

perience up to three falls a week at home and needs to call 911 regularly. The group has grown close to Kozloski and his wife Nancy. Following a recent fall by Kozloski, the five decided to purchase materials to build the ramp to create a gradual slope in his garage.

Commissioner Littleton said, "We should honor the people who go above and beyond the call of duty. They have enabled Mr. Kozloski the ability to live as full a life as possible. It's not often that we hear of hometown heroes who are selfless enough to give

of their time, talent, and treasure to make someone else's life better."

*Helen Walklett can be reached at helenwalklett@ocn.me*

## National Night Out comes to Promontory Pointe

By Ann-Marie Jojola

Each August, National Night Out (NNO) is celebrated around the country (October in Texas and Florida due to heat). Its purpose is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make neighborhoods safer, more caring places to live. NNO enhances the relationship between neighbors and law enforcement while bringing back a true sense of community.

Promontory Pointe is a young neighborhood of about 240 homes. A strong, active Neighborhood Watch was soon started after half the homes were built. It has been growing and provides extra eyes and ears for law enforcement when suspicious activity and/or persons are observed. Other benefits of an active Neighborhood Watch are close friendships and neighborly help, which also continue to grow.

On Aug. 5, Promontory Pointe held its second annual NNO and celebrated with neighbors, the Monu-

ment Police Department, the Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District (TLMFPD), and the El Paso Sheriff's Office (EPSO) Crime Prevention Unit. Each year the Promontory Pointe Neighborhood Watch and homeowners association team up to host a social event and encourage Promontory Pointe neighbors to come out to mix, mingle, and partake in NNO. An estimated 180-plus neighbors attended the NNO.

*Ann-Marie Jojola can be reached by writing to editor@ocn.me.*

## August Weather Wrap

By Bill Kappel

After a warm and dry July, the general weather pattern changed for most of August. High levels of atmospheric moisture were common over the region as the Southwest monsoon season really began to affect the area. Overall, temperatures for the month were right at average, but the good news was that moisture was well above normal.

Temperatures started out in the 80s the first couple days of the month, with dry conditions on the 1st. The warmth on the 2nd allowed atmospheric instability to increase and as more moisture moved into the area, heavy rainfall and thunderstorms developed. This was also accompanied by hail in some areas. Nearly an inch accumulated in a short time in some spots with these storms. This pattern of active weather continued almost uninterrupted over the next two weeks, with daily occurrences of thunderstorms and at times heavy rainfall.

High temperatures bounced around quite a bit during the period, depending on whether the wind directions were upslope (from the east) or more northwesterly. Highs ranged from the low 80s on the 4th, 5th, 12th, 14th, and 15th to the low 60s on the 7th. Most of us accumulated 3-4 inches of rainfall during this period, putting us over the total monthly normal in just two weeks.

But, just as quickly as the spigots opened to allow all the wet weather, they were turned off for most of the remainder of the month. Drier and warmer air worked in starting on the 18th. High temperatures consistently reached into the 80s through the end of the month, putting us at above-normal temperature levels on most afternoons from the 18th through the 31st. Atmospheric moisture levels decreased significantly. There were still scattered thunderstorms around on some afternoons, but they were few and far between, producing no widespread rainfall except on the 23rd and 24th. After a very wet first half of the month, I think the dry and warm weather was a welcome pattern change, especially as we get ready to head into fall.

### 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 in some years a little snow can happen. 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 subfreezing temperatures usually occur during the third week of the month, so prepare those tender plants.

### August 2017 Weather Statistics

Average High	78.3° (-1.0)
100-year return frequency value max	83.9° min 72.9°
Average Low	49.0° (-0.3)
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	87° on the 19th
Lowest Temperature	43° on the 25th
Season to Date Snow	0.0"
	(the snow season is from July 1 to June 30)
Season to Date Precip.	5.63"

(-0.23", 5% below normal)

(the precip season is from July 1 to June 30)

Heating Degree Days 86 (+24)

Cooling Degree Days 18 (-25)

*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 writer is an OCN volunteer.*

### Safety is more important than speed

As a concerned resident who has three students attending three different schools in D38, I'm asking you to respect the law by slowing down, be respectful of others on the road, and stop for the school buses. The posted speed limit in a residential neighborhood is 25mph. This is not to be confused with the prima facie speed law enforcement may recite based on speed control device data.

