

## July Weather Wrap

By Bill Kappel

In July, we finally had a pretty normal weather month with temperatures only slightly above normal and precipitation right about average. This was good news as an active monsoon set up and brought much needed precipitation to the region. A good resource to learn more about the North American Monsoon and follow its development and historical patterns can be found at <https://www.weather.gov/twc/Monsoon>.

Of course, some of those thunderstorms produced heavy downpours and localized flooding at times, especially in low-lying road crossings. Temperatures generally fluctuated from about normal to slightly above normal, with a few hot days (temperatures hitting 90 or higher for us). Given that the middle two weeks of July are the hottest on average during the year, this is expected. Interestingly, almost every day during the month received at least some precipitation and thunderstorm activity.

As is typical with summertime thunderstorms, the areas of heaviest rainfall were hit and miss, with a wide variation over short distances. The heaviest rainfall occurred on the 1st, 26th, and 29th. On those days, rainfall amounts varied from over 3 inches to less than a 0.10th of an inch across the Tri-Lakes region alone. On the 26th,

most everyone received significant rainfall, with several areas in the region experiencing runoff and some flooding. A good note to remember during heavy rainfall and road flooding events is to “turn around, don’t drown” when encountering a flooding roadway. It only takes about a half-foot of water to float a car. The underlying road may be washed out and there is no way for you to know until it’s too late.

The driest days during the month were July 10th, 13th, 17th, 21st, and 22nd, and the only days not recording any measurable rainfall in the region were the 13th and 17th.

Be sure to check out [www.cocorahs.org](http://www.cocorahs.org) to see the local rainfall amounts and the incredible spatial variations that occur. Also, this is a free site where you can volunteer to provide your own precipitation reports. And believe it or not, those data from the thousands of volunteers across North America are used by scientists for many applications, from research to engineering design, so every observation counts.

### A look ahead

August is the last true “summer” month for the region. We are often greeted with sunny, pleasant mornings that turn into afternoon and early evening thunderstorms.

Highs during the month range from the mid-80s at the beginning of the month to mid-70s at the end. Temperatures at night get more comfortable as well, often dipping into the 40s.

### July 2022 Weather Statistics

Average High	83.7° (+1.2°)
100-year return frequency value max	87.6° min 75.3°
Average Low	53.0° (+2.0°)
100-year return frequency value max	56.2° min 46.9°
Highest Temperature	92°F on the 23rd
Lowest Temperature	46°F on the 30th
Monthly Precipitation	3.31"

(-0.06" 1% below normal)

100-year return frequency value max 6.03" min 0.98"

Monthly Snowfall 0.0"

Season to Date Snow 0.0"

(the snow season is from July 1 to June 30)

Season to Date Precip 10.69"

(-3.47" 25% below normal)

(the precipitation period is Jan. 1 to Dec. 31)

Heating Degree Days 17 (-5)

Cooling Degree Days 120 (+50)

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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. The letters are arranged in alphabetical order by author's last name.**

### D38 is pretending it needs more dollars

District 38 received a \$3 million increase in per pupil funding from the state last year. They're going to receive another \$3 million increase on top of that this coming year. But their Communications Director was out on Facebook last month claiming that “funding challenges” have prevented them from raising salaries enough to compete with neighboring districts. He complained that they had to hire “more than 70 teachers this summer alone out of a workforce of about 350 teachers.”

The reality is that D38 teachers are receiving a 6% raise this year. And Dr. Sommers acknowledged in a recent board meeting that they're able to give bonuses for retention and hiring as needed.

But the misrepresentations get worse. When challenged, the Director also claimed that D38 is “no longer a top-10 ranked school district in Colorado, unfortunately.” The problem is, the CDE stopped putting out rankings in 2019. Whose rankings is he citing? Those from fluff sites like Niche and US News and World Report that use silly, non-academic criteria like “Diversity” to rate schools.

D38 and its surrogates have been using the “stay

competitive with surrounding districts” canard to campaign for MLOs for years. But D38's own exit interview data, presented to the Board in years 2015 to year 2021 shows only 11 teachers in total left for pay in those six years.

The Director's response to that datapoint? He claims it's from “outdated reports that were not designed to accurately report on leaving for higher-paying jobs.” Which leaves us wondering: When, exactly, can we “trust” the reports D38 designs? One thing's certain: Reports that are “designed to” report teachers are leaving for higher-paying jobs are being created to present to voters right now!

Derek Araje/#JustAskDerek

### Qualified to volunteer?

Can I count to 10? I was asked many years ago. That led to my monthly volunteer work with *Our Community News*. We are always asking for more volunteers as attrition is taking hold from health and age. Who are our volunteers? Well, a CPA, for example, and a lieutenant colonel, an author, schoolteacher, graphic artist, former AP reporter, hospice worker, estate manager, business owners, Army, Navy and Air Force veterans, a sports referee, and more. You can imagine the conversations around the table as we insert and stack more than 22,000 papers each month. Surely you can find a couple of hours to join us for this fascinating endeavor to keep the Tri-Lakes community informed. Call John Heiser or myself, John Howe, at (719) 487-1047. Happily still counting to 10.

