

sion. Not asking for this now kicks the can that much farther down the road, Somers said, and impacts our kids today and tomorrow. This creates the question of what we are willing to invest to preserve the type of educational quality we have known for years.

The audience asked questions about the impact on retirees on a fixed income, where to find the ballot language, the percentage of the current budget for administration vs. teaching staff, and concerns about financial management. Somers said the district was making a concerted effort to communicate to a broad audience and provide an opportunity for a dialog. He said that a spring survey with 2,500 respondents, of whom 30% were parents and the rest did not have kids in school, showed a favorability of 60% if the MLO was designed around compensation and was clear about why. Previous issues, he said, were more confusing and lacked accountability. The ballot language is available on the web at <https://bit.ly/d38-board-mlo>.

Administrative salaries represent around 8% of the total salary budget, which is "lean and efficient compared to other districts," Somers said. The MLO would be focused primarily on teachers, bus drivers, nutritional and clerical staff, and bus drivers. Finally, Somers said the district must be front and center regarding transparency and accountability and has a financial advisory committee composed of community members.

Somers said the MLO is important because it's what is best for kids, the learning environment, and the community. He quoted Mark Twain, who said, "Out of our public schools comes the greatness of our nation."

WOSC offers signage for SWP

Tish Norman, director of WOSC LLC, which donated the South Woodmoor Preserve (SWP) to Woodmoor, presented a proposal for new signage that WOSC would fund. WOSC raised over \$2.2 million to purchase land, part of which was donated as the SWP to WIA with an agreement for WIA to install trails, benches, and pet waste stations over time. WOSC would like to see two more benches and pet waste stations paid for in part by WIA and in part by ProTerra, the developer building on the remaining land. It would also like to see all-aluminum map stands, trail name signage posts, and split-rail corner broken fences west of Falcon Trail. The corner broken fences would help delineate between open space and private property. WOSC is offering to purchase all maps, trail signage posts, and broken fences for about \$5,000 and is asking WIA to install them.

Norman said the trail maps would include a member dedication in the left corner recognizing the neighbors who saved this open space. The trail names for the connected trails would be Preserve Loop, Falcon Trail, Coyote Trail, Prairie Dog Trail, and Detention Pond. Norman provided a list of pros that included the fact that WOSC would pay for the beautification of SWP and that signage would prevent neighbors from getting lost, noting that South Woodmoor dues have supported the North Woodmoor common areas for years. She also conceded that this would cause a difference in how SWP looks from North Woodmoor common spaces but pointed out that it already looks different and offered that North Woodmoor could raise funds to update signage or WIA could budget for it.

Bush said the board would discuss this offer and provide an answer to WOSC.

Board highlights

- HOA Administrator Denise Cagliaro noted that The Barn would serve as a voting site in November, and rentals would not be available during that time.
- Gleason said that school is in session and asked residents to watch their speed and avoid distractions.
- Miller said that both chipping weekends had been very successful, handling 606 loads which totaled 385 cubic yards of limbs, pine needles, and slash, and raised \$387 in donations.
- Board member Steve Butler reported that The Barn had ordered and received new tables, saying the old tables were available to Woodmoor residents for \$10 each.
- Butler also asked for a motion to spend \$3,000 to address a drainage issue in front of The Barn, re-piping it to direct the water to the storm drainage system. The board unanimously approved this request.

The WIA Board of Directors usually meets at 7 pm on the fourth Wednesday of each month in the Barn at 1691 Woodmoor Drive, Monument. The next meeting will be on Sept. 28.

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

Jackie Burhans can be contacted at jackieburhans@ocn.me.

August Weather Wrap

By Bill Kappel

Overall, August was a fairly average month around the region. The North American Monsoon System was active at times, with several periods of enhanced activity during the month as plumes of moisture moved into the region. Temperatures were right about normal, with high temperatures slightly cooler than average and overnight lows slightly warmer than normal.

This is a good reflection of the relatively high levels of moisture present and the resulting cloudy skies. It keeps temperatures down during the day but warmer at night. Precipitation was more variable, with some areas receiving well above normal rainfall and others a little below. That all depended on whether some of the heavier rainfall events happened to move over your neighborhood.

The month started off mild and active, with temperatures generally above normal from the 1st through the 6th. Each day received scattered thunderstorm activity as well, although amounts were generally less than a tenth of an inch each day. More widespread thunderstorms occurred on the 7th from early afternoon through evening. These storms had more moisture to work with—some of the storms produced 1-2 inches of rain in a short timeframe, especially along the I-25 corridor.

Following the wet start to the month, quiet conditions moved in for the next few days, with dry conditions and mostly sunny skies from the 9th through the 13th. Temperatures were mild during this time as well, with highs in the mid- to upper 80s.

