer Lake are 1½ miles away.
- Total costs—18.4 mills (11.5 mills in 2014 6.9-mill increase). Future?

Option 3: Keep our Fire Department

Pro:

- Additional staffing: One fire chief/fire marshal.
- Six full-time and seven part-time staff; three firefighter/EMTs 24/7, 365 days.
- Ambulance will be located in Palmer Lake.
- Build an Emergency Services Building (fire and police combined)
- 75% of the 911 calls are medical in Palmer Lake.
- Average response time for PLFD is 4 minutes, 44 seconds
- TLMFD is 9 minutes.
- In the event of a heart attack, the brain can only last 7 minutes without oxygen.

Consequences of losing PFLD

- No fire protection presence in town.
- No additional functions and events hosted by PLFD: maintenance of the star, chili supper, reservoir patrols, mitigation and Santa on Patrol.
- TLMFD can increase the mill levy as they see fit (voters' approval). What increase will be necessary to assume the responsibilities of overseeing

Palmer Lake residents?

So, what will this cost the taxpayers of Palmer Lake?

Approximately \$316,281 or 7.5 mills to accomplish Option 3.

An additional \$53.62 per year for each \$100,000 home market value.

For details, please contact Weston Oesterreich, CPT, EMT firefighter, 719-481-2902, palmerlakefired-ept@gmail.com.

Meredith "Kit" Bromfield

Editor's Note: See Palmer Lake Town Council article on page 11.

20th anniversary reminder to continue investing in our children

In November of 1999, the residents of our area voted to pass a bond in order to build two new schools, Prairie Winds Elementary (PWES) and Creekside Middle School. Few would disagree that neighborhood schools are truly the heart of a community. Kings Deer residents can barely imagine their neighborhood without their beautiful PWES. The same can be said for Palmer Lake, Jackson Creek, the Kilmer area, and Woodmoor. Take any one of those schools away, and their neighborhood would feel a real loss. And yet, that is exactly what happened 10 years ago when during an economic downturn, the district had to take drastic cost saving measures by temporarily closing Creekside Middle School. Many may not realize that Bear Creek Elementary is using a middle school (Creekside) as their home.

Today the economy is rebounding, and the Tri-Lakes area is again experiencing growth. We know that with growth, our schools become fuller. Lewis-Palmer Middle School must accept all seventh- and eighth-graders as they feed in from the five elementaries, and it is running out of ways to accommodate the growing numbers. We need to reopen Creekside and relocate Bear Creek students to a building in their neighborhood that is designed to be an elementary school.

We are grateful that in 1999 the residents of this area willingly invested in our children and their education. They passed the bond the first time it appeared on the ballot. Now, 20 years later, that bond is just about paid off. That works out well because with no change in our school taxes, the district can once again build a needed school. All we have to do is say yes in November.

Today's children will thank you, and our future community, 20 years from now, will be grateful to you.

Suzanne Magerko ■

Between the Covers at Covered Treasures Bookstore

Summer reading

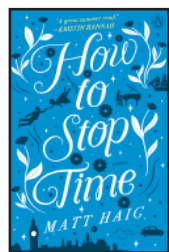
By the staff at Covered Treasures
"One benefit of summer was that each day we had more light to read by."—Jeannette Walls

Here are some great new reads, all in paperback, to enjoy no matter where you are this summer:

How to Stop Time

By Matt Haig (Penguin Books) \$16

Tom Hazard has a dangerous secret. He may look like an ordinary 41-year-old, but owing to a rare condition, he's been alive for centuries. Tom has performed with Shakespeare, explored the high seas with Captain Cook, and shared cocktails with Fitzgerald. Now, he just wants an ordinary life.



Unfortunately, the secretive group which protects people like Tom has one rule: Never fall in love. This is

a love story across the ages about a man lost in time, the woman who could save him, and the lifetimes it can take to learn how to live. Soon to be a movie starring Benedict Cumberbatch.

The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek

By Kim Michele Richardson (Sourcebooks Landmark) \$15.99

Troublesome Creek has its own traveling librarian, Cussy Mary Carter. She's the last of her kind, her skin a shade of blue unlike anyone else. Inspired by the true blue-skinned people of Kentucky and the brave and dedicated Kentucky Pack Horse library service of the 1930s, this is a story of courage, fierce strength, and one woman's belief that books can carry us anywhere.

Auntie Poldi and the Sicilian Lions

By Mario Giordano (Mariner Books) \$14.99

Auntie Poldi retires to Sicily, intending to while away

the rest of her days with good wine, a view of the sea, and few visitors. But Sicily isn't quite the tranquil island she thought it would be. Soon there's an investigation when her handyman is discovered murdered. This book will transport you to a Sicily full of quirky characters alongside a protagonist who's as fiery as the Sicilian sun.

The Word is Murder

By Anthony Horowitz (Harper Perennial) \$16.99

She planned her own funeral. But did she arrange her own murder? Best-selling author Anthony Horowitz has yet again reinvented the classic crime novel, this time writing a fictional version of himself as the Watson to a modern-day Holmes, police detective Daniel Hawthorne. It soon becomes clear that Hawthorne is hiding some dark secrets of his own. A masterful and tricky mystery that springs many surprises.