

May 2012 Weather Statistics

Average High 68.6° (+2.0°)  
100-year return frequency value max 75.7° min 57.9°  
Average Low 37.1° (+1.5°)  
100-year return frequency value max 43.2° min 32.5°  
Highest Temperature 84° on the 22nd  
Lowest Temperature 28° on the 14th, 29th

Monthly Precipitation 1.70" (+0.00" normal)  
100-year return frequency value max 6.94" min 0.15"  
Monthly Snowfall 1.1" (-4.0" 78% below normal)  
Season to Date Snow 107.3" (-22.0" 17% below normal)  
(the snow season is from July 1 to June 30)  
Season to Date Precip 19.09" (-0.15" 1% below normal)  
(the precip season is from July 1 to June 30)  
Heating Degree Days 379 (-49)

Cooling Degree Days 0  
\*\*\*\*\*

For more detailed weather information and Climatology of the Palmer Divide and Tri-Lakes region, please visit Bill Kappel's Weather Web page at [www.thekappels.com/Weather.htm](http://www.thekappels.com/Weather.htm).

Bill Kappel is a meteorologist and Tri-Lakes resident.  
He can be reached at [billkappel@ocn.me](mailto:billkappel@ocn.me).

Letters to Our Community

Our Community News welcomes letters to the editor on topics of general interest. The OCN editorial board has established a policy that we do not knowingly print letters that have appeared in substantially the same form elsewhere.

Please identify your submission as a letter to the editor and include your full name, home address, and day and evening phone numbers.

A limit of 300 words is recommended. Letters may be edited for length, grammar, and accuracy.

Send your letter to [editor@ocn.me](mailto:editor@ocn.me) or mail to Our Community News, P.O. Box 1742, Monument, Colorado 80132-1742. In response to problems receiving e-mail, if you send your letter by e-mail, we will send an e-mail acknowledgement. If you do not receive an acknowledgement, please call Susan Hindman at 481-8511 to confirm that we have received your letter.

**Disclaimer:** The opinions expressed in Letters to Our Community should not be interpreted as the view of OCN even when the letter writer is an OCN volunteer.

A lack of critical thinking at D-38

Like many others, I am concerned about the future of public education. Lewis-Palmer School District 38 has many of the very same problems that plague education across the U.S. I have a vested interest, as we have lived in the area for over 20 years, both inside and just outside LPSD, we had three boys attend LP schools K-12, I taught at both high schools, and my wife is starting her 18th year as an excellent district teacher.

Rather than do nothing but complain, I became involved with Direction 38!, whose primary goal is to become knowledgeable about public schools and share information through our website and summer forums. I share the same pride as other district patrons in D-38, but find it unproductive to stand by and blindly accept the increasing lack of forward thinking in district administration.

Most of D-38's accolades center on CSAP scores. Educators understand that CSAP scores are but a single indicator of quality schools, and these scores are directly tied to the economic wealth and education of the parents within a school district. In a recent Newsweek article, six criteria were used to rank the nation's top 1,000 high schools. Neither of LPSD's schools made the list, but Cheyenne Mountain, Douglas County, and D-20's TCA did. US News & World Report named the top 30 high schools in Colorado, and LPHS was 29th.

If district leadership continues to keep blinders on and is unwilling to look critically at more than one indicator of success, the district is losing out on myriad opportunities to build upon all that the parents and students bring to the mix, and truly become a world-class school system. In the end, it is the students who will pay the price for this lack of critical thinking. That is my motivation.

Stephen Boyd

It's time for a teacher pay raise in D-38

I just reviewed the Lewis-Palmer School District's proposed budget for 2012-13. According to that budget, the district expects to end the current year with a General Fund surplus of \$302,000. It also expects General Fund revenues to increase by \$363,000 and General Fund spending to increase by \$556,000 next year—resulting in a General Fund surplus of \$109,000 next year.

But according to the most recent monthly budget summary posted on the district's website, this proposed 2012-13 budget appears to overstate current year spending by almost \$1.5 million. As a result, the district may actually end this year with a General Fund surplus of \$1.8 million and a balance in its General Fund savings account of \$11.9 million (larger than at any time in district history and \$8 million more than the balance just three years ago).

If the district's monthly budget summaries are accurate, the district should be able to spend approximately \$1.6 million on additional salaries and benefits for district employees next year, while still balancing its budget and leaving the \$11.9 million in its General Fund savings account untouched. And ... this can be done without asking

local taxpayers for a mill levy override that would raise property taxes!

David J. Cloud

Stephens an effective leader

There is one important question in this hotly contested House District 19 primary: Why did the redistricting process target Amy Stephens' seat by lumping Monument with Fountain, Widefield, Calhan, and Falcon? The answer to the question "why" is because she has been very effective as a leader. Her opponent has no leadership experience in the Colorado House. The Democrats know this and are targeting their most effective opposition leadership.

