

rector of county planning, spoke about the growth of the Tri-Lakes area and completion and adoption of the county Master Plan. The planning process of the Master Plan began in 2019 has gone from Project Initiation and Outreach to the communities involved to

Plan Documentation and Adoption. For complete information, see <https://elspano.hlplanning.com>.

nepco.org

Marlene Brown can be reached at marlenebrown@ocn.me.

Lynd said the next meeting will be at 10 a.m. July 9 and will be in person at Monument Town Hall. <http://>

June Weather Wrap

By Bill Kappel

June was warmer than normal overall, with late rounds of precipitation bringing us to above-normal levels by the end of the month. This late moisture was very welcome given how hot and dry it was earlier in the month.

The month started off with below-normal temperatures and a few sprinkles. Highs only managed to reach the mid-60s on the 1st and the 2nd, with overnight lows dipping well in the 30s. However, this was short-lived as an area of high pressure began to build into the region from the west, bringing temperatures to above-normal levels. High temperatures reached the low to mid-80s each afternoon from the 4th through 10th. Conditions were dry during this period except for some afternoon thunderstorms and rain showers on the 6th and 7th.

Hot and dry conditions really took hold over the next couple of weeks. This was somewhat unusual for June because we normally see afternoon and early evening thunderstorms on an almost daily basis. However, the synoptic pattern that set up pulled in dry air from the west along with well above-normal temperatures. Smoke from wildfires in Arizona, Utah, and western Colorado added to the hot conditions. During the period from June 8 through June 19, only a couple of sprinkles were seen around the region.

Temperatures peaked from the 15th through the 17th, reaching the low 90s even on top of the Palmer Divide. Temperatures in the low 100s were recorded in many regions along the Front Range and Eastern Plains of Colorado, with several locations setting daily

record highs.

Fortunately, some moisture began to circle around the area of high pressure and produced some afternoon thunderstorms on the 18th and 19th. These storms produced a few areas of hail as well, and severe weather with a few weak tornadoes as they moved further east and encountered more moisture. Cool upslope conditions moved in behind these storms, and the low clouds and areas of drizzle held temperatures to the upper 50s on the 21st. It was more than a 20-degree drop from the day before. However, warm temperatures quickly returned, with the upper 80s returning the next two afternoons.

Finally, during the last week of the month, unsettled conditions returned. This was the result of Colorado being on the front side of a record-breaking ridge of high pressure over the Pacific Northwest. Remember that air flows clockwise around high pressure in the Northern Hemisphere and given that the high pressure that brought record heat to western Washington and Oregon was located to our northwest, we were on the eastern (front side) of that system.

That meant the airflow into Colorado was from the north and, of course, it brought cooler than normal temperatures, thunderstorms, and rain showers. The good news was that for the Palmer Divide, the instability levels in the atmosphere were not as elevated as when temperatures were warmer, therefore, most of the thunderstorms were well-behaved and just produced much needed moisture and cool temperatures.

A look ahead

July can be an active weather month around the region as the Southwest Monsoon season gets going. Afternoon and evening thunderstorms are a common occurrence, and when they can tap into higher levels of moisture, flash flooding can result. Hot, stagnant weather can also take hold for a few days at a time, with highs hitting the 90s on the warmest days.

June 2021 Weather Statistics

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Average High | 78.4° (+1.0°) |
| 100-year return frequency value max | 82.5° min 66.3° |
| Average Low | 49.4° (+5.0°) |
| 100-year return frequency value max | 50.7° min 40.2° |
| Highest Temperature | 92°F on the 16th, 17th |
| Lowest Temperature | 34°F on the 1st |
| Monthly Precipitation | 2.10" |
| | (+0.15" 7% above normal) |
| 100-year return frequency value max | 6.94" min 0.15" |
| Monthly Snowfall | 0.0" |
| | (-0.1" 100% above normal) |
| Season to Date Snow | 131.8" |
| | (+9.3" 7% above normal) |
| | (the snow season is from July 1 to June 30) |
| Season to Date Precip | 15.94" |
| | (+6.87" 43% above normal) |
| | (the precip season is from July 1 to June 30) |
| Heating Degree Days | 98 (+3) |
| Cooling Degree Days | 66 (+38) |

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

Between the Covers at Covered Treasures Bookstore

Kids' guides to Colorado

By the staff at Covered Treasures

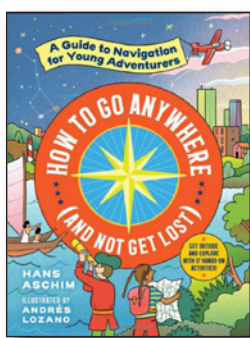
"Restore balance. Most children have technology, school, and extracurricular activities covered. It's time to add a pinch of adventure, a sprinkle of sunshine, and a big handful of outdoor play." — Penny Whitehouse

Here are some inspiring hands-on books specifically geared for kids exploring the great outdoors and learning about Colorado.

