

the colder air continued to move in. This produced a layer of ice on the roadways, covered with some snow.

However, we only had to wait a few hours for conditions to improve significantly as the strong March sunshine quickly worked to melt the snow and ice. Mild air then returned for Thursday the 6th, with high temperatures reaching into the low 60s. This was ahead of another storm headed our way. This storm was of more Pacific origins, and therefore contained warmer air and higher levels of moisture. This produced heavy, wet snow for us, with rain at lower elevations initially. This was a very spring-like storm, with over a half-inch of water equivalent accumulating during the afternoon and evening of the 7th. This is exactly the type of storm system we need as we head into spring, bringing beneficial moisture to the area.

The storm departed quickly however, with quiet and mild weather returning through the remainder of the weekend. High temperatures were held in the upper 30s by the fresh snowfall on the afternoon of the 8th, then quickly reached back into the upper 50s and low 60s on the 9th.

The week of the 10th started off mild and quiet, with sunshine and gusty winds allowing temperatures to soar into the mid-60s. However, this was ahead of an intense but compact storm. The storm rolled through the next morning, and snow and blowing snow quickly developed by late morning. This produced some hazardous driving conditions that afternoon and evening. Another 3 to 5 inches of new snowfall accumulated throughout the region, bringing more beneficial moisture. Skies cleared that evening, and the cold air mass filling in behind the storm combined with the fresh snow cover to produce very efficient radiational cooling. This allowed low temperatures to dip just below zero on the morning of the 12th.

But, as is so common this time of the year, the storm quickly moved out and sunshine returned. Temperatures rebounded that afternoon to the mid-40s and continued to climb back to normal levels, reaching the mid-50s the next afternoon. The next quick-moving storm affected the area on the 15th, but this time did not have much mois-

ture to work with. The storm packed some very strong winds, with gusts over 50 mph common. However, the more northwesterly flow meant that winds did not turn upslope for us and therefore only some surries developed. Again, high pressure built in behind this storm, allowing temperatures to warm into the mid-50s on the afternoon of the 16th. Gusty westerly winds again developed on the 17th and helped boost temperatures even more, reaching the upper 50s and low 60s.

A cold front moved in late that evening of the 17th, and temperatures the next day were 15 to 20 degrees colder. Light snow fell throughout the morning and afternoon. Although the snow didn't accumulate much, what did fall was blown around by cold, gusty winds. Temperatures stayed below normal the next afternoon, only reaching the upper 40s, but the stronger March sunshine made it feel a little warmer.

Mild air quickly returned for the 20th, as temperatures warmed back to above normal levels, reaching the low to mid-60s. However, as is usual in March, this mild air was ahead of another fast-moving cold front. This was the first of two cold air surges that affected the region over the weekend. Highs only reached the mid-40s on the 21st, with a few surries falling. Low clouds, fog, and light snow accompanied the next surge and helped drop high temperatures into the upper 20s on the 22nd. One to 2 inches of snow accumulated that afternoon and evening. Sunshine returned for Sunday the 21st, melting most of the snow and allowing for a quiet day to end the weekend as highs returned back to the low 50s.

The month ended with mainly dry conditions. Winds were very gusty as well, especially on the 26th, 27th, and 30th-31st. During the evening of the 30th through the early hours of the 31st, winds gusted to 60 and 70 mph in areas. This caused some minor damage and lots of inconvenience if you were driving or trying to sleep. The sunshine and gusty winds also helped to boost temperatures to above normal levels for the last week of the month. Highs reached the 50s to 60s each afternoon from the 26th

through the 31st.

A look ahead

April is known for a wide range of weather conditions in the region and is on average our snowiest month of the year. We can see 70° temperatures one afternoon and blizzard conditions the next. Several recent years have seen over 50 inches of snow accumulate during the month. Of course, it also melts very quickly, often adding very beneficial moisture to the soil and helping the vegetation that is just getting started. We can hope this year will bring abundant moisture and make up for some of the dry conditions we've experienced over the last year.

