

the first time this season just before sunrise on the 16th in many of the low-lying spots. This is about a week or two ahead of the normal first freeze date. However, clear skies and a dry air mass meant highs reached back to above normal levels on the 17th and 18th, returning to the upper 70s and low 80s.

The last few days of summer ended on the warm side, with highs ranging from the upper 70s to low 80s from the 19th through the 22nd. We were mainly dry during this time as well, with just one brief round of showers and gusty winds during the afternoon of the 21st. After one more warm day on the 22nd, the first official day of fall, cooler air began to settle in, with temperatures dropping back to slightly below normal levels. The cooler air mass that moved in over the weekend combined with the longer nights to produce some chilly mornings. Most areas dropped below freezing for a few hours during the early morning hours of the 25th. Of course, the clear, cool conditions also get the fall colors going in full effect, making for some nice scenery against the Colorado blue sky backdrop.

The last few days of the month continued the trend of mild and dry weather. High temperatures reached well into

the 70s from the 26th through the 28th, about 10°F warmer than normal. The clear skies and dry atmosphere allowed overnight temperatures to drop quickly, reaching the mid-30s each night. Slightly more unsettled conditions moved in for the last day of the month, as we actually saw a few scattered showers in the region and gusty winds at times. Temperatures remained slightly above normal, however, with highs still reaching the upper 60s and low 70s.

#### A look ahead

October can be an active weather month for the Tri-Lakes region, with snowy conditions often experienced by the end of the month. Most years, we seem to get a good snowfall around Halloween, and after a warm and dry September, we could be in for a good storm this year. Snow can be heavy at times during any part of October, as when over 20 inches of snow fell from Oct. 9-10 in 2005, and 2006 saw over 24 inches of snowfall in less than 24 hours on Oct. 26. And for those of you who were around during October 1997, you won't forget the nearly 4 feet that shut everything down for several days. Of course, the weather can also be very dry and mild, so enjoy those sunny days when you can.

#### September 2016 Weather Statistics

Average High	76.2° (+4.5)
100-year return frequency value max	77.5° min 63.5°
Average Low	43.1° (+2.0)
100-year return frequency value max	46.7° min 36.1°
Monthly Precipitation	0.09" (-1.71")
100-year return frequency value max	4.34" min 0.40"
Monthly Snowfall	0.0" (-0.5")
Highest Temperature	84° on the 5th, 7th
Lowest Temperature	30° on the 25th
Season to Date Snow	0.0"
	(-0.5", 100% below normal)
	(the snow season is from July 1 to June 30)
Season to Date Precip.	5.43"
	(-2.74", 44% below normal)
	(the precip season is from July 1 to June 30)
Heating Degree Days	174 (-71)
Cooling Degree Days	13 (+7)
<i>Bill Kappel is a meteorologist and Tri-Lakes resident. He can be reached at billkappel@ocn.me.</i>	

## Letters to Our Community

*Guidelines for letters to the editor are on page 27.*

**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.*

### Deja vu all over again

Once again the voters of Palmer Lake face the issue of whether to legalize the sale of retail marijuana—the third time in 2 1/2 years. All the reasons the voters turned it down twice before remain—only the proponents have changed.

When considering this question please remember that retail marijuana:

Can cause permanent brain damage by disrupting development of the brain. It shrinks the hippocampus, the learning, cognition and memory center. This can create a loss of 8 points of IQ by age 38.

Causes health problems including cancer of the head, nose and throat, and is a major cause of testicular cancer in young males. It causes chronic bronchitis and respiratory problems, and increased risk of heart.

Causes mental illness, crime, and violence. Marijuana affects brain systems that are still maturing through young adulthood; its use by teens has been associated with schizophrenia, paranoia and other psychosis leading to depression, anxiety and suicidal thoughts, even for years after smokers quit.

Can kill or permanently harm a fetus. Today's high potency pot can cause fatal brain damage to a fetus only two weeks after conception. Babies of mothers who smoked pot during pregnancy had an 11-fold increase in non-lymphoblastic leukemia. Behavioral problems include long-lasting deficits in attention.

Is addictive. Research tells us that 1 in 6 people who start using marijuana as adolescents become addicted. According to ONDCP, 17 percent of those under 18 will become addicted to it, 9 percent who start after 18 will become addicted, and many will move on to the hard drugs that kill. Teen "heavy" marijuana use is up 80 percent since 2008.

So why legalize retail marijuana in Palmer Lake? Vote no to save our town.

**Chris Amenson**

### Birthdays are no longer IT passwords

I would like to publicly thank Derek Araje, who alerted my wife and I in May that our son's private information in Infinite Campus was easily accessible by others. I had no idea that inside Google Apps for Education where my son logged in to do his work there was a directory of the students that included their student ID numbers. Derek explained that once someone had my son's student ID, all they needed was his birthday and they could log in and then see all of his private information. That private information included: locker number and combination, school schedule, bus stop location with drop-off and pick-up times, grades, family members, and health information, etc.

