

month or \$3,000 per year on average, with the project paying for itself in 6.5 years.

Board report highlights

- The annual Brews and Bines event will be held on Saturday, Sept. 17 at Limbach Park, highlighting local breweries and hops.
- Woodmoor Public Safety (WPS) Chief Kevin Nielsen noted that there have been an unprecedented number of bobcat sightings in Woodmoor this year.
- Nielsen noted that WPS has delivered 200 new owner

packets since June. Some of the new owner packets date back to last winter due to a backlog, but some are new owners in the same location as last year.

- The final slash day was a success; next year WIA may cut back to just two days given the low attendance in July.
- Lights and electric plugs have been installed in the Pavilion; fire mitigation work in the open spaces is set for September/October.

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 meeting will be on Sept. 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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August Weather Wrap

By Bill Kappel

After a warm and dry start to August, active weather became more common, resulting in temperatures that were slightly cooler than normal and precipitation that was higher than normal.

The first week of August was an active one around the region, as moisture associated with the North American Monsoon made a strong push into the region. This allowed mostly cloudy to cloudy skies to become a common sight. This is in contrast to the normal morning sunshine giving way to afternoon clouds. The abundant clouds did help to delay the normal heating of the lower portions of the atmosphere and therefore even with all the moisture around, strong storms had a hard time developing. Instead we did see several rounds of weak to moderate storms and rain.

The strongest storms were confined to the regions to our south where more sunshine appeared and allowed the atmosphere to heat up enough to build strong storms. Some of the storms produced heavy rain and hail in portions of southern and western Colorado Springs and points south and east. High temperatures were at average through the first three days of the month, with low 80s, then all the clouds kept temperatures down for the rest of the first week with mid- to upper 60s. Most areas around the Black Forest region accumulated around a half-inch of rain during the period, with much higher totals over other parts of the region.

More active weather occurred around the region during the second week of August, as high levels of monsoonal moisture affected the region along with a few disturbances that helped enhance the thunderstorm activity. High temperatures were at or slightly below average most days, with the warmest temperatures on the 9th and 10th, in the mid- to upper 80s, and the coolest temperatures on the 12th, in the mid-70s. Rainfall was most common on the 9th and 12th, with around an inch accumulating over those two days. Drier air worked back in just in time for the weekend, with mainly partly cloudy skies and seasonal temperatures both Saturday and Sunday.

The week of the 15th saw a couple of active days interspersed with quiet conditions. Highs were generally in

the upper 70s to low 80s. The warmest day was the 15th, when we reached 84°F, right about normal for mid-August, and the coolest day was the 20th, when we struggled to reach the low 70s, well below normal for mid-August. Widespread thunderstorms activity affected the region on the 16th and 19th. Both episodes produced areas of heavy rain and hail. These were hit and miss, especially on the 16th, where some areas received nearly 2 inches of rain in an hour, while others received almost nothing.

The rain on the late afternoon of the 19th was associated with a strong cold frontal passage (for August). As the front moved through, an area of strong storms developed. These produced heavy rain and hail in some areas, especially on the south side of Black Forest through northern Colorado Springs, and brought our first taste of fall-like weather to the region.

The third week of the month was an active one around the region. This included several days of below-normal temperatures and areas of heavy rain at times. The warmest days of the week were the 22nd and 23rd, with highs touching the upper 70s to low 80s. They were accompanied by a generally quiet morning, with isolated thunder during the afternoons. Increased monsoonal moisture then began to affect the region along with more lift in the atmosphere. This led to cloudy skies, cooler temperatures, and active weather. This included areas of brief heavy rain during the afternoons of the 24th and 25th. Temperatures were cooler than normal as well, with highs only touching 60°F on the 24th and the low 70s on the 25th.

Quiet and seasonably cool conditions continued on the 26th, with slightly warmer weather on the 27th. Another round of monsoonal moisture and lift moved through the area on the 28th and 29th. This produced strong thunderstorms, heavy rain, flash flooding, and hail in parts of the area. The hardest hit regions were within Colorado Springs city limits and the southwest side of town. During the week, most of us picked up 1-2 inches of rain, but if you were under one of the heavy rain cores, you probably doubled those amounts.

Another sign that summer is coming to an end is the nice covering of snow on Pikes Peak left over after each of

these rounds of rainfall. The final few days of the months saw seasonal conditions with quiet mornings giving way to afternoon clouds. A few thunderstorms developed during the afternoon of the 30th, but we saw just partly cloudy skies on the 31st. Temperatures were slightly below average for late August, with highs in the low 70s.

