



Above: Christmas Eve. Photo by Bill Kappel.

when a quick-moving cold front swept through and produced a few light snow showers the evening of the 5th to the morning of the 6th. Although this front was moisture starved, it did drop temperatures about 40 degrees between 3 and 7 p.m. on the 5th.

After a few more days of dry and quiet weather, another quick-moving and moisture-starved front moved through during the morning of the 10th, with areas of light snow producing a half to 1 inch of new snow for the area.

Mild and dry condition again returned with highs reaching back into the upper 50s and low 60s from the 12th through the 14th. During this time, several strong storm systems were affecting the western U.S. Eventually, the strongest of these systems moved through the region and produced a very tight pressure gradient starting around mid-morning on the 15th. This storm had a lot of energy with it, but again the west/southwesterly flow meant most of the moisture was lost in the mountains. But there was enough leftover moisture to produce some rain and snow showers

that morning.

Once that band of showers moved east of us, the real "fun" began. The storms continued to strengthen to our east while high pressure built in from the west. This gradient between the low pressure to the east and high pressure to the west produced very strong winds. These were enhanced by temperature contrasts in the atmosphere, strong winds aloft and down sloping winds off the mountains. The result was a long period of very strong and damaging winds throughout the region. Winds gust over 90 mph occurred around the Palmer Divide, knocking over trees and high-profile vehicles. Even stronger winds occurred to our east, where a gust of 107 mph was recorded in Lamar.

Clear skies and a cooler air mass allowed temperatures to stay just below normal for the next few days, with low temperatures flirting with zero on the 18th.

Dry conditions returned and temperatures warmed from the 19th through the 23rd, with highs hitting the upper 50s.

We did receive a bit of a Christmas miracle, however, as the next in the series of strong western U.S. storms moved through on Christmas Eve. This had just enough upper-level support to produce a band of instability in the region, which resulted in a snow squall between 4 and 5 p.m. in the area. This produced a quick 1-2 inches of snowfall and a white Christmas for most of us, which was quite a surprise after missing out on all the snow for most of the month.

The remainder of the month was again quiet and dry, with gusty winds at times, but no organized storms moving through in our area. We did get colder at the end of the month with a little snowfall to end the year, but nothing significant enough to break our snow drought. The good news is the active pattern in the western U.S. managed to produce a lot of mois-

ture in the mountains during the second half of the month, with several feet of snow accumulating in the high country.

### A look ahead

January can see the coldest temperatures of the year, but there is often a proverbial "January thaw" where mild temperatures make brief appearances. Of course, that's been the case all winter so far, so hopefully this January will see a shift in the overall pattern to cold and snowy conditions. Unfortunately, precipitation is usually on the low side, with amounts generally less than an inch. The month experiences numerous sunny and windy days, with quick shots of snow in between.

### December 2021 Weather Statistics

Average High	49.1° (+10.8°)
100-year return frequency value max	50.5° min 32.6°
Average Low	20.7° (+7.4°)
100-year return frequency value max	22.4° min 5.4°
Monthly Precipitation	0.19"
	(-0.82", 80% below normal)
100-year return frequency value max	2.82" min 0.00"
Monthly Snowfall	2.2"
	(-15.5", 88% below normal)
Highest Temperature	66° on the 2nd
Lowest Temperature	1° on the 18th
Season to Date Snow	6.4"
	(-33.1", 84% below normal)
	(the snow season is from Oct. 1 to Sept. 30)
Season to Date Precip.	1.22"
	(-2.21", 64% below normal)
	(the water year is from Oct. 1 to Sept. 30)
Heating Degree Days	779 (-448)
Cooling Degree Days	0 (0)

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

### Monument trustees need to enforce remote attendance rule

Thank you for your reporting of the Nov. 17 Monument Board of Trustees meeting and for reminding us of the trustees' previous decision to limit how many

times a trustee may attend remotely. Why would the trustees enact a rule then not obey it at all? I hope that somebody has already pointed out this error to the board and that they will remember to follow it in the future. If we cannot trust them with these small things, then I question whether we can trust them with larger issues.

