

afternoon clouds and scattered showers returned through the end of the month.

**A look ahead**

May often brings a wide variety of weather conditions in the region, from warm, sunny days to severe thunderstorms and hail, and even some snowfall. May 2007 was snowy, with over 20 inches accumulating for the month, while the last couple of years recorded just a few inches. However, we can usually expect warmer conditions to finally settle in, with temperatures reaching above 80°F on

several afternoons.

**April 2015 Weather Statistics**

Average High	57.1° (+0.4°)
Average Low	29.5° (+2.5°)
Highest Temperature	70° on the 6th
Lowest Temperature	21° on the 4 <sup>th</sup>
Monthly Precipitation	2.29" (-0.72", 24% below normal)
Monthly Snowfall	16.5" (-11.0", 40% below normal)

Season to Date Snow	107.8" (-8.3", 7% below normal) (the snow season is from July 1 to June 30)
Season to Date Precip.	17.88" (+0.84", 5% above normal) (the precip season is from July 1 to June 30)
Heating Degree Days	652 (-38)
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 written is an OCN volunteer*

**D-38 School Board much more transparent than Directions 38!**

There's more hypocrisy than honest criticism in Stephen Boyd's latest letter to OCN criticizing the District 38 School Board for an imagined lack of transparency ("D-38 BOE Distrust," April OCN). In fact, the district provides a great deal of transparency. Consider that all of the D-38 School Board meetings are regularly scheduled and open to the public. Time is reserved in all meeting for comments from the public. The meetings are streamed over the Internet in case you prefer to

watch from home. Minutes of the meetings are also available on the district's web page (<http://lewispalmer.schoolfusion.us/> then use the "Board of Education" menu item). From a financial perspective, the same website provides registers of all checks written and all charges to credit cards. It publishes a schedule of all the district's investments current through March 2015. The website also publishes a report authored by the Office of the State Auditor that assesses the district's financial health, and which shows the district exceeds all the financial benchmarks set by the state (<http://lewispalmer.schoolfusion.us/> then use the "Financial Transparency" menu item). All in all, the school district provides plenty of transparency in its operations and its finances.

By way of contrast, Mr. Boyd is a member of Directions 38!, a local group organized as a non-profit, that does not dis-

close its financial donors or any other information about its finances, does not publish its schedule of meetings on its web page, and does not even divulge its membership.

Mr. Boyd also criticizes the board for not providing details about the severance payment to Superintendent Pomarico in 2007, even though none of the current board members were on the board when that decision was made. As an ex-employee of District 38, Mr. Boyd's privacy is protected by the same policies and laws that govern all personnel matters. If Mr. Boyd truly believes that complete transparency is the best policy, even in personnel matters, he can take a step in that direction by publishing all the details of his termination by the district. If he's not willing to take that step, his demand for transparency sounds a bit hollow.

**James W. Howald** □

**Between the Covers at Covered Treasures Bookstore**

**May milestones**

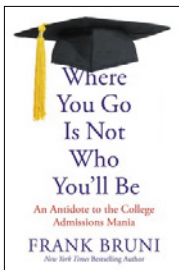
*The staff at Covered Treasures Bookstore can be contacted at [books@ocn.me](mailto:books@ocn.me).*

If you know someone who's a mother for the first time, or one who's observing her 50th Mother's Day, it's a special time. Graduation from high school or college is also a May milestone. Following are some books to help celebrate those special occasions.

**Where You Go Is Not Who You'll Be: An Antidote to the College Admissions Mania**

*By Frank Bruni (Hachette Book Group, \$26)*

The madness surrounding admissions to ivy-league colleges is as practically misguided as it is psychologically destructive. Through statistics, surveys, and the stories of hugely successful people who didn't attend the most exclusive schools, Bruni demonstrates that many kinds of colleges—large public universities or tiny hideaways—serve as ideal springboards. What matters in the end are a student's efforts in and out of the classroom, not the gleam of his or her diploma.