Temporary solutions such as speed trailers and patrolling are helpful but isn't a permanent solution to our growing community. Bottom line is we need more patrol cars on the road. An El Paso County Sheriff's (EPSO) officer stated: "Please understand EPSO does patrol over 2,100 square miles of land mass and you may not always see a deputy there exactly when you want them, but we will take additional steps to help out." If we don't address our concerns, EPSO thinks it's a non-issue. We need your assistance in getting law enforcement out to protect our communities. The more complaints received, the better the data they have to support more patrol cars.

Please report your concerns. If you live or drive within the El Paso County area and witness a traffic incident, report it immediately. ESPO non-emergency number is 719-390-5555. If you reside in Monument, call 719-481-3253. Both departments need the plate number and a description of car and driver.

Also, contact your county engineer's, commissioner's office, and/or representative's office. Change needs to come from the highest levels of leadership and down the chain. Policymakers and elected officials need to make it crystal clear that safety is more important than speed. Change needs to come from an educated public. Five minutes of your time to report incidents can be a matter of life or death.

**Tammie Oatney**

### Unite to continue the excellence

I'm Sherri Hawkins and I'm running for re-election to the D-38 school board. I have been on the board for four years and currently serve as board president.

I'm a native of Colorado and attended Manitou Springs High School. I graduated from Ohio State, where I played D1 volleyball. I have taught high school in Colorado Springs. I have lived in Palmer Lake for 12 years and love the feeling of community that makes the town of Palmer Lake so special. When not working on school board business, I'm at Colorado Juniors Volleyball Club, where I have coached since 1999. I'm the parent of two kids who have the good fortune of attending Palmer Lake Elementary where they thrive in the caring environment.

D-38's excellence is tied to its great teachers and staff. As a former teacher, I understand the value of great teachers and the importance of retaining and

compensating them. I also know how important class size is to student learning. Through my kids, I have experienced how challenging large classes are to learning. Growth in the Monument area is impacting class size and other crowding at our schools. As the district works to address the growth, I am looking to the community for input and support of the best solution.

I know the value and importance of parent involvement. Excellence in D-38 is driven and enhanced by the parent volunteers who give their time and energy. I appreciate the dialog and advocacy parents bring.

We have motivated students, dedicated teachers, involved parents, and a supportive community. I hope to continue the excellence by uniting these groups so we achieve even greater successes.

**Sherrie Hawkins**

### Misunderstanding the D38 Numbers

I read the letter to the editor regarding "Understanding D38 Numbers" in the Aug. 5 issue of OCN with great interest as I believe it is important for members of our community to understand the importance of the "have not's" to our local district.

While never considering myself an "expert" in school finance I do have over 35 years of that experience in public school finance in Colorado. I have witnessed numerous changes to the school finance act over the years, but none was more significant than the failure of the state legislature to continue the funding of local districts as mandated by Amendment 23. The state did not have sufficient funds to fund all of their budget requests, so they instituted a "negative factor" that was applied to each district's funding calculated by the school finance act. As a result, local school districts have been shorted \$100's of millions that were basically promised under Amendment 23.

We all understand that if the state does not have adequate funding to meet all its obligations, all areas of state government are going to feel the effect. This "have not" calculation is important to the local district as it means that their long range financial projections became meaningless as they were going to lose millions of dollars in annual funding. The loss of these funds affects everything from being able to hire and retain outstanding teachers to adequate maintenance of facilities.

I would encourage all of the members of the community who consider running for the local school board to fully understand the intricacies of the Colorado School Finance Act and the full consequences of the "negative factor."

I was disappointed to hear that the author of "Understanding the D38 Numbers" apparently has withdrawn her candidacy for the local school board as her "financial expertise" has allegedly led to the loss of millions of dollars by her clients.

**Don Smith**