

snow across the area from around 9 a.m. through 9 p.m. on the 18th. The heavy snow and strong winds resulted in poor driving conditions and closed roads in the area. Again, this storm was relatively mild, so the main impacts were areas above 7,000 feet. Although only about a 12-hour storm, it managed to drop 6-10 inches of snow and nearly three-quarters of an inch of liquid equivalent. Once the storm left, sunshine returned for the next two days and temperatures warmed up nicely, reaching the low to mid-50s from the 20th-21st.

Yet another quick-moving and intense storm affected the region starting in the mid-evening hours of the 21st and lasting through the afternoon of the 22nd. Unlike the previous two storms, this one was accompanied by a cold air mass. The high temperature on the 22nd was reached at midnight, with temperatures falling throughout the day. But more problematic were the very strong winds associated with this storm. Blizzard conditions quickly developed, causing drifts of 4-6 feet across the area. This shut down many roads and reduced visibilities significantly. A brief break after this storm allowed clear skies to return on the 23rd, but temperatures remained cool with the high just touching 40 degrees.

The next quick-moving storm raced through the

region from the north along with a strong cold front during the morning of the 24th. This band of snow lasted only for a few hours, but snow and wind caused problems during that timeframe. Temperatures were held below freezing that afternoon and the next as cold air continued to filter into the region. Temperatures slowly warmed on the 26th and 27th, reaching the upper 40s by the afternoon of the 27th, but once again this was ahead of another strong storm system.

The first effects of this storm were felt just after midnight on the 28th, with snow developing around 4 a.m. Cold air, snow, and wind continued to develop through the morning before the storm moved out by early afternoon. This last storm of the month produced 4-6 inches of wind-driven snow and another day of tough driving in the area.

The final few days of the month saw a return of dry conditions, with temperatures starting out below normal on the 29th, then reaching to above normal levels by the end of the month.

A look ahead

February is often a dry and cold month for the region as we move toward the snowy and unsettled conditions of March and April. Precipitation averages less than an inch, with average high temperatures in the

30s. It can get very cold in February with Arctic air making brief pushes into the region. However, days begin to get a little longer, which leads to some nice, sunny days and the snow that does fall begins to melt faster.

January 2019 Weather Statistics

Average High	40.8° (+0.7°)
100-year return frequency value max	48.4° min 30.8°
Average Low	16.1° (+3.5°)
100-year return frequency value max	26.6° min 6.6°
Highest Temperature	59° on the 95th
Lowest Temperature	-6° on the 1st
Monthly Precipitation	2.32"
	(+1.61" 326% above normal)
100-year return frequency value max	1.56" min 0.01"
Monthly Snowfall	38.6"
	(+25.3" 290% above normal)
Season to Date Snow	79.4"
	(+26.6" 150% above normal)
Season to Date Precip.	5.24"
	(+1.10" 126% above normal)
Heating Degree Days	1137 (+40)
Cooling Degree Days	0

Bill Kappel is a meteorologist and Tri-Lakes resident. He can be reached at billkappel@ocn.me.

Letters to Our Community

Guidelines for letters are on page 31.

Disclaimer: The information and opinions expressed in Letters to Our Community are the responsibility of the letter writers and should not be interpreted as the views of OCN even if the letter writer is an OCN volunteer.

Publisher's note

Some readers have expressed concern that since James Howald is an OCN volunteer, his letter ("Don't be fooled by deceptive 'solution'") in our Jan. 5 issue was based on inside information he obtained regarding the content of the ad that appeared on page 10 of that issue.

In the second paragraph of Howald's letter, he notes that the ad was posted on social media. He only knew about the ad and its content because Scott Saunders posted the ad on Facebook on Dec. 6 and stated that he was running it in OCN.

Any member of the public could have seen Saunders' post on Facebook and written a letter about it in time for publication in our Jan. 5 issue.

I am the only person in OCN who worked on the ad and I did not circulate it to anyone inside or outside OCN.

I want to assure our advertisers that advance information on ad content is not available to the general public or to OCN staff members other than those working on the ads.

John Heiser, OCN publisher, johnheiser@ocn.me

Isolating the effect of school quality on property values

Post-election time and once again our community did not pass a bond issue.

Many said, "I don't have kids in the district anymore, why should I spend more money when I have a fixed income?" but that argument is not valid, because whether you have a job, or are on retirement, we all have a "fixed" income.

