

## July 2015 Weather Wrap

By Bill Kappel

July was another very wet and cool month around the region, with rainfall during the month ranging from 4 to 6 inches for most of the region. This continued the trend we started in earnest during May, with record amounts of moisture over most of the Front Range and Eastern Plains, effectively bringing all of Colorado out of any drought conditions. Temperatures were held down as well because of all the moisture around, sapping much of the sun's energy before it was allowed to heat the atmosphere. This meant we did not reach the 90°F mark during the month.

The first week of July was a wet one. Measureable rainfall occurred each day except on the 4th, so that worked out well. Temperatures were in the upper 70s to low 80s from the 1st through the 5th, with the warmest day being the 4th. Most areas picked up another 1-2 inches of rainfall during the period. The record amounts of moisture we've had this spring and early summer provide a positive feedback mechanism for the atmosphere. This ensures that abundant moisture will be available most of the time to produce rainfall if other conditions are in place. The high levels of moisture also help to keep daytime temperatures down, as much of the sun's energy that would otherwise be used to heat the atmosphere must first go into evaporating the moisture.

Cool and wet conditions continued to plague the region during the first part of the week of July 6. Fog, low clouds, rain, thunderstorms, and generally cool conditions occurred from the 6th through the 8th. This was the result of upslope flow along the Front Range and high moisture content in the atmosphere. Temperatures were held in the mid-50s to mid-60s each day, about 10-15 degrees cooler than normal. In addition, 1-2 inches of rainfall accumulated during the period, adding to our record totals over

the last couple of months. The last of the rainfall for the week finally left us late on the 9th, just in time to produce a quiet, dry, and more "normal" weekend. No rain fell from the 10th through the 12th, and with the drier air came more sunshine and warmer temperatures. Highs reached the upper 70's and low 80's each day, just about normal for mid-July.

It was a quiet week around the region during the week of the 13th. Temperatures were generally around normal to slightly cooler than normal, with mainly dry conditions. Highs were in the 70s to low 80s from the 13th through the 19th. Normal highs during this time of the year are in the low to mid-80s. A few weak thunderstorms did develop during the afternoon and early evening hours during the early part of the week, but drier air in the lower levels of the atmosphere resulted in only light rainfall. Amounts were generally a trace to a couple hundredths of an inch. The exception was Sunday afternoon, as a strong line of thunderstorms was able to tap into higher levels of low-level moisture that had worked back into the region. These storms produced a quick half inch to one inch of rainfall from 2 to 3 p.m. that afternoon.

The week of the 20th started off with some wet weather, but drier air finally moved in for the remainder of the month. Temperatures were cooler than normal on the 20th and 21st, with highs holding in the low 70s. High levels of moisture pooled over the region on the 21st and when a disturbance moved through that afternoon, heavy rain resulted. In some locations, nearly 2 inches of rain accumulated in less than 30 minutes. This is a pretty rare occurrence and led to more flash flooding in several areas. However, after this round of storms, drier air finally began to move into the area. More typical conditions prevailed, with quiet mornings and scattered clouds during the day.

No major rainfall occurred from the 23rd through the 28th. Temperatures did manage to reach the low 80s during the period as well, right about normal for late July.

The month ended with slightly cooler than normal conditions on the 29th, then back to normal on the 30th and 31st. Conditions were quiet as well, with only a few isolated thunderstorms.

### A look ahead

August is the last true "summer" month for the region. We are often greeted with sunny, pleasant mornings that turn into afternoon and early evening thunderstorms. Highs during the month range from the mid-80s at the beginning of the month to mid-70s at the end. Temperatures at night get more comfortable as well, often dipping into the 40s, making for better sleeping weather.

### July 2015 Weather Statistics

Average High	76.7° (-6.2°)	100-year return frequency value max 87.6° min 75.3°
Average Low	49.8° (-1.3°)	100-year return frequency value max 56.2° min 46.9°
Highest Temperature	85°F on the 4th	
Lowest Temperature	44°F on the 16th	
Monthly Precipitation	4.72" (+1.47" 30% above normal)	100-year return frequency value max 6.03" min 0.98"
Monthly Snowfall	0.0"	
Season to Date Snow	0.0" (the snow season is from July 1 to June 30)	
Season to Date Precip	4.72" (+1.47" 30% above normal)	(the precip season is from July 1 to June 30)
Heating Degree Days	73 (+44)	
Cooling Degree Days	4 (-90)	

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

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

### Town of Monument under review?

The Town of Monument is a peaceful town. It is caring, close-knit, and vibrant. Unfortunately, the character of the town's Board of Trustees, the mayor, and the town employees is under review. Since the public became aware of a methadone dispensary applying for a permit to operate in the historic downtown area, the public has understandably expressed outrage.

