

the 28th and touching 70°F on the 29th and low to mid-70s on the 30th. Each of those days started with morning sunshine, then clouds began to build by late morning and early afternoon. A few brief rain showers and claps of thunder developed with the passing storms as well, but nothing lasted too long to spoil the holiday weekend. The final day of the month started off with areas of fog and low clouds behind a cold front, but quickly gave way to clearing skies by later that morning. Temperatures were held below normal, with highs back in the mid- to upper 60s.

A look ahead

By June we can usually say goodbye to our chances of snowfall, but hello to frequent afternoon and evening

thunderstorms. There are times when we see a little snowfall in June in the region, but most of the time we can expect warm, sunny days with afternoon and evening thunderstorms.

May 2016 Weather Statistics

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|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Average High | 63.3° (-2.8°) |
| 100-year return frequency value max | 75.7° min 57.9° |
| Average Low | 37.0° (-1.3°) |
| 100-year return frequency value max | 43.2° min 32.5° |
| Highest Temperature | 78°F on the 22nd |
| Lowest Temperature | 11°F on the 2nd |
| Monthly Precipitation | 2.30" (-.34" 13% below normal) |

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|-------------------------------------|---|
| 100-year return frequency value max | 6.94" min 0.15" |
| Monthly Snowfall | 2.2" (-3.4" 62% below normal) |
| Season to Date Snow | 157.8" (+35.6" 23% above normal) |
| | (the snow season is from July 1 to June 30) |
| Season to Date Precip | 20.24" (+0.22" 1% above normal) |
| | (the precip season is from July 1 to June 30) |
| Heating Degree Days | 499 (+73) |
| 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 views of OCN even if the letter writer is an OCN volunteer

Yes on Amendment 69—again

It is understandable that some people and organizations are against passage of Amendment 69, if simply because change is scary. In the May 7 edition of OCN, a letter raised objections against the Colorado Health Initiative. Here I attempt to address those issues.

First issue: Because everyone is forced, employers will move away. Truth: Currently employers pay 17 percent of payroll for employee health insurance (state average), but with ColoradoCare, the same employer will pay 6.7 percent of payroll. So this is a winning change for employers.

Second issue: Payroll includes some benefits. Truth: If you want to determine your cost under ColoradoCare as an employee or business, go to <http://www.coloradocare.org/> and use the calculators. Examples: A worker who makes \$60,000 (payroll) under ColoradoCare would pay \$1,998 annually or \$166.50 per month. With the same income, but from Social Security and a pension (such as PERA) you don't pay anything. And for that you get palliative and end-of-life care, long-term care, and oral, vision and hearing services for children in addition to the standard benefits of medical insurance.

Third issue: Coloradans who already have federal insurance will not want this. Truth: ColoradoCare provides the supplemental insurance that you would buy with Medicare or VA benefits at a fraction of the cost.

Fourth issue: Military families are forced to pay into this. Truth: As residents of Colorado, we all pay and all benefit from this initiative.

Fifth issue: Other states won't accept this. Truth: This work like your current insurance when you are out of Colorado.

There is a 52-page guide at http://www.coloradocare.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/Green-Booklet-5_5_16.pdf that explains all this and more. Don't take anyone's words as fact. Find out yourself. Then vote in November.

Pedro Canellas

Thanks to community for After Prom

We would like to express our gratitude for the wonderful group of community members who helped with the

Lewis-Palmer High School After Prom event. The LPHS After Prom is offered as an alternative to private parties or merely driving around on the highways in the middle of the night (see photos on page 25). It is also open to those students who do not or cannot attend the actual Prom, for any number of reasons.

Many school districts do not offer an After Prom event, as the planning and coordination involved takes a substantial amount of time and money. Both District 38 high schools have such a dedicated group of staff, parents, and community patrons that we have been able to make After Prom a yearly tradition.

Much of the financial support comes from fundraising efforts in the fall, followed by a request for donations from the community. We were amazed at the outpouring of support from local businesses, who all understood the importance of keeping the students safe on that night. We would like to specifically recognize the following:

American Eagle, Avery Asphalt, Bees Knees, Borriello Brothers Pizza, Camp Bow Wow, Chick-fil-A, Chipotle Mexican Grill, Coca Cola Refreshments, Costco, Danelle's Boutique & Bridal / Tuxedo Junction, Dream Jeeps, Deuces Wild Casino Rentals, Enchanted Florist, Espresso Americano, Freddy's, Hyland Hills Park & Rec (Water World), In the Moo, King Soopers, Luna Hair Salon, Natural Grocers, Pepsi Beverages Company, Qdoba Mexican Grill, Sky Sox Baseball, Sport Clips, Subway, Summit, Tri-Lakes Printing, Uncle Bucks Fish Bowl and Grill, Village Inn, and Wal-Mart, as well as the Barkocy, Davis, Heins, Shuman, and Witt families.

