

- April 13 to review five violations.
- Per Suhr, director of Public Safety, reported a number of calls about magazine solicitors and seven large passenger vans at the Ramada Inn but notes that WIA cannot prevent this activity. If you have concerns, Suhr urges you contact WPS.
 - Architectural Control Director Mark Ponti reported 25 applications were received in February, with 22 being approved on the same day by staff member Bob

Pearsall. The other three applications were approved at an Architectural Control Meeting. Ponti noted that WIA has a 97.7 percent approval rate of projects so long as they follow the Project Design Standards Manual (PDSM), which can be found here: <http://bit.ly/wia-pdsm>.

The WIA Board of Directors usually meets at 7 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday of each month in the Barn at 1691

Woodmoor Drive, Monument. The next meeting will be on April 27. The WIA calendar can be found at: <https://www.woodmoor.org/wia-calendar/>. WIA board meeting minutes can be found at: <https://www.woodmoor.org/meeting-minutes/> once approved and posted.

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March Weather Wrap

By Bill Kappel

March lived up to its many names this year, as it came in like a lamb and went out like a lion. For the first two weeks of the month, it was mild and dry with almost no precipitation and temperatures above average every day. Thing switched during the last two weeks of the month, with cold and unsettled conditions common, along with several substantial snowfalls. Altogether, temperatures averaged slightly below normal, with precipitation above normal.

March started off mild and dry as high pressure remained in control of our weather pattern. This has pushed any storms coming from the Pacific Ocean off to our north and kept any surges of cold air to our east. However, there have been plenty of clouds around most days, usually high and mid-level clouds, but a few systems have tried to break through the ridge of high pressure. One of those produced a brief snow shower (with rain showers in town) during the morning of the 2nd. Otherwise, no precipitation for use yet. Temperatures were above average every day during the first week of the month, with highs reaching the mid-40s on the 1st, then low to mid-50s from the 2nd through the 5th. As usual, winds were gusty at times as well. But don't get too excited about spring just yet, as we are just now heading into our snowiest time of the year.

Dry and warm weather continued during the week of March 7. Temperatures were above average every day of the week, with a mix of sunshine and high clouds. Highs were in the mid- to upper 40s on the 7th and 8th, then low to mid-50s on the 9th and 10th, before reaching the low to mid-60s on the 11th and 12th. These were our first widespread 60°F and above readings since the first week of November.

Well, after nearly a month of mild and dry weather, winter decided to return with vigor during the two-week period from March 14th through the 27th. Several storms affected the region, with snow, wind, and cold. However, as is typical in March around here, brief periods of dry and

mild conditions were interspersed between the storms. After one last dry and mild day on the 14th, unsettled conditions moved into the region over the next few days. Highs dropped from the upper 50s on the 14th to the mid-40s from the 15th through the 17th. Each day also received a dusting of snow, but this melted quickly each time.

A stronger cold front and a more organized storm moved through during the night and morning hours of the 18th. This storm accumulated 4-8 inches of new snow for most of us and temperatures dropped about 20 degrees below normal. Highs were held below freezing on the 18th and 19th, only reaching the mid- to upper 20s. High pressure and westerly winds quickly pushed this storm out of the region and replaced it with mild and dry air. Highs jumped back into the low 50s on the 20th, held back because a lot of the energy went to melting the snow, then 60s on the 21st and 22nd as westerly winds kicked in.

However, this was ahead of the next storm, which proved to be very powerful. Snow and wind quickly developed just after midnight on the 22nd as an area of low pressure wound up over eastern Colorado and continued to intensify. Blizzard conditions developed that morning and continued into the early afternoon. Travel was nearly impossible throughout region during the storm, as the winds whipped around more than a foot of fresh snow. This was a quick mover though, and all the fun was done by that evening. After a brief break on the 24th, another storm rolled through from the afternoon of the 25th through the afternoon of the 26th. This one brought another shot of cold air, 4-8 inches of new snow, but not much wind. Temperatures were cold as well, with highs only reaching the mid- to upper 20s on the 26th.

Quiet conditions again returned from the 27th through the 29th, with highs reaching the 40s on the 27th, then upper 50s on the 28th and 29th. One last round of unsettled conditions returned on the last two days of the month with a return to cooler weather and snow showers.

Between the series of storms over the two-week period from the 15th through the 26th, we quickly jumped to above-normal levels of moisture for the month, just what we need as we head into spring.

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 hopefully make up for some of the dry conditions we've experienced over the last year.