On July 13, the public had an opportunity to express its objection to this clinic. Some were respectful and some were disrespectful; telling lies and spreading rumors.

On July 19, the Colorado Springs Gazette Editorial Board published an article that was inaccurate and irresponsible. Inflammatory accusations that the town gave this business "... apparent red-carpet treatment ..." are an outright lie.

The statement "With public officials displaying such disregard for public health, safety and sentiment ..." is irresponsible. Public sentiment does not grant the elected body the authority to violate its laws. It does, however, compel the elected body to review its laws, policies and procedures, which the town is in the process of doing now.

Arbitrary violation of law in an attempt to prohibit this property being used for a properly zoned use would put the town in a position to "knowingly and wantonly" violate its laws and make it susceptible to a number of lawsuits. Suggestions that the town's insurance would cover financial loss in the event of a lawsuit are not correct; the town would not be covered if it knowingly violates its laws.

To be clear, the Town of Monument, its Board of Trustees, its mayor and its employees do not desire a methadone facility in its downtown.

The next step in the review process is a Town of Monument Board of Adjustment meeting scheduled for Aug. 10. Sign up for Monument's Facebook page for notification.

**Rafael Dominguez**

Mayor, Town of Monument

Note: This is an edited version of what was read in the Monument Board of Trustees meeting on July 20, 2015.

See [www.ocn.me/v15n8monmethadone.pdf](http://www.ocn.me/v15n8monmethadone.pdf).

### Jadomski endorsed for school board

This letter is to endorse Julie Jadomski for the position of director of District 5 on the Lewis-Palmer Board of Education. She was recently appointed to this position for five months after another board member retired. I am a parent of two children in District 38 who have attended Kilmer Elementary School and Lewis-Palmer Middle School. I have partnered with Julie Jadomski for nine years on the Colorado Preschool Council, of which she was the director.

As a member of this council, I immediately recognized that Julie Jadomski's number one priority is the children. She is 100 percent focused on doing what is in the children's best interest. She is a strong leader who always leads by example. Her firm beliefs about being a servant leader are a testimony to what she can and will accomplish. She is very generous with her time and her experience.

Julie Jadomski has an extensive understanding and knowledge of this community. She has lived here since 1977, her children have all attended the LPSD schools K-12 and she served as the principal of Palmer Lake Elementary School for 12 years. A vote for Julie Jadomski will be a vote for our children as she continues striving to do what is in their best interest.

**Susan Fowler**

### Data privacy in schools questioned

In June, I addressed our school board regarding data privacy for our children in school. Currently there are laws and policies in place to protect children and require parents' informed consent before information can be collected and shared. I assume state laws, federal laws, institutional review boards, etc., are operational to protect privacy. It is true, FERPA has been trumped by executive order allowing information on our children to be shared by our schools without informing us. But there are other laws regulating the collecting of the information, or so I thought.

To my surprise there have been numerous instances where children have been asked, expected, and even required to complete data surveys without parental knowledge or consent. I asked to see a particular personality profile survey administered by Naviance to our high school kids under mandatory participation and threat that it would affect their grade. I was told I was not allowed to see it,

due to copyright arrangements.

I had trusted the schools, but this peaked my curiosity. I began to get involved with the issues of data privacy in our schools and worked closely with Rep. Lundeen on a data privacy bill. Over the year, I have discovered more than I would like to know. We acquired a stack of surveys that are currently being used in the classrooms. Among them were the Healthy Kids Colorado Survey (HKCS). I pushed hard to expose this survey to the community and challenged our superintendent to find out if she could refuse to administer this survey in our district.

In June, I pleaded with our school board that, as a matter of transparency, parents should be informed of any survey content specifically, the chain of custody of the data collected, and all the uses of the data collected.

**Sarah Sampayo**

### School board candidate Julie Jadomski deserves your vote in November

Lewis-Palmer School District is fortunate to have Julie Jadomski running in the November election for the Board of Education. Julie has deep roots in the community, where she has lived, educated her own children, and has been employed as a principal.

Julie is greatly admired in the Lewis-Palmer School District, where I also teach. I have known Julie for 10 years as a parent and as an employee. She is an excellent listener who fully considers options before making important decisions. She is well organized and a practical thinker who follows through on commitments. The one agenda that Julie has as an educational leader is that she always puts "Kids First." She is dedicated to helping all students succeed.

Julie Jadomski will make an excellent member of the Board of Education. If elected, I feel she would put her energy to work on behalf of all the parents and children in our excellent Lewis-Palmer School District. She will listen to the needs and act upon those interests. She is skilled at making things happen and effecting change when change is needed. She has showed us her love and commitment to the education of our students and our community, and would continue to do so in the future.

Julie Jadomski is the best one for the job. Exercise your right. Please vote in November.

**Dennise Wilson**

### Support our school leadership team

Our family moved to this area about 15 years ago. One of