

rainfall from these events missed the region, staying just to our north and east. The exceptions were the 6th and 7th, when some areas along and west of I-25 were hit with locally heavy rainfall. This resulted in some brief flash flooding and a little hail in some spots.

Warm and dry air then moved in behind this active pattern over the next few days, bringing temperatures to just shy of record high levels on the 9th and 10th. Temperatures soared well into the 80s both afternoons under mainly clear skies. Bouts of high and midlevel clouds then held temperatures back to the upper 70s on the 11th, but also limited any chance of thunderstorms development, leading to dry and warm conditions.

Hot and dry conditions continued as we officially transitioned from spring to summer during the third week of June. High temperatures reached into the 80s on Monday the 19th. Temperatures continued to warm over the next few days with high temperatures closing in on record high territory on the 20th and 21st as highs reached the low 90s. Temperatures reached the upper 80s on the 22nd; still about 10 degrees warmer than normal, but big changes were about to move in.

A cold front (strong by late June standards) moved through during the mid-afternoon hours on the 22nd.

This was accompanied by gusty winds, and increasing low-level moisture as the flow turned upslope. This helped low clouds and fog develop quickly that evening. Drizzle and areas of rain showers developed by the next morning as well.

Also, the clouds and cooler temperatures held temperatures in the 50s on the afternoon of the 23rd, about 40 degrees colder than the previous few days! Temperatures then remained a little cooler than average through the weekend, with highs only reaching the low to mid-70s each day with areas of low clouds sticking around. Unfortunately, no significant rainfall occurred during the week. We did see areas of brief thunderstorms on the afternoon of the 20th and rain showers with the cold air on the 23rd, but neither of these events produced enough moisture to bring us out of the dry period we've seen most of this month.

The month ended with more of the same, mainly dry conditions and temperatures at or above normal. Some relief from the heat did return on the 30th, as a cooler northerly flow kept temperatures in the 70s and helped produce a few thunderstorms.

A look ahead

July can be an active weather month around the region, as the Southwest Monsoon season gets going. Afternoon and evening thunderstorms are a common

occurrence, and when they are able to tap into higher levels of moisture, flash flooding can result. Hot, stagnant weather can also take hold for a few days at time, with highs hitting well into the 90's.

June 2017 Weather Statistics

Average High	80.1° (+2.7°)
100-year return frequency value max	82.5° min 66.3°
Average Low	47.4° (+3.0°)
100-year return frequency value max	50.7° min 40.2°
Highest Temperature	91°F on the 20th
Lowest Temperature	38°F on the 3rd
Monthly Precipitation	0.24"
	(-1.71" 78% below normal)
100-year return frequency value max	6.94" min 0.15"
Monthly Snowfall	0.0"
	(-0.1" 100% below normal)
Season to Date Snow	97.8"
	(-24.5" 20% below normal)
	(the snow season is from July 1 to June 30)
Season to Date Precip	17.09"
	(-4.57" 22% below normal)
	(the precip season is from July 1 to June 30)
Heating Degree Days	86 (+12)
Cooling Degree Days	49 (+21)
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.

Tri-Lakes residents urged to join PPACG panel

It is just about impossible today to travel anywhere in El Paso or Teller Counties and not encounter orange cones. The cones are a clear sign that leaders across the region have placed new emphasis on repairing and improving area roads and bridges.

Just about every project has been reviewed and approved by regional leaders as part of the Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments (PPACG). In recent years, those projects have included the I-25 and Fillmore Street intersection; the I-25/Cimarron Street (U.S. 24) intersection, and I-25 widening from Academy Boulevard North to Monument. Current projects pending final funding include widening I-25 from Monument to Castle Rock

These projects, initially identified by local, county and state agencies, are reviewed and approved for funding by the PPACG staff and the PPACG board. In the process, technical experts and community representatives review each project to identify issues affecting their respective areas.

Today, northern El Paso County is underrepresented in the PPACG process. While Monument's mayor sits on the board itself, the Community Advisory Committee (CAC), which is charged with providing a more citizen-centric perspective, is missing the insights of a representative from the towns of Monument or Palmer Lake. (There are also three seats for El Paso County residents, but they are currently filled). The CAC meets monthly for about two hours and preparation (reviewing meeting materials) can take

another two to four hours, depending on the details of the agenda.

