

and communications.

Beth Lonnquist (Red Rock Ranch HOA) of the Wildfire Preparedness Committee reported that with the wildfire probability so high that evacuation is the key. Go to <https://co-pub.coloradoforestatlas.org/#/> to learn more. Creating a fire mitigation committee for each HOA is recommended. For more information, contact Lonnquist at RRRHOABeth@gmail.com.

Bob Mooney, chair of Transportation and Land Use, reported that at the Monument Planning Commission meeting on Jan. 17, the developer withdrew the request for Monument Ridge East and West annexation. Also, the developer withdrew the project for Caliber at Woodmoor Multi-family rezone due to the economic downturn.

In November, the El Paso Board of County Commissioners approved the sketch plan for Flying Horse North for 846 single-family residential lots, with a hotel, golf club, restaurant, and fitness center, Mooney said. Many letters of opposition are on file. The next steps include the developer returning with a revised PUD plan and

preliminary plans. Schedule public hearings for approval of specific plans, revised traffic studies, and water sufficiency reports. He requested volunteers with no experience necessary to help with the Transportation and Land Use Committee. Training will be provided. Contact Mooney at bobmooney01@msn.com.

Guest speaker John Liosatos, transportation director for the Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments (PPACG), explained how PPACG works with several counties, towns, and cities in the area including El Paso County, Park County, and Teller County on transportation planning and funding. There are several sources of funding, including the gas tax, vehicle license tax, sales, tools, impact fees, and state and local grants. Long-range plans through year 2050 are being updated through public involvement and future regional development. Transportation planning for the Pikes Peak area involves coordination with the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) and the Tri-County stakeholders. Funding is available for jurisdictions for local transportation priorities. More in-

formation: www.ppacg.org/transportation.

Greg Roosevelt, member of the county Impact Fee Committee and the county Community Services Block Grant Committee, explained that impact fees are paid by developers for the roads surrounding the development. Fees are used for roads, bridges, and stormwater infrastructure. The road impact fees are paid before the recording of the final plat. Fees vary for single-family, multi-family, hotels, or general commercial structures. Many fees are paid at time that the building permit is issued. For more information, see <https://publicworks.elpasoco.com/road-impact-fees>.

The next NEPCO meeting will be held from 10 a.m. to noon on March 11 at the Woodmoor Barn. Guest speakers scheduled are Jim Reid, El Paso County Office of Emergency Management, and Mark Gunderman, president of the Donald Wescott Fire Protection District. For more information about NEPCO, see <http://nepco.org>.

Marlene Brown can be reached at marlenebrown@ocn.me.

January Weather Wrap

By Bill Kappel

The year has started off on the cold and snowy side, which is good news for us as we have started the snow season with a deficit so far. Temperatures were well below normal, especially for the second half of the month, and snowfall was above normal, punctuated by an Arctic air intrusion to end the month. January is normally one of our driest months, so to get a little extra moisture to start the year is always welcome.

The new year started off with some snowfall but relatively mild temperatures. Two to four inches of snowfall accumulated between the 1st through the 3rd, but temperatures still managed to reach the upper 20s to low 30s each afternoon. Quiet conditions returned for the next week with dry conditions from the 4th through the 10th and temperatures at or above normal. Relatively mild and breezy conditions set up from the 8th to the 10th. These westerly winds helped jump temperatures into the low 50s each afternoon and more importantly kept overnight lows warm, with most areas staying above freezing on the 10th.

A quick-moving cold front temporarily disturbed this pattern with cooler temperatures and some light snow accumulation on the 11th. Temperatures began to warm back up over the next few days, eventually reaching our warmest temperature of the month on the 14th, with upper 50s reached that afternoon.

The general weather patterns in the region started to shift soon thereafter with a more northwesterly flow taking hold. This opened the door for a series of cold fronts and storm systems

to move through the region. Every day from the 15th through the 31st was below average from a temperature perspective, the exception being the 27th when values were right about average for the day.

A series of weather systems brought snowfall on several days. The heaviest snow occurred from the evening of the 17th through the evening of the 18th. This storm accumulated 4-8 inches and produced a lot of blowing snow, causing some major travel issues in the region. Then new storms moved through every three days or so, with a few inches from the afternoon of the 20th to the afternoon of the 21st, and another couple inches from the morning of the 23rd through the morning of the 25th, and a final couple of inches from the 28th through the 30th.

