



**Above:** Nov. 14 was a calm, sunny Saturday morning when the weather changed abruptly. Within a minute, clouds covered the mountains as if on fast-forward. The temperature dropped and extremely high winds kicked in. Then, snow started to fall. Blizzard-like conditions lasted only 15 minutes before the sun returned. *Photo by Michael Weinfeld.*

the teens and single digits the next few mornings. Temperatures hovered around normal for the next few days, and winds kicked up at times. However, conditions were mainly dry from the 10th through the 23rd. The only exception was a brief snow squall

24th producing another 1-4 inches across the region. After sunshine and seasonal conditions on the 25th, flurries and light snow returned for Thanksgiving evening and into the next morning. Once again, this

that moved through between 10 and 11a.m. on the 14th. This brought with it a period of heavy snow and gusty winds that lasted only about 30 minutes. It was enough to remind us what season we are in, but that was about it.

Temperatures warmed back to above normal levels from the 15th through the 19th, with highs reaching the mid- to upper 60s on a couple afternoons. Slightly cooler air worked its way in from the 20th through 22nd, but the most we got out of this pattern change was a few areas of low clouds.

The Thanksgiving week produced a little more active weather, at least compared to most of the month, with morning snowfall on the

system was starved of moisture, so we picked up less than an inch of new snow. Sunshine and quiet conditions returned for the 28th before another dry cold front brought temperatures to slightly below average to end the month.

**A look ahead**

December can be a cold one around the region, with daytime highs often staying below freezing and overnight lows that can drop well below zero. The month is generally dry, however, with several light, fluffy snowfalls. Gusty winds are also a common nuisance during the month, especially west of I-25. The chance for a white Christmas is fairly common for the area, with most areas having some snow on the ground and if we are lucky, snowfall on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day.

**November 2020 Weather Statistics**

Average High	<b>53.3°</b> (+4.7°)
100-year return frequency value max	<b>55.5°</b> min <b>38.5°</b>
Average Low	<b>24.6°</b> (+4.2°)
100-year return frequency value max	<b>27.5°</b> min <b>14.1°</b>
Monthly Precipitation	<b>0.36"</b> (-0.33")
100-year return frequency value max	<b>3.80"</b> min <b>0.16"</b>
Monthly Snowfall	<b>5.9"</b> (-5.0")
Highest Temperature	<b>74° on the 3rd</b>
Lowest Temperature	<b>12° on the 11th, 30th</b>
Season to Date Snow	<b>10.4"</b> (-11.4")
	<i>(the snow season is from Oct 1 to Sept 30)</i>
Season to Date Precip.	<b>0.53"</b> (-1.89")
	<i>(the precip season is from Oct 1 to Sept 30)</i>
Heating Degree Days	<b>782</b> (-84)
Cooling Degree Days	<b>0</b> (0)

*Bill Kappel is a meteorologist and Tri-Lakes resident. He can be reached at [billkappel@ocn.me](mailto:billkappel@ocn.me).*

**Letters to Our Community**

*Guidelines for letters are on page 31.*

*Disclaimer: The information and opinions expressed in Letters to Our Community are the responsibility of the letter writers and should not be interpreted as the views of OCN even if the letter writer is an OCN volunteer.*

**Advice for wildlife encounters**

For new people that come out to the Monument/Black Forest area and have come from the city, there is a little advice from people that have lived in the area for many years. When you encounter any kind of wildlife, don't chase them, harm them, or feed them.

They will wander off. You have come into their backyard and they are curious to see what is going on. They do not want to stay in your environment, so they will just go back to theirs. Just imagine what they must be thinking.

If you have small animals that are wandering around your yard, just don't leave them out all of the time so that they become a food source for the wildlife.

If you want to raise chickens, put your fence wire down in some cement in the ground and a foot at least and put a fence top on your pen so the hawks

can't come down and take your chickens. Raccoons will come and enjoy themselves to a fresh chicken dinner if you give them a way to get into your coop. If you keep small dogs or cats and let them run free, just know you may not see them again. It's fine to go out and walk your animals around your property, the wildlife is more afraid of you than you are of them.

Enjoy your property and be respectful of the area you came into, which belongs to the wildlife.

**Mary Welty**

**December Library Events**

**Library access further restricted due to coronavirus risk**

*By Harriet Halbig*

Beginning on Nov. 18, in keeping with El Paso County Health Department authorities raising the COVID-19 risk level to red, the Pikes Peak Library District is now open by reservation only for computer use.

Face coverings are required of all patrons and staff.

While in the library, patrons are limited to the computer and printer area. All other areas are closed until further notice, including the stacks and meeting rooms.

All programs including literacy and math tutoring are suspended for the remainder of the calendar year.

Curbside service remains available to pick up your items on hold. Please call 488-2370 ahead of time so that your materials can be ready when you arrive. Alternately, you can text from your car when you arrive and we will bring the items outside.

Hours of service are 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday and Saturday.

Please see our website ([ppld.org](http://ppld.org)) for a wide variety of virtual programs including yoga, story time, and book groups. There is a new story time and toddler time each week and previous sessions are available for viewing.

Please access our catalog to view offerings to be placed on hold for curbside pickup.

Materials can be returned to the outdoor book drop on the north side of the building and will be quarantined for 24 hours before processing.

No donated materials can be accepted at this time because the Friends Book Store is inaccessible.

We hope to be able to welcome you back in the near future.

*Harriet Halbig may be reached at [harriethalbig@ocn.me](mailto:harriethalbig@ocn.me).*



**Above:** The Monument Library is now open only for computer use by reservation. Curbside service remains available to retrieve holds. *Photo by Harriet Halbig.*