

Citizens and businesses in El Paso County are being asked for input on the county's future transportation system at <http://epcroadplan.com>. She noted that the county plans to work on the frontage road by Palmer Ridge High School starting in the fall and will be accelerating the expansion of Highway 105 out east.

Board report highlights

- HOA Manager Denise Cagliari reported that the Colorado Unemployment Insurance office performed a random audit, which was easily passed with no issues.
- There was a large uptick in June of covenant violations compared to previous years. Some were due to the busy real estate market, and most were taken care of by staff without going to a hearing.

- WIA Public Safety Chief Kevin Nielsen noted that school starts Aug. 17 and residents should watch their speeds in the morning and afternoon as kids go to and from school. WPS will be directing traffic at both Lewis-Palmer Middle School and Palmer Ridge High School.
- Architectural Control Director Mark Ponti reported that there are a lot of projects underway this summer and that 2016 has seen an uptick each month from the previous year. WIA staff has approved 84 percent of the projects and the Architectural Control Committee has approved another 14 percent, with a total approval rate of 98.3 percent to date.
- The last chipping day for Woodmoor is on Saturday, Aug. 6 at Lewis-Palmer Middle School.
- The board is finalizing its fire mitigation contract

and planning to remove dead trees and scrub oak in common areas. Nielsen noted that the county is responsible for mitigation and trimming along the roadways, especially when the roadway or road signs are blocked.

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 Aug. 24. 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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July Weather Wrap

By Bill Kappel

Overall, July was a warm and dry month, with most days reaching well into the 80s and a few afternoons even reaching the low 90s. There was a lot of thunderstorm activity during the month, but in most cases the heavy rain just missed us. There were also several days with large hail and if you were unlucky enough to be caught in one of those storms, it probably didn't seem like a quiet weather month for you. Temperatures for the month averaged nearly 3°F warmer than normal, and precipitation was well below average for most of us.

It was a typical start to July, with warm conditions most days and drier than normal through the period. There were several days with afternoon and early evening thunderstorms. Temperatures were a little below average during the first four days of month. Highs were in the upper 60s to low 70s on the 1st and 2nd, then upper 70s on the 3rd. Warmer air moved in for the rest of the period, with highs reaching into the 80s each afternoon. Highs topped out in the low 90s on the 16th. These temperatures were about 5-10 degrees above normal for the time. Rainfall was hit and miss, with some areas receiving brief heavy rain while others missed out completely, typical for the summer thunderstorm patterns.

Rinse and repeat was the mantra for the week of July 18. Every day saw basically the same pattern, with quiet conditions each morning giving way to building clouds by early afternoon, and scattered thunderstorms by mid-

late afternoon. Only a very subtle difference in the atmospheric flow allowed stronger storms to develop, mainly affecting areas to our east. Each afternoon saw high temperatures reach into the mid- to upper 80s, about 5°F warmer than normal for mid- to late July. For the week, most of us picked up 1-2 inches of rainfall, but as usual in these types of patterns, it was hit and miss. If you were under one of the heavy showers, you picked up more and probably saw some brief flash flooding.

The month ended with more of the same. Each afternoon saw high temperatures reach the mid- to upper 80s with the exception of the 29th. Just about every afternoon and early evening saw thunderstorms develop in the area. But again, without any organized system, the storms were hit and miss depending on where localized boundaries or other interactions set up that day. If you were under one of those storms, you may have been hit with heavy rain or large hail. The worst of the storms affected the region late on the 28th into the early morning of the 29th. Heavy rain and damaging hail, up to tennis ball-size in some areas, pounded much of Colorado Springs along the Powers Corridor and points east from there. The southern areas of the Palmer Divide caught the edge of these storms as well. The final couple of days were hot with just some brief thunderstorms—an appropriate ending to an overall warm and dry month.

