

last seen in 1959. Temperatures struggled to warm that afternoon, and with the stronger April sun, clouds and snow showers developed at times. The high temperature on the 11th only managed to reach the low 20s, again a record low high for the date.

Quiet conditions returned just in time for the end of the week and into the weekend. Highs reached into the low 50s on the 11th, then back to normal in the upper 50s on the 12th and a little above normal mid-60s on the 13th. Another quick shot of snow provided a welcome surprise during the early hours of the 14th as a quick-moving storm moved across the state. This dropped an inch or two of heavy wet snow and produced a beautiful scene that morning. Sunshine that afternoon managed to melt most of this, but the moisture was very welcome.

The 15th started off quiet, but snow showers developed that afternoon and a cold front pushed through. Low clouds and fog filled in and temperatures were chilly into the next day. The freezing drizzle associated with these cold, upslope conditions put down a layer of ice on many surfaces and produced some treacherous travel conditions on the morning of the 17th. Temperatures were cold that day as well, with highs only reaching the upper 20s, way below normal for the middle of April.

Another storm began to affect the region on the 17th, with snow falling from late morning through early afternoon. This produced around 3 inches of new snowfall, but the real fun was still to come. As the storm became more organized, winds picked up and snow began to fall again

that evening. This continued through the early hours of the 18th, producing another 3 to 6 inches of snowfall. The windblown snow and cold temperatures continued to make travel difficult. Temperatures stayed below freezing for a second consecutive day on the 18th, only reaching the upper 20s and low 30s. Morning lows were in the upper single digits, near record territory for the date.

Once this storm moved out, quieter conditions returned for the weekend. Temperatures warmed into the 40s on the 19th and well into the 50s on the 20th and 21st, quickly melting the snow. This snow was very welcome for our plants, but the succession of storms with near-record cold has certainly put a delay on the start of the growing season.

A brief break bringing sunshine and mild temperatures moved in over the next couple of days, with highs reaching the upper 50s and low 60s from the 20th through the 22nd. Again, this was short lived, as another quick-moving, cold and powerful cold front headed our way. This front blasted through during the late morning of the 22nd. Temperatures dropped from the low 60s to the low 30s in only one hour behind the front! Clouds continued to thicken and lower through the day, with steady snow falling by late afternoon and into the evening. Another 2 to 4 inches of snow accumulated with this system.

The remainder of the month was quiet and generally mild. High temperatures moved from the low 50s on the 24th, through the 60s from the 25th through the 27th, to our first 70s of the season to end the month.

A look ahead

May often means a wide variety of weather conditions in the region—from warm, sunny days to severe thunderstorms and hail, and even some snowfall. May 2007 was a snowy May, with over 20 inches accumulating for the month. Just a few inches have fallen in May in the last couple of years.

April 2013 Weather Statistics

Average High	52.8° (-4.2°)
Average Low	21.9° (-5.7°)
Highest Temperature	77° on the 29th
Lowest Temperature	-3° on the 10th
Monthly Precipitation	1.10"
	(-2.28", 67% below normal)
Monthly Snowfall	16.7"
	(-12.3", 40% below normal)
Season to Date Snow	94.7"
	(-27.3", 22% below normal)
	(the snow season is from July 1 to June 30)
Season to Date Precip.	12.17"
	(-5.36", 30% above normal)
	(the precip season is from July 1 to June 30)
Heating Degree Days	830 (+155)
Cooling Degree Days	0

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

Letters to Our Community

Guidelines for letters to the editor are on page 35.

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

Thanks for making After Prom possible

We would like to express our gratitude for the wonderful group of community members who helped with the Lewis-Palmer High School After Prom event. The LPHS After Prom is offered as an alternative to private parties or merely driving around on the highways in the middle of the night. It is also open to those students who do not or cannot attend the actual prom, for any number of reasons.

Many school districts do not offer an After Prom event, as the planning and coordination involved take a substantial amount of time and money. Both District 38 high schools have such a dedicated group of staff, parents and community patrons that we have been able to make After Prom a yearly tradition.