March 2014 Weather Statistics

Average High	50.2° (0.0°)
100-year return frequency value max	57.9° min 38.0°
Average Low	19.5° (-1.6°)
100-year return frequency value max	27.0° min 12.0°
Highest Temperature	65° on the 10th
Lowest Temperature	-3° on the 12th
Monthly Precipitation	1.27"
	(-0.37", 23% below normal)
100-year return frequency value max	4.29" min 0.22"
Monthly Snowfall	14.6"
	(-6.5", 30% below normal)
Season to Date Snow	66.1"
	(-25.9", 22% below normal)
	(the snow season is from July 1 to June 30)
Season to Date Precip.	16.19"
	(+2.17", 15% above normal)
	(the precip season is from July 1 to June 30)
Heating Degree Days	936 (+34)
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 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.

Single means "single" parent

I appreciate the Board of County Commissioners' "Single Parent's Day" proclamation, however it upsets me that military families were specifically highlighted by Commissioner Clark in this way. While I do not discount the fact that military couples can at times feel the burden of being a single parent when the other spouse is deployed, it is still not the same as being a truly single parent with one income and no housing assistance, military insurance, or organized support groups.

A single parent who has been a single parent from the beginning with no support, as the only legally responsible guardian to a child, is isolated from society and often discriminated against by employers due to the fact that single parents will at times have to miss work to care for a sick child or attend a school function. We are not welfare moochers or uneducated members of society who do not make a fair contribution. I fight this stereotype every day. While it was my own choices that put me in the position of being a single parent, society and the legal system do not do enough to enforce the abandoning parent to be financially and emotionally responsible for their offspring.

All that being said, I am grateful for the opportunity to be the mother of a wonderful young lady. She has inspired me every day since the day I knew of her conception to be a better person. And I think I have done an exceptional job of raising a bright, funny young

lady who has seen first-hand the struggles I have endured as a single parent. She will continue on my legacy having learned from my trials and tribulations, and her potential is limitless.

A Really Single Mom (name withheld by request)

Talking about mental illness

I'm writing to share my concerns about mental illness and the stigma that it carries. I have suffered from mental illness for more than 30 years and have been on all the meds that are out there; I have gone off my meds most recently for almost seven months and found myself back to my old habits and addictions. I just wanted to be away from it for a while.

I know now that is not possible and found out that if I embrace it and become a survivor that things go much better for me. I also know that by bringing it out in the open and talking about it makes life better. Please understand that it is nothing to be ashamed of, and the more it is written and talked about it starts to become humanized. People like me are all over this world and we tend to not talk about our mental illness or are told by society that we should not talk about it.

My goal by doing this is to start the conversation and hope that the domino effect will follow. I also want to say that I am sorry to anyone that I may have spoken to in a poor manner in the last months. I truly was not myself, but I am back on my meds and doing a lot better now.

Please let's all try to bring mental illness out of the closet; it will be a much better world if people would stop shaming it.

John D. Wedgewood

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presents...
SPOTLIGHT ON LOCAL AUTHORS

Thursday, April 3, 5:00-8:00 (NoBoysAllowed Event)
Heather Buchman - *Crested Butte Series*

Thursday, April 10, 5:30-7:00
Erin Healy - *Stranger Things*
Ron Scott—*The 2012 Political Contest in America: Conversations with a Gadfly*

Thursday, April 24, 5:30-7:00
Kevin Tracy - *Double Agenda* and *Blood Flow*
Sherry Janes-*Spirit Song, Books One & Two*

Saturday, April 26, noon-2:00
Molly Wingate & Marti Woodward - *Slow Parenting Teens*

Thursday, May 1, 5:30-7:00
Margaret Brettschneider - *Truth Lies Six Foot Under*
Walt Larimore - *The Ultimate Girls' Body Book*
Joelle Mueller-*Unfolding the Sun*

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GET YOUR TAIL IN CHURCH THIS EASTER

Sunday April 20
8:30am and 10am

The Church at Woodmoor 18125 Furrow Road
719 488-3200