

WIA (Cont. from 18)

- the board and residents.
- Bush reported for Treasurer Hanson that expenses remain low but income in certain categories is a little down. He has asked staff to review projections through the end of the year, so the board has a more accurate forecast to help with budget planning for 2020.
- The July 13 chipping day at the Lewis-Palmer High School parking lot saw 132 loads, including six to eight from nearby communities. The two chippers reduced wait times to 15 minutes. The next chipping day will be held in the same location on Aug. 3.
- The program fix for the WIA sprinkler system has resulted in a water bill nearly \$1,100 lower than last year.

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 Aug. 28.

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/meeting-minutes/> once approved and posted.

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Above: A large blue spruce was successfully moved before beginning excavation for the Woodmoor Public Safety expansion at The Barn. Photo courtesy of WIA.

July Weather Wrap

By Bill Kappel

It was another active month around the region, with precipitation again well above average even for a normally wet month of July. Most locations in the region accumulated 5-7 inches of rainfall, about twice as much as normal. This also helped to keep temperatures in check, with only one afternoon of widespread 90s. Of course, all the moisture and clouds also kept overnight lows on the mild side, resulting in an overall monthly average temperature right about normal.

The month started off with active weather, as afternoon and early evening thunderstorms were a daily occurrence from the 1st through the 8th. As is typical during the summer thunderstorm season, there was a significant amount of variation in who received the heavy rainfall and who missed out. The heaviest rainfall occurred during the midafternoon hours of the 2nd and was accompanied by areas of hail. Several areas picked up more than a half inch of rainfall within about 30 minutes. Temperatures during the first week of the month were right around normal, with afternoon highs in the upper 70s to low 80s. The exception was the afternoon of the 6th when highs struggled to reach the 70-degree mark, well below normal for early July.

Dry and relatively quiet conditions then moved in for a few days from the 9th through the 12th as high pressure built in from the southwest and cut off the low-level moisture supply from the east. Temperatures responded during this dry period, with highs reaching the mid- to upper 80s on the 11th and 12th.

But the calm, warm conditions didn't last long, as more moisture began to move into the region starting on the 13th. This started the next cycle of quiet mornings and afternoon thunderstorms. This lasted from the 13th through the 16th, with 1-2 inches of rainfall

occurring in many locations.

This period was enhanced by the North American Monsoon pattern, as evidenced by the fact that temperatures stayed relatively warm each day. In other words, there were no fronts moving through causing the thunderstorms, instead it was warm, relatively moist air moving into the region from the southwest around the North American Monsoon high pressure area. Highs remained in the mid- to upper 80s on the 17th. Then drier air accompanied by westerly winds helps to elevate temperatures even more, with highs reaching the upper 80s and low 90s on the 18th and low 90s on the 19th. But be glad we live above 7,000 feet on the Palmer Divide, because this generally keeps our temperatures about 10 degrees cooler than Colorado Springs and Denver. And on days in the low 90s for us, that means a lot.

This warm and dry spell was broken up quickly starting on the 20th, with areas of heavy rain and hail during the afternoon of the 20th and 21st. The heaviest rainfall fell during the late afternoon and early evening of the 21st, with several areas accumulating more than 2 inches of rain.

Cooler air then worked back in during the last week of the month, with highs dropping into the 70s and low 80s. But the active weather conditions continued, with thunderstorms and rain showers each day from the 23rd through 27th. After a brief break of dry, mild conditions on the 28th, another round of heavy rain, hail, and strong thunderstorms returned on the 29th.

Unlike normal conditions, the storms on the 29th moved more from north to south and tapped into high levels of instability along and just east of the I-25 corridor. This combined with low-level winds moving in from the southeast to cause some extra lift and

rotation in the atmosphere. The result was areas of large hail and even some reports of funnel clouds in the area.

The last two days of the month saw a return to normal conditions, with highs in the mid-80s and just a few scattered thunderstorms.

A look ahead

August is the last true "summer" month for the region. We are often greeted with sunny, pleasant mornings that turn into afternoon and early evening thunderstorms. Highs during the month range from the mid-80s at the beginning of the month to mid-70s at the end. Temperatures at night get more comfortable as well, often dipping into the 40s.

July 2019 Weather Statistics

Average High	81.4° (-1.1°)
100-year return frequency value max	87.6° min 75.3°
Average Low	51.5° (+0.5°)
100-year return frequency value max	56.2° min 46.9°
Highest Temperature	91°F on the 19th
Lowest Temperature	45°F on the 9th
Monthly Precipitation	5.45" (+2.08" 40% above normal)
100-year return frequency value max	6.03" min 0.98"
Monthly Snowfall	0.0"
Season to Date Snow	0.0" (the snow season is from July 1 to June 30)
Season to Date Precip	5.45" (+2.08" 40% above normal) (the precip season is from July 1 to June 30)
Heating Degree Days	27 (-5)
Cooling Degree Days	67 (-13)

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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 bond: Support the district now and for the future

The D38 School Board plans to include a bond on the ballot this fall—one bond with clear language to build one school. I support the bond based on information gathered regarding the following questions:

- How does the D38 education tax rate compare to other districts?
D38's education tax rate is much lower than comparable districts. For tax year 2018 (paid in 2019) our D38 mill rate was 44.068. Academy D20's rate was 60.216 (36.6% higher than ours).

Cheyenne Mountain D12 was 55.0 (24.8% more). See all mill rates on the El Paso County treasurer site below. School districts are two-thirds the way through the document.

- What happens to D38 education taxes if the bond passes?
Hilltop Securities (D38's bond advisors) estimates the education mill rate will increase to 44.289, which will be offset by the residential assessment rate decrease from 7.2% to 7.15%. This is possible because the D38 tax base has grown due to increased property valuation and new construction. Passing the bond leaves the D38 rate essentially unchanged, and still far below comparable districts.
- Has D38 demonstrated financial reliability repaying current debt?
The bonds for Palmer Ridge, Prairie Winds, and Creekside/Bear Creek are being paid on sched-



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