Much of the financial support comes from fundraising efforts in the fall, followed by a request for donations from the community. We were amazed at the outpouring of support from local businesses who all understood the importance of keeping the students safe on that night. We would like to specifically recognize the following:

ABC Landscaping, American Furniture Warehouse, Anytime Fitness, Big R, Borriello Brothers Pizza, Brunswick Zone, Champ's, Chipotle, Coca Cola Refreshments, Dickey's BBQ, Domino's Pizza, First National Bank, Floyd's Barbershop, Freddy's, HP, In the Moo Frozen Yogurt, It's a Grind Coffee, KFC, King Soopers, LPHS Student Council, Mountain View Electric Association, Papa John's Pizza, People's National Bank, Plato's Closet, Qdoba, Rosie's Diner, Safeway Corporation, Serrano's Coffee, Sinton Dairy, Stellar Styles Salon, Tri-Lakes

Printing, UCCS, and Wal-mart, as well as the Bame, Caves, Coleman, Commerford, Conner, Kadlubowski, Mallette, Morrison, Pavlick, Shuman, Smiley, and Witt families.

Additionally, we partnered with the Air Force Academy, which provided 20 cadets to help with the games that evening. This was truly a community-sponsored event, thanks to everyone who made it happen!

Karen Shuman and Deanna Smiley
LPHS After Prom Co-Chairs

Country club can't afford water costs

Recent coverage in local newspapers has only served to distract from the primary reason golf operations were suspended at Monument Hill Country Club. The reality is simple: Irrigation costs and renewable water investment fees are too high. The club in its current configuration cannot support the charges levied by Woodmoor Water and Sanitation (WWSD).

The purchase of the JV Ranch by WWSD places an enormous burden of \$2 million in additional annual fees on Woodmoor, and is even more significant. WWSD intentionally avoided voter approval of this massive expenditure. And Jesse Shaffer, district manager of WWSD, said they were planning to spend \$138 million over a 10- to 12-year period. On an acreage basis, the golf course's representative share would be over \$10 million.

I believe that actions taken by WWSD threaten the value of Woodmoor. My partners and I know that the financial costs imposed on the country club by Woodmoor Water are unsustainable without significant changes in the business model and rate structure of the country club and WWSD. After nearly four years, this is a struggle we can no longer afford. In exchange for certain releases,

we are forfeiting our financial interests and significant personal investments in the Monument Hill Country Club to the bank now holding its loans. As homeowners with a house on the golf course, my family and I are heartbroken. As residents in Woodmoor, we are very concerned about its future.

It is now up to the new owners, Woodmoor Water, and the community to determine the prospects of the golf course. The future of Woodmoor is dependent on a community united in finding reasonable and cost-effective solutions to water.

Vic Harshberger
Managing member, Tri-Lakes Golf

Good neighbor policy overlooked

During the snowstorm of April 17, my wife was stuck in her car on the hill near Pinecrest Event Center in Palmer Lake. Gracious neighbors helped her out, but she was still unable to crest the hill so she parked the vehicle in the Pinecrest parking lot and was taken home by a neighbor.

While the snowstorm was still underway, Pinecrest had her car towed. The next morning the fee to recover the vehicle was \$250 after it was towed about two miles.

We have lived above Pinecrest Event Center for over a decade and have frequently recommended it for weddings and other events. We have attended numerous events there. Needless to say none of this will occur in the future.

Had she parked there during an event when parking was at a premium I would have understood, but during a snowstorm?

I guess the good neighbor policy does not apply!

Gary L. Shupp

Between The Covers at the Covered Treasures Bookstore

Bring on the bestsellers

By the staff at Covered Treasures

Benediction, the latest book by Colorado's own Kent Haruf is among the current bestsellers. Many readers fell in love with Haruf's down-to-earth characters and steady, unstrained prose in *Plainsong* and *Eventide*, the first two books in the Holt trilogy. A glimpse at this and other recent titles follows.

Benediction

By Kent Haruf (Alfred A. Knopf)
\$25.95

It is the last summer for 77-year-old Dad Lewis, the local hard-

ware store owner, who has been diagnosed with terminal cancer. As his family and friends do their best to make him comfortable, readers wander through Dad's touching remembrances and the lives he influenced for better or for worse, while trying to do what he thought was right. In revisiting Holt, a fictitious town on the high plains of Colorado, we can feel the ever-present winds and the suffering, the compassion, and the humanity of its inhabitants. Holt, an ordinary small town, resonates with anyone who has experienced small town America, and Dad Lewis, an ordinary man spending his last days with grace and dignity, speaks to all of us in this sad, sweet story, which casts its own blessing. *Benediction* was a National Book Award finalist and the No. 1 pick of the Independent Booksellers' March 2013 *Indie Next List*.



Above: Lewis-Palmer High School students enjoyed playing in and around the "human hamster balls" in the wee hours of the morning. Lewis-Palmer High School After Prom took place from midnight to 5 a.m. at Bear Creek Elementary School, after the LPHS prom on April 19. Photo by Lisa Hatfield.