

when they are able to tap into higher levels of moisture, flash flooding can result. Hot, stagnant weather can also take hold for a few days at time, with highs hitting well into the 90s.

June 2016 Weather Statistics

Average High **80.9°** (+3.5°)
100-year return frequency value max **82.5°** min **66.3°**
Average Low **48.5°** (+4.1°)

100-year return frequency value max **50.7°** min **40.2°**
Highest Temperature **94°F on the 19th**
Lowest Temperature **42°F on the 2nd, 14th, 15th**
Monthly Precipitation **2.34"**
(+0.39" 17% above normal)
100-year return frequency value max **6.94"** min **0.15"**
Monthly Snowfall **0.0"**
(-0.1" 100% below normal)
Season to Date Snow **157.8"**

(+35.5" 22% above normal)
(the snow season is from July 1 to June 30)
Season to Date Precip **22.56"**
(+0.93" 5% above normal)
(the precip season is from July 1 to June 30)
Heating Degree Days **51** (-28)
Cooling Degree Days **42** (+14)
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

No on Amendment 69—again

In the June 4 edition of OCN, a letter smugly suggested Colorado health care providers, and taxpayers who would owe extra thousands of dollars a year, who don't want to be forced to participate in ColoradoCare is "because change is scary." And as usual from supporters of this amendment, some key details are missing, such as what all the income sources that would be taxed an additional 10 percent are. Such as also interest, dividends, capital gains, IRA/401k distributions, business, taxable refunds, rents, royalties, partnerships, trusts, and farm income.

There's no exemption for Colorado residents who are military stationed here and already fully covered by federal government—they'd be forced to pay thousands extra per year for this anyway. And their working non-military spouses, although also fully covered, would also be forced to pay even if the military member isn't a Colorado resident. Last month's letter implied they should be happy to pay this, I suppose for the greater good, or some other socialist tripe.

Employers/individuals are already free to voluntarily get with health care providers and work out arrangements to cut out insurance middlemen on their own collective volitions if, and to what extent, they choose—no need to force all care providers and taxpayers to participate with this proposed amendment. And the \$60,000 exemption mentioned is only for those age 65-plus. Surely these sup-

porters would welcome random visits to their homes to ensure they're eating right, exercising enough, not doing drugs, not smoking, not abusing alcohol, etc. if everyone else would be forced to pay for their care, right? It's especially rich when these supporters refer you to a 52-page "guide," but never to the Colorado Amendment 69 full proposal itself—only 12 pages. It's easily found with an internet search from where you can choose your preferred source, or alternatively, at coloradansforcoloradans.com under the "About" tab.

Paul McSpadden

Please read before voting

In response to the last couple of editorials on Amendment 69, I would like to offer a practical thought before you decide.

I am not looking to take a job at the state government as they have managed many business concerns over the years. Running health care, however, I believe should be left to the professionals. Can you imagine the state running a \$25 billion-a-year health care plan?

We don't have to go back very far to see what happened when the state took over a new industry (recreational marijuana). The state was not ready to run it, and remember they didn't even have a tax structure in place in the beginning.

This vote is, if anything, too soon for the state to even consider tackling just a serious matter. The feds are having trouble and they have been working on it for years.

Make up your own mind, my words will not convince you but please read up on it before you vote.

Bill Normile

D-38 computer security breach

The reported D-38 serious computer system security violations resulted in a Monument Police report and district school computer systems being taken offline. This appears to have been an ongoing student privacy data breach since at least October-November 2015 with no district report to the community until more than seven months passed. Because of this unreported and ongoing district data breach, I believe the community deserves a full independent financial and student privacy data audit be immediately requested from the Colorado Department of Education. We must have an independent agency determine how much critical information has been exposed or stolen.

Gordon Reichal

Our climate is changing— and it's a big deal!

Speaking truth to fairy tale, noted astrophysicist Neil de-Grasse Tyson once said, "The good thing about science is that it's true whether or not you believe it." With slightly changed words, the same can be said about climate change, aka global warming. Our climate is warming and it is due mostly, if not entirely, to human activities. The level of carbon dioxide, a potent greenhouse gas that provides much of the warmth for our planet, and comes at least in part from the burning of fossil fuels, has been relatively stable for many centuries. That level is now rising dramatically as highlighted in a headline in the June edition of Scientific American: Antarctic CO2 Hit 400 PPM for First Time in 4 Million Years.

