

be deferred to WIA, and water issues will be deferred to Woodmoor Water. The discussion is about a 60/40 split between single-family and two-story units while taking into consideration obstructing views. Proterra is looking to take its proposal to the county in early May.

Board highlights

- The board voted unanimously to replace the oldest WPS Jeep with a 2020 Jeep Cherokee, with a cost not to exceed \$34,000 from the reserve account.
- The board voted unanimously to replace an older

administrative Jeep with a four-wheel-drive Dodge Ram pickup truck with a toolbox and bedliner for a cost not to exceed \$27,000 from reserves.

- Common Area Director Wretschko said 60 trees will be addressed starting March 2 to mitigate, remove limbs, or remove whole trees depending on their condition, in the least invasive manner possible.

The WIA Board of Directors usually meets at 7 p.m. on

the fourth Wednesday of each month in the Barn at 1691 Woodmoor Drive, Monument. The next meeting has been moved to April 29 due to schedule conflicts.

The WIA calendar can be found at www.woodmoor.org/wia-calendar/. WIA board meeting minutes can be found at www.woodmoor.org/meeting-minutes/ once approved and posted.

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February Weather Wrap

By Bill Kappel

After a dry, relatively warm, and uneventful January, things changed quickly in February. For the month, temperatures were well below normal and snowfall was well above normal.

However, this change would have been hard to imagine after the first two days of the month as temperatures reached into the 60s both afternoons, peaking at 64 F on the 2nd, a new daily record high. But that was it for warmth for the rest of the month, with temperatures never getting above the low 50s the remainder of the month.

This change started with a cold front passing through just before midnight on the 2nd. The high for the 3rd of 32 F occurred at midnight. Light snow developed as cold air continued to filter in, with 2-4 inches accumulating through the region. The airmass was quite cold with the system as well, with temperatures only reaching the low teens on the 4th and lows dipping well below zero on the 4th and 5th. The next system was quickly approaching the region, and after a quiet and cold day on the 5th, brought snow back to the region from the late afternoon of the 6th through the late afternoon of the 7th. This storm also had a little more moisture to work with, producing 10-12 inches of new snow across the region.

A brief and quick warmup moved in between systems on the 8th with highs briefly jumping back above freezing that afternoon, reaching the mid- to upper 40s before another cold front moved through that evening. This brought a reinforcing shot of cold air and light snowfall. Temperatures were stuck in the 20s each afternoon from the 9th through the 13th, with light snow each day totaling 3-6 inches across the region. Winds were also strong at times, and this created areas of blowing snow and icy roads.

Amazingly, over this nearly two-week period, we were below freezing for 237 hours from Feb. 3 through Feb. 14. This period was interrupted for only about 13 hours from the mid-morning to late evening on the 8th. This is an exceptionally long streak of below-freezing weather in a region that normally experiences wild fluctuations in temperatures, none generally lasting more

than a few days.

Temperatures finally rebounded above freezing for a few consecutive days from the 14th through 17th. This signaled the start of a more “normal” period of back and forth between cold and mild and dry and snowy which held through the end of the month.

The brief quiet weather held through the early afternoon of the 17th when a cold front moved through followed by low clouds and light snow that afternoon and evening. Temperatures were once again held below freezing from the 18th through the 20th. During this period, another 4-8 inches of snow accumulated, and temperatures again dipped below zero on the morning of the 20th. However, temperatures quickly warmed the next couple of days with highs reaching the low 50s on the 21st and 22nd and when combined with the stronger sunshine, this helped to melt some of the recently accumulated snowfall.

But this reprieve from snow and cold was short-lived again, with the next storm beginning to affect the region during the early morning of the 23rd. During the next three days, another 4-8 inches of snow accumulated. This period was punctuated with a strong shot of cold air, with the high only reaching the teens on the 25th and dipping below zero on the morning of the 26th. Finally, for the last three days of the month, quiet conditions re-



Above: As temperatures hover near 60 degrees on Groundhog Day, Feb. 2, a couple sits on a Fox Run Park bench as the last rays of sun for the day filter through the trees. Only two days later, temperatures plummeted, and snow returned for what seemed the remainder of the month. *Photo by David Futey.*

turned, with temperatures slowly warming through the 40s on the 27th to low 50s on the 28th and 29th.

Importantly, it wasn't just the Palmer Divide that received ample snowfall and cold temperatures, but the mountains also benefited significantly. Several locations, especially along and north of the I-70 corridor, received record amounts of snow for the month, with several locations accumulating more than 100 inches during the month. This, of course, is very important for Colorado as we head into spring and summer and will ensure plenty of water doing forward. Of course, we have to hope the spring melt season behaves, with a long, slow melt season so we don't have any major flooding issues.

