

cleared a substantial amount of material. Non-residents are charged a nominal fee.

- The board reported that income is down slightly from Barn and office rentals but is being offset by building fees and HOA checks. WIA is running at 4.5% under projected expenses and still projecting a surplus.
- Residents must still make an appointment to speak to someone in the office.
- Board member Brad Gleason reported that WPS received final approval to join FirstNet by AT&T, a wireless communications network for public

safety entities. It provides reduced cost, network priority during incidents, and interoperability with other local first responders. WIA is the second homeowners association in the United States to be approved. See more information at <http://firstnet.com>.

- Bush noted that it has been an extraordinarily dry summer and commended residents for maintaining their yards by cutting down tall grass to minimize fire danger.
- Wild Duck Pond and Lower Twin Pond were restocked with fish on July 30. See photo on page 24.

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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 will be Sept. 23. The WIA calendar can be found at [www.woodmoor.org/wia-calendar/](http://www.woodmoor.org/wia-calendar/). WIA board meeting minutes can be found at [www.woodmoor.org/meeting-minutes/](http://www.woodmoor.org/meeting-minutes/) once approved and posted.

Jackie Burhans can be reached at [jackieburhans@ocn.me](mailto:jackieburhans@ocn.me).

## August Weather Wrap

By Bill Kappel

Very warm and generally dry conditions were in place for almost the entire month of August. Temperatures averaged almost 5°F above normal for the month, with the average high temperature exceeding the 1% chance of occurrence (greater than a 1 in 100-year event). Precipitation for the month was also well below normal for most of the region, as the hot, dry weather kept the usual influx of moisture from the desert Southwest at bay.

The first three days of the month were an exception, as temperatures averaged slightly below normal with highs in the low to mid-80s on the 1st and 2nd, then mid-70s on the 3rd. Warmer air began to work into the region quickly with high temperatures hitting the low 90s on the 4th before dipping back into the 80s on the 5th and 6th.

Consistently warm weather held tight over the next couple of weeks with each afternoon reaching the mid-80s to low 90s. The warmest days were the 7th, when we again reached the low 90s, and the period from the 18th through the 26th. Several daily record highs occurred over this period. To make matters worse, several large wildfires erupted in the mountains. This, combined with the general west/northwesterly air flow aloft, brought high levels of smoke to the region. This made for some

unpleasant conditions during the day, but also produce several vivid sunsets.

Finally, some relief from the heat arrived during the last week of the month with temperatures finally returning to below normal levels.

Even with all the hot and dry weather, there were a few days that experienced widespread areas of thunderstorm activity and brief heavy rainfall. The wettest days were the 19th and the 26th when lines of thunderstorms and brief heavy rain moved through the region from the northwest to the southeast. Fortunately, most of us missed out on damaging hail, but not by much, as severe thunderstorms did bring damaging hail to the south and west side of Colorado Springs during the afternoon of the 5th.

### A look ahead

September is a transition month for the region, with the last tastes of summer mixed in with our first morning freezes. Leaves begin to change by the end of the month as well, and in some years a little snow can happen. The overall weather pattern is generally one of tranquility, with our chances for thunderstorms dwindling and blizzard conditions not quite ready for prime time. We are often greeted with sunny, pleasant afternoons, with

highs from the mid-70s early in the month to the mid-60s later in the month. Our first sub-freezing low temperatures usually occur during the third week of the month, so prepare those tender plants.

### August 2020 Weather Statistics

Average High	84.6° (+5.2)
100-year return frequency value max	83.9° min 72.9°
Average Low	52.3° (+3.0)
100-year return frequency value max	55.2° min 46.8°
Monthly Precipitation	1.44" (-1.46")
	(55% below normal)

100-year return frequency value max	6.07" min 0.94"
Monthly Snowfall	0.0"

Highest Temperature	92° on the 18th
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Lowest Temperature	42° on the 31st
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Season to Date Snow	0.0"
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(the snow season is from July 1 to June 30)

Season to Date Precip.	3.08" (+3.14")
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(50% below normal)

(the precip season is from October 1 to September 30)

Heating Degree Days	13 (-49)
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Cooling Degree Days	127 (+84)
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Bill Kappel is a meteorologist and Tri-Lakes resident.

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## 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.*

### Resume activities and athletics for students

I would like to publicly recognize the courageous and consistent leadership of LPSD Superintendent KC Somers and the School Board. During unprecedented times, they collaborated with parents, educators, and students to make the courageous decision to reopen schools to in-class learning. Concerns have been expressed by some educators over risks they may face due to exposure to COVID-19. I encourage LPSD to develop plans to address their fears by providing an alternative work-from-home policy.

Research has shown students involved in athletics or activities perform more effectively in their studies. Active students are also well-adjusted, less prone to use drugs or alcohol and suffer less from depression and sui-

cide.

This June a CDC study found that there has been a shocking increase in substance abuse and decline in mental health with 25.5% of youth seriously considering suicide and 74.9% with adverse mental or behavioral symptoms. This is a red flag as we live in the county with the most suicides in Colorado!