Once denied completely, skeptics now begrudgingly accept the science, but not entirely. Two of their favorite refrains are, "But the climate has always changed," or "There's nothing we can do about it." Those who cling to the claim that the climate has always changed apparently don't understand the concept of rate of change. In the past, it took centuries, or more, for the climate to make substantial changes. Now only decades or years are required. With respect to what can be done to arrest climate change, it is true that we are going to have to live with the consequences for years to come, but we can mitigate those consequences if we work together and cease the bickering and cherry picking. To the remaining skeptics, I say accept

the science completely and "get on board."

Ross Meyer

Woodmoor's present fencing rules do not address fire risks

Recently, the Woodmoor Architectural Control Committee denied my request to use an architecturally correct, high end, FireWise recommended metal fencing material to replace our wood split-rail dog kennel fence. The fence would have been well within our 30-foot fire-defensible space in its entirety, and is up against our home on both ends and under a low roof soffit on one end. Our lot has high-risk topographical fire risks that we cannot control. These features directly impact the location of the fence. We also live in the highest fire-risk area according to Woodmoor's Forestry Information Bulletin lot fire rating map.

In May, our appeal to the Woodmoor Board of Directors was again denied citing the present-day governing documents allowing only split-rail or dowel fencing. Out of respect for the members of the Woodmoor Architectural Control Committee and Board of Directors, the rules and regulations are binding, and are the basis for their decisions regarding my fencing material request.

Woodmoor has been a recognized FireWise Community for 10 years, and has distributed FireWise materials recommending the use of noncombustible fencing materials, such as metal, up against houses. Metal fencing that is treated as part of the home will not detract from the rustic community feel that Woodmoor is trying to achieve.

Woodmoor's rules and regulations in their Project Design Standards Manual do not reflect current fire risks to our homes. Woodmoor residents need to be able to utilize safer fencing materials in light of the present extended fire seasons that now exist for all of us. Outdated rules and regulations should not prevent our residents from using safer, noncombustible metal fencing materials within our home's fire-defensible space that are architecturally consistent. It is time for a rule change.

Lynn M. Welch

Lewis-Palmer's technology management questioned

District 38's superintendent and school board are mismanaging, risking child-community security, and obfuscating poor practice if not outright incompetence in the district's Technology Services Department.

Please consider:

Item 1: In 2015 the superintendent and board hired Ms. Liz Walhof at \$98,000 per year as Director of Technology (<http://lewis.schoolwires.net/site/Default.aspx?PageID=5986>) although her LinkedIn profile and own resume demonstrate no education or previous technology expertise in security, vendor management, or budgetary responsibility.

There are far more qualified applicants in Monument, Colorado Springs, and the region willing to create first-line information technology (IT) support, develop IT road maps, and follow vendor management protocols for \$98,000 a year. I have placed them in positions for far less.

Further, Lewis-Palmer IT could likely be outsourced at a 25 percent savings off of the \$2.2 million budget giving teachers a well-deserved raise.

Item 2: Parents recently discovered that over 2,000 students' private information (including HIPPA files), associated personal photo, bus arrival times, and parents' and siblings' information were available through district websites because security protocols were severely limited.

Item 3: While nearly forcing student adoption of public Internet technology, the school district simultaneously and entirely indemnifies itself from "... all costs, claims, damages or losses resulting from my child's use of district technology devices, including use of the Internet and electronic communications..."

As an IT professional I believe in the power of technology. Still, if the district obligates students and faculty

Luci Carnival

"Crossed over the rainbow bridge"
June 10, 2016

Luci loved being
Director of
Guest Services
for Carnival Cat
& Canine Care
2005 - 2016.
She will be
missed by all
her tail waggin'
friends!



Nights @ The Speedtrap

Thursdays, Fridays & Saturdays — All Summer

Dinner Served—5:00-9:00 p.m.—Gourmet Cuisine

Live Music—8:00-11:00 p.m.

Full Service Bar—All Evening

July Music Schedule

July 4: The ETs & Lincoln Street Revival

July 7: Woody & Mark

July 8: Mark's Midnight Carnival Band

July 9: Kai Hong

July 14: Throwback Thursday/Vinyl & Martinis

July 15: The Changing Colors

July 16: Rough Age

July 21: Chautauqua Mountain Band

July 22: June

July 23: Matt Bloom Band

July 28: Debbie Mirza

July 29: Robby Wicks Band

July 30: Jeremy Facknitz

84 Highway 105 in Palmer Lake

719.488.2007

www.speedtrapbistro.com