This was truly a community-sponsored event; thanks to everyone who made it happen!

Karen Shuman

LPHS After Prom chair

Scholarship winner thanks Kiwanis

On Saturday, May 7 I had a wonderful morning with the Monument Kiwanis organization. I was invited to their breakfast and meeting because they wanted to present me with a scholarship for college. Imagine my excitement to be receiving this award! It also means a lot to me that I am receiving this from a group in my hometown. Statistics today show that young people are graduating college in so much debt and spend many years working to pay this off. This scholarship will help me to not be one of those young people. I am a hard working student with goals and a plan for my future.

Thank you, Kiwanis for your generosity and support in education. I appreciate your choosing me and I hope one day I can be the one to be giving a scholarship to someone just entering college.

Laura Olson

LPHS senior 2016

Questions for Monument Academy

Regarding the community's 1999 MLO and the Monument Academy, KOAA now reports that MA is threatening to sue D-38 for \$7.7 million as a means to reach agreement. <http://www.koaa.com/story/32022087/debate-continues-over-mill-levy-funds-in-monument>

The better approach would be to put the question on the ballot in November. A vote by the district taxpayers would result in a prompt solution, be much less expensive and divisive than a lawsuit, and provide a definitive answer as to taxpayer intent.

But in order for me to support "sharing" the MLO with the MA, I would need several questions answered; here are the two most important:

First, how has MA managed its finances to date? The MA incurred debt of approximately \$9.2 million to construct the current building—no problem. But in its most recent audited financial statements, MA reports building debt of \$12.9 million (June 2014), and \$14.3 million (June 2015). What is that new debt being spent on? Why are long-term liabilities for MA growing so quickly? <http://www.monumentacademy.net/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/2014-2015-Final-Audit.pdf> See Note 5.

Second is accountability and compliance. Voters approved the 1999 MLO for specific uses only. By law, money from that MLO must be used for those purposes. But the April issue of Our Community News reports that the MA board intends to use 1999 MLO moneys to give its teachers a 25 percent pay raise. Since teacher pay was not included on the 1999 ballot, that would be a violation of law. Why would the MA board choose this path? <http://www.ocn.me/v16n5.htm#ma0414>

Monument Academy is not governed by a publicly elected board; its board is chosen by its staff and parents. That means district taxpayers would have no oversight of the use of their MLO tax dollars by the MA. For me, sound financial management and direct taxpayer oversight are must-haves for any apportionment of MLO tax dollars to the MA.

John Mann ■

Between the Covers at Covered Treasures Bookstore

June is busting out all over with good books

By the staff at Covered Treasures

As you pack for a trip to the mountains, a family visit, or a faraway beach, don't forget to include a paperback book. In fact, you may want to keep one handy to read in the security line at the airport these days.

My Grandmother Asked Me to Tell You She's Sorry

By Fredrik Backman (Washington Square Press), \$16

Elsa is 7 years old and different. Her grandmother is 77 years old and crazy—as in firing-paintball-guns-at-strangers crazy. She is also Elsa's best and only friend. At night Elsa takes refuge in her grandmother's stories about places where everybody is different and nobody needs to be normal. When Elsa's grandmother dies and leaves behind a series of letters apologizing to people she has wronged,



Elsa's greatest adventure begins. Her grandmother's instructions lead her to an apartment building full of misfits, monsters and old crones, but also to the truth about fairy tales and kingdoms and a grandmother like no other.

The Wright Brothers

By David McCullough (Simon & Schuster) \$17

On a winter day in 1903 in the Outer Banks of North Carolina, two brothers—one unquestionably a genius, and the other with mechanical ingenuity few have ever seen—changed history. Orville and Wilbur Wright were men of exceptional courage and determination. With only a public high school education and very little money, they forged ahead, knowing that every time they took off, they risked being killed. This fast-paced, enjoyable tale by noted historian David McCullough shows how two Ohio boys taught the world to fly in what could be the most astonishing feat mankind has ever accomplished.

The Oregon Trail: A New American Journey

By Rinker Buck (Simon & Schuster) \$16.99

Traveling from Missouri to Oregon over the course of four months, Buck is accompanied by three cantankerous mules, his boisterous brother Nick, and a dog named Olive Oyl. They dodge thunderstorms, chase runaway mules, cross the Rockies, and make desperate 50-mile forced marches for water. A majestic, uniquely American journey of a lifetime, this is a tale of brotherhood, persistence and history, a tear-jerker at times, while also being a laugh-out-loud delight.

My Sunshine Away

By M.O. Walsh (Penguin Putnam) \$16

In an idyllic stretch of suburban Baton Rouge, 15-year-old Lindy Simpson—free spirit, track star, and belle of the block—is attacked near her home, and it becomes apparent there's also a dark side of this neighborhood of glorious crepe myrtle blossoms and passionate football fan-