perience up to three falls a week at home and needs to call 911 regularly. The group has grown close to Kozloski and his wife Nancy. Following a recent fall by Kozloski, the five decided to purchase materials to build the ramp to create a gradual slope in his garage.

Commissioner Littleton said, “We should honor the people who are out there and the kind of work they do. They have enabled Mr. Kozloski the ability to live as full a life as possible. It’s not often that we hear of hometown heroes who are selfless enough to give of their time, talent, and treasure to make someone else’s life better.”

Helen Walklet is can be reached at helenwalklett@ocnm.ne.

National Night Out comes to Promontory Pointe

By Ann-Marie Jojola

Each August, National Night Out (NNO) is celebrated around the country (October in Texas and Florida due to heat). Its purpose is an annual community-build- ing campaign that promotes police-community part- nerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make neighborhoods safer and more enjoyable places to live. NNO enhances the relationship between neighbors and law enforcement while bringing back a true sense of community.

Promontory Pointe is a young neighborhood of about 240 homes. A strong, active Neighborhood Watch was soon started after half the homes were built. It has been growing and provides extra eyes and ears for law enforcement when suspicious activ- ity/or/and persons are observed. Other benefits of an active Neighborhood Watch are close friendships and neighborly help, which also continue to grow.

On Aug. 5, Promontory Pointe held its second an- nual NNO and celebrated with neighbors, the Monu- ment Police Department, the Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District (TLMFPD), and the El Paso Sheriff’s Office (EPSO) Crime Prevention Unit. Each year, the Promontory Pointe Neighborhood Watch and homeowners association team up to host a social event and encourage Promontory Pointe neighbors to get active and provide volunteers who live in NNO. An es- timated 180-plus neighbors attended the NNO.

Ann-Marie Jojola can be reached by writing to editor@ocnm.ne.

August Weather Wrap

By Bill Kappel

After a warm and active July, the general weather pat- tern changed for most of August. High levels of atmo- spheric moisture were common over the region as the Southwest monsoon season really began to affect the area. Overall, temperatures for the month were right at average, but the good news was that moisture was well above normal.

Temperatures started out in the 80s for the first two cou- ple days of the month, with dry conditions on the 1st. The warmth on the 2nd allowed atmospheric instabil- ity to increase and a low moved into the area, heavy rainfall and thunderstorms developed. This was also accompanied by hail in some areas. Nearly an inch accumulated in a short time in some spots with these storms. This pattern of active weather continued almost uninterrupted over the next two weeks, with daily occurrences of thunderstorms and at times heavy rainfall.

High temperatures bounced around quite a bit during the period, depending on whether the wind direction was more easterly or westerly. Highs ranged from the low 80s on the 4th, 5th, 9th, 12th, 14th, and 15th to the low 60s on the 7th. Most of us accumulated 3-4 inches of rainfall during this period, putting us over the total monthly normal in just two weeks.

By just as quickly as the spigots opened to al- low all the wet weather, they were turned off for most of the remainder of the month. Drier and warmer air worked in starting on the 18th. High temperatures continued above average through the end of the month, putting us at above-normal temperature levels on most afternoons from the 18th through the 31st. Moisture levels decreased significantly. There were still scattered thunderstorms around on some afternoons, but they were few and far between,-producing widespread rainfall only on the 23rd and 24th. After a very wet first half of the month, I think the dry and warm weather was a wel- come pattern change, especially as we get ready to head into fall.

A look ahead

September is a transition month for the region, with the latest dates of snowfall occurring with our first morning frosts. Leaves begin to change by the end of the month as well, and in some years a little snow can happen. The overall weather pattern is generally one of continued warmth, with our thunderstorms dwindling and blizzard conditions not quite ready for prime time. We are often greeted with sunny, pleas- ant afternoons, with highs from the mid-70s early in the month to the mid-60s later in the month. Our first subfreezing temperatures usually occur during the third week of the month, so prepare those tender plants.

