

Barn rental fee increased

Bille said that WIA is starting to get more rentals at The Barn and noticed that the fees were well below market rates. The rental fee will increase from \$50 to \$75 per hour for non-residents of Woodmoor and from \$20 to \$25 per hour for residents. Residents are entitled to four free hours every six months for personal functions. For more information on The Barn community center, see <https://woodmoor.org/community-center/>.

Board highlights

- Bush reiterated that residents should return their trash cans to storage as soon as possible after trash has been picked up. Woodmoor Pub-

lic Safety (WPS) will place a sticker on the cans of residents who leave them out, and after three violations will refer the violator to covenant control.

- Cagliaro said that annual dues notices will go out between the 15th and 22nd of December; please contact WIA with any mailing address changes.
- WPS Chief Kevin Nielsen reported that talks are continuing with El Paso County about possibly re-installing the flashing lights by Lewis-Palmer Middle School (LPMS). He encouraged LPMS parents to be patient and use designated drop off points to avoid creating traffic issues.

- Bush said that the four main violations are trailers, off-driveway parking, tall grass, and garbage cans.

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 has been moved to Dec. 15 due to the holiday.

The WIA calendar can be found at www.woodmoor.org/wia-calendar/. WIA board meeting minutes can be found at www.woodmoor.org/meeting-minutes/ once approved and posted.

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November Weather Wrap

By Bill Kappel

The record dry and warm weather continued for a second consecutive month in the region as a persistent ridge of high pressure over the southwestern United States continued to assert control on our weather pattern. Air flows in a clockwise direction around high pressure in the northern hemisphere. This means that as storm systems move through the eastern Pacific Ocean and into the United States and Canada, they are forced to move north into British Columbia, Washington, Oregon, and northern California, then around the top of the ridge through southern Canada and into the upper Midwest. This leaves Colorado in a dry and mild northwesterly flow, where storm systems are consistently moving just to our west and north.

This has been the pattern all of October and November and is typical during a La Nina fall (cooler than normal temperatures in the equatorial regions of the Pacific Ocean), which is what we are experiencing (<https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>). Heavy rain and snow piled up in October and November in the Pacific Northwest while we were left high and dry. This pattern will eventually break down, especially once the La Nina pattern weakens and shifts along the equatorial region of the Pacific Ocean. But this likely won't happen until well into winter and toward spring. This means I would expect a mild and dry winter interrupted by a few snowfalls and cold snaps, but nothing consistent and likely a well below normal snow season overall. These patterns are nothing new as we often oscillate between warm and dry and wet and cold. This is called natural climate variability. Unfortunately, most of us have a short memory and limited context on these types of things, so it's hard to remember everything we are seeing has happened before and will happen again.

For example, if you were in the area during the 1880's you would have experienced a decade of be-

low normal snowfall, with the winter of 1888-1889 still holding the record as the lowest seasonal snow total for Denver. Not too far behind that was just a few years ago when 2016-2017 produced only slightly more snowfall for the season. Of course, there were a lot of things different in the world in 1889 vs 2017, but the natural climate variability was still occurring regardless of our activities. The one thing we can be certain of here on the Palmer Divide is a wide variety of weather conditions on just about every timescale. This is because we are at a high elevation, in the middle of a continent, far away from moderating influences of large water bodies and exposed to cold air from the north and warm air from the south.

Regardless of how this winter season goes, hopefully we can make up for some of the moisture deficits, especially mountain snowfall, as we head into spring. Let's hope for some March 2003, April 2007, or May 2019-type snowstorms just when we need the moisture the most.

For the month overall, temperatures were well above normal, with sunny skies the predominant feature. Precipitation was well below normal. However, November is one of our driest months of the year, so low precipitation is expected and not a big deal for us. The bigger issue is the lack of snow in the mountains, as we should normally be building up that important snowpack right now, both for ski season and for spring and summer snowmelt and water supplies.

During the entire month there were only three periods of active weather in the region. The first two days of the months saw lots of fog and low clouds along with some drizzle and flurries, but this only amounted to about a trace of precipitation. Then a quick moving system provided a glancing blow during the afternoon and evening of the 20th, with a trace to a half-inch of snow accumulating around the region. A slightly stronger storm moved through on the 24th, but this storm was again moisture starved. Most

of us picked up 1-2 inches of snowfall, although areas along the foot of the Front Range like Palmer Lake did a little better with 3-5 inches of snow. This enhancement was due to the easterly flow producing extra lift and squeezing out all available moisture as the air was forced to rise along the elevated terrain.