How to Go Anywhere (And Not Get Lost): A Guide to Navigation for Young Adventurers

By Hans Aschim (Workman) \$14.95

With illustrated activities as well as handy tips throughout, you'll learn the fascinating history and seriously useful skills to become a navigator. Find north and south by reading the trees. Make a simple compass. Use the stars to tell time. Build a basic sextant. Get your bearings using the sun; Go treasure hunting with GPS.



101 Outdoor Adventures to Have Before You Grow Up

By Stacy and Jack Tornio (Falcon Press) \$19.95

Conquer a rock wall, go zip lining, create a geocache at your favorite nature hangout, camp without a tent. This guide offers up season-by-season activities, games, and challenges to get kids outdoors and loving it.

The Girl's Book of Adventure

By Michele Lecreux, Celia Gallais, Clemence Roux de Luze (B.E.S. Publishing) \$14.99

Packed with facts about nature, ideas for outdoor activities, and fun-to-do craft projects, this guide will keep girls interested and busy all year round. You'll find instructions for outdoor games, ideas for hiking trips and nature watching, first-aid instruction, and more—a total of 60 themes of special interest to girls. This book's sturdy construction makes it ideal for taking along on outdoor activities and adventures.

The Boy's Book of Adventure

By Michele Lecreux, Celia Gallais, Esao Millet (B.E.S. Publishing) \$14.99

Here's the counterpart guide for boys. The book's wide array of topics includes camping and hiking advice, ways to protect against the weather, first-aid for injuries, using a compass, tips for studying the night sky, identifying birds, and much more.

Colorado (A True Book: My United States)

By Jennifer Zeiger (Scholastic) \$7.95

Readers will get to know Colorado's history, geography, wildlife, and much more. This series includes an age-appropriate (grades 3-5) introduction to curriculum-relevant subjects and a robust resource section that encourages independent study.

Wild About Rocky Mountain Birds: A Youth's Guide to the Rocky Mountain States

By Adele Porter (Adventure Publications) \$17.95

Family-friendly activities introduce kids to the fun of bird watching. In the backyard, at a park, or on a road trip, this guide provides fun, engaging pages kids will love, an easy-to-use format arranged by habitat and size, large, vivid photographs for simple bird identification, and fun facts for kids.

Wild Girl: How to Have Incredible Outdoor Adventures

By Helen Skelton (Candlewick Press) \$19.99

Be inspired to get outside and dream big. Helen Skelton shares the stories of her daring feats of endurance and grit in some of the world's most extreme wildernesses—overcoming challenges, embracing fears, and finding the positives in the toughest situations. Alongside each account are ideas for outdoor adventures readers can have closer to home, as well as gear lists and tips for physical and mental preparation.

Whose Track is That?

By Stan Tekiela (Adventure Publications) \$14.95

Spotting animals in the wild is tricky, but they leave plenty of clues behind—especially tracks. This interactive picture book features the full-color photography of Stan Tekiela, a professional naturalist and award-winning author. Children will become familiar with a variety of North American critters and might start seeing animal tracks on every outing.

Rock Collecting for Kids: An Introduction to Geology

By Dan R. Lynch (Adventure Publications) \$12.95

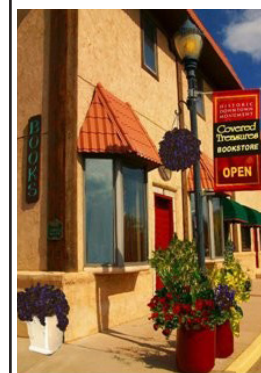
Young readers will learn geology basics with this guide featuring full-color photographs and identification tips on 75 types of collectible rocks and minerals. A "how to" section details what to look for, where to look, and what to bring, as well as safety considerations.



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