

The most powerful storm of the month affected the region on the 26th, with the first effects felt during the afternoon and the stronger dynamics moving over during the evening hours. This was the same storm that brought record rainfalls and heavy mountain snows to much of the western U.S. from central California through Washington state.

Initial conditions included just about everything—rain, snow, graupel, ice pellets, and even some thunder during the late afternoon. Then, as the moisture continued to surge, heavy wet snow developed for areas above 7,000 feet. The warm conditions the previous several days meant roads were mostly wet, and a lot of snow melted at first. But as the heavier snow continued during the evening, a wet couple of inches accumulated and roads became very slippery. This was most prevalent above 7,300 feet, showing the fine line between rain and snow in early season snowfall events.

The good news with this event was just about everyone received much-needed moisture. Clear conditions returned for the next few days with temperatures jumping back above average on the 29th and 30th. Unfortunately for our trick-or-treaters, a final surge of cool weather with fog and drizzle moved in just in time for Halloween. This kept temperatures in the low 30s with wet and icy conditions for Halloween evening.

**A look ahead**

November is generally dry and cool around the region. We usually get several light snowfalls interspersed with sunny skies. Gusty winds commonly develop on a couple of days as the jet stream becomes more active and more directly affects Colorado. High temperatures average in the upper 40s early in the month to low 40s by the end with overnight lows often dipping into the teens and single digits.

**October 2021 Weather Statistics**

|                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Average High                        | <b>62.1°</b> (+2.6°)                                  |
| 100-year return frequency value max | <b>67.7°</b> min <b>50.7°</b>                         |
| Average Low                         | <b>32.9°</b> (+3.6°)                                  |
| 100-year return frequency value max | <b>36.8°</b> min <b>26.4°</b>                         |
| Monthly Precipitation               | <b>0.89"</b> (-0.84")                                 |
| 100-year return frequency value max | <b>4.63"</b> min <b>0.18"</b>                         |
| Monthly Snowfall                    | <b>2.5"</b> (-8.5")                                   |
| Highest Temperature                 | <b>74° on the 4th</b>                                 |
| Lowest Temperature                  | <b>22° on the 15th</b>                                |
| Season to Date Snow                 | <b>2.5"</b> (-8.9")                                   |
|                                     | <i>(the snow season, October 1 to September 30)</i>   |
| Season to Date Precip.              | <b>0.89"</b> (-0.84")                                 |
|                                     | <i>(the precip season, October 1 to September 30)</i> |
| Heating Degree Days                 | <b>544</b> (+16)                                      |
| 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.*

**No letters were submitted this month.**

*Between the Covers at Covered Treasures Bookstore*

**Fall into great new books**

*By the staff at Covered Treasures*

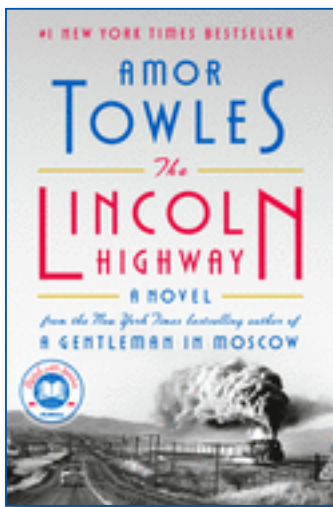
*"I owe everything I am and everything I will ever be to books."—Gary Paulsen*

The annual bookseller's trade show was in person once again. What a welcome sight to see authors and publishers and discuss their new releases. We always come back with great books. Here's a sampling:

**Lincoln Highway**

*By Amor Towles (Viking) \$30*

Bestselling author of *A Gentleman in Moscow* and *Rules of Civility* returns with a novel set in 1950s America. Eighteen-year-old Emmett Watson is home after serving 15 months at the juvenile work home. His mother is long gone, his father recently deceased, and the family farm foreclosed upon. Emmett's intention is to pick up his brother and head to California to start their lives anew. But two escapees from the work farm have hatched an altogether different plan.



**The Man Who Died Twice: A Thursday Murder Club Mystery**

*By Richard Osman (Pamela Dorman Books) \$26*

The Thursday Murder Club is still riding high off its recent murder case when an unexpected visitor arrives, desperate for help. He has been accused of stealing diamonds worth millions from the wrong men. The

Thursday Murder Club is up against a ruthless murderer. Can they catch the killer before the killer catches them? And if they find the diamonds, too, well, wouldn't that be a bonus?