I strongly encourage any Tri-Lakes residents interested in being a community voice on this important committee to contact Monument Town Manager Chris Lowe, clowe@tomgov.org, or Palmer Lake Town Administrator Catherine Green-Sinnard, cathy@palmer-lake.org, and express your interest in either of the two positions. For more information on the CAC, see the PPACG website (www.ppacg.org) or contact Bethany Schoemer, bschoemer@ppacg.org.

James Moore
Chair, Community Advisory Council
Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments

Observe rules for trail vehicles

Hey everybody! Just a reminder that if you or your kids have non-registered and no Colorado plates on your UTVs, ATVs, and dirt bikes, you cannot drive on blacktop roads in Red Rock Ranch or on Mt. Herman Road. You can't ride until you get to the Y at the bottom of Mt. Herman. It is illegal and dangerous for them and the people walking down the road.

Please be responsible and stop. Trailer them to the bottom of Mt. Herman, and the speed limit up there is 20 mph, not 50 mph. Be careful everyone and wear helmets, which could save your life or mobility.

Thank you all very much.

Travis Jones

Proposed development alarms resident

I am writing to bring awareness to a situation that I never imagined could happen in Woodmoor—a covenant-protected community that has the reputation of being a place where one aspires to live precisely because it is off the beaten path and away from the relentless over-building that has taken place in other nearby neighborhoods—until I attended last Tues-

day's meeting at the Barn and discovered that a proposed new subdivision of 35 homes, similar to The Dunes being built on Woodmoor Drive, is about to be plopped on the scenic corner of Lake Woodmoor Drive and Lower Lake Road.

Two new roads will be built on both sides of Lake Woodmoor Drive in the short distance between Lower Lake Road and the spillway to accommodate these 35 homes to the detriment of dozens of existing residents in the immediate vicinity as well as hundreds of residents who use Lake Woodmoor Drive for egress.

Several years of construction activity on that corner will not only disturb the tranquility for residents anywhere near the area, but will also likely cause traffic (especially during LPES start and end times), pedestrian, and bike riding hazards. There is a good possibility that Lake Woodmoor Drive will also need to be widened, adding more construction inconveniences to the mix.

There are numerous important considerations that need to be taken into account before this project goes forward and it should not be rubber-stamped before all residents of Woodmoor who will be affected have their say. This is not a situation that WIA alone can prevent from happening because of a legal issue the developer won years ago. It is vital that residents express their concerns to the El Paso County Planning Commission and to county commissioners.

Sandra Yates

Editor's note: The proposed development is called The Beach at Woodmoor, and the meeting where Sandra Yates heard this was the Woodmoor Improvement Association (WIA) Architectural Control Committee meeting. OCN will report on this when and if it is discussed at WIA or at the El Paso County Planning Commission.

Between the Covers at Covered Treasures Bookstore

Great summer reads

By the staff at Covered Treasures Summer is finally here. No matter whether you are in the mountains of our glorious state, or on a sunny beach, or traveling by plane, car, or boat, enjoy these great summer reads!

"If you are going to get anywhere in life you have to read a lot of books."—Roald Dahl

"Wherever I am, if I've got a book with me, I have a place I can go and be happy."—J.K. Rowling

The Whip: A Novel

By Karen Kondazian Collier (Hansen Publishing Group) \$15

The Whip is inspired by the true story of a woman, Charlotte "Charley" Parkhurst (1812-79) who lived most of her extraordinary life as a man in the Old West. As a young woman in Rhode Island, she fell in love with a runaway slave and had his child. The de-

struction of her family drove her west to California, dressed as a man, to track the killer. Charley became a renowned stagecoach driver for Wells Fargo. She killed a famous outlaw, had a secret love affair, and lived with a housekeeper who, unaware of her true sex, fell in love with her. Charley was the first woman to vote in America in 1868 (as a man).

Stalking the Wild Dragonfly

By Nancy Rivest Green (Vishnu Temple Press) \$15.95
Nancy Rivest Green describes her personal encounters with wildlife in nature and presents scientific research on each creature for greater understanding.



She shares a unique perspective drawn from a lifetime of living in national parks with her ranger husband as well as her travels to wilderness areas all over the planet.

New Mexico: A Novel of the Old West

By Bert Entwistle (Black Mule Press) \$16

The late 19th century in the New Mexico Territory was a haven for outlaws who were being pushed out of their territory as civilization continued to move west. Jose Taylor was one of the last of the old-time man hunters tracking down the murderers, robbers, and rustlers working in the territory. His last warrant was for his longtime nemesis and cold-blooded murderer. Their final showdown will cost the life of one and scar the other for life. New Mexico is Entwistle's fifth novel based in the West.