

chance of 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 2022 Weather Statistics

Average High **43.3°** (-5.1°)  
100-year return frequency value max **55.5°** min **38.5°**  
Average Low **16.5°** (-4.9°)

100-year return frequency value max **27.5°** min **14.1°**  
Monthly Precipitation **0.26"** (-0.43")  
100-year return frequency value max **3.80"** min **0.16"**  
Monthly Snowfall **7.0"** (-3.8")  
Highest Temperature **66° on the 2nd**  
Lowest Temperature **-2° on the 18th**  
Season to Date Snow **13.2"** (-8.6")  
(the snow season is from Oct 1 to Sept 30)

Season to Date Precip. **14.17"** (-9.01")  
(the precipitation season, Jan 1 to Dec 31)  
Heating Degree Days **1103** (+235)  
Cooling Degree Days **0** (0)  
Bill Kappel is a meteorologist and Tri-Lakes resident.  
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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.*

### County Commissioners: Who do they work for, the people or developers?

On Nov. 15, the El Paso County Commissioners approved a sketch plan for Flying Horse North that permitted Classic Homes to build 846 homes and a 275-unit luxury hotel on a parcel of ground that had previously been approved for 201 homes and no hotel. The project is in Black Forest where the lots are

large and the rural feel of trees and wildlife are the norm. Commissioners Vanderwerf, Bremer, and Geitner voted in favor with Commissioner Williams recusing herself for some unknown reason. Commissioner Gonzalez voted against the proposal.

Why didn't the commissioners follow the Your El Paso County Master Plan that they approved in April 2021. That plan was supposed to guide development for El Paso County for the next 20 years and supposedly contains guidance: lot densities of at least 2.5 acres, small scale commercial development, compatibility with surrounding lots.

This was the first real test of the master plan and it failed miserably. The county spent hundreds of thousands of taxpayer dollars and invested thousands of

hours of staff and committee time to come up with this colorful stack of worthless paper. If we are going to create a master plan, why don't we follow it? Instead, Commissioners Geitner and Bremer stated their belief in private property rights and the right of an individual to do what he wishes with his property. If we followed that principle, we wouldn't need a master plan at all. Just let everyone do what they want with their property.

I sent out the objections that were submitted to the county to the members of the Friends of Black Forest. I received 693 responses, but the commissioners were not impressed. What does it take to get their attention?

**Terry Stokka**

### Between the Covers at Covered Treasures Bookstore

## More fall releases for the holidays

By the staff at Covered Treasures

*"I love walking into a bookstore. It's like all my friends are sitting on shelves, waving their pages at me."*

—Tahereh Mafi

The holidays are bursting at the seams with new releases for all ages that make great gifts.

### How Winston Came Home for Christmas

By Alex T. Smith (Silver Dolphin Books) \$17.99

With five days until Christmas, Winston sets off on an adventure. Along the way, he meets new friends who help him get closer to solving the mystery. A follow-up to *How Winston Delivered Christmas*, this illustrated book is to be read during the countdown to Christmas. Each chapter is accompanied by a festive activity, including decorations, crafts, and so much more.



### Wildoak

By C.C. Harrington (Scholastic) \$18.99

Maggie Stephens' stutter makes school especially hard. So when her unsympathetic father threatens to send her away for "treatment," she reluctantly agrees to her mother's intervention plan: a few weeks in the fresh air of Wildoak Forest with her grandfather. There she encounters an abandoned snow leopard cub. But once the cub's presence is discovered, danger follows, and Maggie soon realizes that time is running out, not only for the leopard, but for herself and the forest as well.

### The Vanquishers

By Kalynn Bayron (Bloomsbury) \$16.99

Malika "Boog" Wilson and her friends have grown up idolizing The Vanquishers, a group of heroic vampire hunters who wiped out the last horde of the undead decades ago. When a friend goes missing, Boog is determined to save her friend, but is she ready to admit vampires might not be vanquished after all?

