

September Weather Wrap

By Bill Kappel

September was a mild and mainly dry month. This was quite a contrast to the pattern we've seen since May. However, September is a transition season for the Front Range and will often be at one extreme or the other, either very wet or very dry. Remember 2013 when most of the region received record rainfall and devastating flooding. This year, temperatures were about 8°F warmer than normal, with barely a tenth of an inch of rainfall (normal is closer to 2 inches). September 2010 was very similar, with a monthly total of 0.11 inch of rainfall, so the dry, warm weather this month isn't unprecedented.

One of the few periods of wet weather occurred during the first few days of the month as afternoon thunderstorms developed on the 1st and 3rd. These produced brief rain showers. No precipitation fell from the 4th through the 21st, an exceptionally long period of dry weather for us. Of course, we have been very wet since May, so there are no issues with drought even with this extended stretch of dry weather. Temperatures were also well above normal during this period. Highs consistently reached into the upper 70s to mid-80s through the period, 5-10 degrees warmer than normal for mid September. The clear skies and longer nights allowed overnight temperatures to cool to about normal, with most morning seeing lows in the 40s and even a few 30s in the colder spots.

Although fall officially began on Sept. 23, it still felt like summer. Temperatures were again above normal dur-

ing the week of Sept. 21, with highs in the upper 70s to mid-80s. Overnight lows bounced between mild low 50s and more fall-like upper 30s. Once again we were mainly dry, with one brief area of rain showers during the overnight hours of the 23rd. Interestingly, this moisture was associated with remnant tropical moisture from a tropical system that moved through the Gulf of California and desert Southwest. With the exception of the afternoon of the 22nd and morning of the 23rd, when this storm was affecting the region, skies were basically sunny the entire week.

Relatively cooler air did finally move in during the end of the month, with a cold front pushing through around 5 p.m. on the 28th. This brought gusty winds, clouds, and a few light showers to the area. Low clouds and fog greeted many of us the next morning. And with the higher levels of moisture in the region, a few thunderstorms developed early that afternoon. Rain showers were again brief, however, barely producing measureable amounts of rain. Highs dropped back to normal levels, in the mid- to upper 60s, but of course this felt much cooler because we had been so warm for so long.

A look ahead

October can be an active weather month for the Tri-Lakes region with snowy conditions often experienced by the end of the month. Most years, we are greeted by a good snowfall around Halloween, and after a warm and dry September, we could be in for a good storm this year.

Remember the 6-15 inches of snow that fell during 2004 from Halloween night through Nov. 1. Snow can be heavy at times during any part of October as when over 20 inches of snow fell Oct. 9-10 in 2005 and 2006 saw over 24 inches of snow fall in less than 24 hours on Oct. 26. And more recently, nearly 10 inches fell on Oct. 8, so get those snow plows ready. Of course, the weather can also be very dry and mild, so enjoy those sunny days when you can.

September 2015 Weather Statistics

Average High **79.4°** (+7.2) 100-year return frequency value max **77.5°** min **63.5°**

Average Low **45.2°** (+4.5) 100-year return frequency value max **46.7°** min **36.1°**

Monthly Precipitation **0.11"** (-1.83")
100-year return frequency value
max **4.34"** min **0.40"**

Monthly Snowfall **0.0"** (-0.5")

Highest Temperature **86°** on the 13th

Lowest Temperature **33°** on the 20th

Season to Date Snow **0.0"** (-0.5", 100% below normal)
(the snow season is from July 1 to June 30)

Season to Date Precip. **6.76"** (-1.41", 17% below normal)
(the precip season is from July 1 to June 30)

Heating Degree Days **98** (-159)

Cooling Degree Days **17** (+12)

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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 views of OCN even if the letter writer is an OCN volunteer

Former superintendent supports four

One of the critical marks of a healthy, productive, and progressive community is the quality of the schools. We're blessed in our community to have one of the best school districts in the state and one that is also recognized in the nation as a high-performing school district.

I am proud to have been a part of the legacy of teachers, staff, administrators, and school board members who have pursued the mission of excellence over the years. This didn't happen by accident but rather by those directly involved with the children in the schools as well as the intentional, purposeful, and thoughtful organizational planning of the school board members to give our students those experiences that would best prepare them for success in life.

This November, we have an opportunity to continue this tradition of excellence by participating in the election of school board members committed to our community and to our students. I am supporting the campaign of Mr. Pfoff, Mrs. Hawkins, Mr. Clawson, and Mr. Beasley. My experiences with them give me the trust that decisions regarding budget, curriculum, hiring, and other school district issues will be done with the best interests of students in mind. Each of these candidates has children in our schools, participates in school functions such as PTOs and Accountability Committees, and accentuates the positive direction of the district while looking for ways to improve the educational experiences for our students.