Amy has led effectively against the Washington, D.C., political agenda that is trying to force mandates down the throats of Colorado citizens. These federal rules are in a wide variety of areas including health care and how we use energy to generate our electricity. As the majority leader, Amy Stephens has stopped the feds from having their way. The pro-big government liberals who wish to diminish Colorado rights want to get rid of Amy Stephens. Please don't let them have their way by voting for Amy Stephens in the June mail-in Republican primary.

Gary Caletti

Anti-Stephens campaign tactics criticized

Having moved to Monument just last year, my husband and I have been so impressed with the small-town feel and the friendliness of our neighbors and the entire Tri-Lakes community. We have felt very welcome here. That's why it has come as such a shock to see the definitely un-neighborly tactics being brought into our community by some opponents of Republican House Majority Leader Amy Stephens in her House District 19 campaign.

Stolen and destroyed Stephens yard signs are not the worst of it. At least two Monument businesses have received threatening phone calls because they displayed signs in support of Amy Stephens—a Monument resident! On top of these attacks, we've received ridiculous mailers and e-mails from the Looper campaign—like the one that puts Amy Stephens' photo next to a photo of President Obama and implies she had something to do with his liberal tax increases and abortion policies. Outrageous!

We are happy to see that Amy Stephens has not been distracted by these underhanded tactics which belong in Chicago—not the Tri-Lakes community. Amy doesn't have to resort to mud-slinging, because she has a record any conservative Republican would be proud to stand on. From cutting taxes and regulations that hampered Colorado businesses and job growth (like the Amazon tax and software tax), to defending Colorado against "Obamacare" and EPA overreach, to protecting traditional family values—House Majority Leader Amy Stephens has proven she is the bold, conservative leader we need to re-elect to represent House District 19!

Margie Locke

Stephens cites "courage"

Courage is one of the four cardinal virtues.

Winston Churchill believed courage was the most important of human qualities, because it guaranteed all of the others.

Having been drawn into a new district by malicious Democrats and forced into a primary with a fellow Repub-

lican, the last few months have been very instructional for me. I have learned firsthand it is easy to run a negative, bullying, and distorted campaign like my opponent has run to fool a portion of the people.

What takes courage is to run a clean campaign based on accomplishment, integrity, and a clear vision for Colorado.

It took courage to win back the state House majority for the Republicans and defend us against the job-killing Democrat agenda, but I did it. I was unanimously elected Republican House majority leader for that reason.

It took courage to defend Colorado against Obama's EPA and stand for state's rights, but I did it without hesitation.

It took courage to defend Colorado against "Obamacare" with SB11-200, even when faced with a misinformation campaign and criticism—but I would do it again today to protect our small group and individual health market from being ravaged by the threat of "Obamacare."

It took courage to defeat the recent civil union bill amid threats, police escort, and a frenzied media—but I did it without wavering.

Leaders lead. When confronted with challenges, they face them head-on. This is the stark contrast between me and my opponent.

Being a back-bencher and tearing down others is easy when you are only looking out for yourself. Governing, however, is not for the faint of heart.

It is my honor to serve this wonderful district as your representative and House majority leader. I am asking for your vote for courage on the all-mail-in primary election June 6-26.

Representative Amy Stephens ■

**Pond Supplies Delivered to Your Door**  
**[www.absolutepondsupplies.com](http://www.absolutepondsupplies.com)**  
**(719) 491-9395**

**MOWING!** From small lawns to 5 acres!  
Weekly/monthly or just one time. Reasonable prices!  
Trimming and lawn clean-up available including dog p☺☺! Call for quote. **648-0437**

**Monument Computer Services**

- Computer Repair & Troubleshooting
- Spyware-Adware-Virus Removal
- Data Recovery & Hard Drive Rescue
- Data Backup & Protection
- New Computers
- Install Hardware & Software
- Wireless & Wired Network Installation

**66 2nd Street, Monument • M-F 10-6**  
**[www.monumentcomputerservices.com](http://www.monumentcomputerservices.com)**  
**(719) 488-2830**



**Columbine Gardens**



**Chinese Restaurant**

*Locally-owned and operated.  
Serving the Tri-Lakes area  
for 21 years!*

481 Hwy 105, #201, Monument  
**(719) 481-2311 (719) 481-1936**  
Mon-Thu 11-9, Fri 11-9:30, Sat. 11:30-9  
**Open Sundays 3:30-8:00**

**June Special!**  
**FREE cheese wonton**  
Dine-in or take-out with \$25 purchase. Exp. 6/30/12.



**www.startmyart.com**  
**SUMMER  
MOVIE CAMP  
& ART CAMP**  
Call now for your spot!  
**719-488-8280**  
MONUMENT SCHOOL OF FINEARTS & JENET SELLERS' STUDIO