COVID-19 has caused hospitalizations and loss of life, but least affected are school-age youth. As of Aug. 14, CDC reports 247 hospitalizations nationally among youth that didn't have underlying conditions, with one death.

This death of a school-age child matters, yet the impact on mental health of our youth without access to group activities and athletics makes clear that more students will likely die from suicide in Colorado this fall than from contracting COVID-19.

Let us act upon the fears of educators and accommodate them as much as possible, restate our commitment to in-class learning for students, and come to-

gether as a community to stand with LPSD. Lastly, group activities and athletics must resume immediately for the wellbeing of our students since every death is tragic whether from COVID-19, suicide, or other cause.

**Brent Byrnes**

### The right words

Throughout the years, I've often struggled finding the "right words" when expressing my sympathy and condolences to someone grieving the loss of a loved one. Like many, I've often said, "If there's anything I can do, just let me know." While sincere, that expression can easily be interpreted as perfunctory, perhaps even trite.

Recently, I happened onto the words that one widow, following her husband's funeral, said made her cry but at the same time be so appreciative. Those words: "I will be at your house, every Monday at 9 a.m. Have a list of whatever you need done, and I will take care of it." (Jody Johnson, quoted from the website Quora.com.)

For me, it's hard to imagine words any better.

**Ross Meyer** ■

### Between the Covers at Covered Treasures Bookstore

## New fall releases

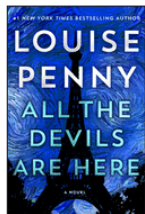
By the staff at Covered Treasures

The publishing industry has been hit hard by COVID-19. As a result, there have been many delays to all suppliers of books, including online and independent bookstores. Many publication dates for new books have been delayed. But some great books are coming out in the next few weeks.

### All the Devils Are Here

By Louise Penny (Minotaur Books), \$28.99

Inspector Gamache's godfather, billionaire Stephen Horowitz, is critically injured in what Gamache knows is no accident. Solving this mystery will take Gamache from the top of the Eiffel Tower to the bowels of the Paris Archives, from luxury hotels to odd, coded works of art. To find the truth, Gamache will have to decide whether he can trust his friends, his colleagues, his instincts, his own past, his own family. For even the City of Light casts long shadows. And in the darkness devils hide.



### Next to Last Stand: A Longmire Mystery

By Craig Johnson (Viking), \$28

One of the most viewed paintings in American History, *Custer's Last Fight*, was destroyed in a fire in 1946. Or was it? When Charley Lee Stillwater dies at the Wyoming Home for Soldiers & Sailors, Walt Longmire is called in

to try to make sense of a piece of a painting and a Florshiem shoebox containing a million dollars, sending the good sheriff on the trail of a dangerous art heist.

### Hanging Falls: A Timber Creek K-9 Mystery

By Margaret Mizushima (Crooked Lane Books), \$26.99

Officer Mattie Cobb and her K-9 partner Robo stumble upon a body floating at the edge of a lake. An unexpected visit from members of Mattie's long-lost family sheds new light on her childhood abduction. The tangled threads of the investigation and family dynamics begin to intertwine, but darkness threatens to claim a new victim before Mattie and Robo can track down the killers.

### Mesa Verde Victim

By Scott Graham (Torrey House Press), \$15.95

Hounded by false accusations of murder, archaeologist Chuck Bender and his family risk their lives to track down an unknown killer in a rugged canyon on the remote western edge of Mesa Verde National Park, where ancient stone villages and secret burial sites, abandoned centuries ago by the Ancestral Puebloan people, harbor artifacts so rare and precious they're worth killing over.

### Elway: A Relentless Life

By Jason Cole (Hachette Books), \$28

This biography of John Elway, Hall of Fame quarterback, two-time Super Bowl Champion, and current president of Football Operations and general manager of the Den-

ver Broncos, is the most complete look at one of the most accomplished legends in the history of American sports.

### The Midnight Library

By Matt Haig (Viking), \$26

"Between life and death there is a library, and within that library, the shelves go on forever. Every book provides a chance to try another life you could have lived. To see how things would be if you had made other choices.... Would you have done anything different if you had the chance to undo your regrets?" Nora Seed must search within herself as she travels through the Midnight Library to decide what is truly fulfilling in life and what makes it worth living in the first place.

### A Time for Mercy

By John Grisham (Doubleday Books), \$29.95

Jake Brigrance, the hero of *A Time to Kill*, one of the most popular novels of our time, returns. Jake finds himself embroiled in a deeply divisive trial when the court appoints him attorney for Drew Gamble, a timid 16-year-old boy accused of murdering a local deputy. Jake's fierce commitment to saving Drew from the gas chamber puts his career, his financial security, and the safety of his family on the line. In what may be the most personal and accomplished legal thriller of John Grisham's storied career, there is a time to kill and a time for justice. Now comes *A Time for Mercy*.