**A Single Rose**

*By Muriel Barbery (Europa Editions) \$22*

Bestselling author of *The Elegance of the Hedgehog* is back with a story about a woman's journey to discover the father she never knew and a love she never thought possible. Rose has just turned 40 when she gets a call from a lawyer asking her to come to Kyoto for the reading of her estranged father's will. Paul, her father's assistant, guides Rose along a mysterious itinerary designed by her father. As the reading of the will gets closer, Rose's father finally, posthumously, opens his heart to his daughter, offering her a poignant understanding of his love and a way to accept all she has lost.

**Blue Yonder**

*By Susan L. Gemmill (Merry Dissonance Press) \$17.95*

In 1942, 18-year-old Bill Gemmill was eager to serve his country. After a circuitous route, the crash of a ferried bomber behind his house, and 14 months of training, Bill and his crew were on their way to southern Italy. Disaster struck after more than 20 successful missions. Parachuting into the Yugoslavian countryside, Bill found himself alone. Like so many veterans, Bill was reluctant to tell his story, but later in life opened up to his daughter. This is his story of becoming a man in the midst of defending his country.

**A Sparrow Alone**

*By Mim Eichmann (Living Springs Publishers) \$16.95*

Desperate following her mother's sudden death, 13-year-old Hannah Owens apprentices as domestic help with a wealthy doctor's family in Colorado

Springs. When the doctor declares bankruptcy and abandons his family to finance his mistress Pearl DeVere's brothel, Hannah is thrown into a vortex of gold mining bonanzas and busts, rampant prostitution, and the economic, political, and cultural upheavals of 1890s Colorado. Two of Cripple Creek's most colorful historic characters, Winfield Scott Stratton, eccentric owner of the richest gold mine, and Pearl DeVere, madam of The Old Homestead, come to life in this coming-of-age saga.

**Between the Tides**

*By Angel Khoury (Dzanc Books), \$24.95*

Set on two wild seascapes, Cape Cod and North Carolina's Outer Banks, this novel tells the story of two women stitching together a family ripped at the seams and discovering that even through absence, love's presence is everlasting. Cape Cod, 1890s: A man deserts his wife to start a new family at Cape Hatteras. 1940s: His daughter, en route to serve in World War II with the Red Cross, travels to Cape Cod where she meets his first wife, Blythe, reanimating a life she had long buried.

**Read Island**

*By Nicole Magistro (Read Island LLC), \$18.99*

Join a brave girl and her furry friends on an adventure to Read Island. Through the power of imagination and the pleasure of reading, they set sail for a magical island made of books. On their way they discover a joyful collection of animals, just in time for an unforgettable story hour. A rhyming celebration of nature, books, and the importance of stories,

Until next month, happy reading.

*The staff at the Covered Treasures can be contacted at [books@ocn.me](mailto:books@ocn.me).*

*November Library Events*

**Hours change; ramp progresses**

*By Harriet Halbig*

Due to understaffing, the library district has opted to close one branch each day. The Monument Branch will be closed on Thursdays. Hours on Friday and Saturday evenings have been extended from 5 to 6 p.m.

Patrons are all welcome to come to the library and use our resources and services. To reserve a meeting room, go to the [ppld.org](http://ppld.org) website and look under special services, meeting rooms. Select a room and a date and time. We recommend that you have more than one date in mind.

Take and make craft kits for children, teens, and adults are available to pick up. A new one of each is issued each week.

To view the programs available, go to programs on the website and search by location. Some programs are virtual and others in person.

Staff and volunteers in the library are masked. It is recommended that unvaccinated patrons and young children who are not yet vaccinated also wear masks.

Progress continues on the new ramp for the Palmer Lake Library. Viewed from the west, there is a ramp going down to the Palmer Lake Historical Society's museum and the first section of the ramp to the library has been completed.

Please note that all Pikes Peak Library District facilities will be closed on Nov. 25 and 26 in observance of Thanksgiving.

We hope to see you soon at the library.

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



**Above:** Progress continues on construction of new ADA-compliant ramp to the Palmer Lake Library and the museum on the lower level. *Photo by Harriet Halbig.*