

100-year return frequency value max **22.4°** min **5.4°**
 Monthly Precipitation **0.56"**
 (-0.45", 45% below normal)
 100-year return frequency value max **2.82"** min **0.00"**
 Monthly Snowfall **9.1"**
 (-8.6", 49% below normal)

Highest Temperature **61° on the 22nd**
 Lowest Temperature **-1° on the 16th, 17th**
 Season to Date Snow **63.7"**
 (+24.2", 38% above normal)
 (the snow season is from Oct 1 to Sept 30)
 Season to Date Precip. **3.89"**

(+0.46", 12% above normal)
 (the snow season is from Oct 1 to Sept 30)
 Heating Degree Days **1090** (-137)
 Cooling Degree Days **0** (0)
 Bill Kappel is a meteorologist and Tri-Lakes resident.
 He can be reached at billkappel@ocn.me.

Corrections to the Dec. 7 issue of OCN

By Jennifer Kaylor, OCN Managing Editor
 The article, "Citizens for a Better Palmer Lake, Nov. 20: Members vote on next steps," should have identified the woman in the photo as Christie Ramshur, not Christie Rancher. OCN reported that Ramshur "stressed the need for the trustees to return to serving the citizens." Ramshur corrected the statement to

reflect her belief that "every trustee agreed to serve as a trustee in an effort to serve the citizens" and never indicated that they need to return to serving.

The article, "Palmer Lake Town Council, Nov. 14: Council hears update on bridge," should have identified the person speaking on behalf of Awake the Lake as Darin Dawson, not Derek Austin.

The snapshot, "Bomb threat at Wal-Mart, Dec. 5," should have reported the date as Dec. 4. Also, the estimated loss in sales of \$75,000 by a department manager has not been confirmed.

OCN regrets the errors and thanks readers for bringing them to our attention.
 Jennifer Kaylor can be contacted at editor@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.

Note: The letters this month are arranged in alphabetical order by the submitter's last name.

Monument Academy: poised for the future

As a longtime resident of District 38, it's fitting that I am now part of the excellent education happening here. I have brought a unique skill set to add to others in the education community here in D38, and I look forward to doing my part to help educate our community's children. In 2020, Monument Academy will add hundreds of seats across elementary, middle school, and high school grades 9 and 10.

As the newly named chief operating officer of Monument Academy, I am proud to partner with our students, educators, families, and community to ensure we achieve Monument Academy's mission. Our mission produces students who learn from the past, value the present, and are equipped for the future.

I have accepted the position as chief operating officer at a time of program growth and have accepted the charge of working to strengthen the current program and to establish an upper school that will fulfill the powerful work started with MA's students from

preschool through eighth grades. It fulfills my heart's passion to open a high school program focused on a full scope of fine arts from the artistic performance to the industrial, engineering and science, as well as offering various pathways leading to higher education or directly into a chosen profession. This is a great and providential time to be part of the MA community, and I fully embrace this opportunity to lead and to serve in an honorable fashion, holding integrity and transparency as a top priority. Monument Academy has achieved success on many levels, and I wish to build upon this strong legacy.

Visit our website at www.monumentacademy.net to learn more about our new campus, high school offerings and more!

Christianna Herrera
 Chief Operating Officer
 Monument Academy

D38 decision makers— can you hear us now?

After two years of voters expressing their displeasure with wasteful bond initiatives, D38 still doesn't get it. A D38 ad and board member comment in the December OCN claim a "recent historical pattern of anti-education tax sentiment in our community" and "a strong voice in the community which does not support public education." The leadership has not been

listening. There is only an "anti-wasteful spending of tax dollars" sentiment in the community. No sane person is against education.

I would venture to guess that taxpayers of D38 are one of the more highly educated groups in the area. We do not need to be "educated" to better support the schools; we need to be told the truth and then we will gladly work with suggested fiscally responsible options to support the future of our community. But the board has to listen. As one board member stated, they (the board) failed when the bond failed (twice).

The new superintendent is off to the right start by requesting long-term facilities planning. We do not have a capacity problem; we have an allocation problem between schools. Student population is down this year by 131 per OCN (<https://www.ocn.me/v19n12.htm#d38-1104>). Choice enrollment was rightfully closed to those outside the district. And for the first time, I read about increasing developer impact fees (BINGO) to pay for new schools. What a novel concept! Assess costs against those who profit the most.