**Whatever You Are Be a Good One**

*By Lisa Congdon (Chronicle Books, \$14.95)*

One hundred inspirational quotes are included, from Socrates to Lewis Carroll; Marie Curie to Abraham Lincoln; Jane Austen to Beatrix Potter. Great creative thinkers from every walk of life are gathered here, offering words of wisdom, heartfelt compassion, and stirring calls to action. Lovingly hand-lettered by artist Lisa Congdon, this eclectic anthology will inspire graduates for years to come.

**The Crossroads of Should and Must: Find and Follow Your Passion**

*By Elle Luna (Workman \$16.96)*

There are two paths in life: Should and Must. We arrive at this crossroads over and over again, and every day, we get to choose. Starting out or starting over, making a career change or making a life change, the most life-affirming thing you can do is to honor the voice inside that says you have something special to give, and then follow your passion. This book will speak to both graduates and mothers, as they look at their futures.

**Happiness Is ... 500 Things to be Happy About**

*By Lisa Swerling and Ralph Lazar (Chronicle Books, \$9.95)*

Happiness can be: Fitting everything into your suitcase; a compliment from a stranger; getting your old password right on the first guess; a view of the sea; when every sock has a mate; or the sound of popcorn popping. These thoughts with charming, make-you-smile illustrations hit just the right note and remind us that there are hundreds of things to be happy about every day.

**This Is the Story of a Happy Marriage**

*By Ann Patchett (Harper Collins \$15.99)*

Patchett examines the things she is fully committed to—the art and craft of writing, the depths of friendship,

an elderly dog, and one spectacular nun. Writing nonfiction, which started as a means of keeping her insufficiently lucrative fiction afloat, evolved over time into its own kind of art-- the art of telling the truth as opposed to the art of making things up. These essays create both a portrait of life and a philosophy of life.

**It's the Little Things—300 Simple Ways to Indulge Yourself**

*By Amy Collins (Adams Media \$9.95)*

For those who feel overworked and underappreciated, this book offers the perfect rewards for surviving today's stressed-out world. You may be saner and happier enjoying such simple pleasures as: Using your good china often; taking one item off your to-do list; relaxing with your favorite drink on your front porch; or flying a kite. This is an ideal gift for that overwhelmed friend, sister, or mother. It's like having a day spa in book form.

Until next month, happy reading.

*The staff at Covered Treasures Bookstore can be contacted at [books@ocn.me](mailto:books@ocn.me).*

**The World Is Waiting for You**

*Edited by Tara Grove and Isabel Ostrer (The New Press \$16.95)*

With contemporary graduation speeches that dissect the world as it is and imagine what it could be, this book highlights 18 courageous figures who have dared to transform the podium into a pulpit for championing peace, justice, protest, and a better world. "The voices of conformity speak so loud, don't listen to them," author and journalist Anna Quindlen cautioned graduates. Renowned physician and humanitarian Paul Farmer revealed his remarkable discovery of a new disease—Empathy Deficit Disorder—and assured the commencers that it could be cured. This could be the perfect gift for those who are ready to move their tassels to the left.



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**May library events**

**Families invited to meet the bees**

*By Harriet Halbig*

**Family programs**

The Legos Club meets on May 16 from 10 to 11:30. Bring your creativity and we will supply the Legos! All pieces remain the property of the library

May's Family Fun event on May 9 from 2:30 to 4 features a beekeeper from Pikes Peak Beekeepers, who will bring some bees (in an enclosed container). Learn about these fascinating insects and make a buzzy craft!

**Twins**

Come explore the micro-cosmos on Saturday, May 23 from 10 to 11:30. Calling all budding young scientists ages 9 to 12 who would like to participate in a very fun program in which we'll explore the micro-cosmos using portable microscopes developed and supplied by Stanford University. You will be helping the university to gather research for its Foldscope project. Registration is required and limited. Don't miss this chance to indulge your curious mind!

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