

**May 2019 Weather Statistics**

Average High **56.7°** (-10.4°)  
 100-year return frequency value max **75.7°** min **57.9°**  
 Average Low **33.1°** (-5.1°)  
 100-year return frequency value max **43.2°** min **32.5°**  
 Highest Temperature **76° on the 15<sup>th</sup>**  
 Lowest Temperature **26° on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>**

Monthly Precipitation **3.27"**  
 (+0.63" 25% above normal)  
 100-year return frequency value max **6.94"** min **0.15"**  
 Monthly Snowfall **23.2"**  
 (+17.5" 20% above normal)  
 Season to Date Snow **163.1"**  
 (+40.7" 25% above normal)  
*(the snow season is from July 1 to June 30)*

Season to Date Precip **9.23"**  
 (+0.16" 2% above normal)  
*(the precip season is from July 1 to June 30)*  
 Heating Degree Days **623** (+197)  
 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.

### D38—apparently the truth hurts

I have been getting attacked personally and professionally on social media and in the newspaper. Why? Because while the naysayers don't like my message about D38 and education, they are unable to prove me wrong. So, their alternative is character assassination. The naysayers won't speak to the increase in the past 20-plus years of federal requirements regarding special education that requires the utilization of classroom and office space that wasn't required in the past (such as OT, PT, Speech/Language, and other services). Currently, seven different classrooms at LPMS are being utilized for special education students. Another classroom is utilized by English Second Language students, and another classroom for GT students. That's nine learning spaces! The naysayers simply divide the number of kids as if all students are the same.

I have encouraged the naysayers to investigate brain-based research on how kids learn best; what middle schools have to offer sixth-grade students; and what public schools must provide in order to meet the needs of special education students. Special education students can be someone who needs help processing information; someone who suffers from the many forms of autism; someone who is easily overwhelmed by stimulus (and cannot be in large classrooms or in large groups during lunch or assemblies); or someone who requires all of the basic life needs be provided at the school (feeding, toileting, medicines). When people don't know something, it is usually due to one of three reasons: they don't know, they don't understand, or they don't care. The naysayers don't know (though I have encouraged them to learn), they don't understand, and they don't care. I encourage you to care enough to take the time to know and understand. I am not afraid of the truth. The naysayers are afraid of me, and people like me, who are informed.

**Terry Miller**

### A school bond developed with community feedback

Many did not support last year's school bond. As a school board we asked our community to tell us why. Here's some of what they said: Non-specific bond language with phrase "to include but not limited to;" "blank check"; not clear how the money would be spent; Bond-funded items other than just a new school; Unclear financing; Tax increase; No "Pro" statements in blue book.

Growth is not going away. Our middle school is full and many of our elementary schools are nearing capacity. No one is debating growth; we need a second middle school and additional elementary capacity. What if your school board came up with a bond for a single school that addressed the community's concerns without raising taxes? Could you support it?

Your school board is working on a bond for this fall which will build a new school without increasing residential property taxes. The bond wording will be specific with "solely for" replacing "to include but not limited to." Voters will know where every penny is going! The school board listened to your feedback and we are putting together a bond based on what you told us. We continue to work on the details. However, what has been decided is that this bond will be for one school only, nothing else; the district will pay for any additional costs not covered in the bond.

There will be meetings leading up to the election to provide facts and answer questions. Visit [www.lewispalmer.org](http://www.lewispalmer.org) and click "2019 Bond Info" to get information concerning the bond and our school district. Feel free to contact a school board member if you have feedback or questions.

**Mark Pfoff**

D38 Board of Education



**Above:** LPHS After Prom. Photo provided by Karen Shuman.

### LPHS After Prom thanks

Thanks to our great community of parents, LP staff, and students, After Prom was a huge success! We had over 400 students attend the event.

Many school districts do not offer an After Prom, as the planning and coordination involved take a substantial amount of time and money. Both District 38 high schools have such a dedicated group of staff, parents and community patrons, that we have been able to make After Prom a yearly tradition.

Much of the financial support comes from local businesses and families. We would like to recognize the following: Bella Calla Flora and Botanical Studio, Al's Formal Wear, Arapahoe Basin Ski & Snowboard Area, Back East Bar and Grille, Briargate Qdoba Mexican Grill, City Rock, Coca-Cola Refreshments, Denver Museum of Nature & Science, Dickey's BBQ, Deuces Wild Casino Rentals, Dion's Pizza, Hamula Orthodontics, Horseshoe Donuts, Hyland Hills Park & Rec., Loveland Ski Area, Jimmy John's, King Soopers, Safeway, Walmart, Chick-fil-A, Papa John's, Santa's Workshop/North Pole, Rocky Mountain Vibes, Sports Clips, Target, Tri-Lakes Printing, and Village Inn, as well as the Barkocy, Brainard, Heins, Jackson, Jameson, Larsen, Merrell, Mobley, Oliger, Limas, Shuman, Wakefield, and Witt families.