### Front Country

By Sara St. Antoine (Chronicle) \$17.99

Ginny Shepard is glad to be in Montana for a month of backcountry camping before starting high school. But things get complicated fast, and Ginny feels trapped and betrayed. As her friendships with her fellow campers deepen, Ginny starts to see new sides of them and herself. This adventure captures the heartbreak of realizing the world isn't okay and shows how that knowledge, and what we choose to do with it, shapes us into who we are.

### Abuela Don't Forget Me

By Rex Ogle (Norton) \$18.95

In his award-winning memoir *Free Lunch*, Rex Ogle's Abuela features as a source of love and support. In this companion-in-verse, Rex captures and celebrates the powerful presence of a woman he could always count on. This is a lyrical portrait of the transformative and towering woman who believed in Rex even when he didn't yet know how to believe in himself.

### The Alpha Female Wolf: The Fierce Legacy of Yellowstone's 06

By Rick McIntyre (Greystone) \$27.95

Yellowstone's 06 female was called "the most famous wolf in the world." Her strength, beauty, and intelligence were unmatched, and her ability to hunt, pro-

tect her young cubs, and choose the right mates made her pack successful. Award-winning author and renowned wolf researcher Rick McIntyre turns his spotlight on 06 and other remarkable female wolves, telling the true story of five generations of female leaders in Yellowstone National Park.

### A Dangerous Business

By Jane Smiley (Knopf) \$28

Pulitzer Prize-winning author Jane Smiley brings a rollicking murder mystery set in Gold Rush California as two young prostitutes follow a trail of missing girls. Side by side with her friend Jean, and inspired by her reading, especially by Edgar Allan Poe's detective Dupin, Eliza pieces together an array of clues to try to catch the killer. Both are determined not just to survive, but to find their way in a lawless town on the fringes of the Wild West.

### All the Broken Places

By John Boyne (Pamela Dorman Books) \$28

Gretel Fernsby, 91, has lived in the same mansion block in London for decades. She doesn't talk about her escape from Nazi Germany, but most of all, she doesn't talk about her father who was the commandant of one of the Reich's most notorious extermination camps. Then, a new family moves into the apartment below her. Gretel begins a friendship with the little boy, Henry. Now, Gretel faces a similar crossroads to one she encountered long ago. But now she can make a different choice. If she does, she will be forced to reveal the secrets she has spent a lifetime protecting.

Until next month, happy reading.

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

### December Library Events

## Invitation to relax

By Harriet Halbig

During this busy month of December, come to the library for a chance to relax. Sit by our wall of windows facing the duck pond and read a newspaper or magazine. Better yet, if the weather is good, feed the ducks (we have free cracked corn for the asking). There are benches where you can sit and enjoy the mountain

and pond views. Or check out a favorite holiday DVD or book.

Children's programs will be on their regular schedule this month with *Story Time* on Tuesday and *Toddler Time* on Wednesday mornings. The *Family Story Time* in Palmer Lake is on Friday mornings.

**Please note:** All Pikes Peak Library locations will be closed all day on Dec. 24 and 25, close at 4 p.m. in Dec. 31 and remain closed on New Year's Day.

Happy holidays from the library.

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

### Palmer Lake Historical Society

## Historic flood remembered

By Marlene Brown

One of the darkest days for Palmer Lake was Wednesday, June 16, 1965. When the skies turned black, after days of rain, twisting winds roared through the town, one of the most devastating tornados to ever hit Colorado took a place in history. As the residents

of Palmer Lake began to recover from the floods that followed, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) called it a "100-year flood." As the water flowed to the swollen South Platte after days of rain, bridges all over Denver gave way and roads and houses were washed away, leaving one of the costliest weather events to date.

Records indicate that May and June of 1965 were among the wettest on record, with 8 inches of rain in May and 1 to 2 inches every day for 15 days straight June 7-21. Fourteen inches of rain fell at Dawson Butte, north of Palmer Lake, in four hours. Roads were rivers and cow pastures were lakes. For more infor-