

Highest Temperature 84°F on the 19th  
 Lowest Temperature 37°F on the 2nd  
 Monthly Precipitation 6.58"  
 (+4.63" 330% above normal)  
 100-year return frequency value  
 max 6.94" min 0.15"

Monthly Snowfall 0.0"  
 (-0.1" 100% below normal)  
 Season to Date Snow 105.4"  
 (-17.1" 14% below normal)  
 (the snow season is from July 1 to June 30)  
 Season to Date Precip 16.96"

(+5.94" 45% above normal)  
 (the precip season is from Jan 1 to Dec 31)  
 Heating Degree Days 230 (+135)  
 Cooling Degree Days 9 (-19)  
 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 opinion 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.

### Another hidden cost of excessive development

To make way for development natural land is

stripped of its topsoil, then paved over with parking lots, roads, and driveways. This makes the ground impervious to surface water which normally makes its way through layers of earth, sand, and gravel where it is naturally filtered and naturally makes its way to be stored in natural aquifers. This surface water is commonly known to be non-potable, highly contaminated with various pollutants, both organic and inorganic.

The Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) solution mentioned in OCN June 3, 2023, page 18 proposes to collect this excess surface water (i.e., runoff created by excessive development) and inject it directly into the heretofore pristine aquifer through an existing well(s).

I ask you: What could possibly go wrong? (My apologies for the excessive use of the words natural and naturally.)  
 Brian Clifford

### Between the Covers at Covered Treasures Bookstore

## Adventure awaits

By the staff at Covered Treasures

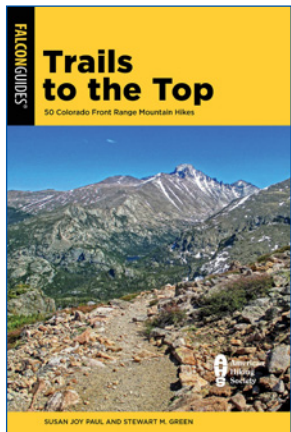
"Adventure awaits. Grab your hiking boots and get ready for new adventures."—Unknown

It's hiking season! These are expert guidebooks to help you plan your adventures.

Trails to the Top: 50 Colorado Front Range Mountain Hikes

By Susan Joy Paul and Stewart M. Green (Falcon Press) \$24.95

While Colorado's 14ers and 13ers are well known, this new guide from local outdoor adventurers and authors Susan Joy Paul and Stewart M. Green takes readers off the beaten path—to the top of some of Colorado's lesser-known, yet no less impressive mountains between 9,000 and 12,000 feet. The 50 unique routes covered feature amazing views with accessible trailheads for hikers of all skill levels, all located within a couple hours' drive of Denver, Fort Collins, and Colorado Springs. You'll find hikes suited to every ability, color photos, GPS coordinates, directions to the trailhead, and mile-by-mile directional cues.



Trail Tips: Providing Inspiration for Your Journeys on the Trail, Personal, and Work Life

By Al Andersen (Al Andersen) \$25

Everyone is on a journey in their hiking, personal, and work lives. The quality of our success often depends on the support and inspiration we get along the way. Trail Tips will get you thinking and inspire you on your adventures in life. Local

author Al Andersen started out writing about his hikes and life. Many found them inspirational, and he has compiled them into this book.

100 Trails, 5,000 Ideas: Where to Go, When to Go, What to See, What to Do

By Joe Yogerst (National Geographic Society) \$29.99

This travel guide takes you on a series of epic hiking and walking adventures on 100 trails around all 50 states and Canada, including the best scenic overlooks, camping sites, and off-trail activities. With each itinerary you'll find practical planning advice for when to go and what to expect. This book offers something for everyone, from beginners looking for an easy day hike to advanced trekkers seeking multi-week excursions.

Best Summit Hikes in Colorado: 55 Classic Routes and 100+ Summits (Revised)

By James Dziezynski (Wilderness Press) \$24.95

Mountaineer and explorer James Dziezynski presents 55 of Colorado's best summit hikes. Now in color, this guide covers all of Colorado's major ranges, including the Front Range, Sangre de Cristo, Sawatch, San Juan, and Mosquito and Ten Mile ranges. Each hike profile includes a topographic map with GPS waypoint and elevation profile, difficulty and class ratings tailored to Colorado's unique terrain, optional routes for further exploration, and fascinating trivia and history.

Adventure Ready: A Hiker's Guide to Planning, Training & Resiliency

By Katie Gerber and Heather Anderson (Mountaineers Books) \$24.95

In this comprehensive guide, renowned hikers Katie "Salty" Gerber and Heather "Anish" Anderson help prepare long-distance hikers for all the challenges—physical, mental, emotional—they may encounter while on the trail for weeks or

months. Backpackers will find detailed information about everything from gear selection, navigation, safety, and trip planning to nutritional and physical preparation and body resiliency to how to readjust after returning home. Worksheets and checklists make for easy planning.

The Essential Guide to Hiking with Dogs: Trail-Tested Tips and Expert Advice for Canine Adventures

By Jen Sotolongo (Falcon Press) \$24.95

As a dog owner, hiking with your canine companion is one of the most rewarding experiences. With this guide, you and your four-legged friend can be ready for anything the wilderness might throw at you. Set yourselves and others up for the very best hiking experience. Need-to-know topics are covered, from trail etiquette to leave no trace ethics, important gear and packing guides to essential commands you should train for the trail. Featuring beautiful photography, this guide will inform and inspire any adventure dog and their parents.

Uphill Both Ways: Hiking Toward Happiness on the Colorado Trail

By Andrea Lani (Bison Books), \$21.95

One grouchy husband, three reluctant kids, a 489-mile trek from Denver to Durango, and one woman, determined to reset her life and confront the history of environmental damage. Lani's family traveled through stunning scenery and encountered wildflowers, wildlife, and too many other hikers. They ate cold oatmeal in a chilly, wet tent and experienced scorching heat, torrential thunderstorms, and the first trip of winter. Her kids grew in unimaginable ways, and Lani began to uncover the secret to happiness.

Until next month, happy reading.

The staff at Covered Treasures can be reached at books@ocn.me.

### July Library Events

## Summer reading, special programs to enjoy

By Harriet Halbig

The Summer Adventure reading and activity program continues until July 31 at the Monument Library.

Nine hundred fifty-four patrons up to age 18 have registered to participate to date. It isn't too late to join and win prizes! Upon registration, children receive a free book. For each day when 30 minutes or more are spent reading, imagining, or engaging in physical activity, mark off a section on your game card (available online or at the library). After 30 days, those up to four years

old receive a free colorful bath toy. Those ages 5 to 11 receive a reading medal, and those 12 to 18 receive a free book or journal of your choice.

Special programs in July include Rhythm Fun for Everyone at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, July 18. Play drums (provided), sing, and move to the rhythm that you create.

On Tuesday, July 25 at 7 p.m., enjoy a Life-Size Game Night: Intergenerational Edition. Family members of all ages are invited to play life-size games of Candy Land, Battleship, and Clue from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

On Friday, Aug. 4 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. there will be a family concert featuring Steve Weeks

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