

August Weather Wrap

By Bill Kappel

September can be a month of extremes as we transition from summer to fall. Just last year, we saw record highs immediately followed by record cold and snow. This is not unusual for us on the Palmer Divide and Tri-Lakes region as we often flip back and forth between seasons, and the transition can be quick. This results from our location at a high elevation and in the middle of the continent away from any modifying large bodies of water. We also have direct access to moisture from the Gulf of Mexico and cold air from the Arctic region.

Then add in the extra lift and elevated heat sources provided by our elevated terrain and the Front Range foothills and it all comes together to create widely variable weather conditions throughout the year. Therefore, it's not surprising that we saw some big swings in the weather this year. The theme for the month was warm temperatures, as we were well above normal overall. Fortunately, precipitation was above average as well, but it all fell on just a few days. We did manage to drop below freezing for the first time this season.

The month started off wet with three days in a row of rainfall. Each day began quietly with afternoon showers and thunderstorms developing during the day and extending into the evening. During the first three days of the month, around an inch of rainfall accumulated, providing some much-needed moisture after a relatively dry August.

Dry and warm conditions took hold over the next week, with highs moving from the upper 70s on the 4th and 5th to record highs in the upper 80s to low 90s on the 9th, 10th, and 11th. As temperatures warmed during the second week of the month, monsoonal moisture began to sneak into the region. This set the stage for some active

weather, as moisture levels increased with the warm air to produce higher levels of instability.

The first sign of this was afternoon and evening showers that developed each day from the 11th through the 13th, priming the atmosphere for the main event on the 14th. Strong to severe thunderstorms quickly developed by early afternoon, with heavy rain and hail covering the ground in many locations. This line of thunderstorms moved out of the region fairly quickly by that evening with dry and mainly sunny conditions returning for the next several days.

The pattern again changed quickly between the 19th and 20th as a frontal passage during the early morning hours of the 20th brought a taste of fall to the area. Gusty winds and cooler temperatures that morning were enhanced by cloudy skies and rain showers that afternoon and evening. Cooler air continued to work into with temperatures reaching the mid-30s as the last areas of rainfall moved out. As skies cleared that morning, temperatures didn't have far to fall to reach the freezing mark, and many areas dropped just below freezing the morning of the 21st. It was the first day of fall and right around the normal time of the year when we first dip below freezing. Highs were held in the upper 50s that afternoon, and mostly clear skies again allowed temperatures to touch the freezing mark on the 22nd. The good news is that temperatures didn't reach the "hard freeze" category, so instead of ruining our chances of beautiful fall colors, this should help to enhance the process.

Quiet and seasonal conditions returned from the 22nd through the 27th as temperatures warmed from the low 70s to the low 80s through the period. However, one last storm affected the region over the last few days of the month. This was associated with an area of low pressure slowly spinning over the desert southwest and

moving through the Four Corners region. This brought unsettled conditions to the region, with some much-needed moisture in the mountains and parts of the Front Range.

A look ahead

October can be an active weather month for the region with our first snowy conditions often experienced. Most years, we seem to get a good snowfall around Halloween, and after a warm and dry September, we could use a wet and cold storm this year. Snow can be heavy at times during any part of October as when over 20 inches of snow fell from Oct. 9-10 in 2005, and 2006 saw over 24 inches of snow fall in less than 24 hours on Oct. 26.

Of course, the big storm some of us remember occurred during October 1997, when nearly 4 feet of snow and blizzard conditions shut everything down for several days. But we are just as likely to get mild and sunny conditions, so enjoy those sunny days when you can.

September 2021 Weather Statistics

Average High	76.3° (+5.4)
100-year return frequency value max	77.5° min 63.5°
Average Low	45.4° (+4.2)
100-year return frequency value max	46.7° min 36.1°
Monthly Precipitation	2.62" (+082")
100-year return frequency value max	4.34" min 0.40"
Monthly Snowfall	5.2" (+4.7")
Highest Temperature	90° on the 10th, 11th
Lowest Temperature	31° on the 21st
Season to Date Snow	0.0"

(-0.4", 100% below normal)

(the snow season is from July 1 to June 30)

Season to Date Precip. 20.38"

(-1.91", 9% below normal)

(the precip season is from Oct. 1 to Sept. 30)

Heating Degree Days 150 (-150)

Cooling Degree Days 26 (+19)

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Letters to Our Community

Guidelines for letters are on page 31.