The final event was associated with cold Arctic airmass that brought in some near-record cold temperatures. This push was moisture-starved, with generally light snowfall but plenty of cold air. Temperatures dropped well below zero on the evening of the 29th with morning lows 10-15F degrees below zero on the 30th. Highs of course were also cold, barely reaching the teens on the 29th and even colder on the 30th. A warmup began on the 31st, but even then we couldn't break above freezing.

A look ahead

February is often a transition month as we move from the dry and cold conditions in December and January toward relatively warmer and wetter conditions of March and April. Total precipitation for the month averages around an inch,

which falls in the form of snow and accumulates around 20 inches. Average high temperatures are in the 30s. It can get very cold in February with Arctic air making brief pushes into the region. However, days begin to get a little longer, which leads to some nice, sunny days, and the snow that does fall begins to melt faster.

January 2023 Weather Statistics

Average High	35.9° (-4.2°)
	100-year return frequency value max 48.4° min 30.8°
Average Low	13.4° (0.0°)
	100-year return frequency value max 26.6° min 6.6°
Highest Temperature	58° on the 14th
Lowest Temperature	-12° on the 30th
Monthly Precipitation	0.99" (+0.28" 39% above normal)
	100-year return frequency value max 1.56" min 0.01"
Monthly Snowfall	21.6" (+4.2", 10% below normal)
Season to Date Snow	45.5" (-7.3", 14% below normal)
	(the snow season is from Oct 1 to Sept 30)
Season to Date Precip.	0.99" (+0.28" 39% above normal)
	(the precipitation season, Jan 1 to Dec 31)
Heating Degree Days	1251 (+154)
Cooling Degree Days	0
<i>Bill Kappel is a meteorologist and Tri-Lakes resident. He can be reached at billkappel@ocn.me.</i>	

Between the Covers at Covered Treasures Bookstore

Whispers of nature and wildlife around us

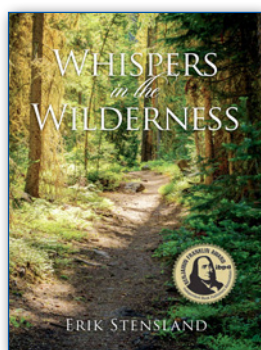
By the staff at Covered Treasures
"The mountains are calling and I must go."—
John Muir

Many of us live in Colorado because we are at home in the outdoors. These books transport you to the outdoor world when you can't be in it and prepare you for the times you can be in it.

Whispers in the Wilderness

By Erik Stensland (Morning Light Photography)
\$21.95

Landscape photographer Erik Stensland has spent many years exploring the hidden corners of Rocky Mountain National Park. Time alone in nature has led him to explore the hidden wilderness that



resides deep within us all. Using short reflections on nature paired with gorgeous photographs, he reminds us of wisdom that our busy world has forgotten. This is the first book in the Whispers series. The second book is *The Journey Beyond: Learning to Live Beautifully in a Troubled World*.

Colorado Wild and Beautiful

By Glenn Randall (Farcountry Press) \$32.95

Glenn Randall presents 125 images culled from 30 years of exploring the Centennial state. He backpacked alone into the heart of the state's most spectacular mountain ranges, traveling by foot, snowshoes, skis, and rafts. During his journeys, Randall has photographed the state's abundant natural beauty, historical sites, wildlife, and outdoor adventurers. Photographs are not enhanced digitally or in the darkroom.

The Lost Art of Reading Nature's Signs: Use Outdoor Clues to Find Your Way, Predict the Weather, Locate Water, Track Animals—and Other Forgotten Skills

By Tristan Gooley (Experiment) \$17.95

Writer and navigator Tristan Gooley wants to help you understand nature's clues. He shares more than 850 tips for forecasting, tracking, and more, gathered from decades spent walking



**LIFTING
SPIRITS**

Adult/Senior Day Service
Caregivers, find out how to make your life easier.
Let us assist in the care of your loved one
755 Highway 105, Suite C
(719) 488-1415
liftingspirits@qwestoffice.net
www.liftingspiritscare.net



Sonja Search, CNA