My wife and I were very upset to learn how accessible our son's private information was. Not only was I upset with D38 for letting this happen, I was upset with myself

as a parent for not noticing it myself. Further adding to my disappointment, I have since learned that another parent had already complained to the district about its lax handling of student logins for these websites months prior. It seems as though this issue was not taken seriously until Derek continued to bring it to people's attention.

Thank you again, Derek for notifying my wife and I, and shining the light on this extremely important issue. I would like to also thank those involved at D38 for finally taking this issue seriously and requiring my children to set up a new, unique, and secure password when school started this year.

**W. James Dove**

### D38's IT controversy response

I am a Palmer Ridge graduate and a senior in college whose six siblings attend or have graduated from D38 schools. My family is grateful to have attended D38, and can attest that it is one of the best districts in the state, with some of the best teachers and staff. D38, however, has not taken students' digital security and privacy very seriously. For as long as I can remember, D38 students have used their birthdays for passwords for their online accounts. Birthdays should never be used as passwords because they are so easy to access: They can be found through Facebook, Google searches, or by casually asking the individual.

Several parents reported concerns and other security problems to district staff this year, but they were met with an apathetic attitude. Unfortunately, some of the parents who got involved in the effort to get the district to overhaul the system have been disparaged by district supporters on social media as having "political agendas" and personal grudges. I feel compelled to respond to their comments here.

One of those parents is Tammy John: mother of nine, retired pediatric and psychiatric nurse, cadet sponsor mom, and not to mention a mother to me after my mom left. I can attest that Tammy is too busy to indulge personal grudges. She's raised three college graduates, two who are in college, and four children attending D38 schools. If anyone is qualified to address educational concerns, it's Tammy.

Tammy is involved because she takes her children's safety seriously; and while advocating for her own children, she advocates for others' children. Children are her "agenda." She shouldn't be accused. She should be thanked. On behalf of all the children you have helped over the years, thank you Tammy John.

**Hannah Rippley**

### #letsfindmia

On Jan. 17, 2016 my husband let our dogs out around 9 p.m. and for reasons unknown Mia, our 8-year-old black-and-white Shih Tzu ran off into the night! We canvassed our neighborhood and placed flyers the next day in Fox Run.

A day later, I receive a call from a man in Fox Pines who housed Mia overnight, fed her, then let her go. Three days later, a woman in Canterbury Estates calls to say she saw Mia strolling through her garden.

The trail went cold for seven months despite placing

additional flyers in areas where Mia had been sighted. I wrote about Mia on Nextdoor.com, social networks, Facebook. The Humane Society Pikes Peak (HSPP), Colorado Springs Lost Pet, Black Forest Lost Pet, Town of Monument, North Springs Mamas, local veterinarians, and a local radio station were all contacted.

Aug. 31 arrives and finally, a client of mine tagged me on North Springs Mamas. A woman on Furrow Way posted "Found pup off Furrow Way and Furrow Road." Her neighbor had Mia!

The next day, I meet with the woman, only to be told that her husband took the dog and went door to door looking for the owner. He gives the dog to a young woman driving an older white van who told him she was a caretaker of an elderly couple living in the Woodmoor area. I post more flyers around Woodmoor.

In the following days Woodmoor Public Safety and Monument police were informed of Mia's disappearance. I also drove around Woodmoor, stopping to speak with residents regarding our lost dog.

If you know of Mia's whereabouts, please help bring her home. Mia is chipped and any local vet or the HSPP will be able to assist in her safe return to us. Contact Jenny Geery at 1 (925) 487-2818.

**Jenny Geery** ■

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## The Ascent Church calls new lead pastor

The Ascent Church recently announced that it has extended a call to Dr. Rusty Hayes to serve as their new Lead Pastor.

Pastor Rusty was formerly the Senior Pastor of the historic First Evangelical Free Church, a church of 3,000, of Rockford, IL for the past six years. He is the author of *All Things New* and the soon-to-be-released book, *Seasons of Hope*. He is a graduate of CU Boulder, Dallas Theological Seminary, and Trinity International University.

The calling is the culmination on an intense 18-month, nationwide search for a new Lead Pastor. Pastor Rusty's vision is to ignite a multi-site church movement that will help people experience the life-transforming goodness of God and, together, grow in His love. Pastor Rusty has stated, "When we realize that God knows our names and loves us deeply, our world is changed."

The Ascent Church is a multi-site, contemporary church whose vision is to create life-giving community on every street in our region. It meets for Sunday services at two locations: The Woodmoor Campus, 1750 Deer Creek Rd, Monument, CO 80132, at 9:00AM and 11:00AM; and The Northgate Campus (The Classical Academy), 975 Stout Rd, Colorado Springs, CO 80921 at 10:00AM.

For more information, please visit <http://www.theascentchurch.com/>

To learn more, contact, Tara Iacovetto, The Ascent Church Business Administrator at (719) 481-3600 or [tara@theascentchurch.com](mailto:tara@theascentchurch.com).