Angie Curry

### Every penny counts

I can't say enough about the generosity of the people in the Tri-Lakes area. Since Nov. 15, I have been a bell

ringer at Safeway for the Salvation Army almost daily. The smiles, the greetings, and comments were heartwarming. Comments ranged from "Thank you for doing this" to "Your organization cared for my brother right up to his death." Of course, I had my greetings like "Your halo is blinding me" as she came out of the blinding sun, "Every penny counts," and "Have a wonderful day." My thanks go out to all for your donations, Mama Bear for the hot cocoa, and others for coffee and cocoa. Bless you.

John Howe

### Between the Covers at Covered Treasures Bookstore

## New year, new beginnings

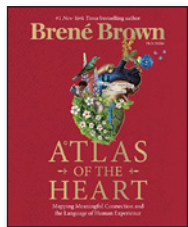
By the staff at Covered Treasures  
"A new heart for a New Year, always!"  
—Charles Dickens

Start the new year off strong with books that can have a positive influence.

### Atlas of the Heart: Mapping Meaningful Connection and the Language of Human Experience

By Brené Brown (Random House) \$30

Bestselling author Brené Brown takes you on a journey through 87 emotions and experiences that define what it means to be human. As she maps the necessary skills and an actionable framework for meaningful connection, she provides the language and tools to access new choices and second chances in a way that builds connection. Brown says, "I want this book to be an atlas for all of us, because I believe that, with an adventurous heart and the right maps, we can travel anywhere and never fear losing ourselves."



### The 5 AM Club: Own Your Morning Elevate Your Life

By Robin Sharma (Harper Collins) \$17.99

For more than four decades, Robin Sharma has helped people lead lives that inspire the world. Now he shares his insights and battle-tested tools developed by working with the most successful people on the planet. Based on the key insight that winning starts at the beginning of the day, Sharma shows how to reduce stress, improve focus, unleash uncommon creativity, achieve exponential productivity, and restore balance.

### Keep Moving: Notes on Loss, Creativity, and Change

By Maggie Smith (Atria) \$24

In this deeply moving book of quotes and essays, Maggie Smith writes about new beginnings as opportunities for transformation. Like kintsugi, the Japanese art of mending broken ceramics with gold, Smith celebrates the beauty and strength on the other side of loss. This is a book for anyone who has gone through a difficult time and is wondering: What comes next? There is also a companion, *Keep Moving: The Journal*, which guides readers to find beauty in the present moment, embrace change, and create a life we love. (\$16)

### Hear Yourself: How to Find Peace in a Noisy World

By Prem Rawat (Harper One) \$26.99

The renowned teacher and author Prem Rawat shows how to quiet the noise of our busy lives to hear our unique authentic voice. The culmination of a lifetime of study, this book lays out the crucial steps we can use to focus on the voice within. Packed with powerful insights, compelling stories, and practical wisdom that enlighten us to a simple way to listen, Rawat says, we can "profoundly change our understanding of ourselves, those around us, and our lives."

### The Girl in the Red Boots: Making Peace with My Mother

By Judith Ruskay Rabinor, PhD (She Writes Press), \$16.95

Can a mother be loving and selfish, caring and thoughtless, deceitful and devoted? Weaving tales from her practice and her life, psychologist Dr. Judy Rabinor traces her journey becoming a wounded healer and ultimately making peace with her mother,

and herself. It is filled with hard-won life lessons, including the fact that it's never too late to let go of hurts and disappointment and develop compassion for yourself and even for your mother. Rabinor achieved healing of her relationship years after her mother died.

### It's Never Too Late to Begin Again: Discovering Creativity and Meaning at Midlife and Beyond

By Julia Cameron (Tarcherperigee) \$18

Julia Cameron has inspired millions with her bestseller on creativity, *The Artist's Way*. In *It's Never Too Late to Begin Again*, she shows that retirement can be the most rich, fulfilling, and creative time of life. This 12-week course aimed at defining and creating the life you want to have includes simple tools that will guide and inspire you to explore your creative dreams, wishes, and desires—and help you quickly find that it's never too late to begin again.

### 365 Joyful Poems

By Lon Wartman (VBW Publishing) \$24.95

Local author Lon Wartman has compiled his poems that "are my moments, my reflections, on how we need to think, write and dream of the joyful and positive sides of life. To dwell on the negative is not a healthy and good way to live. These are choices we all must make and, in that regard, I committed myself to write lines that would not only make me feel good but lines that would help others overcome these most trying of times."

Until next time, happy reading.

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