Join me in voting for the Pfoff, Hawkins, Clawson, Beasley team of school board candidates to ensure that the momentum of excellence continues well into the future.

Ted Bauman

School board listens to community

We are lucky to be served by Lewis-Palmer School District 38. As a transplant to Monument, I have known about the excellence of LP since high school. In college I would meet LP alumni that were well-prepared, organized, hard-working, and knowledgeable of the world around them. This is a positive reflection on both the community and district.

There are many aspects that come together to make a great school district. First are high expectations from the community and great families. Second are dedicated and inspiring teachers, administrators, and support staff.

The third part that holds many districts back from the level we experience is the school board. We are lucky to have a board in place that balances a world-class education with a fiscally responsible budget. This is a board that listens to its community. A board that sits down with staff

to seek solutions. A board that celebrates excellence in the classroom and community while striving to improve where it can. It is a board whose children have an excellent education from this district and who ensure that future generations receive the same opportunities for which we are known.

Our current board acts in the best interest of our students. As a result they run one of the best school districts in Colorado. This November I will be voting for Beasley, Clawson, Hawkins, and Pfoff. They are an outstanding group of citizens that know why we are here—for the good of our children.

Tom Chapman

Lani Moore for school board

I am writing to urge conservatives to come out in force this November to elect Lani Moore to District 38's school board. I have met Lani and can say that she is the unapologetic conservative choice for District 38.

Lani wants to increase student privacy, family rights, and the taxpayers' standing in budgeting decisions. She does not hesitate to say that the district has not done enough to explain where money is being spent or justify the current amount of student fees families face every fall and she is running to establish policies to fix that.

I appreciate the way Lani is not afraid to openly state her desire to fight Common Core and respect the attitudes and values of our conservative community in curriculum decisions.

Please support our students, teachers and taxpayers with your vote for Lani Moore. She cannot do this alone, so be sure to vote for the other conservative candidates, Sarah Sampayo and Gordon Reichal.

Bruce Clark

Put education above ideology

This school board election is more important than most; it will decide the direction of Lewis-Palmer for the next four years.

One group of candidates—Kris Beasley, Matt Clawson, Sherri Hawkins and Mark Pfoff—is committed to sticking with the policies and best practices that have made the Lewis-Palmer School District so successful in the last decade. There's no denying the district is one of the best: it has the highest on-time graduation rate in the state, is near the top in testing scores, has been on the Advanced Placement program honor role for four years (one of only 17 in the country to do this), and has been Accredited with Distinction for several years. In addition to this record of academic excellence, the district's finances are in great shape: budgets balanced for the last six years, all audits clean, and a high bond rating that means tax dollars go to education not interest payments.

The other group of candidates—Lani Moore, Gordon Reichel, and Sarah Sampayo—seems much more focused

on their political and personal agendas than on education, judging by their Facebook posts, letters to the editor, comments to the school board, and meet-and-greet presentations. Their strategy revolves around divisive hot-button issues that often have little relevance to what's really going on in the Lewis-Palmer district.

We don't have to look far to see the chaos that ideological school board majorities bring. In Jefferson County the conservative majority on the school board is currently being recalled by voters who don't like the way they ran the district. In Douglas County, the taxpayers are financing a lawsuit, now on its way to the Supreme Court, that uses the district's families as lab rats in an experiment on vouchers.

I hope you will join me in voting for candidates that will put education above ideology.

Micheale Duncan

Four candidates value school district

As parents, teachers, and community members of the Lewis-Palmer School District (LPSD), we feel compelled to share our thoughts regarding the election for the LPSD Board of Education.

We are very proud of District 38. Like so many in our community, we made a choice to move here because of the tradition of excellence in the Lewis-Palmer schools. We know firsthand from our triangular ownership in LPSD (parents, teachers, and taxpayers), that we have an incredible school district! Like most, we treasure how truly special LPSD is.

Unfortunately, there is a small undercurrent of individuals who do not feel the same about LPSD.

These individuals refuse to recognize anything positive about a district well-known as one of the best in Colorado. We feel hurt and confused when members of this vocal minority attempt to denigrate the district. They want to force radical change to promote a narrow agenda and irrational fears. Their ideas undermine public education, change curriculum, disrespect teachers, ignore our tradition of excellence, and serve others outside our community. Such negativity doesn't serve the needs of our students.

Fortunately, there are individuals on the ballot that recognize that LPSD is extraordinary. They understand how to work with the community, administration, teachers, and staff to provide the best education possible for students. They understand that LPSD, like any organization, is not perfect.

However, these candidates are excited about our district, its history of excellence, our students, and our future. They have the skills to lead the district to even greater success without "throwing out the baby with the bathwater."

We love this community and its school district. Join us in support of candidates whose actions show that truly care about LPSD. Cast your ballot for Kris Beasley, Mat-