Disclaimer: The information and opinions expressed in Letters to Our Community are the re-

sponsibility of the letter writers and should not be interpreted as the views of OCN even if the letter writer is an OCN volunteer.

No letters were submitted this month.

Between the Covers at Covered Treasures Bookstore

Here come the new releases!

By the staff at Covered Treasures
"Show me a family of readers, and I will show you the people who move the world."—

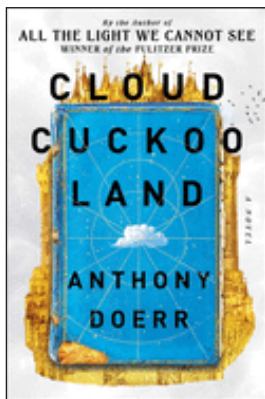
Napoleon Bonaparte

Have you been waiting for the newest book by a favorite author? Here are some new releases that make great gifts for others or yourself:

Cloud Cuckoo Land

By Anthony Doerr (Scribner Book Co.) \$30

Set in Constantinople in the 15th century, in a small town in present-day Idaho, and on an interstellar ship decades from now, Pulitzer Prize-winning Anthony Doerr's third novel is an imaginative, soaring story about children on the cusp of adulthood in worlds in peril, who find resilience, hope, and a book. Doerr has created a tapestry of times and places that reflects our inter-connect- edness.



throughout the cosmos while single-handedly raising his unusual 9-year-old, Robin, following the death of his wife. Robin is a warm, kind boy who spends hours painting elaborate pictures of endangered animals. He's also about to be expelled from third grade. As his son grows more troubled, Theo learns of an experimental treatment that involves training Robin on the recorded patterns of his mother's brain. Powers has created a moving novel of a father and son's ferocious love.

Pony

By R.J. Palacio (Alfred A. Knopf) \$17.99

The New York Times bestselling author of *Wonder* is back with an enthralling adventure that will show readers how to choose courage. Twelve-year-old Silas embarks on a quest to rescue his father, with only a ghost as his companion and a mysterious pony as his guide. He will face his fears to unlock the secrets of his past and explore the unfathomable mysteries of the world around him. Palacio spins a harrowing yet distinctly coming-of-age story about the power of love and the ties that bind us across distance and time.

Einstein: The Fantastic Journey of a Mouse through Space and Time

By Torben Kuhlman (Northsouth Books) \$22

When an inventive mouse misses the biggest

cheese festival the world has ever seen, he's determined to turn back the clock. With the help of a mouse clockmaker, a lot of inventiveness, and the notes of a certain famous Swiss physicist, he succeeds in traveling back in time. But when he misses his goal by 80 years, the only one who can help is an employee of the Swiss Patent Office, who turned our concept of space and time upside down. Kuhlman, in his beautifully illustrated mouse adventure, explores the question: Suppose Albert Einstein's famous theories first came into being through an encounter with a little mouse.

Little People, Big Dreams Treasury: 50 Stories from Brilliant Dreamers

By Maria Isabel Sanchez Vegara (Frances Lincoln Ltd.) \$39.99

Dive deeper into the world of *Little People, Big Dreams* with this keepsake treasury featuring 50 dreamers from the critically acclaimed, best-selling series. Learn more about each of your favorite dreamers with new in-depth stories, facts, and figures. Each story is rewritten to be appropriate for an older audience. Divided by profession, the treasury includes profiles of the world's greatest artists, activists, writers, musicians, TV and film stars, scientists, and sports legends. A timeline, glossary, index, and further reading provide even more to explore. (Available Nov. 9)

Bewilderment

By Richard Powers (W.W. Norton & Co.) \$27.95

Astrobiologist Theo Byrne searches for life