March 2016 Weather Statistics

Average High	48.9° (-1.4°)
100-year return frequency value max	57.9° min 38.0°
Average Low	22.0° (+0.9°)
100-year return frequency value max	27.0° min 12.0°
Highest Temperature	66° on the 11th, 21st
Lowest Temperature	3° on the 27th
Monthly Precipitation	1.55"
	(+0.44", 25% above normal)
100-year return frequency value max	4.29" min 0.22"
Monthly Snowfall	31.8"
	(+11.5", 35% above normal)
Season to Date Snow	119.3"
	(+29.3", 25% above normal)
	(the snow season is from July 1 to June 30)
Season to Date Precip.	15.13"
	(+0.80", 5% above normal)
	(the precip season is from July 1 to June 30)
Heating Degree Days	1097 (+185)
Cooling Degree Days	0
<i>Bill Kappel is a meteorologist and Tri-Lakes resident. He can be reached at billkappel@ocn.me.</i>	

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

Amendment 69—the Colorado health care initiative

This fall, Coloradans will have the opportunity to vote on Constitutional Amendment #69. A positive vote on this proposal will create the first statewide universal citizen approved and controlled healthcare system in the country. This action will put Colorado on the leading edge of health care reform. This innovative approach will cover all residents in this state with a simpler, higher quality, less expensive health care program than is currently available. The cost is much less than currently available. Employees pay 3.3 percent of gross pay. Employers pay 6.7 percent of payroll. Non-payroll income earners pay 10 percent after a deduction of \$33,000 for single payers and \$60,000 for joint filers. Benefits exceed current insurance levels by providing mental health and substance abuse care, palliative care, and long-term health care services among many others. A simple ID card grants you all these services without any deductibles.

The program will free us from the Affordable Care Act and from health insurance companies. It behooves us as citizens to become informed on this important change to health care management in Colorado. Consider how beneficial this is to you and to your family. All the details about this new concept and more information can be obtained at <http://coloradocareyes.co/> Please lend your support to this important improvement in how we meet our health care needs.

Pedro Canellas

Monument government out of touch with citizens

The Town of Monument Board of Trustees seems to have forgotten who they represent! Our town board has paid a methadone dispensary \$350,000 to relocate out of town. This will hit our budget hard. Why did it happen? No one has been held accountable to date. Was there nobody in Town Hall who could figure out that a methadone dispensary should not be located across from a children's park and near our grade schools? Why have we hired people who live as far away as Colorado Springs and Falcon to make these decisions for Monument?

Our water rates have nearly doubled overnight and another doubling planned with no financial accountability to the ratepayers. Why have they ignored our questions and concerns? Doubling the rates and waiting to see how much they collect is not responsible management.

Triview Metro District has been begging for defined sales tax reports so they can stay within state law. Why are they being ignored? Where is the accountability for the 1 percent sales tax voted in by taxpayers both in 1989 and 2005? Millions of our hard-earned tax dollars have been collected, where has it been spent? I have requested this information to no avail. An independent audit of our town's books is long overdue.

For these reasons I am throwing my support behind the accountability ticket of Shea Medlicott, Greg Coopman, Jeff Bornstein, and Don Wilson. I can no longer support a town government who, in my opinion, ignores its taxpayers, refuses to answer questions in open meetings, conducts a secret agenda and attempts to divide our town. We've been in Monument over 30 years and cannot recall a period when our government has been so out of touch with its citizens.

Please support Shea Medlicott, Greg Coopman, Jeff Bornstein, and Don Wilson for a return of open, honest government to Monument.

John Dominowski

1999 MLO never included charter academy

The issues surrounding the D-38 1999 mill level override (MLO) have taken some creative turns. I would like to provide clarification. I was president of the D-38 Board of Education in 1999 and heavily involved in the campaign. The district was experiencing significant growth in enrollments, which created the need to finance and pay for operations for new schools. It is correct that, at that time, charter schools were not included in MLO funding. That was also the case with the D-38 1999 MLO.

During the campaign, the uses of the MLO were clearly explained to the voters so they could decide if that was good use for their tax dollars. At no time during the campaign was funding for Lewis-Palmer Charter Academy (now known as Monument Academy) mentioned. That was not an oversight nor a misunderstanding. There was no misrepresentation. Our intent was clear. At that time the majority of students attending the charter school resided outside D-38. The board did not believe it appropriate to ask voters of D-38 to fund the education of students living outside the district.

In addition, no one from the charter school participated in the campaign, hosted coffees to gain support for the MLO, or wrote letters of support. To suggest that there was a misunderstanding about the use of MLO funds is disingenuous and engagement in revisionist history.

Furthermore, if the charter school administration believed they were entitled to those MLO funds, they would have been knocking on our door the day after the election