John Howe

### Many thanks!

This is a couple of months late, but I want to recognize a young man who helped me in a tenuous situation.

On May 25, the day before the Air Force Academy graduation, I had a flat tire going southbound on I-25 just before Exit 153. Being an old guy, I may have been able to change the tire in an hour or two. A young man in a blue AFA shirt stopped and asked if he could change the tire for me. He persisted and did a great job. The soft shoulder after the just-completed construction in that area made it challenging—he had to use a flat rock to keep the jack from sinking into the soft earth.

I did not get his name. He was in this year's graduating class, and I appreciated his kindness. A belated thank you! Thanks for your help and for your continued service.

Steve Pate

### Supports Supreme Court ruling

Amen. The Supreme Court ruled on June 27 separation of church and state does not prohibit public school employees from praying aloud on the job near students. The court ruled that “The Constitution neither mandates nor permits the government to suppress such religious expression.” It seems to me, if cursing aloud in the stands, in schools, and on the playing field is accepted, prayer also seems appropriate. Thank you, SCOTUS.

Gordon Reichal

Between the Covers at Covered Treasures Bookstore

## Wrap up summer with a light read

By the staff at Covered Treasures

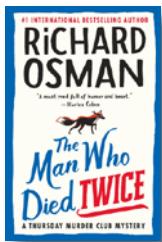
“One benefit of summer was that each day we had more light to read by.”—Jeanette Walls

Summer is the best time to read for fun. Here's a sampling of some delightful and entertaining choices.

### The Man Who Died Twice: A Thursday Murder Club Mystery

By Richard Osman (Penguin Books) \$17

The Thursday Murder Club is riding high off its recent murder case when an unexpected visitor arrives, desperate for help. He has been accused of stealing diamonds from the wrong men. The Thursday Murder Club is up against a ruthless murderer. Can they catch the killer before the killer catches them? And if they find the diamonds, too, wouldn't that be a bonus? This second in the series is just as clever and humorous as the first, *The Thursday Murder Club*.



### The Windsor Knot

By SJ Bennett (William Morrow) \$16.99

This bestselling first book in a clever series in which Queen Elizabeth II secretly solves crimes while carrying out her royal duties is charming and engaging. Queen Elizabeth is at Windsor Castle in advance of her 90th birthday celebrations. The preparations are interrupted by the death of a Castle guest. When MI5 begin to question the most loyal servants, Her Majesty knows they're looking in the wrong place. The entertaining follow-up, *All the Queen's Men*, is now available.

### Killer Chardonnay: A Colorado Wine Mystery

By Kate Lansing (Berkley Prime Crime) \$7.99

It's Parker's dream, her own winery in her hometown of Boulder, Colo. But she gets more than she bargained for when a food and wine critic unexpectedly shows up on opening day, collapses and dies. With her winery at the center of a social media firestorm, Parker has no choice but to investigate the murder herself to catch a killer, restore her reputation, and keep her business open. Currently there are two more books available in the series: *A Pairing to Die For* and *Mulled to Death*. The fourth, *Till Death Do Us Part*, is due out in March 2023.

### Auntie Poldi and the Lost Madonna

By Mario Giordano (Mariner Books) \$15.99

There's only one Auntie Poldi, or is there? No one is as they seem in this hilarious new mystery. Strange dealings are afoot, and Poldi will need all the help she can get to clear her name, especially when she discovers the case hinges on a lost Madonna statue, stolen years ago from the pope himself. This is the fourth book in the series with more to come. The first is *Auntie Poldi and the Sicilian Lions*.

### Open Bar

By J.B. Teller (Mighty Lionhearts) \$16.99

Perfect for fans of *Notting Hill*, this joyous romantic comedy will have you asking how far you would go for love—literally! Mar thought her life would be perfect the moment she stepped down onto London soil to finally proclaim her love for Thomas. Nightclubs, royal weddings, and London life have Mar and her sister Joan on another uproarious adventure. This is local author J.B.

Teller's sequel to *No Alcohol Beyond This Point*.

### The Narrowboat Summer

By Anne Youngson (Flatiron Books) \$17.99

Hilarious and uplifting, this is a celebration of the power of friendship and new experiences to change one's life at any age; a novel about three women, one dog, and the narrowboat that brings them together. Sally and Eve agree to drive Anastasia's narrowboat on a journey through the canals of England, as she awaits a life-saving operation. At summer's end, all three women must decide whether to return to the lives they left behind or forge a new path forward.

### The Secret French Recipes of Sophie Valroux

By Samantha Vérand (Berkley) \$16

A disgraced chef rediscovers her passion for food and her roots in this stunning novel rich in culture and full of delectable recipes. French-born American chef Sophie finds herself on the cusp of her dream: to be part of the 1 percent of female chefs running a Michelin-starred restaurant. But her career is sabotaged by a fellow chef. To add fuel to the fire, Sophie learns that her grandmother has suffered a stroke and takes the red eye to France. There, Sophie comes to understand the lengths people will go to for success and love, and how dreams can change.

Until next month, happy reading.

The staff at Covered Treasures can be reached at [books@ocn.me](mailto:books@ocn.me).