Next, the facts. There are some great articles on the effect of school district mill levy/bond increases and home values. Paramita Dhar, *The Connecticut*

Economy, fall 2011, (www.ncef.org/content/isolating-effect-school-quality-property-values) wrote a perceptive article that surmises there is a way to compare home values and education spending using a couple of different statistical methods: OLS (ordinary least squares) data, and a DID model, to look at test scores from standardized testing and correlate these with changes in home values.

"The bottom line effect" from their research on Connecticut homes show that for Connecticut towns, school quality's effects on property values are indeed significant. I propose we in D-38 are not much different than those in Connecticut demographics.

To our community: Be "forward thinking" about your property values, whether you have children in school or not. Do you think people rush to buy property in Harrison School District? No. Lewis-Palmer is known nationally as one of the best school districts.

To School District 38: Please make the ballot wording concise and focused. Then educate the community. Why do you need the money? Offer tours so the community can come to the schools and show them the overcrowding problems. Educate us on why we should give more of our income.

I believe that as a community we truly want to help, but help us help you.

Bill Normile

Neighbors band together to save open space

Most of us chose to live here in beautiful Monument on purpose and for many of the same reasons: beautiful scenery, wildlife, hiking, sunshine, open spaces. Three of those four items are currently threatened in the community of Woodmoor (south side, behind Lewis-Palmer High School). There is currently a swath of open space, owned by the Walters family, which was originally intended to be a golf course, but then

informally decided to be left as a conservation easement. Now, the family has put this land up for sale.

A group of homeowners in South Woodmoor has been working very hard for months to stop the land from being sold to a developer. Many residents in the area enjoy this open space: walking themselves and their dogs, biking, running, and just looking at the views and wildlife out their windows. Isn't enough of Monument's land up for sale? Why can't we leave some of it open, especially existing land like this that is already in the middle of a neighborhood?

Will you help us save our open space? Go to www.gofundme.com/save-south-woodmoor-co-open-space for more information and to donate today! If we can acquire this land, we have plans to improve the trail and possibly make it more accessible for more of the Monument community to enjoy. Most of our residents who border this property have pledged large amounts of money, but it's still not enough to meet our goal to acquire the land so that we can keep it open forever. Thank you to those who have donated so far!

Walters Open Space Committee (see ad on page 32)

Commissioner Williams reaches out

I am honored to represent the citizens of Commissioner District 1 on the El Paso Board of County Commissioners. I am always interested in hearing your thoughts and opinions and wanted to share my email address with you. For most communications, I prefer emails and can be reached at hollywilliams@elpasoco.com. This is especially important for land use matters as I can then forward your comments to the Planning Department, so your comments are an official part of the county record. I am also available by cell phone at 719-374-0856 or by contacting me on my office phone at 719-520-6411. I look forward to working with you.

Commissioner Holly Williams ■

Between the Covers at Covered Treasures Bookstore

Biographies, autobiographies, memoirs

By the staff at Covered Treasures

"In the case of good books, the point is not to see how many of them you can get through, but rather how many can get through to you."—Mortimer J. Adler

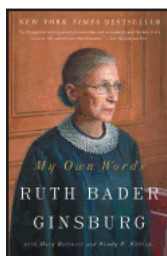
"The reading of all good books is like conversation with the finest men of past centuries."—René Descartes

Biographies, autobiographies, and memoirs are like conversations with the finest men and women of both the past and present. How many can get through to you?

My Own Words

By Ruth Bader Ginsburg with Mary Hartnett and Wendy W. Williams (Simon & Schuster) \$18

In this collection Justice Ginsburg discusses gender equality, the workings of the Supreme Court,



being Jewish, and the value of looking beyond U.S. shores when interpreting the U.S. Constitution. This book's sampling is selected by Justice Ginsburg and her authorized biographers, Mary Hartnett and Wendy W. Williams, who introduce each chapter and provide biographical context and quotes gleaned from hundreds of interviews.

Code Girls: The Untold Story of the American Women Code Breakers of World War II

By Liza Mundy (Hachette) \$16.99

This award-winning bestseller documents the contributions of more than 10,000 American women who served as codebreakers during World War II, detailing how their efforts shortened the war, saved countless lives, and enabled their subsequent careers. A strict vow of secrecy nearly erased their efforts from history. Now, through research and interviews with surviving code girls, Liza Mundy brings to life this vital story of courage, service, and scientific accomplishment.

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