August 2017 Weather Statistics

Average High 78.3°F (10) 10-year average return frequency value max. 83.9” min. 72.9”
Average Low 49.0 * (0.3)
100-year return frequency value max. 55.2” min. 46.8”
Monthly Precipitation (9.44% above normal)
Highest Temperature 87” on the 19th
Lowest Temperature 43” on the 25th
Season to Date Snow 0.0”
the season starts is from July 1 to June 30)
Season to Date Precip. 5.63”

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.

Safety is more important than speed

As a concerned resident who has three students at- tending three different schools in D-38, I’m asking you to respect the law and the rules. I call 911 regularly, be respectful of others on the road, and stop for the buses. The posted speed limit in a residential neighborhood is 15mph. This is not to be confused with the face speed law enforcement may recite based on speed control device data.

Temporary solutions, such as speed trailers and patrolling are helpful but isn’t a permanent solution to our growing community. Bottom line is we need more patrol cars on the road. An El Paso County Sheriff’s (EPSO) officer stated “Please understand EPSO does patrol over 2,100 square miles of land mass and you may not always see a deputy there exactly when you want them, but we will take additional steps to help out.” If we don’t address our concerns, EPSO thinks it’s a non-issue. We need your assistance in getting law enforcement where they should be in our commu- nities. The more complaints received, the better the data they have to support more patrol cars.

Please support your public elected officials. If you live or drive within the El Paso County area and witness a traffic accident, report it immediately. EPSO non-emergen-

Unite to continue the excellence

I’m Sherri Hawkins and I’m running for re-election to the D-38 school board. I have been on the board for four years and currently serve as board president. I am a native Coloradoan and attended Manitou Springs High School. I graduated from Ohio State, where I played D1 volleyball, I have taught high school in Colorado Springs. I have lived in Palmer Lake for 12 years and love the feeling of community that makes the town of Palmer Lake so special. When not working on school board business, I’m at Colo-rado Juniors Volleyball Club, where I have coached since 1999. I’m the parent of two kids who have the good fortune of attending Palmer Lake Elementary where they thrive in the caring environment.

D-38’s excellence is tied to its great teachers and staff. As a former teacher, I understand the value of great teachers and the importance of retaining and compensating them. I also know how important class size is to student learning. Through my kids, I have experienced how challenging large classes are to learning. Growth in the Monument area is impact- ing class size and other crowding at our schools. As the district works to address the growth, I am looking to the community for input and support of the best solution.

I know the value and importance of parent in- volvement. Excellence in D-38 is driven and en- hanced by the parent volunteers who give their time and energy. I appreciate the dialog and advocacy parents bring.

We have motivated students, dedicated teach- ers, involved parents, and a supportive community. I hope to continue the excellence by uniting these groups so we achieve even greater successes.

Sherrie Hawkins

Misunderstanding the D38 Numbers

I read the letter to the editor regarding “Understand- ing D38 Numbers” in the Aug. 5 issue of OCN with great interest as I believe it is important for members of our community to understand the importance of the “have not’s” to our local district.

While never considering myself an “expert” in school finance I do have over 35 years of that expen- diture experience. Without giving any public school finance in Colorado. We have witnessed numerous changes to the school finance act over the years, but none was more significant than the failure of the state legislature to continue the funding of local districts as mandated by Amend- ment 23. The state did not have sufficient funds to fund all of their budget requests, so they instituted a “negative factor” that was applied to each dis- trict’s funding calculated by the school finance act. As a result, local school districts have been shorted $108’s of millions that were basically promised un- der Amendment 23.

We all understand that if the state does not have adequate funding to run the schools, all areas of state government are going to feel the effect. This “have not” calculation is important to the local dis- trict as it means that their long range financial pro- jections become meaningless as they were going to lose millions of dollars in annual funding. The loss of these funds affects everything from being able to hire and retain outstanding teachers to adequate mainte- nance of facilities.

I would encourage all of the members of the community who are considering running for the local school board to fully understand the intricacies of the Colorado School Finance Act and the full conse- quences of the “negative factor.”

I was disappointed to hear that the author of “Understanding the D38 Numbers” apparently has withdrawn her candidacy for the local school board as her “financial expertise” has allegedly led to the loss of millions of dollars by her clients.

Don Smith