

through the 8th.

Even warmer air moved in over the next couple of days, with high temperatures reaching well into the 60s on the Palmer Divide and 70s in Colorado Springs and Denver. The warmest readings were on the afternoon of the 10th. The temperatures not only set new daily record highs, but also new monthly record highs all along the Front Range. During this period, most locations were above freezing from around 10:30 p.m. on the 5th through the evening of the 11th with only a brief period during the morning of the 8th that reached the upper 20s.

Normally during the entire month of February, we get below freezing every day at some point, so again this points to how unusually warm this period was. Not only was the warmth unusual, but the fact that it occurred early in the month was also unusual. A cool front moved in around noon the next day, knocking temperatures back to about normal, although it felt colder after the extended warm spell. Snow developed late that evening and continued off and on through the next morning. Anywhere from a trace to 4 inches accumulated. The storm was more like an April event, where a lot of the snow melted because the ground had been so warm previously and elevation was the biggest difference in who got snow and who didn't.

Record warmth and dry weather continued for most of the week of Feb. 13. Temperatures started off right around normal on the 13th and 14th, as the fresh snow from the previous few days kept things on the cool side. Highs were only in the 30s and low 40s both afternoons, with mostly cloudy skies on the 13th, then plenty of Colorado blue on the 14th. However, right on the heels of this brief taste of winter, another strong and warm ridge of high pressure moved in from the west. This allowed temperatures to warm again to well above normal levels. Highs peaked with another round of record highs for many locations along the Front Range on the 16th. Highs reached the mid-50s to low 60s on the Palmer Divide each afternoon from the 15th through the 18th, 10-15 de-

grees warmer than normal. Skies were mostly sunny during the period with high and mid-level clouds at times, but otherwise dry weather continued.

The third week of February started off mild, windy, and dry as the ridge of high pressure that had been dominating the weather for most of the month continued to hold firm. This blocked storms and cold air from reaching the region and, when combined with the gusty downslope winds, allowed temperatures to reach the upper 50s to low 60s from the 20th through the 22nd. These temperatures were again about 10-15 degrees warmer than normal. The persistent wind also kept overnight lows up, with readings only dropping to the low 40's on the 21st. But, as is so often the case in our region, the gusty west/southwesterly winds were ahead of a storm system that was finally above to break through the ridge of high pressure to our west. This storm brought a shift in the pattern with an initial intrusion of cool air at around 6 p.m. on the 22nd. This shut off the westerly winds and allowed a moist, easterly flow to predominate.

Stratus clouds quickly formed by the next morning, with snow developing during the mid-morning of the 23rd. Snow showers continued off and on at times, then a stronger surge of colder air and northerly winds pushed in late that afternoon. This was accompanied by another round of snow and blowing snow. It caused the roads in the region to ice up quickly, making for a treacherous commute that afternoon/evening. Temperature remained cool that afternoon, with highs only reaching the freezing mark. Cold air continued to filter in that evening. Also, light snow and flurries continued off and on during the 24th. These combined with the mostly cloudy skies to keep temperatures on the cold side, with highs barely reaching 20 degrees.

Temperatures stayed cold through the remainder of the weekend with highs only reaching the low to mid-30s on the 25th and mid- to upper 30s on the 26th even with mostly sunny skies. Temperatures warmed briefly on the 27th, as gusty west/southwest winds kicked in that

afternoon and highs warmed into the 40s. But this didn't last long as a cold front moved in the morning of the 28th. Snow and wind developed along this front, bringing brief taste of winter to the region on the 28th. Let's hope this is a sign of what is to come during March, as we have a lot of snow to make up after a very dry fall and winter period.

A look ahead

March is known for a wide range of weather conditions in the region. We can see 70° temperatures one afternoon and blizzard conditions the next. Many of us remember the blizzard of March 2003 when we received 30-50 inches of snowfall that shut down the region. However, snow that does fall begins to melt quickly this time of the year, providing beneficial moisture for our plants and limited inconvenience for us.

February 2016 Weather Statistics

Average High	45.8° (+5.8°)
100-year return frequency value max	51.9° min 32.8°
Average Low	22.6° (+9.6°)
100-year return frequency value max	21.9° min 3.7°
Highest Temperature	66° on the 10th
Lowest Temperature	2° on the 25th
Monthly Precipitation	0.53"
	(-0.41", 44% below normal)
100-year return frequency value max	2.10" min 0.02"
Monthly Snowfall	9.4"
	(-8.3", 47% below normal)
Season to Date Snow	35.7"
	(-33.4", 49% below normal)
	(the snow season is from July 1 to June 30)
Season to Date Precip.	8.02"
	(-4.94", 39% below normal)
	(the precip season is from July 1 to June 30)
Heating Degree Days	828 (-268)
Cooling Degree Days	0

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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 writer is an OCN volunteer.

Why Is District 38 promoting globalism?

There were two major candidates on the ballot last November. One of them ran as a full-throated supporter of globalism. The other ran as the enemy of globalism. The enemy of globalism won. Some say he won by a landslide, others say he didn't. But what cannot be disputed is that the anti-globalist won by a landslide—here.