A Look Ahead

The month of December can be cold around the region with daytime highs often staying below freezing and overnight lows that can drop well below zero. But, as noted previously, we can experience a wide variety of weather with westerly winds producing mild conditions. 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, with most areas having some snow on the ground and if we are lucky snowfall on Christmas Eve or Christmas day.

November 2021 Weather Statistics

Average High	56.1° (+6.7°)
100-year return frequency value max	55.5° min 38.5°
Average Low	25.8° (+4.4°)
100-year return frequency value max	27.5° min 14.1°
Monthly Precipitation	0.14" (-0.55")
100-year return frequency value max	3.80" min 0.16"
Monthly Snowfall	1.7" (-9.1")
Highest Temperature	74° on the 3rd
Lowest Temperature	8° on the 18th
Season to Date Snow	3.2" (-18.6")
<i>(the snow season is from Oct 1 to Sept 30)</i>	
Season to Date Precip.	1.03" (-1.39")
<i>(the precip season is from Oct 1 to Sept 30)</i>	
Heating Degree Days	787 (-79)
Cooling Degree Days	0 (0)

Bill Kappel is a meteorologist and Tri-Lakes resident. He can be reached at 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.

Proposed water tank in Fox Run Regional Park

The Triview Metropolitan District is seeking to build a water pipeline to bring renewable surface water to their District so that they can reduce the amount of non-renewable water that they take from our limited

aquifers. This is definitely a laudable goal.

In order to make this project work, the District must build a water tank in our community to store the water. There are two possible locations for that water tank. One location is next to the Donala Water and Sanitation District water tank that is north of Baptist Road and just east of Sanctuary Pointe. The other location is south of Baptist Road, plopped down in Fox Run Regional Park. The water tank will be 98' wide and 15' high and will be surrounded by an approximately 500' long fence that is approximately 7' high and likely topped with barbed wire. There will also be an access road built from Baptist Road to the water

tank. The proposal for the Park calls for the tank to be located on what is currently a heavily used trail.

It seems to me that the obvious logical choice is to put the new water tank adjacent to the already existing water tank and not to put it in the middle of our Park where it would diminish the beauty that we all love. If you agree, then please contact the El Paso County Parks Department at Parks@elpasoco.com or (719) 520-7529 and Jim McGrady, the General Manager for the District, at jmcgrady@triviewmetro.com or (719) 488-6868. They are seeking our opinions on their project.

Steve Waldmann

Between the Covers at Covered Treasures Bookstore

'Tis the Season for Great Books

By the staff at Covered Treasures
 "Reading is essential for those who seek to rise above the ordinary." — Jim Rohn

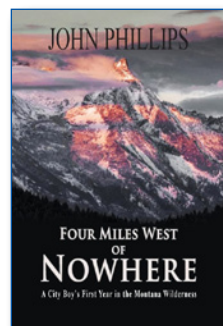
The holidays are bursting with exciting new books that make great gifts.

Four Miles West of Nowhere: A City Boy's First Year in the Montana Wilderness

By John Phillips (Pronghorn Press) \$19.95

John Phillips has crafted a hilarious diary of his retirement journey from Michigan to remote Darby, Montana, population 745. No Starbucks, no traffic light. He introduces you to the town's quirky inhabitants

and his encounters with nature in his life at the mountaintop home he shares with his wife. To this fauna-rich utopia Phillips adds broken snowplows, a reclusive ex-smuggler, threatening winters, electricity famines, and heartfelt ruminations about fly fishing, guns, survival, forest fires, irritating neighbors, helpful neighbors, a voluptuous barber, septic tanks, alcohol, and pre-existing conditions.



100 Slopes of a Lifetime: The World's Ultimate Ski and Snowboard Destinations

By Gordy Megroz (National Geographic) \$35

This ultimate skier and snowboarder bucket list for all levels takes you through 100 snow experiences, from Utah and Colorado to Japan, Switzerland, Morocco, and Alaska. Filled with beautiful National Geographic photography, wisdom from experts, need-to-know travel information, and practical tips, this inspirational guide is divided by interest and skill level. Also included are après ski activities including getting up close with elk, Europe's longest toboggan run, and some of the world's finest cuisine.