

would normally expect afternoon and evening thunderstorms to develop on at least a couple of days. An anomalously strong ridge of high pressure centered right over us, keeping low-level moisture to our east and north and allowing the heat to build as very little energy was used to evaporate moisture from the parched ground.

By the end of the month, this area of high pressure finally began to move to the west. This allowed moisture to sneak in from the northwest aloft and east at the surface. This sparked several rounds of thunderstorms starting during the evening of the 28th and again each afternoon on the 29th and 30th. The storms on the 30th produced brief heavy rain and hail just under severe levels. Temperatures were also much cooler to end the month with upper 70s and low 80s on the 29th and 30th.

A look ahead

July can be an active weather month around the region as

the Southwest Monsoon season gets going. Afternoon and evening thunderstorms are a common occurrence, and when they are able to tap into higher levels of moisture, flash flooding can result. Hot, stagnant weather can also take hold for a few days at time, with highs hitting well into the 90s.

June 2013 Weather Statistics

Average High	82.3° (+5.5°)
100-year return frequency value max	82.5° min 66.3°
Average Low	44.8° (+0.5°)
100-year return frequency value max	50.7° min 40.2°
Highest Temperature	93°F on the 27th, 28th
Lowest Temperature	27°F on the 1st
Monthly Precipitation	0.90"
	(-1.16" 57% below normal)
100-year return frequency value max	6.07" min 0.18"
Monthly Snowfall	0.0"

Season to Date Snow	101.8"
	(-0.1" 100% below normal)
	(-25.4" 25% below normal)
	(the snow season is from July 1 to June 30)
Season to Date Precip	15.12"
	(-5.89" 28% below normal)
	(the precip season is from July 1 to June 30)
Heating Degree Days	97 (-59)
Cooling Degree Days	53 (+26)

Remember, weather affects all of us every day and is a very important part of life for us in the Tri-Lakes region, and we want to hear from you. If you see a unique weather event or have a weather question, please contact me.

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 31.

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.

We don't have too many trees

Wake up people!

Land with few trees means hotter weather, and less snow, therefore less water. It is 119 degrees today in Phoenix, a cement city with no trees.

The recent fires should be construed more in the context of reality. The reality is not that we have too many trees or natural land. We need to pay attention to what nature is telling us: Keep the open space and the trees, and stop paving over every inch of land.

As developers and homeowners associations tell us trees are the problem, please take a few moments to think about reality: The trees around here are 60-100 years old. It is a recent phenomenon to have fires of this magnitude. It does not take a rocket scientist to figure out the relationship here. Community leaders, who are business people, act as whores to developers and love feeding into the paranoia so they can develop more land.

We should not fear nature, we should embrace. As we lose nature, we lose our mental and physical health, as abundant research strongly shows. People who live in this area are shooting themselves in the foot being brainwashed by developers and so-called community leaders. Not to mention our quality of life is decreasing due to uncontrolled growth, and ugly apartments that increase

traffic and crime, and decreased school test scores.

Your community leaders voted to let developers cut off the top of a mountain to build 500 homes. Wake up!

Now, State Farm Insurance states it will not insure homes unless the trees are 100 feet away from the house, and other companies will have the same requirements.

Fellow residents, it is time to be an activist and protect nature and ourselves. What is happening is unconscionable.

LeAnna DeAngelo, Ph.D.

Between The Covers at the Covered Treasures Bookstore

Paperbacks for summer reading

By the staff at Covered Treasures

Whether your summer plans include a road trip, airplane travel, lounging at the beach, or simply relaxing in the backyard, be sure to keep an engrossing paperback handy. A few possibilities ranging from mystery to romance are described below.

The Dog Stars
By Peter Heller
(Random House)
\$15

Hig and his dog, Jasper, seem to be the only ones left after the flu pandemic killed every known person. Following the voice of a random transmission on the radio of his 1956 Cessna, Hig risks everything to see if there's a better life out there somewhere. He finds something that is both better and worse than anything he could ever hope for. This is a dark survival story, but it is also poetic and humorous, a story of friendship and hope that makes the reader focus on what is important in life.