Election results on Colorado's Secretary of State website show that every voting precinct in our area overwhelmingly voted for the patriotic nationalist, Donald Trump. The average of votes by precinct was 67 percent patriot, 25 percent globalist. Trump the patriot reached past 70 percent in some precincts. It may surprise some that even our progressive Palmer Lake precinct voted against globalism, giving Trump 56 percent and Hillary 32 percent.

Now keep these results in mind as you read District 38's official mission statement: "We believe in local, national, and global stewardship to create strong citizens who will secure a better world. This is why we educate."

Please tell me, just who is this "we" that believes in global stewardship, and why do they get to force their belief onto the rest of us, and our kids? Why are they allowed to use this community's resources to promote an agenda that requires America to sacrifice itself to the rest of the world?

The mission statement of a school district is its highest policy. It guides everything else, shaping what children are taught. On behalf of the patriotic super-majority in District 38, I formally request that district leaders show this community its due respect by removing "global stewardship" from our mission statement. We are a community of patriots, not globalists. Our schools' mission statement should say so.

Derek Araje

Teachers' union determining D38 direction

Is our conservative Tri-Lakes community aware that the teachers' union is taking control of our schools?

Union tactics have significantly increased in D-38 since Superintendent Karen Brofft was hired. In 2015, for the first time ever, D-38 invited Colorado Education Association (CEA) President Kerrie Dallman from Denver to campaign in Palmer Lake for its slate of board candidates. The union-approved slate quietly accepted

an excessive \$12,000 from CEA and held off reporting the contribution to the secretary of state until after the election. Three of the four union candidates were elected.

Then bizarre behavior surrounded Superintendent Brofft's contract renewal. Last year, the union-backed board president posted on D-38's website a meeting agenda announcing the upcoming vote on a one-year renewal of Brofft's contract. But the actual plan was to vote on a three-year contract renewal, not one-year. The union-backed board president claimed the misstatement was a typo. Conservative Director Sarah Sampayo expressed concern for the discrepancy between the notice given to the public and the actual agenda. She asked her fellow board members to postpone the renewal vote to give the public legitimate legal notice, but not one of them agreed. To the dismay of underpaid teachers district-wide, Brofft was awarded a significant raise that night, increasing her salary to \$180,000 with another \$40,000 in annual benefits.

Another strange occurrence happened when the local union president, supposedly representing the interests of teachers, copied union members on an email congratulating Brofft on her contract renewal. How odd for a labor leader to celebrate such excess given to management.

Now that the district wants to raise property taxes, we see them staging elaborate, dishonest attacks on Director Sampayo to intimidate her into complying. Tri-Lakes community, beware: The teachers' union is taking over. And they are silencing the conservative voices.

Cheryl Darnell

Stand up to bullying

Thank you, D-38 administrators for standing up and saying the inappropriate and bullying behavior at board meetings and online by a few individuals needs to stop. Our school community doesn't allow bullying among students; we need to tell adults to stop bullying too. I hope as adults we would model positive behaviors for our children.

The people participating in the inappropriate behavior, Derek Araje, Traci Burnett, Tammy John, Gordon Reichal and Michael O'Hare, have been identified in public documents. John was Sarah Sampayo's campaign manager, and Derek Araje was a campaign advisor. Sampayo's supporters are the individuals bullying the district and individual teachers. She has done nothing to stop their behavior; she must condone it.

A citizen called for Sarah's resignation. She should

resign because she is an ineffective board member, not just because her supporters are bullying the district. Teachers, administrators, and other board members do not trust her; she is consistently adversarial. She does not represent the community; she only represents her supporters who are not in step with the values of our community or the values of our high-performing, highly-rated school district.

If she does not resign and the bullying behavior of her group continues, should the community consider a recall?

Deb Goth

Group attacks D-38 on social media

There is a very small group in the community who is unscrupulous in attacking the D-38 board, central office, building administration, counselors, and teachers. To that end, they created a Facebook page and "invited" parents, community members, and taxpayers to participate on the page. The description of the site says: "(Group name) is a group of parents, teachers and community members in the Lewis-Palmer School District or D-38. We want to hold the school board accountable ... all in the best interests of the D-38 community.... While we do request you be polite and factual in your posts and comments, we do value and welcome diverse viewpoints and critical discussions. No value or practice is more central to American civilization than democracy—the rule "of the people, by the people, for the people," in the words of President Abraham Lincoln."

These words apparently gave them the right to harass, bully, intimidate, and create a hostile environment via social media, including personal and professional attacks on board members and administrators. It also gave them the "right" to look at teachers' personal Facebook pages and use that information to attack teachers on their group Facebook page. However, it does not give someone the right to disagree.

I responded to the group to hold them accountable for their bullying and harassment. The description for their page regarding diverse viewpoints and democracy apparently only applies to them because, after two weeks, I was blocked from their page. Honesty and integrity will not stand in their way. I am confident they do not represent the community in any way. But as a previous employee of D-38 and a D-38 taxpayer, it is dismaying that fringe elements take advantage of social media to promote such a hostile environment.

Terry Miller