As long as the board continues to put more time, money, and effort into spinning and marketing their solutions, as opposed to listening to the community, no new school bond will ever pass. Hard decisions regarding the allocation of limited funding start in our homes and should continue in our community. That's a lesson all kids should learn.

Patrick Kiernan ■

Between the Covers at Covered Treasures Bookstore

Great way to start the new year

By the staff at Covered Treasures

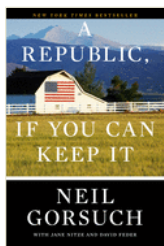
"Books can be dangerous. The best ones should be labeled 'This could change your life.'" —Helen Exley

The new year brings a time of reflection and new beginnings. Get inspiration from some great biographies and memoirs:

A Republic If You Can Keep It

By Neil Gorsuch (Crown Forum) \$30

As Benjamin Franklin left the Constitutional Convention, he was reportedly asked what kind of government the founders would propose. He replied, "A republic, if you can keep it." In this book, Justice Neil Gorsuch reflects on his journey to the Supreme Court, the role of judges under our Constitution, and the vital responsibility of each American to keep our republic strong. Gorsuch reveals some of the events that have shaped his life and outlook, from his upbringing in Colorado to his Supreme Court confirmation process.



Love Does: Discover a Secretly Incredible Life in an Ordinary World

By Bob Goff (Nelson Books) \$17.99

As a college student, he spent 16 days in the Pacific Ocean with five guys and a crate of canned meat. As a father, he took his kids on a world tour to eat ice cream with heads of state. He made friends in Uganda, and they liked him so much he became the Ugandan consul. He pursued his wife for three years before she agreed to date him. His grades weren't good enough to get into law school, so he sat on a bench outside the dean's office until they finally let him enroll. Bob Goff has become something of a legend, and his friends consider him the world's best-kept secret. Light and fun, unique and profound, the lessons drawn from Goff's life and attitude just might inspire you to be se-

cretly incredible, too.

Tesla: Inventor of the Modern

By Richard Munson (W.W. Norton & Co.) \$16.95

Nikola Tesla invented radio, robots, and remote control. His electric induction motors run our appliances and factories. In the early 1900s, he designed plans for cell phones, the internet, death-ray weapons, and interstellar communication. His ideas have lived on to shape the modern economy, yet he has been largely overlooked by history. Drawing on letters, technological notebooks, and other primary sources, Richard Munson presents a comprehensive portrait of this farsighted and underappreciated mastermind.

Edison

By Edmund Morris (Random House) \$38

Thomas Edison is mostly remembered for the gift of universal electric light, but we have him to thank for so much more. In all, this near-deaf genius patented 1,093 inventions, not including others such as the X-ray fluoroscope that he left unlicensed for the benefit of medicine. This biography portrays the unknown Edison. Morris spent seven years of research among the 5 million pages of original documents preserved in Edison's laboratory, and had privileged access to family papers still held in trust.

Year of the Monkey

By Patti Smith (Alfred A. Knopf) \$24.95

As Smith heads toward a new decade in her own life, she offers her wisdom, wit, gimlet eye, and above all, a rugged hope for a better world. Riveting, elegant, often humorous, illustrated by Smith's signature Polaroids, *Year of the Monkey* is a moving and original work.

Home Work: A Memoir of My Hollywood Years

By Julie Andrews, Emma Walton Hamilton (Hachette Books), \$30

In this follow-up to her critically acclaimed memoir, *Home*, Julie Andrews shares reflections on her astonishing career and rise to fame, along with dealing with the demands of unimaginable success, being a new mother, the end of her first marriage, embracing two stepchildren, adopting two more children, and falling in love with Blake Edwards. Co-written with her daughter, it is funny, heartrending, and inspiring.

How to Treat People: A Nurse's Notes

By Molly Case (W.W. Norton & Co.) \$25.95

As a nurse, Molly Case cares for her patients, sharing not only their pain but also life-affirming moments of hope. Weaving together medical history, art, memoir, and science, *How to Treat People* explores the rhythms of life and death in a tender reminder that



Happy 2020! My wishes for a fantastic New Year with happiness, health, and prosperity!

If you need help buying or selling a home, call me. I'd be honored to help you achieve your goals in real estate!

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