Fatal Descent
By Beth Groundwater (Midnight Ink Books) \$14.99

For outdoor enthusiasts who are also mystery lovers, Groundwater, a popular Colorado author, offers the latest in her Outdoor Adventures Mystery series. Mandy and Rob are experienced guides leading an off-season rafting-climbing trip in Utah's remote Canyonlands when one of their group appears to become bear bait. Walled off from the outside world with 11 shell-shocked clients and miles of Colorado River whitewater ahead, Mandy's nerves threaten to unravel when she learns that Alex's death was not the work of a homicidal grizzly. Whether it was a crime of passion or the random act of a psychopath, Mandy fears that if they don't root out the river rat among them, another camper will be running the rapids in a body bag.

Mermaid Garden
By Santa Montefiore (Simon & Schuster) \$16
Marina, the owner of a charming seaside hotel in England, is struggling with the potential loss of her business, her tumultuous relationship with her stepdaughter, and

the lingering repercussions of her mysterious past. She hires a dashing Argentine artist to teach her guests how to paint, not knowing that he will be the one to unveil her true self and change the course of their lives. Spanning four decades and alternating between Tuscany and Devon, this is a story of pain, loss, and the healing power of love.

The Hypnotist's Love Story
By Liane Moriarty (Penguin Putnam) \$16

Ellen O'Farrell, a professional hypnotherapist, works out of an eccentric beachfront home she inherited from her grandparents. It's a nice life, except that she longs for something long term in place of the tumultuous relationships in her past. She's optimistic about Patrick, who's single, employed, and best of all, interested in her—until he suggests they have a talk. Braced for the worst, Ellen is pleasantly surprised that their talk isn't about her past, but is about the ex-girlfriend who is stalking him. Engrossing, humorous, and romantic, this is a warm summer read.

A Good American
By Alex George (Penguin Putnam) \$16

This is the story of the Meisenheimer family, told by James, a third-generation American living in Beatrice, Mo., where his German grandparents, Frederick and Jette, settled after emigrating across the Atlantic. The family's loves and losses are alternately funny and heart-breaking, tragic and tender. But most of all, the story is about the music in Frederick's heart, a song that began as an aria to the beguiling otherness of this new land, was jazzed by ragtime, and became an anthem of love for his adopted country.

Live By Night
By Dennis Lehane (Harper Collins) \$16.99

Set in Boston during Prohibition, *Live By Night* follows the dizzying journey of Joe Coughlin up the ladder of organized crime. Joe's career in the pay of the city's most fearsome mobsters takes him from the flash of Jazz Age Boston to the sensual shimmer of Tampa's Latin Quarter to the sizzling streets of Cuba. This is a riveting epic layered with loyal friends and callous enemies, tough rumrunners and sultry femmes fatales, Bible-quoting evangelists and cruel Klansmen, all battling for survival and their piece of the American dream.

May your summer be rich in relaxation, warm in memories, and suffused with good friends and great books. Until next month, happy reading.

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

THE FINEST HOMES, SERVICE & RESULTS



BROADMOOR PERFECTION
* Luxurious Broadmoor Bluffs* 2-Story*
6Bed/5Bath/3Car* Main Level Master*
Music Loft* Symphony Homes* Gourmet
Kitchen* Theater* Game Room* All
Hardwood* 5,414 Sq. Ft.* Privacy*
\$650,000*



KINGS DEER HIGHLANDS
* On the Golf Course* Huge 2.5 Acre
Lot* 5Bed/6Bath/3Car* Office/
Theater/ Great Room/ Formal Dining*
Gourmet Kitchen* Granite/ Hardwoods/
Stainless* Light & Bright* 5,000+ Sq.
Ft.* SD 38* \$639,900*



LA SCALA
* Perfect Condition!* 55+ Gated Community*
Open Ranch Floor Plan* Walk-Out
Lower* Formal Dining* Casual Elegance*
Theater/Game Room* Two Fireplaces*
Wet Bar* 4Bed/3Bath/2Car* Covered
Deck and Patio* 3,750 Sq Ft* Complete
Privacy* Hardwood/ Granite* \$460,000*



SPRINGS RANCH
* The Range* Great Starter Home*
3Bed/3Bath/2Car* 1,439 Square Feet*
Desired 2-Story Floor Plan* Richmond
Homes* Well Maintained* Fireplace* New
Roof* Fully Fenced Yard*
Ideal Powers Location* \$195,000*



MARK RUDOLPH

(719) 492-3974 Cell

*Inventory is very low, demand is growing!
Call me to discuss how we can sell your home!*

Shields
ERA REAL ESTATE