A look ahead

March is known for a wide range of weather conditions in the region. We can see 70° temperatures one afternoon and blizzard conditions the next. Many of us remember the blizzard of March 2003 when we received 30-50 inches of snowfall that shut down the region. However, snow that does fall begins to melt quickly this time of the year, providing beneficial moisture for our plants as we head into spring.

February 2020 Weather Statistics

Average High	35.5° (-4.3°)
100-year return frequency value	max 51.9° min 32.8°
Average Low	11.3° (-1.7°)
100-year return frequency value	max 21.9° min 3.7°
Highest Temperature	64° on the 2nd
Lowest Temperature	-9° on the 5th
Monthly Precipitation	1.59"
	(+1.65" 59% above normal)
100-year return frequency value	max 2.10" min 0.02"
Monthly Snowfall	32.9"
	(+15.2", 54% above normal)
Season to Date Snow	100.1"
	(+29.6", 30% above normal)
Season to Date Precip.	5.70"
	(+0.62", 11% above normal)
Heating Degree Days	1164 (+126)
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.

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

Does D38 still deserve the \$4 million in additional MLO funding?

In 1999, voters generously granted D38 an additional \$4 million a year in perpetuity from local taxpayers. The funds were supposed to be used for staff funding (teachers' pay), among other things. In the 12 years I have lived here, district officials have wasted millions of dollars, on occasion flushing a million at a time. Here are a few examples:

They paid \$400,000 to dismiss a new superintendent with no observable job performance problems and two years left on his contract. They wasted \$1.5 million paying back a Certificate of a Participation loan that they “accidentally” took out with a pre-payment penalty. They spent \$1.5 million on architectural plans for a school without voter approval, whose construction voters have since twice defeated because it won't address

growth effectively. They ended up paying a nauseating \$600,000 over and above the approved estimate for the (mostly unneeded) modulars that appeared after the last election.

Meanwhile, D38 started charging parents for busing and raised fees for student parking, sports, and school supplies, to the point of forcing parents to furnish copy paper and tissues to their kids' classrooms. Worse yet, district surrogates and more than a few teachers and staff have subjected our community to insulting campaigns, calling area residents public education haters, student haters, teacher haters, and “the cheapest affluent community they have ever seen.”

Let's face it. This community is now paying for a “public servant” culture of waste and abuse. It's time to consider repealing that \$4 million MLO. We shouldn't have to pay, only to watch it wasted, just so they turn around and constantly cry for more. At an additional 10% in your real estate tax bill every year, don't you think that you can spend that money better?

See the following links:
<https://bit.ly/2Tg7dil>
<https://bit.ly/3akaFOx>
<https://bit.ly/2x4Qc29>
<https://bit.ly/3adDbRU>

Derek Araje
 #JustAskDerek

20 years of tail-waggin' tales!

It is with great sadness that Carnival Cat & Canine Care LLC is closing. Our “bed & biscuit,” located in Palmer Lake, has been caring for precious pets for the last two decades.

I wanted to say thank you to everyone in the Tri-Lakes area that has given me and our team the pleasure and privilege of caring for one or more of their fur family.

I recently was diagnosed with ALS, a fast-moving condition that is not treatable or reversible.

I feel blessed that I have 20 years of memories and jolts of joy from so many great times from playing “catch me if you can” ... to 5:00 yappy hour to cranking up the music and singing and dancing for the pooches staying overnight—some just stared but most wagged their tails.

As I embark upon this “new journey” please know that 20 years of tail-waggin' tales will brighten my future days!

Dayna Carnival

Between the Covers at Covered Treasures Bookstore

March mystery madness

By the staff at Covered Treasures

“Reading mysteries: the recreation of intelligent minds.”—Donna Andrews

March is a month of basketball and spring break. It's also a great time to hunker down with some good mysteries, whether you are staying at home or traveling.

Auntie Poldi and the Vineyards of Etna

By Mario Giordano (Mariner Books)
 \$15.99

Auntie Poldi is ready for some peace and quiet in Sicily. When the water supply to her neighborhood is cut off



and a dear friend's dog is poisoned (telltale signs that a certain familial organization is flexing its muscles), Poldi knows there will be no resolution without her help. She soon finds a body in a vineyard, tangles with the Mafia, and yet again makes herself unpopular in the pursuit of justice.