Monsoonal moisture began to move back into the region on the 14th, and this time it was enhanced by an area of low pressure. This storm system added extra lift to the atmosphere. When this happens, the atmosphere becomes very efficient at producing precipitation. This was most evident on the 15th and 16th when widespread thunderstorms produced heavy rain at times throughout the region. The heaviest rainfall occurred just to our north in Douglas and Elbert Counties into the southeastern suburbs of Denver where 2-3 inches of rain accumulated quickly. This produced some urban street flooding and several stranded vehicles. For the Tri-Lakes region, most of us received a half to one inch of rainfall during this period.

The last week and a half of the month was generally quiet, with a less active monsoon pattern over the Tri-Lakes region. Most days saw afternoon cumulus clouds build up, with scattered thunderstorms over the mountains, but these storms had a very difficult time moving off the mountains. Therefore, we had limited precipitation from the 21st through the 31st. The wettest day was the afternoon of the 26th when a line of thunderstorms produced around a quarter-inch of rainfall for just about everybody.

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 tranquil-

ity, 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 2022 Weather Statistics

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Average High | 80.5° (-1.0) |
| 100-year return frequency value max | 83.9° min 72.9° |
| Average Low | 51.6° (+1.2) |
| 100-year return frequency value max | 55.2° min 46.8° |
| Monthly Precipitation | 1.30" |
| | (-1.60", 56% below normal) |
| 100-year return frequency value max | 6.07" min 0.94" |
| Monthly Snowfall | 0.0" |
| Highest Temperature | 88° on the 5th |
| Lowest Temperature | 46° on the 24th |
| Season to Date Snow | 0.0" |
| | (the snow season is from July 1 to June 30) |
| Season to Date Precip. | 11.99" |
| | (-6.07", 30% below normal) |
| | (Jan 1 to Dec 31) |
| Heating Degree Days | 33 (-29) |
| Cooling Degree Days | 66 (+22) |

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.

Monument Academy School Board is breaking the law

The Monument Academy School Board recently updated their dress code for Middle School and High School students. Unfortunately, that dress code now violates Colorado law. Even more unfortunately, the School Board doesn't care.

The School Board believes that students should dress in the manner that the School Board believes that good little boys and girls should dress. The Colorado Legislature has determined that the School Board's opinion on the matter is irrelevant.

The School Board has stated that girls should not wear ties and boys should not wear skirts, nail polish, or makeup. A couple of years ago, the Legislature passed a law that said that Charter Schools cannot discriminate against a student because of the student's Gender Expression, which is defined as an individual's way of reflecting and expressing the individual's gender to the outside world, typically demonstrated through appearance, dress, and behavior. Therefore, if a girl believes that wearing a tie is her way of reflecting her gender to

the outside world, the school has no right to prohibit her from doing so.

The School Board's dress code policy is not the first time that Monument Academy has expressed its contempt for students who are members of the LGBTQ community. As we should all recall, in February they issued a Proclamation in which they essentially stated that they were opposed to the law that required them to al-

low transgender students to use the bathroom that corresponded to a student's Gender Identity.

The Monument Academy School Board is out of control and is creating an environment that is not good for our young people. They need to either start obeying the law or close their doors.

Steve Waldmann

Between the Covers at Covered Treasures Bookstore

Noteworthy young adult reads

By the staff at Covered Treasures

"Read widely. To me it is that simple. Every new book you read puts language and imagery and storytelling techniques into your head that weren't there before."—
E. Lockhart

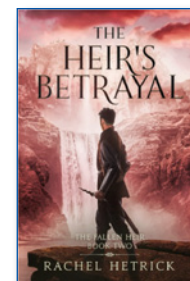
Fall is brimming with outstanding young adult book choices. Here's just a sampling:

The Heir's Betrayal: The Fallen Heir Book 2

By Rachel Hetrick (Via Veritas Vita Press) \$15

Book two in The Fallen Heir Duology is a perfect prequel to local author Rachel Hetrick's *Infiniti Trilogy*. This duology is the story of Diomedes, the rebellious crown prince and heir of Phildeterre. Exiled from the castle, betrayed by his father and royal council, Diomedes has

been seeking the object that could empower him with magic. Facing frozen wastelands and poisonous desert creatures, the disgraced prince ventures deep into Phildeterre, following the call of something greater than he or his companions can understand. Each step brings Diomedes closer to a decision that once made can never be changed; the choice is heavy, and the cost is high.



Daybreak on Raven Island

By Fleur Bradley (Viking) \$17.99

The critically acclaimed local author of *Midnight at the*