A look ahead

September is a transition month for the region, with the last tastes of summer mixed in with our first morning freezes. Leaves begin to change by the end of the month as well, and it's not uncommon for some snow to fall. The overall weather pattern is generally one of tranquility, with our chances for thunderstorms dwindling and blizzard conditions not quite ready for prime time. We are often greeted with sunny, pleasant afternoons, with highs from the mid-70s early in the month to the mid-60s later in the month. Our first sub-freezing low temperatures usually occur during the third week of the month, so prepare those tender plants.

August 2016 Weather Statistics

Average High	78.3° (-1.0)
100-year return frequency value max	83.9° min 72.9°
Average Low	48.0° (-1.3)
100-year return frequency value max	55.2° min 46.8°
Monthly Precipitation	3.34" (+0.44")
	(13% above normal)
100-year return frequency value max	6.07" min 0.94"
Monthly Snowfall	0.0"
Highest Temperature	89° on the 3rd
Lowest Temperature	40° on the 20th
Season to Date Snow	0.0"
	(the snow season is from July 1 to June 30)
Season to Date Precip.	5.34" (-0.93")
	(15% below normal)
	(the precip season is from July 1 to June 30)
Heating Degree Days	86 (+24)
Cooling Degree Days	18 (-25)

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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

Protect Palmer Lake water and wildlife

At the Aug. 11 Palmer Lake Town Council meeting, the Palmer Lake Volunteer Fire Department report noted extinguishing a small wildfire resulting from an unattended campfire—the second smoldering fire detected near the town's upper reservoir in recent days. In response, the Town of Palmer Lake is posting fire ban signs, and police

are actively monitoring the trail.

I suggest: 1. hikers be provided a map distinguishing town and private land from U.S. Forest Service land, and 2. non-residents be issued a fee-based, QR Code/ID pass to use town land around the reservoirs and to grant access and egress via Glen Park trail. (Resident passes should be free.)

Rationale: Our drinking water and infrastructure are supported by Palmer Lake residents' water bills; our police and fire departments, as well as maintenance of town-owned land and parks, are supported by local taxes.

Considering the town's high hazard red-zone wildfire status here in our Wildland Urban Interface with Pike Na-

tional Forest, the Town of Palmer Lake can no longer afford to host unlimited reservoir and reservoir trail access. Private property owners who have invested in fire mitigation and created defensible space around their homes, and all hikers wishing to preserve and enjoy the natural beauty of our neighboring forest lands, will surely understand and welcome these proactive safety measures.

Finally, a young owl was rescued last week from tangled fishing line at the reservoir. What more reckless endangerment of our fragile infrastructure and vulnerable wildlife should be allowed?

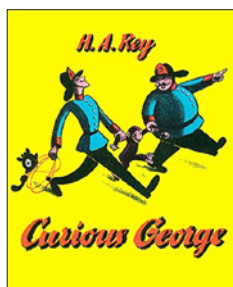
Judith Harrington ■

Between the Covers at Covered Treasures Bookstore

September is National Literacy Month

By the staff at Covered Treasures

September is a month for reading: Most children are back in school, and it is National Literacy Month, with Sept. 8 marking National Literacy Day. Sept. 17 is Curiosity Day, celebrating the 75th birthday of that inquisitive monkey, Curious George. With 133 titles available in 26 languages, and 75 million books currently in print, Curious George has never been out of print, and



tales of his mishaps continue to grow in popularity. Here are a few other great books for our younger readers.

Curious Young Minds Series: Why Are Animals Different Colors?

What Causes Weather and Seasons?

By Alejandro Algarra/Rocio Bonilla (Barron's Educational Series Inc.) \$7.99

Children are full of questions, and this series addresses many of them. How do animals use color to camouflage themselves? Why do some have such bright colors? Why are there seasons? Kate and her brother Jack are very curi-

ous. Join them in their adventures to discover the answers to lots of fascinating questions. Each book comes with a parent guide.

A Peek-Through Story: Fairy Tales for Mr. Barker

By Jessica Ahlberg (Candlewick Press) \$15.99

Ages 2-5 will enjoy this interactive "peek-through" story. Lucy tries to tell a story to her dog, but he has other ideas. With each "peek-through" scene, Lucy and Mr. Barker bring along Goldilocks, the Three Little Pigs, Jack, and Sleeping Beauty. See what happens on this fairy-tale adventure!