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 2016 Weather Statistics

Average High	85.5° (+3.0°)
100-year return frequency value max	87.6° min 75.3°
Average Low	52.3° (+1.3°)
100-year return frequency value max	56.2° min 46.9°
Highest Temperature	93°F on the 16th
Lowest Temperature	44°F on the 4th, 13th
Monthly Precipitation	2.00"
	(-1.25" 39% below 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	2.00"
	(-1.25" 39% below normal)
	(the precip season is from July 1 to June 30)
Heating Degree Days	9 (-23)
Cooling Degree Days	128 (+40)

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 27.

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*

Thanks to Monument Hill Kiwanis Club members

My name is Elizabeth Reich and I'm a senior at Lewis-Palmer High School. I want to thank the Monument Hill Kiwanis Club members for making the Rocky Mountain Youth Leadership Conference happen this summer. It was an unbelievable experience. I met so many talented and educated people, and learned so many valuable lessons. It was an eye-opening opportunity that I hope to share with others in my school and community. Thanks so much again for all that you have done.

Elizabeth Reich

Youth Leadership Conference was amazing

Dear Monument Hill Kiwanis Club members: Thank you

so much for giving me the opportunity to attend the Rocky Mountain Youth Leadership Conference at Colorado State University Pueblo. The entire experience was amazing. I met new and different kinds of people from all over Colorado, listened to several great speakers, and learned overall how to be a better Samaritan. Lessons included how to “Master Your World,” free enterprise, patriotism, dealing with social media, and law. We were also given the chance to come up with new and creative ways to solve national issues we face today.

I absolutely recommend this for future students and leaders today, and I hope future generations will enjoy the conference as much as I did.

Katherine Mallory Lager

Conference “opened my eyes”

My name is Jordyn Spresser, I am a senior at Lewis-Palmer High School, and I attended the Rocky Mountain Youth Leadership Conference last week. As a resident of the Monument area and having had knowledge of Kiwanis

for quite some time now, I would like to express my gratitude toward them for their donation and sponsorship of this conference and for the great opportunity to represent Lewis-Palmer and the town of Monument at such a prestigious gathering. It truly was a life-changing experience, as it has opened my eyes on the path I will head down in the future regarding both my profession and my interest in possibly pursuing a military lifestyle.

I know this conference would not have occurred without the help of the Monument Hill Kiwanis Club and its members, and I want all of the members to know how truly thankful I am and how blessed I am to be able to have experienced and attended this life-changing event. I look forward to possibly attending next year as a counselor hopefully with the aid of the Monument Hill Kiwanis Club. Once again thank you for all you have done to make this possible.

Jordyn Spresser

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Between the Covers at Covered Treasures Bookstore

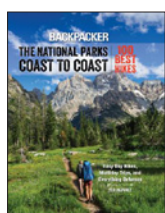
National Park Service marks 100th birthday

By the staff at Covered Treasures

The National Park Service turns 100 on Aug. 25. Here are some great books to help you celebrate with adventures at any of the 59 national parks.

Backpacker; The National Parks Coast to Coast; 100 Best Hikes

By Ted Alvarez (Falcon Guides) \$26
Choose an adventure from any of the 44 national parks profiled throughout this gorgeous book. With jaw-dropping pho-



tos, detailed hike descriptions and maps, ranger profiles, and more, this book is an intimate look at the best our national parks have to offer.

National Parks of America: Experience America's 59 National Parks

(Lonely Planet Publications Pty Ltd.) \$29.99
From Acadia to Zion, this beautiful introduction to all 59 parks is packed with panoramic photography, original illustrations, practical information, and inspiring tips on what to do and see in each. You'll have all the tools to

plan many exciting trips. Contains illustrations of wildlife to watch for in each park, activities for every season, suggested itineraries, the best places to stay, and more.

Images of Rocky Mountain National Park

By Erik Stensland (Skyline Press) \$9.95
Colorado's Rocky Mountain National Park is home to 60 peaks over 12,000 feet, nearly 150 lakes, a diverse and abundant wildlife population and 450 miles of streams and rivers, including the headwaters of the mighty Colorado River. Photographer Erik Stensland takes you on a journey