We had over 100 volunteers who helped with everything from mailing invitations to building props, artwork for invitations, posters, and tickets, selling tickets, decorating, working on the night of the event, and cleaning up the day after.

A very special thank you goes to the After Prom committee of Laura Barkocy, Bill Cade, Julie Cook, Melanie Davis, Laurie Devine, Gretchen Donisi, Marcy Hudson, Kristin Merrell, Melanie Oliver, Nicole Pritchard, Lauralyn Purdham, and Karen Tucker.

**Karen Shuman and Michelle Oliger**

LPHS After Prom co-chairs

### 2019 bond initiative for LPSD 38

Critical thinking is grounded in logical thinking which presupposes evaluation of facts before any judgment is expressed on such facts. Before joining the LPSD 38 Board of Education ("board"), I promised myself to be open minded while using critical thinking before making any judgement as one member of the board. I've done significant research about the historical and current state of capacity and enrollment within LPSD 38.

What I have learned is that the board's request for your support of its 2019 bond is a sound request. There is ample evidence to support the claim that "D38 has a real middle school overcrowding problem."

There are diverse perspectives in our commu-

nity. Thankfully! However, we will see opposition expressed in social media blogs by "experts" who have confirmation biases (the idea that people seek out only data that confirms their pre-existing ideas). There are no conspiracy theories.

My perspective is that we can use an honest approach to critical thinking. At times, we let our emotions make judgments when we should stop, take a breath, and use our critical thinking skills. Fear mongering is not OK, and it's not going to disappear just because we want it to. How do we protect ourselves from it? Research. Critical thinking. Time. We need to take the time necessary to form our own opinions and judgments. It is easier to read a social media blog than to read actual research. However, we will not adequately shield ourselves from misinformation if we do not put in the effort.

There is significant evidence to support the decision the board made to pursue the 2019 bond.

The board is providing capacity and enrollment facts on the LPSD 38 website. Please view it from a critical thinking perspective as you determine your support for the 2019 bond.

**Chris Taylor**

Treasurer, D38 Board of Education

### Public and their dogs need to stay away from moose

No one was more frustrated and upset with the events surrounding the moose in Monument than the staff at Colorado Parks and Wildlife, whose job is to protect human health and safety as well as that of the wildlife.

On Friday morning May 3, we responded to calls from the Monument Police Department about a moose running in and out of traffic on Highway 105 near the Santa Fe Trail.

A team of six wildlife officers and staff responded in multiple trucks and with a livestock trailer. We needed to get the moose on dry ground, away from traffic, where we could tranquilize it, carry it to the trailer and relocate it to a less-populated area. To carry a 700-pound moose, it takes six to eight people. It's not a project undertaken in wetlands.

Unfortunately, social media had whipped some people into a frenzy and they were out trying to find and follow the moose.

Our officers even became victims of the frenzy. People began following our trucks as we moved up and down the waterways tracking the moose. Several times we were blocked by the vehicles of people chasing us off-road.

The moose stayed on the run from all the pressure. Eventually one of our officers herded it into some willows where it bedded down for several hours, where many people approached it, with dogs, putting all in jeopardy. Moose view dogs as a predator and a threat. Often when moose see a threat they will attack, rather than run away. This poses a real danger to dogs and their humans.

CPW stayed with the moose until dark and planned to reassess the situation in the morning. Clearly it decided it was facing too much pressure in Monument and decided to move on.

The next day, there was a tragic wreck between a moose and a vehicle on Interstate 25 near Monument. We can not verify if this was the same moose.

**Bill Vogrin**

Public Information Officer,  
 Colorado Parks and Wildlife ■

### Between the Covers at Covered Treasures Bookstore

## Enjoying the great outdoors

By the staff at Covered Treasures

"Your mountain is waiting, so get on your way."—  
 Dr. Seuss

June is a great time to get outside and enjoy this wonderful state. Here are a few books to delve into about our great outdoors.

**Best Tent Camping Colorado; 5th Edition**

By Kim Lipker and Johnny Molloy (Menasha Ridge Press) \$15.95

This resource guide provides detailed maps of 50 campgrounds in five distinct Colorado regions; key information such as fees, restrictions, dates of op-